

Smithfield 2020

Notes from project team meeting of May 2, 2012

Present:

Jim Abicht	Russell Parrish
Sheila Gwaltney	Connie Rhodes
Trey Gwaltney	Peter Stephenson
Mark Hall	Judy Winslow
Margaret Carroll	John Edwards

Admin/Updates

No admin update.

Request for Façade Improvement Grants

- A. Rick Bodson requested assistance with providing the materials to improve/camouflage the property (currently owned by David Carroll) between the Ice Cream Parlor and the old Cloud Nine. Rick and Brenda Bodson would provide the labor. The project would entail removing the park bench (currently bolted down) and the trash and recycling cans and relocating them, as well as the addition of three large planters with a trellis. The planters would be on town property. No additional adverse effects as the bench and parking bumpers currently obstruct this property from being entered by vehicles. Margaret Carroll told the group that there was a possible change in status (good!) currently happening with the property. The motion to fund the improvement passed up to \$500 if the possible status change did not occur. This money would come from the undesignated funds.
- B. Judy Winslow requested assistance with funding an entrance corridor project at the Little Grocery Store location. She presented a design with the wall facing Main Street repainted and striped at the top with 4 removable banners and the Tourism logo. The Smithfield Woman's Club has tentatively agreed to donate \$1200 toward improvements for the America In Bloom initiative and Russell Rarrish will request the funds for this project. Additional costs would need to be covered by Smithfield 2020. The design has met with approval from Bobby Little and Judy was awaiting word from Bobby as to confirmation of the approval from his attorney. The plan will be presented at the May BHAR meeting if approved. The motion was made and seconded to provide the additional funding needed up to \$2000. Judy will receive the quote by May 4th. The funds will be provided from the undesignated funds.

Project updates

- A. Judy Winslow and Sheila Gwaltney reported that the porcine statuarys are complete, being clear-coated and the project is on track. Bases will be constructed by Mike Smith and the "herd" will be in place and unveiled on June 29th at the Grand Re-Opening Event to kick off Olden Days.

- B. Mark Hall updated the status of vacant downtown properties. Peter Stephenson's office is subleasing to "American Attic". They opened today. There will be an upscale home goods consignment shop moving into the old Cloud Nine and a Party store opening in the Simpson's Pharmacy space. The town has issued an RFP for the old laundry space and there is interest.
- C. Judy reported that the Grand Re-opening committee planning is on track and the June 29th date is firm. The event will include a ribbon cutting, speeches (short!), porcine statuary christening and parade up S. Church Street to Main Street for the Olden Days Kick-off street party. At the party, the Chamber will serve cake, the Museum will be showing off its new Smokehouse exhibit, the Smithfield Firehouse of 1939 Shops and Lofts will have an open house, the Wharf Hill project will be giving tours and the Taste of Smithfield Shop and Café will host their official Grand Opening.
- D. Russell Parrish and Connie Rhodes reported that the AIB project was coming to fruition and the judges would be coming June 21st and 22nd. The itinerary has been set for the judges and there will be over 30 people involved in telling the story of our beautification to them. The Community Profile is almost complete and Lois Chapman has done a wonderful job making the 25-page booklet of information beautiful!

New initiatives

- A. Judy is compiling a data base of perspective contacts for new downtown business. She asked that any names, types of business, etc. continue to be forwarded to her.
- B. Peter Stephenson reported that he had spoken with and would be meeting with Lisa Perry and the County E.D. team to add vacant properties in the town of Smithfield (outside of the Historic District) to E.D.'s list and purview.
- C. John Edwards suggested that Smithfield 2020 send a letter to Peter Stephenson suggesting that the Town continue to own and control the current ham shop and coffee shop bookending Haydens Lane. Keeping the properties under town control would keep the building's rents low and encourage new retail businesses as well as having the opportunity to control open hours through the lease. John has volunteered to draft the letter.
- D. Rick Bodson will be adding a page to the Smithfield 2020 website with photographs of the Porcine Statuary Public Art Project subjects to better clarify what the pigs actually look like to help avoid misconceptions.
- E. Smithfield Music will be hosting the Virginia Symphony at Windsor Castle Park on July 7th thanks to a generous local donor!

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 6, 2012 @8:30 am, Arts Center @ 319 classroom.

These meeting notes submitted by Judy Winslow.