

The Smithfield Board of Historic and Architectural Review held its regular meeting on Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Members present were Mr. Trey Gwaltney, Chairman; Mr. Russell Hill, Mr. David Goodrich, Mr. Chris Torre, Vice Chairman Mr. Ronny Prevatte, and Ms. Julia Hillegass. Mr. Gary Hess was absent. The staff members present were Mr. Joseph R. Reish, Planning Technician and Mr. William H. Riddick III, Town Attorney. There were three citizens present. The media was not represented.

Chairman Gwaltney – I would like to welcome everyone to the September meeting of the Board of Historic and Architectural Review. The first item on our agenda is the Planning Technician's Report.

Planning Technician – Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although your agenda says there is no new items to report, I administratively approved repainting a house the same color at 338 South Church Street. I notice that repairs have finally started at 220 South Mason Street. It has been in violation for a long time.

Chairman Gwaltney – Next on the agenda is the Upcoming Meetings and Activities. The list is provided for you to review. The next item on the agenda is Public Comments. We have two people signed up for public comments.

Mr. Mark Gay – I live at 110 Goose Hill Way. I am Executive Chairman of Preserve Smithfield. The Smithfield Times will likely report in tomorrow edition that the town manager has informed the members of Preserve Smithfield that the historic Wombwell house will be raised very shortly. His reasoning is that we have been unable to provide evidence of funding to relocate the house and that we have been reluctant to sign a memorandum of agreement that would expire at the end of this year. It is different somewhat from our verbal agreement with the committee back in June but it is an agreement none the less. We had some reservation about signing it. But it also refused to acknowledge the historic and architectural significance of the home and outlining buildings. We were given two months to seek a viable solution that has escape town council for the past two years. My personal belief is the proper disposition of the Wombwell house should have been part of a coherent business plan for the Luter's Sport Complex. Except of course no such business plan exist. This board does not believe they are responsible for historic town structures that are outside the designated historic district. I am not here to argue that with you tonight. One among you has

assured us that he would provide cost estimates to either relocate the historic part of the Wombwell house to a location near or at Riverview Park or dismantle the home so as to reserve the still useful planking, mantels, and the brick work. We have heard nothing despite multiply follow-up efforts to communicate. Yet another opportunity lost because of weak leadership, limited vision, and lack of effort. I believe we can and will do better going forward. It has now been two years since this board voted to enforce demolition by neglect of repairs for the Pierce's home. It has almost been ten months since this board unanimously rejected a second request to raise Pierceville by the current owner. I mean absolutely nothing has happen that would suggest that even a hint of effort to preserve has occurred. I submit respectfully that the time is now to re-engage for Pierceville. Difficult challenges require resourceful, determine leadership, and focus. Our excellent demolition by neglect ordinances has been tested in the courts of Virginia and up held. The trust for public land as well as the citizens of the town stand ready to work with town officials to see what can be done. Make no mistake the trust for public land has the financial resources to accomplish but they do not want their donors or granites to invest into a hostile municipal climate. Let's work together to get Pierceville done right starting now.

Mrs. Betty Clark – I live at 120 North Church Street. The last time I was before the board I probably insulted you. I said, "I cannot understand how this board can call itself the Board of Historic and Architectural Review but I did not know the Wombwell house was outside the historic district." I ask you tonight to individually or collectively talk to the town council members individually or collectively and tell them that the Wombell house should not be destroyed. It is an "1840" Tidewater Cottage. It was the home of the first doctor in Smithfield. It is not in bad condition. I have been inside of it. Actually it is sturdier than some that we live in. Of course some of the windows have been broken out by the fire department. There is a hole in the roof. There is more damage than there was prior to that. I understand that there is orange netting around it. But it would be a pity to lose one of the last two historic places in our town especially since we call ourselves "historic." If we lose our history what do we have left?

Chairman Gwaltney - Next is Board Member Comments.

Chairman Gwaltney - Next on the agenda is a Color Change and Fence – 17 Main Street – Contributing – Marvin Johns, applicant. Can we have a staff report?

Planning Technician – Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately this is after the fact application. Mr. Johns has decided to change the color of the old shoe shop at 17 Main Street. It used to be a shamrock green. He would like to change it to a taupe or gray color. He has also added a very small section of wooden “dog-eared” style privacy fence. It is kind of a security/privacy fence between the existing cleaners and the shoe shop to keep people from going back in the alley. Mr. Johns could not be here tonight he had a prior engagement.

Chairman Gwaltney – Are there any comments?

Mr. Prevatte – The fence needs to be stain or painted down the road.

Mr. Goodrich – I think the taupe looks better than the green.

Ms. Hillegass – I agree.

Mr. Goodrich – I would like to make a motion to approve as presented with an amendment that the fence be stained or painted within six months to be approved by town staff.

Mr. Hill – Second.

Chairman Gwaltney - A motion has been made and properly seconded to approve the application as presented with an amendment that the fence be stained or painted within six months to be approved by town staff. All those in favor signify by saying aye, opposed say nay.

On call for the vote, five members were present. Chairman Gwaltney voted aye, Vice Chair Torre voted aye, Mr. Goodrich voted aye, Mr. Hill voted aye, and Ms. Hillegass voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Chairman Gwaltney – Next on the agenda is a Fence – Tax Parcel Number 21A-01-399, Corner of Main Street and Commerce Street – No Designation – O. A. Spady and M. G. Smith Building Company, applicants. Can we have a staff report?

Planning Technician – Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The applicant is seeking approval to construct a 3.5 foot tall fence on an empty lot that borders the public parking lot. They would like to put a fence down the property line to keep people from parking on their property without permission. It is going to be a 3.5 foot tall wood picket fence, white in color.

Chairman Gwaltney – Is there anyone here to speak on this application?

Mr. Mike Smith – I live at 104 Commerce Street. I represent Mr. O. A. Spady who owns the property. He is trying to separate his property from the town’s property and the

pumping station. People are crossing his property without permission. I live down there too. We have put up signs over the years to try keep people out but they continue to cross property lines and enter on docks that are private. Mr. Spady does not want to be held responsible for people crossing his property. He is trying to protect his property for future sale.

Chairman Gwaltney – Does the fence go from the curb to the chain link fence that is around the pumping station?

Mr. Smith – Yes. He owns that property.

Chairman Gwaltney – Is there any access to his property?

Mr. Smith – It is a right-of-way deed that allows people that own property behind there to access. There will be a sixteen foot gap that will be unlocked to access their property for fire reasons and the sewer main that goes through there.

Chairman Gwaltney – Will the gate be toward the pumping station at the end of the fence?

Mr. Smith – It will be about midway so they can access the back of their properties.

Chairman Gwaltney – Will the gate look like the rest of the fence?

Mr. Smith – Yes. It is mainly to stop people going on his property. There are people that rent dock slips from Mr. Spady. The Old Point National owns the other piece of property by default. They have slip rentals there also. There are concerns about people crossing on his property and he being held liable.

Planning Technician – The drawing that I prepared for the board may not be accurate. I drew a straight line all the way down the property line to the pumping station which may be incorrect. Is it going straight or is it going straight then curve at a ninety degree angle back towards the pump station?

Mr. Smith – Yes that is his property line. The other two pins that he owns are inside the pump station.

Planning Technician – It will be a straight run.

Mr. Smith – Yes. It is a utility easement.

Mr. Goodrich – I would like to make a motion to approve the application as presented.

Ms. Hillegass – Second.

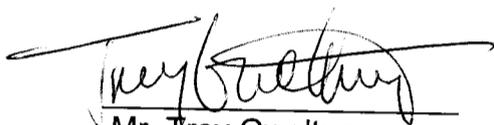
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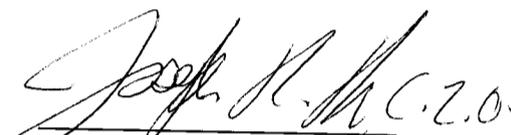
Planning Technician – There are no meetings to be approved this month.

Chairman Gwaltney – Our meeting is adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.



Mr. Trey Gwaltney  
Chairman



Mr. Joseph Reish  
Planning Technician