

Smithfield 2020

Notes from project team meeting of March 2nd, 2011

Present:

Jim Abicht	Trey Gwaltney	Connie Rhodes
Rick Bodson	Mark Hall	Peter Stephenson
Bill Davidson	Randy Pack	Judy Winslow
John Edwards	Russell Parrish	
Sheila Gwaltney	Lisa Perry	

Admin / Updates

Election of third Member-at-Large

Bill Davidson was appointed by unanimous vote as a Member-at-Large, back-filling Russell Parrish, now a voting rep for the Chamber. Bill's term expires in December 2012.

Visit with Dr. Paul Conco, PDCCC

Mark Hall and Rick Bodson met with Paul D. Camp Community College President Paul Conco on February 7th to discuss long range plans for the Smithfield facility. Though there is a commitment to maintaining a presence, there is no long term plan to expand. PDCCC is pleased with the current facility and co-location with the library, though improvements in exterior lighting, parking and general aesthetics were identified as needs. Mark has engaged with Isle of Wight School staff on the issue of Dual Enrollment vs. Advanced Placement programs for high school students; neither County high school currently participates in PDCCC's DE program. No specific 2020 initiative or call to action was proposed.

William & Mary MBA Team's Windsor Castle survey

As part of the Mason School of Business team's evaluation of options for the Windsor Castle site, a public input survey has been posted online and 2020 was asked to publicize it last week. The W&M team is scheduled to present their report to the Town Council at the Building & Public Welfare Committee meeting on April 26th.

Project briefings

113 / 117 N. Church Street properties (In Devt)

The Town Council has accepted an offer for the old firehouse (113) from Hallwood Properties, LLC; Mark Hall is the lead partner. Plans are to develop mixed use of up to four retail shops with apartments above. The acquisition of old laundry (117) by The Virginia Company, a dining establishment, is in final negotiations; Kevin Blair is the lead partner.

Smithfield license plate (In Devt)

To date, 48 of the needed 350 applications have been submitted.

Facades improvement (In Devt)

No new applications have been received. The Ice Cream Parlor has received a 50% progress payment; work at the Olde World Tea Company has not yet begun. To date, \$3700 of the \$10,000 has been committed to the two projects and \$1200 has been paid out.

Golf carts (In Devt)

In response to feedback from the initial presentation to the Town Council Police Committee, an effort is underway to gather data on demand for golf carts in the neighborhoods that could qualify; a survey has been posted on the 2020 Website. Also, Town Council members have individually been asked to identify specific issues of concern. A follow-up discussion will be requested by 2020 for the March Police Committee meeting to address the open issues.

Public art (Assigned)

A project plan has been developed for the porcine signage and statuary initiative. The scope on the former is limited to branded signage that will identify public parking areas; specific placement is being identified. The scope on statuary is limited to six, to be placed in the Historic District. The proposal calls for statues that painted by professional artists. Conversation has been initiated with Smithfield Foods to ensure that an appropriate representation of ham industry pig is selected. The project details are being more fully defined and a project definition will be presented at the April team meeting.

New initiative / new business

America in Bloom / quarterly clean-up day

The AIB project team (the Leadership Isle of Wight class) has internalized the scope of effort for the initiative and identified maintenance of public areas as a particularly challenging issue. After some discussion of efforts by Town staff and by Town-directed volunteers for periodic clean-up, it was recommended that a request for specific support be developed and presented by the Chamber of Commerce and the AIB team to the appropriate Town Council Committee. No specific action is planned by 2020 at this point.

215 / 217 Main Street

An agenda item for the February BHAR meeting listed a request to demolish 215 Main Street (the Smithfield Flower Shop) as part of the plan to develop the 217 Main property (the former Ben Franklin). (The item was withdrawn by the applicant before BHAR met.) The item raised a concern about the loss of an apparent viable commercial building representative of the sole proprietor shops in the Historic District. Further research identified apparent inconsistencies in the classification of District buildings as Landmark, Contributing and Non-Contributing and the risk inherent in modifying or razing Non-Contributing buildings. After discussion of the issue and an affirmation that the character of Main Street is dependent on the preservation of its current inventory of sites, it was decided by general consensus that 2020 invite Mr. William Saunders, Town Planning staff, to the April 2020 meeting to explain the classification guidelines. Trey Gwaltney is on point to develop an agenda for the session and to provide background materials or explanatory examples prior to the session.

Tree pruning on Main Street

After the overly zealous pruning of crepe myrtles on Institute Street, a request was made to the Town Manager that more appropriate pruning be managed for Main Street trees.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 6th, 8:00 AM, Arts Center @ 319 classroom. Note the early start to accommodate the session with William Saunders.