

Smithfield 2020 Notes from Team meeting of September 7, 2016

Present

Jim Abicht	Andy Cripps	Trey Gwaltney
Priscilla Barbour	Lee Duncan	Randy Pack
Rick Bodson	Sheila Gwaltney	Judy Winslow

Admin

Current funds balance is \$14,833.85. There are no outstanding commitment of funds beyond the \$386 remaining in the project budget for repairs to painted pig Magnolia.

Project and initiative updates

The fiberglass repairs to Magnolia are complete. A new head was affixed by a local resident who donated labor and materials; the statue is now in a work area at the County Museum and will be repainted by the artist. Ultimately, Magnolia will be displayed inside the Museum and not re-installed outside. Reinstallation with new securing bolts of Walk in the Pork at the Mason Street entrance to Windsor Castle Park is on Public Works' near-term schedule.

The mural project remains on hold while Smithfield Foods evaluates options for the use of the 131 Main building and its Mason Street wall. (On a separate issue, the need for maintenance to the façade of the building has been communicated to Foods staff.) By general consensus, it was agreed that a contingency of an alternate site and image needs to be evaluated; options will be discussed at the October meeting.

The Planning Commission is gathering input from the community for the required update to the Town's Comprehensive Plan. A recent mapping exercise was productive though many participants focused primarily on the future land use of the Pierceville property; the PC is evaluating future land use throughout the town. Several members of the 2020 Team attended the session to observe the process; two Team members who are Town residents participated.

Town Planner William Saunders is consolidating input, reviewing it with staff and will present recommendations to the PC in the next two months. The PC will likely then have a public hearing on the recommendations and eventually forward them to Town Council for consideration and ratification of the update.

Town Council at its September 6 meeting voted to deny the appeal by the owner of Pierceville of BHAR's Demolition by Neglect recommendation and will proceed to petition the Circuit Court for permission to access the private property and affect sufficient remedial action to prevent further deterioration of the main house.

A meeting of the Tourism team and six Main Street merchants was convened by 2020 on August 29th to review events that require closure of one or several blocks of Main Street. A recap suggests that not all businesses benefit consistently from the events and some face real

but solvable logistics issues. The challenge of tying events to the Genuine Smithfield theme was broached but left for a future discussion. The dialog will continue with meetings in early 2017 with both the merchants and 2020 to debrief the fall and December events. An evaluation of current and potential parking capacity will be researched further.

In anticipation of significant work by Yummaries on the conversion of the Modlin Printing building, it was agreed by general consensus that funds be set-aside for an expected façade improvement matching grant while a push to identify other façade improvement grant candidates by year-end is pursued. Absent a full draw-down of remaining funds, a proposal will be made in January to allocate funds for the repainting of the telephone box, a gift of the Council of Isle of Wight, England, located in front of the BSV building.

The need to review maintenance funding of the lamppost banners was deferred to a future meeting.

Organization updates / announcements

County: Governor McAuliffe will visit the County in late September for an Economic Development announcement. The results of the business climate survey have been tabulated and the release of a summary report is imminent.

Chamber: The Chamber will recognize at its September 9th Annual Awards event Wharf Hill Brewing Company as business of the year and Jeff Black of Dominion Power as recipient of the Grace Keen Distinguished Service Award. Community Harvest Outreach of Windsor and Teacher of the Year William Flythe, Jr., Georgie Tyler Middle School, will also be honored.

Historic District Businesses: Consignment shop Paisley Pig will be closing October 31; several inquiries from interested lessees have been received. Paisley Pig owners Jenn and Joe Gangemi are proceeding with plans to open Boar & Gilt, an accessory shop, in the Clerk's Office, formerly Frilly Lilly.

Tourism: The Tourism team and others, including 2020 Team, recently hosted a contingent from Mecklenburg County and the Town of Clarksville to review promotion, event management and associated downtown revitalization efforts.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 5th, 8:45 am, Arts Center @ 319 classroom.

These meeting notes submitted by Rick Bodson.