

The Smithfield Board of Historic and Architectural Review held its regular meeting on Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Smithfield Center.

**Members Present:**

Trey Gwaltney - Chairman

Julia Hillegass – Vice Chair

Gary Hess

Ronny Prevatte

Russell Hill

Justin Hornback

Judith Lally

**Staff present:**

John Settle – Community Development & Planning Director

Tammie Clary - Planner

**Press:** 0

**Citizens:** 1

Chairman Gwaltney welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Community Development & Planning Director's Report:**

Mr. Settle explained that the Smithfield Center is experiencing an issue with one of the amplifiers. Two microphones are unfortunately inactive, which is why BHAR members are seated in different seats than they normally would be. He asked everyone to speak a bit louder than they normally would so that everything is picked up by the recorders.

**Upcoming Meetings and Activities:**

Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 3:00 PM – Town Council Committee Meetings

Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3:00 PM – Town Council Committee Meetings

Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30 PM – Town Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 PM – Pinewood Heights Management Team Meeting

Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM – Planning Commission Meeting

Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM – Board of Historic & Architectural Review Meeting

**Public Comments:**

There were no public comments.

**Board Member Comments:**

There were no Board member comments.

**Accessory Structure – 318 Main Street – Contributing – KOTA of Smithfield, LLC, c/o Gary**

**Brooks, applicant:**

The Community Development & Planning Director reported that the applicant is seeking approval to erect a twelve foot (12') by twenty foot (20') shed. The shed will be sided in white horizontally-lapped wooden shiplap siding (six inches (6") in height) with white trim. The roof will be side-gabled with dark-gray metal. A set of solid white double doors with panels will be centered on the long side of the shed. The shed will be fenestrated by two windows, one on either side of the doors, which will be bordered by inoperable black shutters. The overall appearance of the shed is intended to emulate the appearance of the primary building. Town staff recommended approval as submitted.

Mr. Gary Brooks resides at 11170 Olde Town Place in Smithfield, Virginia. He explained that the shed will be used for storage. It will match as closely as possible to the existing primary structure.

Chairman Gwaltney stated that the picture of the gray building is the style of the shed. The pictures of the doors are the doors the applicant will be using on the building. The color scheme of the house, white with white trim, will be the color scheme of the shed.

Vice Chair Hillegass stated that shutters would be added that are black like the ones on the house.

The applicant explained that the shutters were included with the contract. They will be black.

Vice Chair Hillegass made a motion to approve the application as presented. Mr. Hess seconded the motion. With no further discussion, Chairman Gwaltney called for the vote.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Mrs. Lally voted aye, Mr. Hess voted aye, Mr. Hill voted aye, Mr. Hornback voted aye, Mr. Prevatte voted aye, Vice Chair Hillegass voted aye, and Chairman Gwaltney voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Brooks thanked Tammie Clary and John Settle for their help while putting the application together. He stated that they were first class people, professional, courteous, friendly, and very helpful.

Vice Chair Hillegass stated that they are amazing.

**\*Discussion Item\* Invitation to Comment – 19514 Casper Circle – Tower Engineering Professionals, Inc., c/o Ryan Malek, agent:**

The Community Development & Planning Director reported that on Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Town staff received the enclosed letter from Ryan Malek, of Tower Engineering Professionals, Inc. The letter concerns the proposed increase in height of the existing cellular base station tower at 19514 Casper Cir (TPIN 32-01-102) from 148 feet to 168 feet. Specifically, the letter requests comments from the Board of Historic & Architectural Review (BHAR), pursuant to the applicable federal laws, rules, and regulations noted in the letter, in response to the proposed project with the following questions in mind:

- (1) Do any historic properties exist within the vicinity of the proposed project?
- (2) If so, does the proposed project cause an adverse effect to such properties?

The tower, which is located well outside of the Town's corporate limits, is visible from positions within the Town. However, the nearest cultural and/or historic resource located within the Town limits, the circa. 1848 Edwards house at 13453 Benn's Church Blvd (TPIN 32-01-096A1), does not appear to be adversely impacted by the proposed project. The proposed enlarged tower is not currently, nor will it be, visible from the Historic Preservation Overlay (HPO). Town staff have enclosed a photograph of the existing Tower taken from a position located behind the Tractor Supply Company at 13500 Benn's Church Blvd (TPIN 32-01-005A), which is located one-quarter (1/4) of a mile closer to the tower than the aforementioned Edwards house. It is the opinion of Town staff that a twenty-foot (20') extension in the tower's height will not adversely impact the cultural and/or historic significance of the Edwards house, any other cultural and/or historic resource in the Town, and/or the HPO. Town staff encourages the BHAR to discuss the potential

adverse impacts, if any, of the proposed project on any of the Town's cultural and/or historic resources. All comments generated on the proposed project will be conveyed to Mr. Malek in writing.

Chairman Gwaltney explained that there could be comments only. The tower is not an item that the BHAR would vote on. If there is no objection to the tower, the BHAR would provide a statement to Mr. Malek. He asked if the invitation to comment also went to the Isle of Wight County historic Board. The tower is located near St. Luke's.

Mr. Settle explained that the letter would go to the Isle of Wight County Planning Commission as well as Isle of Wight County's Board of Historic and Architectural Review, as the tower is located in or near one of the County's beautification districts.

Vice Chair Hillegass explained that the Planning Commission addressed the tower at their last meeting. The Planning Commission thought that this should be relayed to St. Luke's as well as Benn's Church since they are the most historic properties in the area. It is only a twenty-foot increase. The Planning Commission did not feel it was a significant issue for the Town of Smithfield.

Mr. Hess stated that he did not think anyone would notice an additional twenty feet on the tower since it is so far off of the road.

Chairman Gwaltney stated that the BHAR is okay with the change to the tower and asked Mr. Settle to reply to Mr. Malek.

For clarification, Mr. Settle asked for confirmation that the BHAR had reached a general consensus consistent with staff's findings in the staff report for this agenda item.

Vice Chair Hillegass stated that she wanted to make sure that Benn's Church and St. Luke's would be able to comment on the tower height or produce recommendations on the matter to the county.

Mr. Settle stated that staff would follow-up and make certain the information had been conveyed to appropriate County staff.

**Approval of the Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting Minutes:**

Chairman Gwaltney asked Mr. Settle if Mr. Riddick had indicated any recommended changes to the meeting minutes.

Mr. Settle indicate that Mr. Riddick had not indicated any recommended changes to the meeting minutes.

Vice Chair Hillegass made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Hess seconded the motion. Chairman Gwaltney called for the vote.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Mrs. Lally voted aye, Mr. Hess voted aye, Mr. Hill voted aye, Mr. Hornback voted aye, Mr. Prevatte voted aye, Vice Chair Hillegass voted aye, and Chairman Gwaltney voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

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Mr. Trey Gwaltney - Chairman

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Mr. John Settle – Community  
Development & Planning Director