

Smithfield 2020 Notes from Team meeting of March 1, 2017

Present

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| Jim Abicht | Andy Cripps | Mark Hall |
| Mike Adams | John Edwards | Kim Pugh |
| Rick Bodson | Sheila Gwaltney | Peter Stephenson |
| Christi Chatham | Trey Gwaltney | Judy Winslow |

Admin

Current funds balance is \$14,833.85. There are no outstanding commitment of funds.

Project and initiative updates

Open storefronts: After an uptick in vacancies at year-end, positive momentum is, on the whole, building to fill them:

- 17 Main (old shoe shop) – possible upscale coffee shop;
- 124 Main (Gaming House) – sold by Smithfield Foods; clothing / accessory retail planned;
- 132 Main (Clerk's Office) – Amicus Curiae 1799, a jewelry boutique, now open;
- 202 Main (Totally Natural Soap) – very strong presence after a November opening;
- 209 Main (1st Colony Engraving) – a branch of John Henry Printing scheduled to open;
- 210 Main (Cloud Nine) – business closing; no specific next tenant identified;
- 213 Main (Modlin's / Yummaries) – transformation progressing well;
- 221 Main (Main Event by Emily) – closing, specifics on future uncertain;
- 223 Main (Laura & Lucy's) – for sale sign removed;
- 237 Main (Olive's) – remains on the market for sale;
- 308 Main (Pet Persona) – proposed to re-open as an event venue;
- 121 N. Church (Smithfield Winery annex) – rehab work evident but future plans unknown;
- 409 S. Church (Boardwalk shops) – no update available on vacancies.

In light of the recent Smithfield Foods / IOWCS \$10M workforce training announcement, PDCCC initiatives for its Smithfield campus will need further discussion with Dr. Lufkin.

The Chamber of Commerce continues to evaluate smart phone shopping apps. Selection criteria are focusing on the financial strength of the vendor / provider, on the ability for branding to the Historic District and on features for push marketing. Historic District retailers will be involved in the evaluation process when qualified candidate(s) are validated by the Chamber.

The initiative for a mural on a Historic District building has been tabled.

Main Street waterline replacement is moving along, though a gain on the schedule to replace the main waterline is being eroded by challenges in running laterals to buildings. The 100 block work is forecast to be done by March 7th. Excavated areas will be repaved and the block permanently re-opened before laterals connection work begins on the 200 block.

A demolition permit for the Thomas Pierce house submitted by its owner to BHAR on February 21st was denied, forcing consideration of the permit request by Town Council after a public hearing at its April 4th meeting.

2020 weighing in at the public hearing was discussed since 2020 submitted a report to the Planning Commission in July 2015 in response to the proposed “Main & Cary” development of Pierceville. One of three recommendations in the report was “...that the Town initiate efforts to stabilize the Pierce house and out-buildings”, essentially calling for Demolition by Neglect action.

Scenarios on the current demolition permit issue are: not explicitly addressing Town Council and letting the July 2015 statement stand on the record, recommending approval of the demolition permit because of the advanced state of deterioration of the house and out-buildings, or re-asserting support for preserving the historic site and recommending denial of the demolition permit and continuing the demolition by neglect process.

A motion to direct the Project Manager to present a statement to Town Council that re-affirms Smithfield 2020’s position that the Town take all available measures to preserve the Pierce house and improvements failed on a procedural issue – the lack of sufficient votes for. Several Team members abstained pending guidance from their represented organization’s Board; the Town Manager and both Historic Smithfield reps also abstained. A second motion to re-present the motion via Action without Meeting (email vote) after the Arts League and Chamber Boards are briefed and authorize a vote was adopted. The Action without Meeting will be issued before the Town Council’s April 4th public hearing.

Drafts of a public hearing statement in support of and in opposition to the demolition permit will be circulated for edits before the Action without Meeting vote. The statement related to the adopted motion will be presented at the public hearing and provided by email to Town Council members.

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

These meeting notes submitted by Rick Bodson.