

Botetourt County Library Board of Trustees
October 11, 2023, 12:00pm

Present: Dr. Marlene Preston, Chair (virtual); Mrs. Julia Patterson, Vice-Chair; Mr. Chris Becke; Mrs. Mary Lynn Leffel; Dr. Brandi Porter; Ms. Julie Phillips

Absent: Steve Clinton

Minutes from the September meeting were approved electronically.

Mrs. Patterson called the meeting to order at 12:02pm.

Mrs. Patterson stated that she had received written notification that Dr. Preston was ill and would be unable to attend the meeting in person, but had requested to attend virtually. Motion by Dr. Porter, seconded by Mr. Becke, all voted to approve Dr. Preston's virtual attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No registered speakers.

INTRODUCTION: EAGLE ROCK BRANCH MANAGER

Ms. Phillips introduced Chelsea Wood as the new Eagle Rock Branch Manager. Chelsea had previously served as the branch's Team Leader, and earned her Master's degree in Library and Information Science from Old Dominion University this past spring.

BRANCH MANAGER UPDATE: EAGLE ROCK

Ms. Wood gave the following update:

- The children's and teen areas have been switched so the children's area is nearer the Storytime Room.
- The Storytime Room mural was painted by local artist Cheyenne Renee and funded by Carris Plastics, the Friends of the Library, and the County incentive Fund. The room also contains new tables, chairs, and nature-themed seating.
- The County Incentive Fund and Friends of the Library also purchased a makerspace cart for easier transport and storage of programming supplies.
- The branch has a program or event going on nearly every day. Programs include: Botetourt Trails, Revolutionary War reenactor, "Life of Sorrow" bluegrass performer, Senior Bingo, chess clubs, yoga, and a garden club.
- The Friends of the Library will host a used book sale next weekend. They're also planning a holiday craft fair in conjunction with the December tree lighting event. Mr. Becke asked if they would be selling puzzles, and Ms. Wood indicated that they had a few for sale.
- Mr. Becke praised Ms. Wood's friendly and helpful service when he comes to the branch for computer workshops.

NOVEMBER MEETING DATE

Mrs. Patterson reminded the Board of a previous discussion to combine the November and December meeting due to members' schedules and holidays.

Dr. Porter motioned to cancel the November meeting date and leave the December meeting date as-is. Seconded by Mr. Becke, all approved.

BOARD BYLAWS

Mrs. Patterson noted that the Board bylaws are due for an routine annual update. She offered the possibility of a subcommittee to propose any revisions for Board discussion. Dr. Preston and Mrs. Patterson are both willing to serve as a subcommittee.

Dr. Porter voted to establish the subcommittee, seconded by Mrs. Leffel. All approved. Ms. Phillips will send out the current bylaws for everyone to review prior to discussion in the December meeting, then a vote in January.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Ms. Phillips gave the following update on library activities:

- The Eagle Rock Library has changed its operating hours and will no longer be open on Saturdays. Since opening in 2010, the branch has consistently had very little traffic on Saturdays, so this change reallocates staff time to higher-demand days/times.
- The library has posted 4 part-time Library Assistant positions – 2 at Blue Ridge, 1 at Buchanan, and 1 at Eagle Rock. Mr. Becke noted the possibility of bringing in interns to help with special projects and alleviate the staff workload. Dr. Porter noted that interns can require a heavy investment of staff time, depending on the project.
- Due to challenges with staffing levels (including staff absences for medical or sick leave and family care), programming will be scaled back through winter.
- Botetourt County will launch its annual #BOCOGrateful campaign in November.
- Libraries have flyers and paper copies of Carilion's triennial online Community Health Survey available to the public. An invitation to a community input session for Fire/EMS is also posted in libraries.
- Upcoming program highlights:
 - Your Historic Property and How to Save It – Department of Historic Resources
 - Botetourt Trails – in partnership with Parks & Recreation
 - "Stella Luna: The Musical" - Mill Mountain Theatre
 - Spooky Storytelling Festival (larger event) - Troutville Town Park
 - Tree lightings at Blue Ridge and Fincastle in early December
 - Music & Cookies – all branches, early December
 - Outdoor Book Club in Troutville
 - Iron Furnaces of Botetourt – early December
 - Veterans' Voices – Botetourt County Historical Society and Museum is collecting stories from veterans for the historical record (oral history project)
- The Friends of the Library will be holding used book sales at Blue Ridge and Eagle Rock

- Upcoming holiday closures: Election Day, Veteran’s Day, Thanksgiving
- All branches now have a small seed library. Any patron can select up to 5 packets of seeds, and they are encouraged to save seeds from their harvest and return them to the seed library.
- Resource highlight: VetNow offers live online help and resources for veterans, including job coaching, transitioning to civilian work, academic tutoring, navigating benefits and resources, and more. Live military benefits navigator available Monday-Friday, 2-11pm.
- As requested by the Board last meeting, Ms. Phillips shared population maps by district for 2023 and 2028 (projected).
 - No substantive change expected in the Buchanan, Fincastle, and Valley districts.
 - The Amsterdam district anticipates a population increase, and the southern end of the Blue Ridge district could see a slight reduction in population.
 - According to data from the US Census Bureau and the Weldon-Cooper Center for Public Service, Botetourt experienced 10.1% growth from 2000-2020. Population growth from 2020-2040 is expected to slow, with only a 4.5% anticipated increase (2.6% from 2020-2030 and 1.9% from 2030-2040) primarily in the Daleville area.
- Ms. Phillips noted that the library’s strategic plan was due for an update, tentatively slated for Board input in early 2024.

BOARD COMMENTS

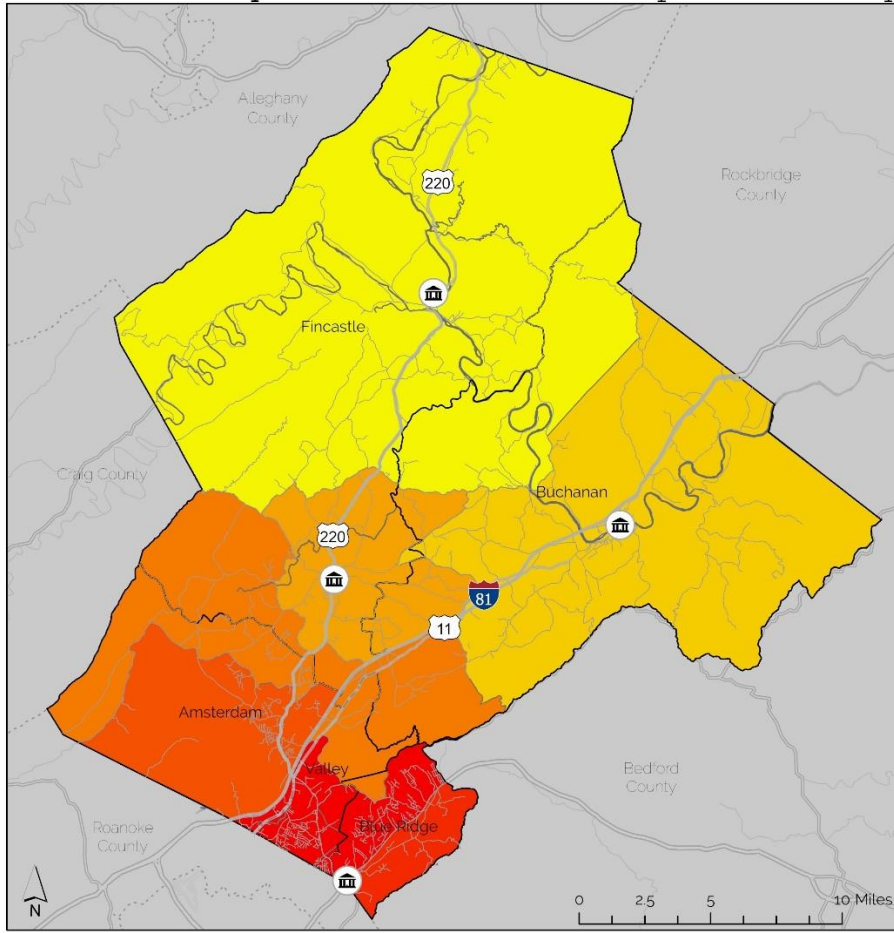
- Mrs. Patterson reminded the Board of the annual officer election in December.
- Dr. Porter noted that the Foundation subcommittee was meeting with Beth Raps, a professional fundraiser and Friends of the Library member, for advice.

The meeting adjourned at 12:52pm.

2023

Botetourt County

Current Population Density



General Features

- County Boundary
- Major Roads
- Local Roads
- Water
- Towns

Libraries

2023 Population Density (Pop per Square Mile) (Esri)

- ≤13.9
- 13.9 - 31.7

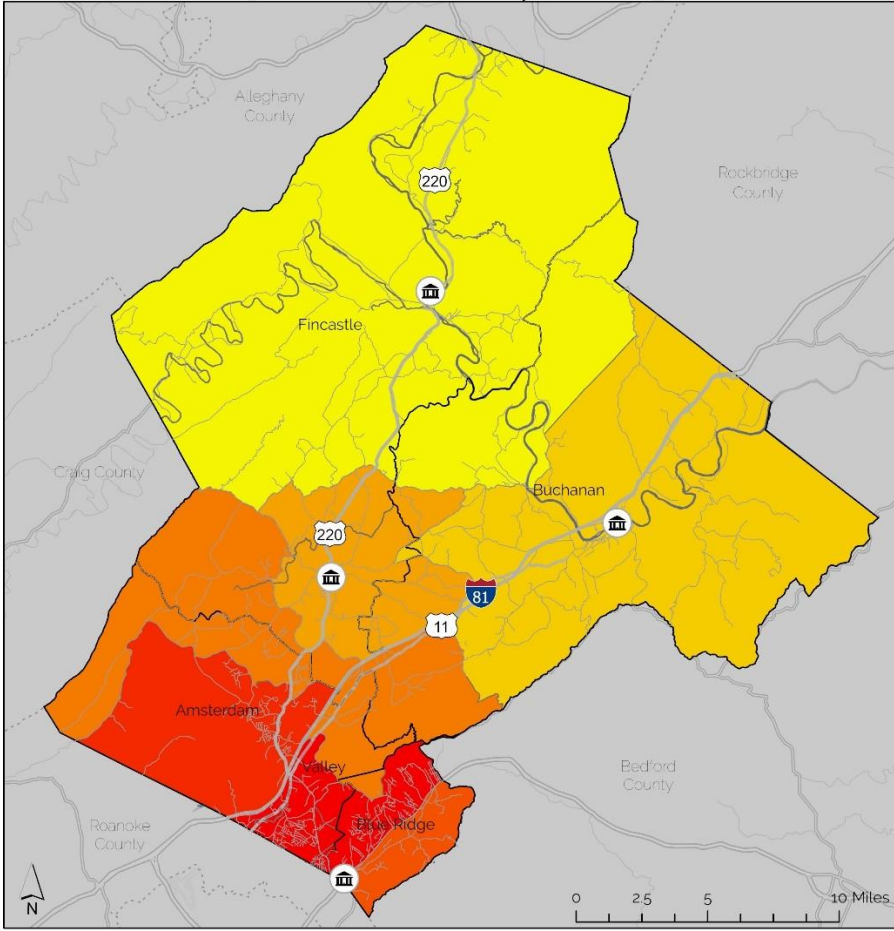
- 31.71 - 77.8
- 77.81 - 91.2
- 91.21 - 126.9
- 126.91 - 132.1
- ≥132.2



2028

Botetourt County

Projected Population Density



General Features

- County Boundary
- Major Roads
- Local Roads
- Water
- Towns

Libraries

2028 Population Density (Pop per Square Mile) (Esri)

- ≤13.7
- 13.8-31.4

- 31.41 - 77.6
- 77.61 - 90.7
- 90.71 - 130.6
- 130.61 - 135.6
- ≥135.61

