

Smithfield 2020 Notes from Team meeting of January 6, 2016

Present

Jim Abicht	John Edwards	Randy Pack
Priscilla Barbour	Jenn Gangemi	Peter Stephenson
Rick Bodson	Sheila Gwaltney	Judy Winslow
Andy Cripps	Trey Gwaltney	
Lee Duncan	Mark Hall	

Admin

Current funds balance is \$15,165.79. There are no outstanding commitment of funds.

A motion to elect Lee Duncan as a business owner representative to the Team, with a term expiring December 2019, was adopted. A motion to appoint Rick Bodson as project manager for 2016 was adopted.

Project and initiative updates

The application by Hearndon Construction for a change to the Town's Comprehensive Plan for the Pierceville property has been denied. Procedurally, Hearndon, another developer or a private entity can re-start the land use / re-zoning change process via the Planning Commission at any time. Re-initiating the process is ultimately controlled by the property owner's negotiation with a potential buyer on the future use of the property.

The future land use sections of the Town's Comprehensive Plan are due for review in July; Pierceville and other Historic District parcels will be addressed. The Team will evaluate at that time whether or how to weigh in with considerations for the land use update discussions.

An inventory of retail spaces was reviewed. Of particular concern was the conversion of 109 Main Street (Imagine Arts) to office space; BSV has agreed to permit employee parking on its lot, now used for merchant and visitor parking. Plans for 237 Main (Olive's) are in flux; the relocation of Relics from the Firehouse shops to 121 N. Church (vacant; at Thomas St. intersection) is on hold pending building repairs; prospects for vacant Firehouse shops are in negotiation. This Little Piggy, in the Station Boardwalk shops, has announced it is closing. The limited options for the Modlin Building were discussed without identifying a viable one.

Two porcine statues were vandalized and removed in December. "Magnolia" (at the Museum) may be salvageable with extensive fiberglass work. A local resident has offered to do the repairs *pro bono*; materials costs are being estimated and a budget request will be distributed for email vote if available before the February Team meeting. "Walk in the Pork" (Mason Street) will be re-installed by Town Public Works when the brick work at the WCP entrance plaza is hardened.

Two public art initiatives were discussed in 2015 – a sculpture garden in Hayden’s Lane and murals on the side of buildings. With a split informal poll leaning to pursuing murals, Sheila will lead a task team to define the basic elements of the project and report back to the Team within 60 days.

New initiatives

A call for projects from Smithfield High School for service day projects was discussed. Two opportunities will be identified: washing and waxing of the porcine parade and installation of low-to-no maintenance curbside plantings along S. Church Street. The options will be communicated to SHS faculty and a project plan developed as appropriate.

Organization updates / announcements

Historic Smithfield: Remediation of the 1750 Courthouse was completed with a healthy reserves balance to ensure timely maintenance is sustained.

Arts League: A focus on networking / collaboration with other Historic District organizations is a 2016 priority. Cited as an example is the next exhibit, “Food, Fabulous Food”, which will tie in with Tourism’s Restaurant Week and involve the local writers’ group. 2016 will also mark the League’s 25th anniversary and the 30th anniversary of the Summer Concert Series.

Chamber: The January 7th Pre-Legislative Breakfast will feature, in addition to regional Assembly members, Ken Sullivan, newly appointed President of Smithfield Foods.

Historic District Businesses: The Smithfield Winery is now open for business Wednesdays through Sunday.

Tourism: BOB Fest and Restaurant Week are current priorities. A review by Tourism, Town Council and staff and Smithfield PD of the many events of the December holiday weeks has been completed and plans to address schedule and logistics challenges are being developed.

Town: The plans for restoring the Windsor Castle manor house and grounds are proceeding; a review by the VA Department of Historic Resources and re-work of the historic easement on the property are included. Work on the property will not begin until after the Brew & Wine Fest.

The plans for the expanded parking at the Smithfield Center for Foods employees have been submitted for review.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 3, 8:45 am, Arts Center @ 319 classroom.

These meeting notes submitted by Rick Bodson.