

## Smithfield 2020 Notes from Team meeting of October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### Present

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

### Admin

Current funds balance is \$13,134.85. There are no outstanding commitments of funds.

### Project and initiative updates

Street piano project – As liability coverage issues are resolved at the first-choice location, the first street piano will temporarily be located at 319 Main Street. The life expectancy of the street piano is about three months; several donated pianos are in the wings to take its place.

Tourism planning session – An all-day workshop facilitated by the Virginia Tourism Corporation will be hosted at the Smithfield Center on October 19<sup>th</sup> to assist the Tourism team in its development of comprehensive plan. Members of 2020, Board of Supervisors, Town Council, Chamber of Commerce and merchants have been invited to participate.

Economic vitality initiative – Kathy Brown, BofA’s branch manager, has agreed to allow access to the “lower parking area” (spaces beyond the ATM) for merchant parking.

The Friday evening arts initiative has been discussed by the Arts League Board, generating several creative ideas ranging from busking to visual artists to extended merchant hours to themed restaurant tie-ins, whether as prelude to the existing Summer Concert Series or monthly substitutes for a concert. Andy agreed to lead a task team to pull suggestions and issues together and return with a working proposal to pursue in 2018.

Façade improvement matching grant – An application from Dawson Moody and Paul Gwaltney for replacement of the mansard roof shingles at 302 Main Street was submitted on 9/1/17. The applicants has not provided contractor estimates. A site review by Rick and Lee confirmed that the situation is overdue maintenance. A motion to deny the application was adopted.

### New initiatives

LOVE Works Tourism initiative – A request for 2020 to cover a funding gap for the construction of the sculpture was presented by Judy, supplementing grants from Virginia Tourism Corporation and Smithfield VA Events. The sculpture will be positioned at the Smithfield Center but will be mobile for relocation at event sites. A motion to allocate \$455 from the undesignated fund balance was adopted.

Parking restrictions by a building owner are anticipated, exacerbating week-day available capacity. The situation is being monitored and will be discussed further when facts are more firmly established.

### **Organization updates**

Historic District Businesses: Cure Coffeehouse, at the Firehouse 1939 on N. Church Street, is "...doing what we asked:", and are open seven days a week and until 9:00 PM on weekdays and Saturdays, 6 PM on Sunday. The commitment sets a benchmark that 2020 will promote.

Fleur de Fou is tracking to an end-of-October opening and is open on Saturdays operating out of the front yard to brisk business.

Tourism: Connie Chapman has joined the Tourism team as Special Events Coordinator.

Town: Steve Bowman has been appointed to the Town Council to fill the remainder of Connie Chapman's term, which expires in May 2018.

Town staff has used Fleur de Fou as a case study in new business permitting. One process improvement identified is allowing residential buildings such as the Victorian houses to be configured as residential on the second floor and commercial by right on the first floor, removing the current Special Use Permit requirement. Staff is drafting an ordinance for review by Town Council.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 8:45 am, Arts Center @ 319 classroom.

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*These meeting notes submitted by Rick Bodson.*