

**Town of Seven Devils
Parks and Recreation Committee
Minutes—Regular Session
January 14, 2021**

The Town of Seven Devils Recreation Commission met at 9:00 a.m. in Town Hall on January 14, 2021. Members present were, Ed Beck, Bob Bridges, Faye Brock, Anne Fontaine, Kay Lambert, Lee Metzger, Martha Stearns, and Mark Williams.

Wayne Bonomo, Larry Fontaine, Brad Lambert, Jewel McKinney, and Debbie Powers also attended.

Debbie Powers called the meeting to order and welcomed Mark Williams to the Parks and Recreation Committee. She asked for nominations for chair. Ann Fontaine nominated Bob Bridges. Martha Stearns seconded the nomination, and Bob Bridges was elected chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee. Debbie then turned the meeting over to Bob.

Bob Bridges asked for nominations for vice-chair. Kay Lambert nominated Anne Fontaine. Faye Brock seconded the nomination, and Anne was elected vice-chair.

Faye Brock made a motion to accept the agenda. Anne Fontaine seconded the motion, and it passed. Anne Fontaine made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 15, 2020, meeting. Kay Lambert seconded the motion, and it passed.

New Business

We discussed 2021 summer programs:

Music on the Lawn

Debbie Powers suggested that we might schedule three concerts, one during the later part of July and two in August, hoping that COVID-19 pandemic restrictions will have eased by then. Jewel McKinney suggested that we try to schedule the three groups whose concerts were cancelled in 2020. If a new group needs to be chosen, she recommended that a music committee be formed to help with selection. Debbie Powers reported that the town lost about \$900 in 2020 because of concert cancellations. This included three ABC permits and part of a deposit made to the sound engineer. If a venue can be prepared at New Town Hall, the concerts will be held there. If not, they will be held at Old Town Hall. Concerts held at New Town Hall might be called "Music with a View," because there will be a view of Grandfather Mountain.

Ranger workshops

Jewel McKinney will schedule workshops with Grandfather Mountain State Park ranger Andy Sicard. Jewel displayed one of two signs that will be used to advertise the workshops.

Bear decorating contest

We will sponsor a bear decorating contest in 2021. Anne Fontaine and Faye Brock will determine the theme.

Group hikes

Bob Bridges will plan four group hikes.

Pickleball

Lee Metzger announced that pickleball will be played on Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting May 18 and ending September 23. There will also be some clinics for beginners. Debbie Powers reported that she and Jewel are going to meet at the courts with some court professionals about ways to make the courts more adaptable for pickleball.

Landscaping workshops

We will work with Paige Patterson from the North Carolina Cooperative Extension to hold a gardening/landscaping workshop if a minimum number of participants register. This minimum will be set by Paige.

Virginia Creeper Trail ride

We decided not to sponsor this event because of difficulty in administering it and possible unstable weather conditions. Residents may organize a trip on their own.

Moonlight canoe trip

Bob Bridges announced that this activity will continue and will be planned for June 25. It will be open to people who have never experienced it as well as those who attended in previous years.

Yoga

Tiffany Williams will offer yoga classes, possibly starting in July.

New ideas

Faye Brock suggested that we might name a "Yard of the Month" during summer months. Anne Fontaine suggested having a Christmas decorating contest in December. Ed Beck suggested holding a "Walk the Hawk," in which participants would walk part of the Hawk route. Debbie Powers suggested having community celebrations later in the summer. Bob Bridges suggested continuing CPR classes and trying to increase attendance. Jewel McKinney reported that Liz Tortuondo and her sister, who own Be Creative Studios in Banner Elk would like to teach art or yoga classes. Wayne Bonomo suggested having a photography workshop. Those presenting new ideas were asked (by Bob Bridges) to send to Jewel an outline relating to potential implementation procedures to accomplish the new activity.

Old Business

Jewel McKinney discussed plans for New Town Hall. There will be a walking trail. There will be a place to hold concerts with a stage and possible band shell. There will be a bridge to access the concert area for delivery of sound equipment, etc. A pedestrian footbridge will cross the creek. Future plans may include a playground, dog park, or memorial garden. Debbie Powers said that some trees that were dead, diseased, or crowding out more desirable trees have been removed.

Jewel reported that construction on Old Town Hall is almost complete. An additional key fob needs to be installed. Exercise equipment should arrive in February. The book exchange will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and the exercise equipment will be accessible from 5:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. There will

be hand sanitizer, machine-cleaning supplies, and signs asking users to clean machines before and after use.

Member Comments

Kay Lambert thanked Jewel and whoever else kept the book exchange open.

Anne Fontaine welcomed Mark Williams to the committee.

Lee Metzger thanked town personnel for setting up Go to Meetings.

Anne Fontaine made a motion to adjourn. Kay Lambert seconded Anne's motion, and it passed.

Submitted by

Martha Stearns, Secretary