

Smithfield 2020 Notes from Team meeting of April 5, 2017

Present

Jim Abicht	Andy Cripps	Kim Pugh
Mike Adams	Lee Duncan	Peter Stephenson
Rick Bodson	Sheila Gwaltney	Judy Winslow
Christi Chatham	Mark Hall	

Admin

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

The Action Without Meeting (email vote) directing the Project Manager to present a statement to Town Council on the demolition permit of the Pierceville house was adopted on March 30 by a majority vote. The tally sheet is included in these notes by reference.

Project and initiative updates

Town Council voted unanimously at its April 4, 2017, to deny a demolition permit submitted by the owner of the Thomas Pierce house, affirming BHAR's recommendation. The major influencing factor was upholding the Town's Demolition by Neglect ordinance. The next step will likely be an appeal by the owner to District Court that will challenge the premise of the ordinance. The expected timeline of a legal action does provide an opportunity for a potential purchase of the entire property or a sub-divided area around the historic structures.

Historic Smithfield's July 2016 statement on the current Comp Plan update has been submitted by the Planning and Zoning Administrator to the Planning Commission in anticipation of discussions about Future Land Use updates beginning again at its April 11th meeting.

A repeat of the 100 and 200 block utilities upgrade is scheduled for next January when Columbia Gas will replace its supply lines. The impact of this year's waterline project was discussed. The one critical issue that will be discussed with Town staff will be ensuring that work begins on the first work day of January to avoid schedule creep into the spring shopping / tourist season.

Organization updates / announcements

Chamber: "The Art of Business Networking", a 90-minute workshop, is scheduled for Tuesday, April 11, 9:00 AM, at Sentara St. Luke's. Online enrollment is available at www.theisle.org.

Historic District Businesses:

- A surge of interest in availability of storefronts has been noted. Mark Hall is 2020's point of contact for inquiries.
- Yummaries, in the old Modlin Printing building, and Maggie Casey, a clothing shop in the Gaming House, are tracking to early April openings.
- A lease is pending for the old shoe shop on Wharf Hill. An announcement is imminent.

- The sale of 237 Main, formerly Olive's, closes today. Several potential lessees are in final negotiations.
- Cloud Nine has closed. The space will be converted from retail to professional offices.
- Plans for a flower shop at 338 Main have been announced; no details available on opening.
- The former Simpson's Pharmacy / Events by Emily building is reported to be for sale.

Tourism: The Smithfield Sidewalk Stroll is scheduled for April 22nd and 23rd. Most Main Street and Church Street merchants have indicated they'll be participating.

Congratulations to Tourism on a well-deserved Virginia Tourism Corporation "Virgo Award" for its Smithfield Rocks communications initiative.

Town: The construction of a new single family home on Cocke's Lane has been approved by BHAR. The construction will prompt an effort to confirm the delineation of the Town's right of way, leading to a general clean-up and possible repaving of the narrow lane.

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

These meeting notes submitted by Rick Bodson.