

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.  
19 Big Spruce Lane  
Waynesville, NC 28786  
(828) 456-3718  
February 3, 2012

Caroline Klapper  
**The Mountaineer**  
220 North Main Street  
Waynesville, NC 28786

**Subject:** “No occupancy permit, but limited club use legal”...

Ms. Klapper,

Thank you for your reply to my request for information on a “signed off Final Inspection” report for the Gateway Club from the Waynesville Inspection Department. I did not notice an attachment to your e-mail, so I presume that the “signed off Final Inspection” document is not forthcoming.

You indicated:

You are welcome to come to my office anytime you're willing to go on the record with your concerns. I've learned to be skeptical of sources who won't lend their name to an issue. My time spent on this issue has only reinforced this skepticism.

The Mountaineer is printed for public consumption and you are free to do with my stories as you see fit. The stories are a complete reflection of my research to which I have nothing to add. Any further challenges to the voracity of my research should be made through my editor, general manager or publisher, all of whom I've copied on this email.

Unfortunately, I too, have learned to be skeptical of giving interviews to news reporters, as it has been my experience that quotes can be taken completely out of context and twisted to match the views of the reporter. My experience dealing with the news reporters in Haywood County has only reinforced that skepticism.

If the stories that you authored in the Mountaineer are a complete reflection of your research, to which you have nothing to add, which I have challenged the voracity of your research, then you should do some reflection on your own research skills. Looks to me that you kind of got burned in your first article on 1/27/2012 when you said:

“The historic building was renovated and opened in 2008, when it was issued a certificate of occupancy.”

I don't believe you ever indicated to me, via your research skills, who you received that piece of information from.

Of course, it doesn't bode well on your research skills when you have to “eat it”, as depicted in your first sentence in your 2/1/2012 article:

“A story printed in The Mountaineer on Friday, Jan. 27, incorrectly stated The Gateway Club received a certificate of occupancy when it was given permission to use the first floor of the building.”

Still waiting to hear, via your research skills, who gave you the following information from your article on 2/1/2012:

“ ... Because the top floors weren't completely finished, Building Inspector Jason Rogers completed a final inspection and signed off on the use of only the first floor in 2008”.

If there were a “certificate of occupancy” (as you stated via your research skills) in your 1/27/2012 article, or a “signed off Final Inspection” (as you stated via your research skills) in your 2/1/2012 article, I should have had those presented to me when I made my request for public information at the Waynesville Building Inspection Department on 10/10/2011 and 10/11/2011.

If the documents were there, and I was not presented those documents, I figure someone is in a whole lot of trouble.

If the documents did not exist back in October of 2011, and they exist now, we could be looking at some back-dated documents. Again, someone could be in a whole lot of trouble. NCDOI has a complete document dump of everything that was in the Gateway Club folder that existed back in October. Perhaps you can use your research skills to answer some of these concerns.

By the way, it was brought to my attention that meetings, as late as last week, are being held on the second floor of the Gateway Club.

Your 2/1/2012 article indicated (a story which represents a complete reflection of your research skills) that only the first floor has been approved and has a Final Inspection sign-off. So how can it be that the second floor is still being used?

Anyway, with some relief, I don't have to pursue answers to these questions any more. It will be now up to the investigators at NCDOI to take a further look into this. I am providing them with scanned copies of your two articles.

Sincerely,

Monroe A. Miller Jr.