

Elevator and Parking Project Report

December 2020

A lot continues to go on in the background regarding our big site and building improvements, though we still have not broken ground. The site plans were completed by the engineer early last month and were approved by the Town of Waynesville, with minor landscaping modifications. The Haywood County maps which our engineers and architects relied upon to make the initial filling and grading estimates turned out to be off by several feet when the actual surveys were made, meaning that the engineering work was more complicated and the filling and grading of our steep slope will be more extensive than originally thought. In addition, the retaining wall will need to be significantly longer—though not higher—than originally drawn. The retaining wall subcontractor received their approved specifications before Thanksgiving and is now completing the design for this critical part of the project. Due to a lot of planning and construction currently in process, the town has been several weeks behind in issuing permits. Of course, Clark and Leatherwood needed to have a permit in hand in order to assign and schedule our work crew. It now looks pretty certain that we will break ground in early January. The site work should take 60-70 days, depending on weather, and then building construction will begin.

The structural engineer has completed his evaluation, and the final architectural drawings for the elevator and portico addition, incorporating his recommendations, will be completed by Christmas. The bidding and scheduling process for the building improvement will occur while the site work is done. Clark and Leatherwood has been monitoring costs and availability of labor and materials carefully, since things are moving more slowly than all had hoped, and they assure us we are in good shape for budget and timeline for the building portion of the project. The rear part of our site will be closed for about 6 months soon. The work should be completed by next summer.

The year 2020 has been difficult in a lot of ways, but this great enhancement of our campus gives everyone something exciting to look forward to in 2021! May you all have a blessed Christmas. As always, if you have questions or suggestions for our committee, please contact me.

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PS—Our building project team now has a new “official” name.