

The TRUTH about the Mineral Springs Greenway

- Designed as a horse trail, opened to mountain bikes, joggers, hikers; natural surface, steep, rocky
- Inspected in June 2014 by Disability Rights and Resources (ADA experts and disability rights advocates): only correction needed was paved handicapped parking space. **TRAIL NEEDS NO MODIFICATIONS TO COMPLY WITH ADA!**
- Parking space project was out for bids July 2014, Bowden complained to US Justice Department and DRR told us to stop all efforts until complaint resolved
- JUNE 2015: Justice department had rejected Bowden complaint; he went to state and county. Union County Inspections notified town that building code violations existed, told town to hire “qualified design professional” to recommend improvements
- JUNE 30, 2015: Zoning Administrator met with County department head
- JULY 9, 2015: Town council discussed at regular meeting, voted to ask Stewart to provide consulting proposal
- AUGUST 13, 2015: Council approved Stewart’s proposal for \$4,300 to study trail and recommend action
- SEPTEMBER 10, 2015: Eagle Scout candidate asked for approval of bird house project, Council told him to contact Stewart and Union County to make sure he would not interfere
- OCTOBER 2015: Dan Blackman from Stewart met multiple times with Union County Inspections and MS Zoning Administrator had many phone conversations; county said that they had never issued such permits and were not sure what the requirements were, told Stewart to “submit something”
- October 29, 2015: Mayor and Zoning Administrator directed Stewart to submit plan to 1) pave parking space; 2) remove unapproved platform built by Boy Scouts; 3) create new picnic area on recently purchased land and build accessible walkway to it; 4) remove picnic tables from trail and relocate to new area; 5) remove steps in Copper Run. These projects should cost less than \$25,000; if proposal is approved, Council will consider bids.

My opponent’s campaign says we’ve done “NOTHING” since June. THAT IS A LIE. Does the list above look like “NOTHING”?

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The TRUTH about the MS Downtown Park

Mineral Springs residents have long wanted a downtown park for seniors, families, and small children, with paved walkways for exercise, benches and tables, and a playground.

- JUNE 2014: Council sent out Resident Survey in cooperation with Centralina Council of Governments
- AUGUST 2014: 1,000 surveys sent out, 300+ received back; 75.7% of citizens wanted “a small park with walkways and benches” in the downtown area
- JANUARY 2015: Town council conducts planning retreat, decides to move forward with downtown park
- FEBRUARY 2015: Council approves requests for proposals, sends requests to three design/engineering firms
- APRIL 9, 2015: Council selects Stewart Incorporated to design park at a fee not to exceed \$26,980; Council initially *hoped* to spend only an additional \$100,000 on construction
- MAY 4, 2015: Council conducts public input meeting where citizens can speak directly with Stewart with park suggestions
- AUGUST 13, 2015: Council approved final construction documents (walkways and benches!), authorized Stewart to advertise for bids; additions based on public input and plan review for ADA and Building Code compliance will increase costs
- OCTOBER 6, 2015: Low construction bid is \$169,800, more than council wanted to spend; Stewart is able to get cutbacks on some grading to reduce cost \$5,330 to \$160,470 plus a \$4,000 contingency that may not be used. Further cost cuts not practical because the features desired by the public and the requirements of Union County Inspections, Union County Public Works, and NCDOT will cost more than planned.
- OCTOBER 8, 2015: Estimated cost of complete park with playground (separate contract @ \$40,000) will be just over \$200,000 for a total of \$228,000 including the design. Council approves Capital Project Ordinance for \$240,000 to cover contingencies.

Now the SAME people who were DEMANDING the park and who HATED the greenway are saying “Don’t build the park”. What does THAT tell you?
The town has \$700,000 saved for projects and the park will NOT result in a tax increase!

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