

**MINUTES  
VILLAGE OF FLAT ROCK COUNCIL MEETING  
VILLAGE HALL ASSEMBLY ROOM  
110 VILLAGE CENTER DRIVE  
AUGUST 12, 2021  
9:30 A.M.**

Mayor Weedman presided over the August 12, 2021, council meeting at 9:30 a.m. Those present in addition to Mayor Weedman were Vice Mayor Coletta, Council Members Carpenter, Dethero, Gooch, Gregory, Tiles, Village Clerk Parker and Village Administrator Christie.

**MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Weedman led the group in a moment of silent meditation. He then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comments** – None

**Agenda Approval/Changes**

Under *New Business – Item #11 – Apple Festival Parade* was added to the agenda. With no further changes, Council Member Tiles made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Vice Mayor Gooch. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Consent Agenda**

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- June 1, 2021 – Agenda Workshop Minutes
- June 10, 2021 – Council Meeting Minutes
- June 28, 2021 – Agenda Workshop Minutes
- July 8, 2021 – Council Meeting Minutes
- 2020 Tax Settlement
- 2021 Tax Charge

Council Member Carpenter made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Member Gooch. The vote carried by unanimous vote.

**Special Reports**

2. Administration – Village Administrator Christie

Village Administrator Christie reviewed the July 2021 zoning report dated August 5, 2021, and the Village Administrator report dated August 5, 2021, (see attached reports).

3. Park Update – Council Member Carpenter

Council Member Carpenter mentioned that at the Park Commission meeting on July 22, 2021, the following items were discussed.

- **Path around the Nature Center:**

In May 2021, a proposal was made to construct an asphalt path around the Nature Center. Members of the Park Commission have held several discussions with Trace and Company, Conserving Carolina, and Hunter Marks concerning the best way to construct this path around the Nature Center and still meet the wishes of the donors. The commission also discussed how to prevent washouts of several sections of our park trails. Recommendations from these parties ranged from more concrete and asphalt to raised wooden walkways, to using concrete pavers that could be shaped and dyed to resemble almost any type of surface desired, including natural stone, cross sections of tree trunks, wildlife and flowers, etc. A copy of the report developed by Hunter Marks was forwarded to the Park Commission and Village Council. The Park Commission will be discussing this report in detail at their upcoming meeting on August 26, 2021. The goal is to formulate a recommendation on how to proceed for review by Village Council by the end of October.

- **Dye Creek Restoration Project:** It is anticipated that the Village Council will receive information on the grant application from the NC Attorney General's Office to help fund this project by the end of October 2021.
- **Green Master Plan:** In May 2021, Will Garvey suggested that the commission form a "Green Master Plan" sub-committee to look at where new trees, plants, flowers, etc. can be placed, along with a master list of what native species can and should be planted. Will and Matt Toner are working on the details of the plan for presentation to the full Park Commission.
- **Invasive Species:** Conserving Carolina is resuming its efforts to remove invasive plant species from the park. Will Garvey and John Wilkerson walked the park with their representative on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Their first workday to remove invasive plants/trees with volunteers was Saturday, June 26, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- **Nature Walks:** Nature walks began in June and will continue through October. These walks take place on the second and fourth Saturday of each month starting at the Pavilion. Regular nature walks begin at 10:00 a.m. on the second Saturday. Nature Immersion Walks (shinrin-yoku) began in June as well and will continue through September. This activity is held on the fourth Saturday of each month beginning at 9:00 a.m.
- **Tree Survey:** The Henderson County representative of the NC Forestry Department will be conducting an evaluation of the tree species and population density in the Park over the summer months.
- **Request for Garden Shed:** Georgia Bonesteel requested that the Park Commission consider erecting a small garden shed near the Pollinator Garden so that the volunteers will

not need to lug all of their tools and supplies from the storage building near the park entrance. This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

- **Beehives in the Park:** Will Garvey announced that seven (7) beehives are up and running in the Park, and all are doing well. The locations of the hives can be found on free-standing maps located throughout the Park.

4. Foundation Update – Council Member Gooch

Council Member Gooch gave the following update:

- The Foundation has three new board members: Maurean Adams, President/Chair, Don Luy, and Cathy Veal.
- Working on a Friends-of-The Park focused event in September. The Foundation is finalizing dates and details now. The council will be notified via email to keep everyone in the loop.
- Foundation encourages all council members (that are not already on the automatic monthly schedule) to renew their Friends of the Park membership for the new fiscal year. The annual “renewal” campaign for FRIENDS is our focus for the summer and fall.
- This Giving Society initiative has raised over \$75,500 since its inception in April 2020; this does not include fundraising for annual giving – this number is for FRIENDS program alone.
- FRIENDS information is all listed on the Foundation’s website.

5. Transportation Update – Vice Mayor Coletta

Vice Mayor Coletta reported that the Flat Rock Transportation Advisory Committee (FRTAC) held their first meeting on July 27, 2021. Tristan Winkler, Director of the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), gave a presentation on the work of the MPO and an overview of regional transportation issues. The committee selected Ed Tiles as vice chair and Patrice German as secretary. Village Administrator Christie also attended. The next FRTAC meeting will have a representative from NCDOT present information on how the department handles road projects.

Vice Mayor Coletta also gave an update on the N. Highland Lake Road project:

- Construction will start around October 1, 2021.
- When the culvert for King Creek is replaced, the road will be open to local traffic only and closed to through traffic for 90 days. NCDOT will set in place detours and will also have a plan for emergency vehicles to access properties affected by the closure. NCDOT does not yet have a date for the culvert replacement.

- The three HOAs (Staton Woods, Highland Golf Villas, Highland Lake Village) most affected by the road project will receive email updates on construction as needed.

Vice Mayor Coletta also listed requests the Village has made to NCDOT maintenance over the past month, which NCDOT has taken care of. These requests include:

- Replacing missing Share the Road and Bear Crossing signs on Little River Road
- Removing debris reported on Little River Road
- Removing tree branches in front of the speed limit change ahead sign on southbound Greenville Highway
- Due to concern from neighbors about heavy trucks going over the bridge on Boyd Drive, which has a weight limit, NCDOT has installed a sign at Boyd and Greenville Highway that says, "Tractor Trailers Not Recommended."
- Repair work on the Boyd Drive bridge is ongoing
- Checking that the "Stopped or Slow Traffic Ahead" flashing light sign on Greenville Highway is working properly. This sign is set to be activated only when traffic is stopped at a certain point near Village Center Drive and is not connected to the traffic light at the intersection of Little River Road and Greenville Highway. The flashing light sign is working correctly.
- West Blue Ridge Road is currently being resurfaced.

6. Finance and Tax Report – Mayor Weedman & Paul de Chalain

Mayor Weedman reported no reports were available, but the Village finished the 2020 tax year great with one property in foreclosure.

**Old Business**

**New Business**

7. Park Workshop - Council Member Carpenter

Council Member Carpenter suggested holding the Park Workshop meeting after the Park Commission meeting on October 28, 2021, around 11:15 a.m. After discussions, Mayor Weedman suggested also having an ARP workshop in early September. Mayor Weedman will work on possible dates. The Park Workshop meeting was scheduled for October 28, 2021, at 11:15 a.m.

8. Board Appointments Policy

Council Member Gregory made a motion to reappoint Barbara Platz to the Planning Board for a three-year term ending August 2024, seconded by Vice Mayor Coletta. The vote carried by unanimous vote.

Council Member Gregory made a motion to reappoint Bruce Holliday to the Planning Board for a three-year term expiring August 2024, seconded by Council Member Gooch. The vote carried unanimously.

Council Member Gregory made a motion to appoint Michael Thompson to the Board of Adjustment for a three-year term expiring August 2024, seconded by Council Member Carpenter. The vote carried unanimously.

Council Member Gregory reported Board of Adjustment member Ronald Katz passed away. She is looking to find two volunteers to serve on the Board of Adjustment, and will present appointments to the Council at the September 9, 2021, council meeting.

Council Member Carpenter presented draft three of the Board Appointments Policy to council members, who reviewed the policy and made minor changes. Council Member Carpenter made a motion to approve the Board & Commission Appointment Policy as amended, seconded by Council Member Gooch. The vote carried unanimously.

#### 9. West Blue Ridge Scenic Byway

Council Member Carpenter reported Little River Road, Greenville Highway, and Rutledge Drive are currently designated as Flat Rock Scenic Byways. He feels West Blue Ridge Road qualifies as a scenic byway with the requirement of having natural or historical background. Vice Mayor Coletta stated for designation there is a process to apply involving sponsorship by elected officials, public hearings, and a form has to be filled out and sent to NCDOT. After discussions, council members expressed interest to proceed in investigating what is involved in designating West Blue Ridge Road as a Scenic Byway.

10. ARP Workshop – was discussed earlier. Mayor Weedman will work on available dates.

11. Apple Festival Parade – Mayor Weedman

Mayor Weedman mentioned that the Village Council had received a letter from David Nicholson inviting council members to participate in the NC Apple Festival parade.

#### **Other Business**

12. Mayor – Council Reports

Council Member Dethero reported the Historic Landmarks Commission is waiting to hear from Raleigh on the designation of Saluda Cottages. An ordinance and resolution will need to be prepared.

Council Member Dethero reported on the Halfway Tree Mobile Home Park sewer situation that no progress is being made. He will contact the two environmental companies in Asheville that came before and took samples. The City of Hendersonville cannot obtain a subcontractor to finish the job.

Council Member Tiles gave an update on the following:

**Census** – Census redistricting data looks to be further delayed beyond the September 30<sup>th</sup> release date. A lawsuit has been filed requiring the release of more records dealing with “group quarters.” Group quarters are defined as dorms, prisons, nursing homes and group homes. The lawsuit may delay the release of information for up to 6 months. There is no change in the redistricting release date, which remains September 30, 2021. This information may be changed due to more current information.

**Audit** – Council Member Tiles attended a pre-audit meeting with Village Administrator Christie, Mayor Weedman, and Auditor Carl Shaw. All is in readiness for the audit process. They also discussed Mr. Shaw’s ability to conduct a Yellow Book or Single Audit, if necessary due to ARP spending.

**Public Health** – At the last update presented by Governor Cooper on August 4, 2021, he set forth Executive Order #224. On September 1, 2021, North Carolina will require executive branch state employees to be vaccinated, or otherwise be tested weekly and wear a mask. Private employers are encouraged to do likewise. The Henderson County School board reversed course this week and masks are now mandatory. Eighteen- to forty-nine-year-olds currently make up 54% of COVID cases. Forty-nine percent of Henderson County residents have received a first dose, and forty-six percent are fully vaccinated.

**Flat Rock Playhouse** – Kim Hinkelman from the Playhouse prepared information regarding Playhouse eligibility for ARP funds. Council Member Tiles shared with her that Vice Mayor Coletta will represent Flat Rock when attending the August 16<sup>th</sup> workshop with surrounding municipalities concerning ARP spending.

Mayor Weedman stated that the Village would follow Governor Cooper’s COVID guidelines, and if Zoom meetings are mandated, the Council agreed to implement them.

Vice Mayor Coletta reported she sent information to the Times-News and Hendersonville Lightning newspapers about the August 12<sup>th</sup> Village Town Hall meeting. She plans to attend the August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting related to American Rescue Plan funding called by the county, along with representatives from the county and other municipalities.

Vice Mayor Coletta toured a facility to be sponsored by the Hendersonville Connections Center that will be looking for ARP funding. The HCC is a coalition of local organizations offering a central location for case managers and advocates from multiple social service organizations for classes, groups, and services. She has started a file of written requests received by the Village for ARP funding.

Council Member Carpenter asked about an update of ARP funding eligible for the PEG Channel. Mayor Weedman stated Flat Rock will be hosting the October LGCCA meeting, and he will put on the agenda to receive the consensus of other municipalities.

Council Member Gregory reported the Planning Board will be meeting one week later in October. The deadlines for articles for the Village Record newsletter is next Monday.

Mayor Weedman stated he received a Proclamation from the Daughters of the American Revolution for Constitution Week to be signed by the Mayor. Mayor Weedman stated candidate Jake Johnson running for NC House, District 113 representative has requested to attend the September 9, 2021, council meeting.

Mayor Weedman contacted the company that installed the electric vehicle charging station to inquire about the feasibility of Village collected usage fees for those charging electric vehicles. The company recommended not to initiate charging for use as it would cost the Village more than they would collect.

**Public Comments** – Superintendent Polly Angelakis, park superintendent at the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, gave an update that the barnyard and pastures opened July 30, 2021. Currently the house is closed. Mayor Weedman mentioned that if Carl Sandburg ever held the New Citizen ceremony again that the Village would like to participate.

**Adjournment**

With no further discussions, Council Member Gooch made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vice Mayor Coletta, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:17 p.m.

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Michelle Parker, CMC  
Village Clerk

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Nick Weedman  
Mayor