

MEMORANDUM

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

From: Kevin Rothrock, Planning Director

SUBJECT: Reducing BRAAC Membership from 9 to 7 members

DATE: February 27, 2015

In 2013, an ordinance was adopted re-establishing the Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission (BRACC) under the authority of the Land Use Code. One of the standards for BRAAC was that membership consists of nine (9) residents and citizens of the Town's planning and zoning jurisdiction and a quorum of five (5) members to conduct official business. With recent vacancies on BRAAC and the difficulty in filling member positions with a lack of applicants, it appears that a reduction in required membership and quorum is needed.

In the attached draft ordinance, membership for BRAAC is reduced from 9 to 7 members and a quorum is reduced from 5 to 4 members.

PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATION

At their February 19th meeting, the Planning Board recommended approval of the draft ordinance.

I can provide further clarification on the ordinance amendment during the meeting on March 10th, or questions can be directed to me at 295-5240 or krothrock@townofblowingrock.com.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-_____**AN ORDINANCE TO REDUCE THE MEMBERSHIP OF BLOWING ROCK APPEARANCE ADVISORY COMMISSION (BRAAC) FROM NINE (9) TO SEVEN (7) MEMBERS**

WHEREAS, the Blowing Rock Land Use Ordinance describes the functions of the Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission (BRAAC); and

WHEREAS, the BRAAC membership was re-established in 2013 at nine (9) members; and

WHEREAS, due to the seasonal membership of BRAAC, maintaining a quorum of five (5) members to conduct official business has proven challenging; and

WHEREAS, reducing the required board membership to seven (7) members and a quorum at four (4) members should help BRAAC conduct official business at any of its regular meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Blowing Rock, North Carolina, that:

Section 1. Chapter 16, Article 3 – Administrative Mechanisms of the Blowing Rock Town Code is hereby amended and will read as follows:

“16-3.6 Appearance Commission.

16-3.6.1 Membership and Vacancies.

(A) There shall be an appearance advisory commission consisting of ~~nine (9)~~ **seven (7)** members, all of whom shall be citizens and residents of the planning and zoning jurisdiction of the town. Members shall be appointed by the board of commissioners for a term of three (3) years. Vacancies occurring for reasons other than the expiration of terms shall be filled as they occur for the period of the unexpired term. It is desirable that at least one member be a member of a design profession.

16-3.6.2 Organization, Rules, Meetings and Records.

Within thirty days after its appointment, the appearance advisory commission shall meet and elect a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer. It may create and fill such other offices as it may determine. The term of each officer shall be one year. They may be re-elected. The commission shall adopt rules for the transaction of its business and shall keep a record of its members' attendance and of its resolutions, discussions, findings and recommendations, which records shall be open to the public. The commission shall meet as needed. All of its meetings shall be open to the public. For the purpose of taking any official action authorized or required by this article, there shall be present a quorum of ~~five (5)~~ **four (4)** members.”

Section 2. Severability; Conflict of Laws. If this ordinance or application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the ordinance which can be given separate effect and to that end, the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be effective upon adoption.

Adopted this the ____ day of _____, 2015

J.B. Lawrence, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Sharon H. Greene, Town Clerk