

Town of North High Shoals

Jeff D. Thomas
Mayor

Office of the Mayor

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August 21, 2001

PUBLIC HEARING

Members Present:

Mayor	Jeff Thomas
Councilwoman	Violet Dawe
Councilman	Wade Thomas
Councilman	Eddie Cape
Councilman	David MacIntosh
City Clerk	Sherry Bales

Others Present:

Nan DeColaines	Joey Westman
Don DeColaines	Heike Mueller
Steve Bergerhoff	Kris Burgerhoff
Brenda Walsh	Lila Walsh
Bill Sosebee	B.J. Ivie
Darrell Monroe	Beth Schneider
Karin Dietz	Donald Dawe
Fred Johnson	

This Public Hearing was held for the express purpose of discussing the upcoming plans for the North High Shoals City park.

The first question was what type of plan is being considered.

Mayor Thomas began by discussing the plan that he was going by. This plan was according to prior meetings and discussions that had been held concerning the park. The ideas from previous meetings are as follows:

- 1) hog wire fence around the perimeter of the park
- 2) a suitable walking path
- 3) additional path through the woods
- 4) a gravel area for parking
- 5) a baseball/softball/soccer field
- 6) a basketball goal
- 7) a pavilion w/flooring and later water and restrooms
- 8) determine what needs to be done with existing structures

9) grassing around front of park/lawn maintenance

Mayor Thomas noted that all this could not be afforded at one time so a priority list would need to be done to determine what was needed first.

At this time the Mayor opened the floor to the residents of the town.

Questions and concerns were as follows:

1. Will there be any lighting at the park? Mayor Thomas stated that from the very beginning that it had been decided that there would be no lighting at the park.
2. Would the park be torn up to put in water? Mayor Thomas stated that water lines had already been run along the road in front of the park. It was also mentioned that there was a well on the back side of the property. It was also noted that the well on the property was a safety hazard at this time.
3. Will the park be landscaped/beautified with maybe flowers, etc.? Mayor Thomas reminded the residents that the park would remain 40%-50% preserved but would like to see some flowers planted in the open area.
4. Will there be a place for bike riding? Mayor Thomas stated that a bike path was part of the concept plan.
5. It was noted that maybe some of the residents could plant the flowers. It was also noted that while keeping the natural areas in the park it would be good to have some of the plants and trees labeled.
6. What about the structures on the property? Mayor Thomas noted that there was a red barn that was structurally sound, a tin metal building that was structurally sound and an old house that was not structurally sound, therefore some decisions would have to be made as to what should be done with the buildings. Mayor Thomas went on to note that until such time that a decision could be made, it was necessary to secure the area pending that decision.
7. It was noted that the open area needed to be mowed now. Mayor Thomas stated that there was an individual that would be cutting the area for the hay.
8. Will there be a children's playground? Mayor Thomas stated that it was not in the plans at this time but that he has looked into it.
9. There was a concern about 4 wheelers and motorized vehicles being in the park. Mayor Thomas stated that that was one of the reasons for the perimeter fence. With the fence hopefully it will be easier to keep the motorized vehicles out of the park. It was suggested that "Private Property" signs be put along the fence.
10. What funds are available to spend at this time? Mayor Thomas stated that there was \$10,000 for spending to improve the park and there was \$5,000 for maintenance.
11. It was stated that a low impact park would be good but the kids would like something to climb on.
12. It would be good to have the park as a wildlife preserve. It would be good to have the basketball court made of pervious concrete.

13. If you do not pour a concrete basketball court, it would be nice to have to court area to be raised.
14. It would be nice to create small spaces to use for different areas, maybe separating each area by trees or hedges. Maybe a module system. Mayor Thomas stated that flower beds and maybe hedges could separate the areas. It was noted that you would need low hedges for this type of separation.

The Mayor then turned the discussion over to the council members.

Councilman MacIntosh spoke of the grant application that he is currently working on so that maybe some matching funds would be available to help with the expenses of the park.

Some residents had additional comments. They were;

It was stated that there was a program sponsored by the Governor that would help with the maintenance of green space.

There was a question concerning the possibilities of getting help from a landscape architect.

It was asked when would the volunteer work be established? Mayor Thomas stated that he would talk about that at the next meeting.

It was asked about putting up some type of trees along the front of the park to hide the baseball field which is not appealing. It was noted that the trees would need to be low maintenance.

One resident noted that he was against a paved path in the park. He noted that he would rather see a walkway of mulch. He went on to note that he was against the fence along the perimeter and also noted that something needed to be done about the house standing on the park land.

It was stated that wheelchairs do not do good on a walkway of mulch and that the town would need to meet the ADA regulations.

The meeting returned to council member comments.

Councilwoman Dawe had the following comments to note.

There needs to be a sit down session to go over the overall plan---
Do not do this piece meal---
What about the park sign---
There needs to be a citizens committee so that there will always be someone available when work is being done---
There needs to be some "No Hunting" signs---
There is a need for a paved walking trail but it could be beautified---
Would not like to see asphalt through the woods---
There definitely needs to be a place for bike riding---
The idea of a modular system would be good---
Would like to see some trees along the front---
Would like to vote on each issue rather than just talking about it---
Would need to select specific trees --- No Bradford Pear trees---
Would like to see the park become a wildlife preserve---
Would like the basketball court to have pervious concrete or asphalt---
Would like to involve the Eagle Scouts in this project---
Would also like to see a volleyball court area and a badminton area---

Would eventually like to see restrooms at the park---

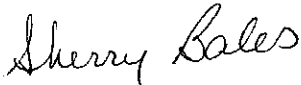
Councilman Cape stated that he did not want the park to become a burden to the town. He went on to note that he realized and wanted everyone else to realize that every person would not be happy with all the decisions that would be made for the park but the Council would try to make decisions that would benefit everyone within the town.

Mayor Thomas noted that he would like Councilwoman Dawe to find out what a wildlife preserve would dictate.

Mayor Thomas asked that each Council member submit a concept plan for the park to him by September 4, 2001 so that they can be passed along to the other members so that everyone will be ready to make a decision on a plan for the park at the September meeting.

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Thomas adjourned the meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherry Bales".

Sherry Bales
City Clerk