Board members present: Mayor Tim Helms

Commissioner Kitty Fouche (attending via Zoom)

Commissioner Alice Lentz

Commissioner Kent Otto

Commissioner Jane Alexander

Board members absent: Mayor Pro Tem Tom Widmer

Town staff present: Alex Carmichael, Town Administrator

Angie Murphy, Town Clerk

Several members of the public were present. Mayor Helms called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., and led the group in a moment of silence.

**Agenda Approval**

Commissioner Jane Alexander moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Alice Lentz seconded and the motion carried 4/0.

**Public Forum**

Town Clerk Angie Murphy read an emailed comment from Dr. Mary Standaert of 118 Shenandoah Terrace. Dr. Standaert stated that Senator Chuck Edwards has introduced a bill in the NC General Assembly that would eliminate single family residential zoning in NC municipalities including Montreat. If passed as written, duplex, triplex and 4-plex units could be built in districts that are now zoned for single family homes. Dr. Standaert urged the elected representatives of Montreat to put it on the evening’s agenda to indicate the council’s support or opposition. Mayor Helms responded and said that he had asked Town Administrator Alex Carmichael to look into this matter for the June Town Council Meeting.

Bob Wynne of 221 North Carolina implored the Council to vote down the proposed driveway on North Carolina Terrace at Wynne Lithia Springs. Mr. Wynne stated that the public had only been made aware of this proposal for one week and he asked Council to at least postpone the decision to allow more residents to state their opinions. Mr. Wynne reflected on the historical memories at the Springs.

Mari Gramling of 216 Alabama Terrace expressed her dismay and disbelief at the proposed driveway project on North Carolina Terrace at Wynne Lithia Springs. Ms. Gramling stated that the Springs have been around for 110 years and thousands of people have enjoyed them and continue to enjoy them. Ms. Gramling referenced environmental and safety concerns as well as parking. She also stated that she feels this proposal goes against the Town’s own Open Spaces Conservation Plan.

Mike Bowden, son of Jim and Jere Bowden, stated that his parents were long time supporters of Montreat. Mr. Bowden stated that the Bowden’s have no intention of creating an issue with the environment. Mr. Bowden asked the Commission to be fair in their decision.

Robert Hope of 218 North Carolina Terrace felt that the driveway proposal was to use town land for a private driveway and private use. Mr. Hope stated that the Wynne Lithia Spring and Creek was a sacred place for Montreaters. Mr. Hope stated his concerns with safety due to the increase of vehicles near the public gathering place. Mr. Hope stated that part time residents should not ask the whole community to alter what they have held dear for a century so that they can get better parking for a little while.

Ellen Henschen of 215 North Carolina Terrace expressed her opposition to the proposed easement. Mrs. Henschen felt that there has been insufficient public notice for this proposal and it goes against the Town’s Tree Management Plan which requires any tree removal or planting in Town right-of-way to receive a sign off from the Town Public Works Director.

AnnKelso Hewitt of 525 Suwannee Drive reflected on her history living on North Carolina Terrace as a child. Mrs. Hewitt asked the Council to consider a “no” vote to preserve the safe, secure, and inviting place which deserves an unaltered future.

Jim Bowden of 287 North Carolina Terrace advised Council that the proposed driveway would help him and his wife Jere access their home better. The house currently has 42 steps to access entrance/exit. Mr. Bowden believes the driveway will assist in his rentals for youth groups this summer.

Clary Phipps of 106 John Knox Road loves Wynne Lithia Springs and stated it is a part of her childhood. Mrs. Phipps pleaded with Council to keep the peace in her valley for her future.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Lentz moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Alexander seconded and the motion carried 4/0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

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Tim Helms, Mayor Angie Murphy, Town Clerk