

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND THE TOWN COMMISSIONERS OF  
BILTMORE FOREST HELD MARCH 14, 2023

Be it remembered by those that follow these proceedings that the Governing Board of the Town of Biltmore Forest met and conducted the following business:

Roll call taken by the Clerk:

Mayor George F. Goosmann, III, present  
Commissioner Doris P. Loomis, present  
Commissioner E. Glenn Kelly, present  
Commissioner Fran Cogburn, present

Mr. Jonathan Kanipe, the Town Manager, and Mr. William Clarke, the Town Attorney, were also present.

Mayor Goosmann called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

Commissioner Loomis made a motion to approve the minutes from February 14, 2023. Commissioner Cogburn seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chief Trevor Lance gave the report for the Skyland Fire Department. There were twenty-three calls for service. Motor vehicle accidents are increasing this time of year. Chief Lance discussed the Skyland Fire Department app and encouraged others to sign up for it.

Aslyne Tate gave the monthly report for the Police Department. There were 526 calls for service. There were nineteen citations issued. Three more Police Officers completed crisis intervention. Officer Joseph Zub was sworn in on Friday.

There were two fatal accidents on Hendersonville Road in the month of February. The Police Department worked with Asheville Police Department on both calls. They have spoken to numerous residents who reside on Hendersonville Road about safety issues. Mr. Kanipe has reached out to North Carolina Department of Transportation for assistance.

Chief Chris Beddingfield and Ms. Tate met with Carolina Day School about safety issues and have scheduled active shooter training and discussed the entrance with the school.

Mr. Harry Buckner gave the report for Public Works. An offer has been extended to a candidate who has been interviewed for a position at Public Works.

Mr. Buckner said there have been many trees fall throughout Biltmore Forest due to the weather conditions.

Public Works personnel have been working on cleaning up around the outside of the Town Hall.

Mr. Buckner said the striping vendor has received the thermoplastics to redo the speed bumps once the weather gets warmer.

Mayor Goosmann asked Mr. Buckner about the status of the streetlight on Vanderbilt Road. Mr. Buckner said this is still a work in progress.

Mr. Drew Stephens asked why Public Works is no longer accepting bamboo. Mr. Buckner said it is because they do not accept co-mingled material.

Mr. Paul Zimmerman inquired about the 4x4 post next to some of the light poles and asked if those are going to be replaced. Mr. Buckner said yes.

Mr. Jonathan Kanipe gave the monthly report for the Town. The auditors from Carter PC will be here next month to present last year's performance. The Town's fund balance last year increased by \$335,840 and overall net position increased by \$514,469. A much more detailed presentation will be given next month.

The Town Planner recruitment has been going well. Two of the four applicants will return at the end of the month for a second round of interviews.

The Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission had their joint meeting led by Mr. Paul Zimmerman. Mr. Zimmerman did a great job leading this meeting. They also discussed administrative level review. The Planning Commission is going to review these ideas and suggestions.

Solutions for Local Government is conducting the space needs assessment. Mr. Steve Allan is performing this work and will provide a full report for the meeting in May.

Mr. Kanipe gave an update on the Centennial events. There are three trolley tours scheduled. The Police Department will send out an update about the route the trolley will take. Ms. Lauren Karlsson and Ms. Cindy Holman have done an excellent job getting this set up.

Commissioner Kelly asked what the total fund balance is. Mr. Kanipe said the estimate is \$4.5 million.

Mayor Goosmann said Ms. Angela Newnam conducted an excellent presentation regarding Lyme disease and thanked her for her service to the Town.

Mayor Goosmann read the Proclamation for tick-borne diseases awareness month.

# **Town of Biltmore Forest**

## **Official Proclamation**

### **TICKBORNE DISEASES AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, Tickborne diseases, such as Lyme disease, can be a very serious infection caused by a bacteria and scientists have identified more strains and species of this bacteria in the Southeastern United States than in any other region; and

**WHEREAS**, ticks, the vector of Lyme disease, are carried by many different animals and therefore ticks are frequently encountered by people who live in Biltmore Forest and Western North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, because ticks can be the size of a poppy seed and hard to detect many people who are infected with Lyme disease do not remember being bitten by a tick; and

**WHEREAS**, improper methods of removing ticks are dangerous and can actually increase the risk of being infected; and early recognition is needed as prompt treatment and adequate antibiotic therapy in the early stage may cure Lyme disease and prevent serious complications; and leaving Lyme disease untreated or being inadequately treated for Lyme disease can sometimes lead to death; and

**WHEREAS**, Lyme disease can affect the brain, heart, joints, and other organs; and some patients do develop the characteristic rash; and symptoms may not appear for months or even years following the initial infection; and patients are often misdiagnosed with more familiar conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, citizens should know that testing for tick-borne diseases, such as Lyme disease may be inaccurate; and with over a dozen tick-borne diseases in the southeastern United States everyone is urged to take all tick bites seriously.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, George F. Goosmann, III, Mayor of the Town of Biltmore Forest, do hereby proclaim March 2023 as "TICKBORNE DISEASES AWARENESS MONTH" in the Town of Biltmore Forest, and implore all citizens to practice personal preventative techniques when engaging in outdoor activities - such as frequent full body tick checks, using various methods to repel and avoid ticks, and proper tick removal techniques.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Biltmore Forest, North Carolina, to be affixed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023.

  
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Mayor George F. Goosmann, III

Mr. Kanipe discussed the Consideration of Ordinance 2023-02 which is an Ordinance to amend the Town of Biltmore Forest Town Code. This creates an abandoned and junk vehicle ordinance. This would let us regulate some specific issues we have with these types of vehicles. A motion was made by Commissioner Cogburn, seconded by Commissioner Kelly, and unanimously approved.

Mr. Kanipe discussed the Zoning Ordinance amendment recommendation for residential electric vehicle charging stations. This will require a Public Hearing which will be held next month. Mr. Kanipe asked for feedback from the Board. Last month, the Planning Commission considered a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners regarding a regulation on electric vehicle charging stations. Discussion focused heavily on how to ensure and require buffering if an EV station was outside. The consensus was not to treat the charging station as an accessory structure and to include it within the Town's existing utility structure ordinance with specific guidelines for buffering when outside.

Mr. Kanipe discussed the Hendersonville Road traffic safety issues. There were two fatalities recently and there is significant concern from the Town's perspective. Mr. Kanipe reached out to find out if guardrails could be installed or chevrons put in. There have been seven accidents within the past eighteen months. Chief Beddingfield and Mr. Kanipe have discussed this together. The North Carolina Department of transportation has reviewed the request for a guardrail or additional warning signage and found that neither was warranted in this location. Mr. Billy Clarke said getting the speed limit reduced would be the most feasible option. The guardrail is more difficult, but it limits driveway access. Commissioner Cogburn asked if more signs and lights can be put up by the Town.

Mr. Stephens said a reduced speed limit would be a good option. Multiple agency, collaborative speeding enforcement was also suggested.

Ms. Jennifer Schoolfield who lives at 945 Hendersonville Road said there have been six accidents in front of their home in the past eighteen months. Ms. Schoolfield thanked Mr. Kanipe for helping and being very responsive. She also appreciated any feedback to reduce the number of accidents on this road.

Ms. Lauren Karlsson said a vehicle damaged her frontal property at 933 Hendersonville Road. There was also a damaged speed limit sign that was damaged from last June and still hasn't been replaced.

Mr. Kanipe discussed the Consideration of Greenwood Park Master Plan components. Commissioner Cogburn has spoken with multiple parents regarding the plan on the Town's behalf. The most frequent recommendation was to have some type of bathroom facility installed. If the Board decides to have a bathroom facility installed, Town staff will develop protocols for how the bathroom is managed and maintained.

Commissioner Loomis said if there were bathrooms, they would need to be secure and clean and asked if the Town has the manpower to support these goals.

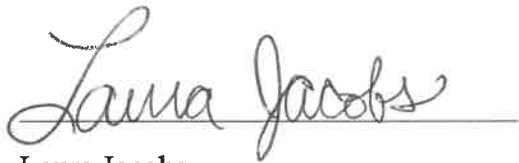
Commissioner Kelly would like to know the estimated cost of the bathroom facilities. Mr. Kanipe said he will provide a cost estimate for next month. There was a suggestion for electronic locking and unlocking. Commissioner Cogburn said this would be an excellent public service that the Town can offer its residents. Based on what residents have said, a restroom and a covered shelter would be important amenities in the park.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no further Public Comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:39 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 4:30 pm.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Jacobs". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Laura Jacobs  
Town Clerk

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Goosmann". To the right of the signature is a small, stylized mark that appears to be "III". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

George F. Goosmann, III  
Mayor