

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor J.B. Lawrence and Blowing Rock Town Council

From: Kevin Rothrock, Planning Director

Subject: Primary Fire District

Date: January 30, 2017

The Blowing Rock Fire Department has requested that the Primary Fire District be reduced from the current limits to those properties that more specifically match the definition of a Fire District in Appendix D of the NC Building Code. Some of the criteria required for a fire district include:

1. Two or more adjoining blocks where at least 50 percent of the ground area is built upon.
2. At least 50 percent of the built upon area is devoted to hotels/motels, restaurants, storage, and office uses.

No additional properties will be added to the primary fire district with the proposed map amendment.

Requirements for construction in the Primary Fire District include; exterior walls constructed of non-combustible materials and walls, floors, roofs, and their supporting members a minimum of 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction.

The closeness of the buildings, especially along the East Side of Main Street, creates an environment where fires could rapidly spread from one building to the next. The additional requirements for construction in the primary fire district further protect adjoining structures from fire spread. Most importantly, fire-resistant and non-combustible building materials help prevent loss of life.

The Fire Department recommends that the Primary Fire District be reduced to the area as shown on the enclosed map to more closely follow the NC General Statutes and NC Building Code. The reduction in the fire district also reduces unnecessary construction costs for buildings and properties that do not necessarily meet the development patterns of a primary fire district.

Enclosed please find a resolution to amend the fire district boundary and proposed map for your consideration.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-01

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE PRIMARY FIRE DISTRICT MAP

WHEREAS, according to G.S. 160A-435, cities are authorized to establish a primary fire limits and;

WHEREAS, a primary fire district regulates the type of materials that may be used on new construction, renovations, and additions; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Blowing Rock has established a primary fire district as provided in Section 12-16 of the Town Code and as shown on the Primary Fire District Map; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Blowing Rock may modify its primary fire limits map periodically to assist in fire prevention; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Blowing Rock, North Carolina, that the Primary Fire District Map shall be amended to include the areas as shown on EXHIBIT A;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Blowing Rock, North Carolina, that all regulations associated with construction and other activities within the Primary Fire District shall hereinafter apply to the area within the amended Primary Fire District upon adoption of this Resolution.

Adopted this the ____ day of _____, 2017.

J.B. Lawrence, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Hilari H. Hubner, Town Clerk

Proposed Primary Fire District

EXHIBIT A

