

## Smithfield 2020 Notes from project team meeting of February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

### Present:

Rick Bodson  
Margaret Carroll  
Trey Gwaltney  
Sheila Gwaltney

Mark Hall  
Russell Parrish  
Lisa Perry  
Connie Rhodes

Judy Winslow  
Peter Knauth - Guest

### Admin; quick updates

Judy made a motion that Historic Smithfield be represented on the Smithfield 2020 Project Team and that John Edwards be its representative. Motion was seconded and carried by unanimous consent.

→ **Action item:** At Connie's request, **Rick** will put John on a meeting agenda to share some historical perspective on the original downtown revitalization effort.

Judy reviewed the benefits of membership in the Virginia Downtown Development Association and after discussion and several team members personally contributing to the first year's annual dues of \$125, motion was made and carried that 2020 join VDDA.

### Project 026 – Arts & Cultural District designation

Project is In Development. Nothing new to report.

### Project 044 – Business Resource Center

Project was promoted to In Development. The Chamber has deployed a new, content-rich Business Resources page to its Website. Several team members have reviewed the page and provided feedback. Connie indicated that there is some limited budget to incorporate suggested changes.

→ **Action item: All:** If you haven't already, review the page and submit feedback to Rick. **Rick** will compile and forward to Connie.

### Project 045 – Commercial Property Registry

Project was promoted to In Development. Right Way Realty has been recruited to provide *pro bono* data collection of available commercial properties in the Historic District. Rick will provide Webpage maintenance. Once a half-dozen or so properties are documented, the Commercial Sites page of Smithfield2020.org will be rolled to production.

### Project 051- Façade Improvement Grant Program

Project remains in In-box until some elements of the Concept Definition are finalized. Good dialog on this nascent initiative, including possible sources of grant funding, communications to Main Street merchants, identification of potential sites.

→ **Action item: Lisa** will forward to Rick for further distribution to the team details of a County Economic Development funding program for façade improvement.

→ **Action item: Judy** will forward to Connie for further distribution to the team a current list of contributing vs. non-contributing properties in the Historic District.

Project 052 - North Church Street development – Mark

Promoted to Under Review. Concept definition is for the Town to complete an architectural review of the two target properties and subsequently issue an RFP for bids in transforming them into productive and constructive use.

→ **Action item: Rick** will meet with Peter Stephenson to review the Concept Definition with an objective of promoting the project to In Development.

Project 030 – Proposal for Windsor Castle Park

After Peter Knauth's presentation on the Chautauqua Institution ([www.ciweb.org](http://www.ciweb.org)) as a vision for a possible use of Windsor Castle Park and a discussion by the team members, the project was promoted to Under Review, with the newly formed Windsor Castle Foundation on point for further review and evaluation.

→ **Action item: Rick** will brief Peter Stephenson on the proposal and understand how to get Peter Knauth an opportunity to present to the Foundation.

New business

Connie noted that the Suffolk Garden Club is planning its spring house tour for March 2011 in Smithfield. Details not firm, but it's an event 2020 will want to comprehend into our plans.

Connie also reviewed a national program, America in Bloom, [www.americainbloom.org](http://www.americainbloom.org), which recognizes urban renewal efforts. Several Historic District projects – Ben Franklin, North Church Street – could be nominated for review and recognition.

→ **Action item: Connie, Mark and Russell** will investigate further and present a Concept Definition at the March 2020 meeting.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8:30 to 9:30 AM, at the Arts Center @ 319.

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*These meeting notes submitted by Rick Bodson.*