

**MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
JULY 11, 2005**

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 1500 Blowing Rock Road. Mayor Velma C. Burnley presided. Council members present were Lynne Mason, Bunk Spann and Dempsey Wilcox. Staff present were Town Manager Greg Young and Town Clerk Freida Van Allen.

The purpose of the meeting was to select the final design concept for the Howard Street project. Town Manager Greg Young introduced Brian Tripp, engineer with W.K. Dickson to discuss the proposed design concepts.

Mr. Tripp said the first concept is two-way traffic on Howard Street; the second concept is one-way traffic on Howard Street from Appalachian Street to Water Street. The third concept is one-way traffic on Howard Street from Appalachian Street to Water Street, but with more parking than the second concept. The fourth concept features two-way traffic from Appalachian Street to Depot Street and one-way traffic from Depot Street to Water Street.

Mr. Tripp said that Concept One features a 22' lane width, 21 on-street parking spaces and 29 street trees with the sidewalks varying from 5 to 8 feet in width.

Concept Two features a 15' lane width, 51 on-street parking spaces, 36 street trees and sidewalk varying from 6 to 8 feet in width.

Concept Three again features a 15' lane width, 54 on-street parking spaces, 35 street streets and 6 to 8 foot wide sidewalks.

Concept Four features a one-way traffic lane of 15 feet and a two-way traffic lane width of 22 feet. On-street parking will feature 39 spaces, 33 street trees and a sidewalk width of 6 to 8 feet.

Mr. Tripp said that W.K. Dickson recommends that the Town proceed with Concept Four.

Mr. Dick Little representing the Goodnight Property said future plans may include tri-level parking with condominiums and retail and that they are in favor of Concept Four.

Mr. Tripp explained that all the on-street parking will be controlled by the Town and will be available to everyone, once the Town obtains easements and encroachment agreements from property owners.

Council member Spann questioned why the Town needs to install 6 to 8 foot sidewalks in width. Mr. Tripp said that, in commercial areas, standards provide for two-way foot traffic, with smaller sidewalks used in residential settings.

Mr. Roscoe Dunbar questioned the status of joint cooperation between the various utility companies to place lines underground. Mr. Tripp said he has met with the various utilities and that everyone seems agreeable at this point.

Mr. Dunbar questioned how the project will be phased in order to allow residences and businesses access to Howard Street. Mr. Tripp said that will be worked out after the design process is complete.

Mr. Little questioned whether or not the concepts would change construction setbacks. Mr. Young said the Town will have to acquire rights-of-way or easements and that it may change setbacks.

Mr. Dunbar then asked if the Town will provide him additional parking close by if he loses parking spaces. Mr. Young said the Town may be willing to lease available spaces on Queen Street. Council member Wilcox reminded the audience that the Town has spent millions of dollars on parking that goes mostly unused because of a short walking distance.

An SC&S Future representative said he is in favor of Concept Four. Mr. & Mrs. Dunbar said they were was in favor of Concept Four, too.

Mr. Dan Meyer of the Boone Area Chamber of Commerce said they are in favor of Concept Four.

Mr. Jim Goodnight said he was in favor of Concept Four. After some discussion, the majority of the attendees agreed that Traffic Concept Four should be selected for final design.

Town Manager Young said tonight's meeting was to focus on the traffic concepts and that there will be other meetings regarding easements and utilities.

There being no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Town Clerk

Mayor