

## **Smithfield 2020**

### **Notes from project team meeting of October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013**

#### **Present**

Jim Abicht	John Edwards	Judy Winslow
Priscilla Barbour	Sheila Gwaltney	Kristi Sutphin, guest
Rick Bodson	Trey Gwaltney	
Lee Duncan	Peter Stephenson	

#### **Admin**

Current funds balance of \$23,767.59 reflects a payment of \$441.96 made in September from SHDBA funds in support of the launch of the branding initiative (banner and bumper stickers). The commitment from undesignated funds of \$5,200 for a design proposal for the Riverview Campus and from the façade grant fund of \$1,000 for 207 Main Street (Fulton Jones building) and \$1,010 for Smithfield Baptist Church are outstanding.

#### **Project and initiative updates**

Judy updated the team on the launch of the branding initiative. The Town Council Parks & Rec Committee has been briefed and preparations are in place for a public announcement of the brand at the October 12<sup>th</sup> Town & Country Day. Town Council has approved funding of a Tourism booth at the Cypress Creek Parade of Homes, which runs on three consecutive week-ends beginning October 5<sup>th</sup>; the branding logo will be on display there on the second and third week-end.

A quick review of the vacant property inventory noted that When Pigs Fly, Magic Happens is now open for business at 315 Main Street.

Although building permits have been displayed at 17 Main Street (old shoe shop), no tangible evidence of repairs is apparent. Peter noted that the Town Attorney will be submitting to the District Court a request for review and action to show cause why the owner should not be held in contempt of the prior ruling to actually begin repairs.

The empty space at 207 Main (formerly Ham Town Barber / Ye Olden Exposures) will be leased by Signature Styles (now located next door at 209 Main) and First Colony Engraving, a new business, will back-fill the 209 Main storefront.

#### **New initiatives**

Rick briefly reviewed that a Business Watch initiative will be launched in late October as part of the Smithfield Police Department's Community Crime Prevention certification effort and that he will be reaching out to business owners with program information.

## Organization updates / announcements

Historic Smithfield: The ownership transfer of the 1750 IOW Courthouse is to be finalized today, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, with the recording of the Deed of Gift and Historic Easement.

Town: The façade design for Smithfield Winery (117 N. Church St.) has been approved by the Board of Historic and Architectural review.

Improvements to the BSV parking lot, including the installation of a fence along the Verizon lot wall and several power posts along the west boundary of the property are near completion.

The issue raised at the Town Council Police Committee re: parking capacity in the 300 block was briefly discussed and 2020 will be taking no action on it. The suggestion will be made to the business owner who raised the issue that efforts focus on requesting merchants to use off-street parking for their owned vehicles.

Smithfield 2020: The team's advocacy role was discussed in light of the action without meeting on arts funding for Isle of Wight County Schools. (The motion to encourage and endorse the Arts League to address the issue passed with 9 votes for, none against.) The 2020 team deferred to the Arts League Board (and the team's three representatives on that Board) to formulate an approach and to return to 2020 for a joint effort if warranted.

The arts funding discussion touched on another issue which will be resolved in a special meeting to be scheduled as soon as a draft resolution is ready for review and ratification.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 8:45 am, Arts Center @ 319.

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*These meeting notes submitted by Rick Bodson.*