Written by Gary Childers
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Boone's Town Council revisited its stop gap measure to limit the height of buildings in the downtown area during its Tuesday evening meeting. The issue became a concern during last month's meeting when it was brought to Council's attention that there may be plans being developed calling for construction of buildings in the downtown area much taller than those already in existence. The concern among Council members is that if this occurred it would hurt the present character of the downtown area and not be consistent with the 2030 plan for Boone. After much discussion about the height limits for new or enlarged buildings it was motioned and approved by a three to two vote, with Ball and Scherlen voting nay, to limit building heights in the B1 (Central Business) district to 40 feet. This amendment will stand until downtown building heights can be further analyzed by the planning department and public input has been received.

In other business the newly formed Cultural Resources Board brought several items to the Council for action. The Council approved their requests to provide funds for an assessment of the Rivers Property structures to determine if there were any structural or safety concerns before considering their potential uses. They were also approved up to $7000 to install protective fencing around a sugar maple tree on the Rivers Property know as "Babe". It is thought that "Babe" is the largest and oldest sugar maple in North Carolina and worthy of protecting. The Cultural Resources Board also asked for the town to explore the possibility of a trail system on the Rivers-Coffey property. Town manager, Greg Young, will research what has previously been proposed for this property as a potential trail area and bring that information back to Council. The Council also approved their request to expand the operating hours of the Jones House to include Saturday mornings starting in December.