

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

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 4:30 p.m., Thursday, August 11, 2005, in the Council Chambers, 1500 Blowing Rock Road. Mayor Velma C. Burnley presided. Council members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Loretta Clawson, Graydon Eggers, Lynne Mason, Bunk Spann and Dempsey Wilcox. Staff present were Town Manager Greg Young; Town Clerk Freida Van Allen; Police Chief Bill Post and Public Services Director Blake Brown.

Public Services Director Blake Brown opened the meeting and said the purpose was to receive options on Bear Trail from Ms. Anne Booker, engineer with HSMM.

Ms. Anne Booker presented a synopsis of the Bear Trail Alternative Analysis (**EXHIBIT ON PERMANENT FILE, AUGUST, 2005, COUNCIL PACKETS**). Ms. Booker presented four alternatives for Bear Trail.

Alternative A - Widening the roadway to the east.

Alternative B - Widening the roadway to the west.

Alternative C - Installing a signal to direct two-way traffic along the one lane roadway.

Alternative D - Bear Trail remaining one-way as currently configured.

Ms. Booker said alternative A would affect eight parcels and cost up to \$370,000. Alternative B would affect one parcel and cost up to \$308,101 a cost which does not include acquisition of the Agle property. Alternative C would affect six parcels and cost up to \$85,000; it would be difficult for persons leaving the Junaluska Park.

Council member Eggers questioned how much the encroachment would be on parcels under Alternative A. Ms. Booker said it would encroach into the parcels about 25 feet. Council member Eggers pointed out new regulations regarding retaining walls in the Town. Ms. Booker said she was unaware of the new regulations which would probably increase the encroachment by four or five feet. Ms. Booker didn't feel that Alternative C would be a safe alternative. Council member Spann asked, if the Town leaves Bear Trail one-way, whether or not it could be made safer, such as using a convex mirror. Mr. Brown said that a mirror may give a false sense of security but that the entrance at Eastview could be constructed narrower to alleviate traffic from travelling the wrong way. Council asked if the Police Department was having problems with violators of one-way on Bear Trail. Police Chief Bill Post said that officers haven't written a violation on Bear Trail for over a year. Public Services Director Brown said the Transportation Committee has recommended that Bear Trail remain one-way. Council member Mason said it is a liability for the Town to open it back up to two-way traffic unless it is constructed as a two-way road and that any decision that is made should be made using safety as the decisive issue. Council member Spann agreed. An audience member argued that the Town is not looking at the "bigger picture" and that, before changing Bear Trail to one-way, the Town did not provide proper signage and speed humps. Council will make a final decision on the Bear Trail situation at the August 18th meeting. Mr. Brown then discussed the survey results from the

Oak Street project. Mr. Brown said that once the final right-of-way survey map on Oak Street is complete, he hopes to take the survey results and map to Transportation Committee members for their recommendation. Council member Mason requested that the survey results be presented using bar graphs. A final decision regarding Oak Street will be made at the September meeting.

There being no further business, on a motion by Council member Clawson, seconded by Council member Mason, Council moved to adjourn at 5:45 p.m.

VOTE: Aye-All
Nay-None

Town Clerk

Mayor