

Valle Crucis Community Council

Meeting minutes – September 22, 2022 6:00 PM

Attendees: Howell Cook, Walter Browning, Scott Jensen, John LaCapra, Erin Welsh, Alyson Browett, Julie Gates, JD Dooley, Jennifer Storie (Watauga County staff representative)

Current council chairperson Howell Cook called the meeting to order. Cook spoke briefly about his 35 years on the Valle Crucis Community Council (VCCC) and the important role the council has played in representing the historic Valle Crucis community and its residents. Of the three community councils initiated in Watauga County over the years, the Valle Crucis Community Council is the only remaining active council. In his last action as VCCC chairperson, Cook nominated Walter Browning to succeed him as Chairperson. Browning won the nomination by unanimous vote. Scott Jensen was elected vice-chairperson. Julie Gates was elected secretary.

The first order of business was to create staggered terms within the newly elected nine-member council. The staggered terms are as follows:

3-year term: Walter Browning, Scott Jensen, Erin Welsh

2-year term: JD Dooley, Alyson Browett, Julie Gates

1-year term: John LaCapra, Tracey Heiss, Howell Cook

Jennifer Storie agreed to email a copy of the 2002 *Strategic Plan for Valle Crucis, North Carolina* created by the VCCC over 20 years ago to each member. Council members will use this 2002 plan as the launching point for an updated plan.

Council members decided that the fate of the historic portion of the Valle Crucis Elementary School is a time sensitive matter and requires immediate action. Browning will meet/talk with Joe Furman and other county officials (Darren Geouque, etc) to let them know of the Valle Crucis community/VCCC's interest in have a voice in any decisions related to the future of the historic section of the current Valle Crucis Elementary School. The rock building is a Works Progress Administration (WPA)/ New Deal structure akin to the Boone Post Office and Cove Creek Elementary School. Erin Welsh agreed to send information to council members from a recent Destination By Design/Imagine Watauga meeting where Valle Crucis and the Valle Crucis Elementary School were discussed.

TO DO: Each council member should take time to review the 2002 Strategic Plan prior to the next meeting. Look for opportunities for updates in the document, and please come prepared to discuss.

The next meeting of the VCCC is scheduled for **Thursday, October 27th at 6:00 PM**. The meeting location will be announced at a later date.

Meeting adjourned.