

Smithfield 2020 Notes from project team meeting of November 7, 2012

Present

Rick Bodson
Lee Duncan
Sheila Gwaltney

Trey Gwaltney
Mark Hall
Lisa Perry

Peter Stephenson
Judy Winslow

Admin and updates

The bank balance is \$11,820.39. Payment of \$305.76 for the warning signs that will be affixed to the porcine statues was made on 10/31/12 from the undesignated funds balance.

Project and initiative updates

The transfer of ownership of the 1750 Isle of Wight Courthouse from Preservation Virginia to Historic Smithfield is proceeding. A Letter of Intent is being executed by all involved parties to bridge operational control of the Courthouse program until the formal transfer of the property, currently forecast to occur in early 2013.

A letter transferring ownership of the porcine parade statues was presented to the Town Council Public Buildings & Welfare Committee on October 23rd and formally accepted by the Town Council at its November 6th meeting. Sheila and Rick are developing a maintenance plan to mitigate and address occasional minor damage to the statues.

As a deterrent to people climbing on the painted porcine statues, zinc plaques, similar to the current descriptive plates at the base of the statues, have been ordered. The inscription will read: *"I am ART...please be gentle with me! Please don't feed or ride the PIG."* The plaques will be installed as soon as they are in hand.

Having been informed by the Smithfield Foods representative that no budget is available for the project, the façade improvement matching grant commitment for the repainting of the east wall of 108 Main Street was withdrawn by general consensus of the team.

Lisa Perry submitted proposed revisions to the façade improvement grant guidelines. These will be distributed before the December meeting and will be considered for ratification at that meeting.

No progress has been made in the inventory of parking capacity in the Historic District. An update will be provided at the December team meeting.

New initiatives

Mark and Judy discussed a proposal to extend the installation of period lampposts across the Cypress Creek bridge on South Church Street. No formal Smithfield 2020 project will be launched until prerequisite discussions with the owners of Smithfield Station are held.

The issue of on-going markings by Miss Utility crews on the new pavement, curbs and sidewalks of renovated Church Street was discussed. Because it is a state highway and under VDOT, not Town, control, escalation of the issue of indiscriminate marking of historic district rights-of-way to VDOT via a letter to Smithfield's General Assembly representatives was proposed. They took for action drafting a letter to Del. Morris and Sen. Norment and presenting it for consideration at the December team meeting.

The Smithfield Historic District Business Association is progressing on its development of a 2013 business plan. Included in the effort is a discussion of branding Historic Downtown Smithfield as a shopping and dining destination for visitors and, particularly, local residents. Mark is on point on that effort; team members who want to participate in the brainstorming sessions should contact Mark directly for meeting times and places.

A proposal for periodic e-mail blasts to Historic District businesses from Smithfield 2020 was discussed and, by general consensus, will proceed. Focus is on "internal" messaging of updates and information sharing to business owners. Suggestions for content, format, a name to replace "Smithfield 2020 Update" on the email subject line and other improvements should be sent to Rick.

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 5th, 8:30 am, Arts Center @ 319 classroom.

These meeting notes submitted by Rick Bodson.