

## GRAHAM REVITALIZATION ECONOMIC ACTION TEAM

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOVEMBER 17, 2022

#### MINUTES

Members Present: Zel Rogers, Marcia Hollifield, Dick Evans, Jim Baker, Rick Davis, Beth Booth, Joe Bonnette, and Executive Director, Michelle Shiplet

Motion to open: Zel Rogers, seconded by Dick Evans; all in favor

Approval of Agenda: Motion: Dick Evans, seconded by Mary Millsaps, all in favor

Acceptance of minutes: Motion: Rick Davis, seconded by Dick Evans, all in favor

Acceptance of finance report: Jim Baker, seconded by Rick Davis

Updates from GREAT: Michelle Shiplet

Education in a Cup project: ready for new construction, plumbing & electrical to come next

Building Outdoor Communities workshop: GREAT is a midway participant, work to begin in March

Rural Transformation: partner with Town of Robbinsville to submit application

Year of the Trail: would like to plan activities around trails

Recreation: plans for a horse arena and recreation area are under way

Outdoor Recreation Economies: upcoming funding opportunities

Introduction of guest speakers: Southwest Commission Representatives

Becca Scott explained digital inclusion and the opportunities coming up soon for NC counties

Millie Smith shared information about the Building Outdoor Community cohort that Graham County and GREAT are members of and the intended goal of the cohort.

Josh Carpenter explained his new role with Southwest Commission and his work in Graham County as acting economic development agent.

Updates from the floor:

Carol Lawson: upcoming events with the Graham County Singers are December 3<sup>rd</sup> at First Baptist and

December 11

Stecoah Valley Cultural Arts Center will present their Christmas program on December 4<sup>th</sup>

Angie Knight: Annual Cookie Crawl will be December 10 from 10 til 2, 20 businesses participating this year, tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at the school administrative office, parade at 6 pm

Stecoah Valley Center: Breakfast with Santa and Craft Show beginning at 9 am on December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Kim Smith with the Wilderness Society: introduced herself and noted that photographs of the area and a photo essay brought national level highlight to the region. More shoots are planned

Eddie Hollifield: Boy Scouts of America, recognition of Brandon Jones for work toward cleanup of Fontana Lake

Brandon Jones: 200,000 lbs. of trash cleaned up from Fontana Lake; estimated 400,000 lbs. to go

Slick Rock/Joyce Kilmer: Joyce Kilmer loop to open on Saturday, November 19

NC Commerce, Ann Bass: another round of Rural Transformation funding in March, Rural Community Capacity grant for up to \$50,000

Jim Baker: NRRWQ Committee, highlight on the Year of the Trail in NC, NC known as the Great Trails State

Next Board Meeting will be December 15 at SVC beginning at 11am.

Move to adjourn: Dick Evans, seconded by Zel Rogers, all in favor