

# Bear-Smart Community Update

Meeting date: December 13, 2010

(Agenda Item 8-C)

**Brief Summary:** On October 4, 2010, the Board of Aldermen directed staff to investigate refuse controls to discourage bear activities in Town neighborhoods, (specifically focusing on converting all Town-controlled refuse containers to bear-proof receptacles), and to integrate community education and programming for residents (consistent with recommendations by presenters and successful programs across the nation).

## **Refuse control (for Town-controlled waster receptacles only):**

1. GDS, Inc. owned dumpsters: ADDITIONAL \$25/mo./container
  - a. **6 each** containers = \$1,800/year
2. Downtown refuse receptacles: **30 each** @ \$667-\$729 each = \$22,625 to \$24,350
3. Parks refuse receptacles: **45 each** @ \$667-\$729 each = \$30,015 to \$32,805

Total estimated capital costs (receptacles): \$52,640 to \$57,155

Annual fees: \$1,800 per year (dumpsters)

## **Refuse control (for households):**

4. Household collections: GDS, Inc. is willing to provide bear-proof containers to all households at no charge, in exchange for a contract extension and/or contract renegotiation with the Town (in order to cover capital expense of containers).

**Recommendation:** Staff will continue to research capital equipment for optimal value; staff will also determine locations where food scraps are prevalent and develop priorities listing for locations (for possible multi-year CIP implementation).

## **Education:**

Town staff met with Ms. Tanya Poole November 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss development of comprehensive community education program in line with “bear-smart” community principles and using the resources of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Mr. Bill Lea, Wild South NPO and others. Ms. Poole is a Regional Education Specialist for the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and is working towards her advanced degree through Montreat College. This project will be her Master’s Thesis.

Specifically, Ms. Poole will design a system under the following outline:

- a. **Planning:** Design brochures, flyers, posters, decals and signs; programming of educational sessions beginning in Spring, 2011;
- b. **Implementation:** Organize volunteers/volunteer organizations to aid in distribution of materials, education, and (hopefully) set up a cadre of persons/organization(s) to manage long term programming;
- c. **Program survey and compilation of results:** Survey residents to assess behavior change and report results to the Board of Aldermen.

## **Ordinance development:**

Under the “bear-smart” community principles, further development/strengthening of ordinances is often an effective tool for municipal government and warrants further development (to compliment the overall community plan).

Submitted by: Mark Combs, Public Services Director