

## YMCA Supporters Weigh Watauga Task

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On Tuesday evening, approximately 60 people showed interested in renewing an effort to establish a YMCA in Boone by attending a meeting at the Watauga Medical Center Auditorium. The program was sponsored by High Country Recreation, a new non-profit organization in Watauga County, with Scott St. Claire, president, explaining the purpose to those gathered. Then Bob Conklin, President of the YMCA of Catawba Valley, shared the objectives and mission of YMCAs, and went on to explain the requirements for being a YMCA with mission and goals of the USA YMCA organization. He then explained what US, YMCA projects as the criteria a community needs to meet for starting and sustaining a program, including an explicit need; second, a population of 25,000 or more; third, one million dollars raised to support start up costs for two to three years; and finally, six to seven million dollars raised later on to cover the cost of purchasing land and building a facility in which to provide a gym, swimming pool, wellness center, baby sitting, and locker rooms. At the close of the session, Mr. St. Claire invited everyone present who was interested in being involved to sign up before leaving. He also invited anyone hearing about this group through media outlets who also wanted to be involved to contact him at High Country Recreation.