

## Smithfield 2020 Notes from Team meeting of June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### Present

Jim Abicht	Lee Duncan	Randy Pack
Mike Adams	John Edwards	Kim Pugh
Rick Bodson	Tom Elder	Peter Stephenson
Christi Chatham	Sheila Gwaltney	Judy Winslow
Andy Cripps	Mark Hall	

### Admin

Current funds balance is \$14,833.85. A façade improvement matching grant payment is pending.

### Project and initiative updates

The façade improvements – repairs and repainting of the façade and windows, landscaping, and signage – of Maggie Casey’s Celtic Treasure, 124 Main Street, authorized at the May meeting for matching funds have been completed. A motion to release payment of \$1,279 was adopted.

Initiatives to improve the economic vitality of the 300 block were discussed.

The challenge: Visitors either not aware or not motivated to shop the 300 block.

Initiatives identified:

- Seize opportunities on ownership or residency turn-over of currently residential houses to engage owners on the potential of a retail business at the location;
- Selectively target current rental properties as potential retail sites;
- Assist / guide new businesses through the Special Use Permit process;
- Highlight the parking at the top of the 300 block (Laundromat) and develop Joyner field;
- Create a model of an economically vital 300 block and present it to commercial realtors;
- Continue to pursue options for Little’s Market as a consumables establishment for locals;
- Create a critical mass message through line of sight signage, reference cards, gateway signs;
- Increase awareness of the 300 block with a gateway signage scheme at Underwood Lane.

A phased, multiple approach plan, prioritized by short term impact and longer term transformational impact will be developed. A task team of Mark (chair), Judy and Christi, with other Team members welcome to join, will develop a first cut for the July meeting.

## **New initiatives**

Tourism plans to host the fall Vintage Market in the Historic District. Consensus feedback endorsed the closure of the 100, 200 and 300 blocks for vendors. As a boutique market, the number of vendors will be limited to allow spacing between display areas. Gang of Five and others were tasked to discuss the plan with Historic District merchants and provide feedback to Judy by Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> (prior to the June 26 and 27 Town Council Committee meetings).

## **Organization updates / announcements**

County: Several prospects in site evaluation mode have been identified and are in discussions with the Economic Development team. Several, with requirements of 300,000 to 1 million square feet, are targets for Shirley T. Holland industrial park.

In response to current housing market demand, Bennis Grant developers have reallocated planned commercial space to residential.

Chamber: Flavors of Smithfield, highlighting (at last count) 18 County eateries, is presented by the Chamber Thursday, June 15.

Historic District Businesses: Pierside Gallery at the Station Boardwalk shops is closing August 1.

Tourism: The LOVE statue, currently proposed to be sited at the Smithfield Center, may be designed to be portable, opening possibilities for relocation in support of events or other initiatives.

Town: Town Council has reviewed a final budget proposal that calls for no property tax or fees increases. Ratification is planned for a continued Town Council meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 8:45 am, Arts Center @ 319 classroom.

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*These meeting notes submitted by Rick Bodson.*