

Valle Crucis Community Council

Meeting minutes – Thursday, June 22, 2023

Attendees: Walter Browning, John LaCapra, Erin Welsh, Tracey Heiss, Julie Gates, Alyson Browett **Not Present:** Howell Cook, Tracey Heiss

- Council members approved the minutes from the May 2023 meeting.
- Strategic Plan Committee:
 - The council discussed the need to understand the language and parameters of authority within the Valle Crucis Historic District Ordinance of Watauga County. John LaCapra offered to review and distill the statutes and bylaws of the 29-page document and send notes to council members.
- Old Valle Crucis School Committee:
 - The council discussed preliminary steps to be taken to create a viable plan that serves as the solution to Watauga County’s issue of the future of the old Valle Crucis School property. This council will develop a plan that will include some type of community ownership of the soon-to-be-vacated historic Valle Crucis School, preservation of the 1935-1937 Works Progress Administration rock building that sits on Broadstone Rd. in the National Historic Register-designated historic section of Valle Crucis, and environmentally sound plans for the surrounding wetlands. The North Carolina State Office of Historic Preservation has committed to helping the community strengthen our ability to protect the historic section of the old school property.
- Infrastructure Committee:
 - The council discussed possible avenues to acquire solar-powered radar speed signs like those used in Banner Elk and surrounding communities. The cost of these signs is approximately \$3,500.00 each. Major Kelly Redmon of the Watauga County Sheriff’s Department sent pricing quotes from Elan City, the same company used by the town of Banner Elk to purchase theirs. Those quotes were shared with council members. Walter Browning initiated discussion with a representative from H&M Constructors, the company in charge of the new Valle Crucis School construction project, to fund some or all of these speed signs.
 - Walter Browning called the NCDOT representative in the area, Nick Rominger, about the deteriorating condition of the asphalt on Broadstone between the light at Hwy 105 down to the turn at Hwy 194 across from the Valle Crucis Elementary School. Rominger committed to making improvements. Within days of Walter’s call, NCDOT crew filled potholes with asphalt and gravel. Paving of Broadstone will likely be delayed until construction at Hwy 105 and Broadstone is completed. Rominger’s staff in charge of maintenance was very cooperative and followed through with their commitment to make improvements as soon as possible. We appreciate their attentiveness.
- Meeting adjourned. The next meeting of the VCCC is scheduled for Thursday, July 27, at 6:00 PM.