

## Smithfield 2020 Notes from Team meeting of April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

### Present

Jim Abicht	Mark Hall	Brian Thrower
Rick Bodson	Jessica Jones-Healey	Judy Winslow
Christi Chatham	Joseph McCain	Jason Camper, guest
John Edwards	Chris Morello	Matt Rogers, guest
Sheila Gwaltney	Randy Pack	
Trey Gwaltney	Kim Pugh	

### Admin

Current funds balance is \$11,972.55. A \$2,500 façade improvement matching grant is pending.

### Project and initiative updates

Jessica is leading a Chamber initiative to complement County Economic Development efforts by assembling a navigation resource for the permitting and inspection processes required for small businesses start-up in the County and in Windsor and Smithfield. The project is in a data gathering phase; the first deliverable is a highlight that delineates the first critical steps of the processes. Updates on the project's progress will be presented at future team meetings.

The Town will be painting the T markings for curbside parking in the 100, 200 and 300 blocks within 10 days. Golf cart parking and a handicapped space will be incorporated in selected areas. A renewal of the Town's lease of the "Woody Crook lot" is in progress; after the lease is executed, a plan to improve the lot's surface and lighting will be pursued.

### New initiatives

An offer by BSV to share in the cost of refurbishing the phone box donated by the Council of Isle of Wight, England, located at the front of the bank has been discussed with Jennifer England, Director of the Museum, the County's *de facto* custodian of the landmark. A quote for minor repairs and repainting is pending; Jennifer is authorized to proceed if funding is secured. By general consensus, it was agreed that a motion to share the refurbishing costs with BSV from 2020's façade improvement matching grant funds will be voted on by email as soon as a firm project cost estimate is in hand. John will explore the possibility of Historic Smithfield underwriting 2020's share.

The three historic images and vignettes installed in brick pedestals across from the 1750 Courthouse, at the bottom of Wharf Hill and in front of the Sinclair House need to be refurbished. The original art work has not been located in Town archives but the graphic arts company has been. If art work can be recreated and the text provided, the "fiberglass embedment" panels can be produced for approximately \$500 / panel. By general consensus, it was agreed that the project be further evaluated for potential funding from undesignated funds.

A complementary effort to replace the audio recordings previously installed in the pedestals with a “Guide by Cell” technology will be investigated in the future.

The opportunity to add brand value to the Historic District with landscaping guidelines, improvements and more robust standards of maintenance to the rights of way is proposed to be addressed by – ultimately - a horticultural organization. The nascent effort is being led by Mark and Joseph, with *pro bono* consulting by professional horticulturalist (and co-owner of Fleur de Fou) Jason Camper. The organizational effort is underway, a proposal for a prototype area for remediation is being developed, and dialog with the Town staff is progressing. A motion to endorse the horticultural organization proposal with a request for the presentation of a detailed plan for its launch was adopted.

### **Organization updates**

Arts League: The annual IOW students art show, April 16-30, will incorporate into the traditional visual arts works pieces created by the schools’ Project Based Learning program.

County: Although a recent recruitment effort of a software development firm was ultimately unsuccessful, the demand for professional space in the core of rural towns was identified. Knowledge of space availability should be directed to Chris directly.

Nicole Talton, a former commercial lender, has joined the County ED staff, filling a long-open Economic Development Coordinator position.

Chamber: Senator Mark Warner will be hosted for a short visit in the Historic District April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Tourism: A group from multiple counties, towns and cities was hosted for a Tourism best practice sharing program in March. Feedback was enthusiastically positive; this will likely not be the last opportunity to share with Virginia communities our Genuine Tourism practices.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 8:45 am, Smithfield Center.

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*These meeting notes submitted by Rick Bodson.*