

**MINUTES - SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARINGS
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
MAY 31, 2007**

The Boone Town Council held special public hearings on Thursday, May 31, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Watauga High School auditorium. Mayor Loretta Clawson presided. Council members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Lynne Mason, Janet Pepin, Bunk Spann and Dempsey Wilcox. Town Attorney Sam Furgiuele was also present. Staff members present was Town Manager Greg Young, Town Clerk Freida Van Allen, Deputy Town Clerk Kim Tester, Street Superintendent Greg Miller, and Development Services Director John Spear.

PROPOSED STREET CLOSING - A PORTION OF DANIEL BOONE DRIVE EXTENSION

Town Manager Greg Young said that, as required by NC General Statutes, property was posted, letters were sent to adjoining property owners, and the resolution of intent was advertised for four consecutive weeks in the *Watauga Democrat*. Town Manager Young said once the public hearings are conducted the final step in the street closing process will be to consider the street closing order at the June 21, 2007, Town Council meeting.

Mayor Clawson opened the public hearing at 7:05 p.m.

Joseph Cazier of 144 Daniel Boone Drive Extension commented that his street is a very nice place to live; however, he is very concerned about the proposed street closing. Mr. Cazier said the primary reason he purchased his home was because of close proximity to the Greenway Trail. Mr. Cazier said with the proposed road closing he will be unable to access the greenway either by foot or bike. Mr. Cazier said the neighborhood needs an alternative access to the greenway.

Regina Cazier of 144 Daniel Boone Drive Extension reiterated her husband's comments and requested that an alternative access to the greenway be provided to the neighborhood..

Greg Simmons of 321 Delmar Street said that many of the newer residents of the neighborhood purchased homes because of direct access to the Greenway Trail. Mr. Simmons commented that the neighborhood has been asked to sacrifice excessively. Mr. Simmons requested that Council preserve the neighborhood's access to the greenway.

Anna Boyce Phillips of 464 Trillium Ridge spoke in favor of the street closing for safety's sake.

Jennifer Sisak, Project Architect with sfl&a, reminded Council that the property must be contiguous in order to achieve the project. Council member Mason questioned if the greenway could be connected around the perimeter of the property. Ms. Sisak said she was not sure it could be connected along the perimeter. County Commissioner Chairman Jimmy Deal said he was unsure how the school could protect the neighborhood from drop-off traffic and still allow access to the high school property. Chairman Deal said fencing would be in place along the perimeter of the property, especially the perimeter that is adjacent to the neighborhood. Chairman Deal said, if there is a reasonable way to provide access to the Greenway Trail, the Board of Education and County Commissioners will consider it.

Council member Mason asked if bike lanes are proposed on old East King Street. Ms. Sisak said no, but that this matter will be discussed during the conditional use zoning public hearing.

Planning Commissioner Gayle Turner commented that, if the new high school is not a part of smart growth, it will be a monumental failure. Ms. Sisak responded that high school officials are trying to be good neighbors and want the project to be a sustainable one.

Planning Commissioner Stephen Phillips asked if there would be bike racks at the new high school. Ms. Sisak answered yes.

There being no further comments, the public hearing closed at 7:24 p.m.

PROPOSED STREET CLOSING - A PORTION OF HILLTOP DRIVE

Town Manager Greg Young said that, as required by NC General Statutes, property was posted, letters were sent to adjoining property owners, and the resolution of intent was advertised for four consecutive weeks in the *Watauga Democrat*. Town Manager Young said once the public hearings are conducted, the final step in the street closing process will be to consider the street closing order at the June 21, 2007 Town Council meeting.

Mayor Clawson opened the public hearing at 7:25 p.m.

Anna Boyce Phillips of 464 Trillium Ridge felt that the street should be closed and that she was concerned about the safety of the children.

Jennifer Sisak, Project Architect with sfl&a, said the main public access will be off old East King Street which will limit any entrance out of the neighborhood.

There being no further comments, the public hearing closed at 7:26 p.m.

Town Clerk

Mayor