

The Smithfield Board of Historic and Architectural Review held its regular meeting on Tuesday, October 20th, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Smithfield Center.

Members Present:

Trey Gwaltney - Chairman
Gary Hess
Ronny Prevatte
Justin Hornback
Judith Lally

Board Members absent:

Russell Hill
Julia Hillegass – Vice Chair

Staff members present:

John Settle – Community Development & Planning Director
William H. Riddick, III – Town Attorney
Tammie Clary - Planner

There were four (4) citizens present. The media was not represented. Chairman Gwaltney welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Community Development & Planning Director's Report:

There were no major updates to report.

Upcoming Meetings and Activities:

Monday, October 26th – 3:00 PM – Town Council Committee Meetings
Tuesday, October 27th – 3:00 PM – Town Council Committee Meetings
Tuesday, November 3rd – 6:30 PM – Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 10th - 4:00 PM – Pinewood Heights Management Team Meeting
Tuesday, November 10th – 6:30 PM – Planning Commission Meeting
Monday, November 16th – 3:00 PM – Town Council Committee Meetings
Tuesday, November 17th – 3:00 PM – Town Council Committee Meetings
Tuesday, November 17th – 6:30 PM – BHAR Meeting

Public Comments:

There were no signups for public comments.

Board Member Comments:

There were no Board member comments.

Material Change & Accessory Structure – 330 Main Street – Landmark – Maureen Brines, applicant:

The Community Development & Planning Director reported that the applicant wishes to undertake the following changes to the premises:

- 1.) The replacement of the existing dilapidated horizontally lapped wooden weatherboard siding with horizontally lapped Hardie Board fiber cement siding of a like color.
- 2.) The replacement of the existing dilapidated wooden fish scale shingle siding with Hardie Board fish scale fiber cement shingle siding of a like color.

- 3.) The replacement of the existing dilapidated wooden trim with Hardie Board fiber cement trim of a like color- all decorative wooden millwork will be repaired and replaced with like colors and materials.
- 4.) The replacement of the existing dilapidated wooden two-over-two double-hung sash windows with Harvey Majesty wooden one-over-one double-hung sash windows of a like color.
- 5.) The installation of a forty-two inch (42") tall treated pine picket fence around the front yard that will be painted white.

Town staff recommended approval as submitted.

Ms. Brines, the applicant, lives at 206 Beech Court in Smithfield, Virginia. She explained that she has owned the property since October 1st, 2020. There was a previous approval for windows that were not 100% wood. She would like wooden windows so they would be historically correct. Mr. Prevatte asked if the siding was "soft" to the touch- Ms. Brines indicated that after 30 years of neglect, there is a massive amount of damage from rot, termites, powder post beetles, and carpenter ants. All have added to the deterioration of the windows. They cannot be repaired. They must be replaced. The glass in the current windows is not the original glass. Ms. Brines indicated that she wanted to keep the house as historically accurate as possible.

Mr. Hornback thanked Ms. Brines for taking on the project. Historic homes require a lot of maintenance.

Ms. Brines stated that she has been doing this for a long time. She has an architectural background. She has done many historical homes; but none as bad as this one. She plans to make the home beautiful again.

Mr. Hornback make a motion to approve the application as presented. Mrs. Lally seconded the motion. Chairman Gwaltney called for the vote.

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

Color Change & Signage – 407 Grace Street – Landmark – Thomas & Suzan Askew, applicants:

The Community Development & Planning Director reported that the landmark status of 407 Grace Street will change to non-contributing when the up-and-coming text amendment to Article 3.M of the Smithfield Zoning Ordinance is approved by the Town Council. The applicants are seeking approval to paint the building "NAPA Blue" (SW7027) and "Napa Gray" (SW7020) with a red (PMS485) and yellow (PMS123) stripe, consistent with the official color scheme of the National Automotive Parts Association (NAPA). Additionally, the applicants are seeking approval to install two new internally illuminated flat signs on the building. One sign will be 18'x3', or fifty-four square feet, and will be located above the front door on the primary façade of the building. The other sign will be 8'x3', or twenty-four square feet, and will be located on the right side of the building's western façade. In both cases, the signs will replace internally illuminated flat signs that currently exist in the same locations. Because the proposed signs are illuminated, and because they conflict with Smithfield Zoning Ordinance (SZO) Sections 10.E.2 & 10.I.3, BHAR review and decision is required pursuant to SZO Sections 3.M.E.7.A.8 & 10.L.1. The proposed signs

conflict with the SZO because only one sign of each sign type is permitted per street frontage, per premises. The property in question is a corner lot that has frontage on two sides by a single street. Two flat signs are currently present on each side of the building facing this street, and the applicants are proposing to replace one of these two existing legal nonconforming signs on both sides of the building with signs that are larger than the preexisting signs.

Mr. Settle explained that the BHAR can provide leniency to the sign ordinance for structures that do not pre-date the Civil War. There are provisions in Article 3.M to allow for leniency in the administration of Article 10. The configuration of the property is not typical antebellum development. Town staff recommended approval as submitted.

Mr. Michael Barnes resides at 204 Grace Street in Smithfield, Virginia. He stated that the signs are pre-existing. He will just be changing them slightly.

Chairman Gwaltney stated that the signs will not change that much; but the building color will change.

Mr. Prevatte 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, five members were present. Mrs. Lally voted aye, Mr. Hess voted aye, Mr. Hornback voted aye, Mr. Prevatte voted aye, and Chairman Gwaltney voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Renewal & Amendment of Prior Approval – 228 Clay Street – Contributing – Ryan Cere & Andrea Agle, applicants:

The Community Development & Planning Director reported that when the up-and-coming text amendment to Article 3.M of the Smithfield Zoning Ordinance is approved by the Town Council, 228 Clay Street will have a new classification as non-contributing. The previous contributing building was demolished and will be replaced by a new home. At the August 21st, 2018 BHAR meeting, the applicant received an approval for the new construction of a single-family dwelling on the property. Specifically, this approval entailed the following: The house will be covered by a black “Charcoal” colored architectural asphalt shingle roof, preceded by white eaves. The fascia and soffits will be composed of wood. The walls of the house will be covered in “Colonial Gray” colored horizontally lapped fiber cement siding. The house will rest on a concrete block foundation, which will be clad in white stucco. The primary façade of the building will be adorned by a single-story front porch covered by a gabled portico spanning the width of the home, supported by tapered square wooden columns (to be painted white), resting on square piers clad in a stone veneer, accessed by concrete block steps clad in stone veneer, floored in concrete with a stone veneer and cohesive in appearance to the stairs, with aluminum railings holding black balusters and a brown banister to simulate a wood tone. The house will be accessed by a “Colonial Red” colored steel door featuring a single rectangular light with simulated craftsman accent muntins and two large panels. The house will be fenestrated by white vinyl one-over-one double-hung sash windows. All windows and doors will be bordered by four-inch wide white-colored polyvinylchloride (PVC) trim and adorned by inoperable two-panel PVC color-infused shutters of a black color. The house will feature an irregular massing typical of those seen in the “bungalow/craftsman” style, with two large gables on either side- two faux gabled dormers will be visible on the primary façade. All gables, dormers, and the gabled portico will be sided in

a fiber cement material of the “foundry shake” style. The side gables will be separated from the rest of their respective façades by a PVC band board matching the white color of the eaves of the home and will be embellished by white-colored rectangular attic vents. The two dormer windows, two small windows on the side facades, and all windows on the rear façade will all be devoid of shutters. The back door of the home will be a white-colored steel door featuring six panels and no windows and will be accessed by a landing and steps of wood deck construction with PVC band board accents, white aluminum railings, and floored in wood or composite decking of a gray color. Rainwater will be directed from the home through the use of white aluminum gutters and downspouts. A concrete driveway and parking area will connect the front yard of the home to Clay St. The applicants are now requesting a renewal of their prior approval, which expired on Friday, August 21st, 2020, pursuant to Smithfield Zoning Ordinance Section 3.M.E.13. The applicants are also requesting an amendment to their previous approval, specifically to omit the inclusion of shutters on all of the proposed home’s windows. Town staff recommended approval as submitted.

The applicant, Mr. Cere, lives at 132 Margaret Drive in Hampton, Virginia. He stated that the back deck stairs will actually now be coming down the southwest side of the back stoop. It is the only change other than omitting the shutters.

Mr. Hess asked about the shutters. Mr. Cere explained that it was a budgetary consideration. The front porch may need shutters but not the sides and the back. The second floor dormers may not accommodate shutters due to size.

Mrs. Lally made a motion to approve the amended application with the back steps on the southwest side of the back stoop and the option to add shutters to the front of the home. Mr. Hess seconded the motion. Chairman Gwaltney called for the vote.

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

Demolition – 518 Main Street – Non-contributing – Todd Bryant, applicant:

The Community Development & Planning Director reported that the applicant is seeking approval to demolish the existing dilapidated commercial building, remove all paved areas, and plant the entire site with grass. Town staff recommend approval as submitted.

For the record, the Town Attorney stated that the owner is LSMP, LLC. At the time of the application, it was not yet decided what name the title would show for the property.

Mr. Hornback asked how much of the paved area would be removed. Mr. Settle stated that all of the pavement would be removed. He explained that the School House Museum does not own any of the paved area; only the grassy area.

Chairman Gwaltney asked if there was a plan for curbing or a sidewalk.

The Town Attorney stated that there is a plan for a sidewalk that runs from the corner of Grace Street to Route 10. There was an initiative by Isle of Wight County to put in a sidewalk. He was unsure when the sidewalk would be put in; however, there is a sidewalk on the other side.

Chairman Gwaltney was concerned that people would park on the grass or drive on it if there was no sidewalk.

Mr. Hornback 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, five members were present. Mrs. Lally voted aye, Mr. Hess voted aye, Mr. Hornback voted aye, Mr. Prevatte voted aye, and Chairman Gwaltney voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Settle reminded the BHAR members that the application for demolition will also have to be approved by the Planning Commission its November 4th, 2020 special meeting.

Accessory Structure – 226 South Church Street – Landmark – Brian & Judith Lally, applicants:

The Community Development & Planning Director reported that the applicant is seeking approval to erect a forty-eight inch (48”) tall picket fence to screen the outdoor units of their heat pumps and generator. The fence will be constructed of treated pine, painted white, and will span an area eight feet (8’) wide and twenty-two feet (22’) deep. Town staff recommended approval as submitted.

The applicant, Judith Lally, lives at 226 South Church Street in Smithfield. She explained that they would be using pointed pickets.

The Town Attorney stated that Mrs. Lally is a member of the BHAR. She is also an applicant so she will abstain from the vote.

Mr. Hornback made a motion to approve the application as presented. Mr. Hess seconded the motion. Chairman Gwaltney called for the vote.

On call for the vote, five members were present. Mrs. Lally abstained, Mr. Hess voted aye, Mr. Hornback voted aye, Mr. Prevatte voted aye, and Chairman Gwaltney voted aye. There was one abstention. The motion passed.

Accessory Structure – Cary Street – Unclassified – Town of Smithfield, applicant:

The Community Development and Planning Director reported that, last month, the Town was alerted to a recurring drainage problem which, according to a neighboring resident, originated from the culvert beneath the sidewalk at the location in question. The proposed project necessitates the replacement of the existing sidewalk with a flat wooden bridge. The bridge will feature wooden railings and will either be stained or painted white. Chairman Gwaltney asked why the Town wanted to build a bridge and not just replace the sidewalk. Mr. Settle indicated that the goal is to allow more water to travel freely from the road. Town staff recommended approval as submitted.

Mr. Hornback made a motion to approve the application as presented. Mrs. Lally seconded the motion. With no further discussion, Chairman Gwaltney called for the vote.

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

Approval of the Tuesday, September 15th, 2020 Meeting Minutes:

The Town Attorney recommended approval of the minutes as presented.

Mr. Hess made a motion to approve the minutes and Mrs. Lally seconded the motion. Chairman Gwaltney called for the vote.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.



Mr. Trey Gwaltney - Chairman



Mr. John Settle – Community
Development & Planning Director