

Smithfield Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, August 1, 2006
4:00 p.m., Town Hall, Conference Room

Members Present:

Richard Williams
Jan Branch
Julia Narron
Shirley Booker
Chris Johnson

Members Absent:

Todd Johnson

Staff Present:

Mark Helmer
Latanya Merritt

Chairman Williams opened the public meeting.

APPROVAL FOR THE MINUTES FOR JUNE 6, 2006.

Mr. Chris Johnson made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Williams stated he was appreciative of Town Council for accepting the application. The next item of discussion was the final approval of the designated application.

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Helmer if the application had to be reviewed at the State for 30 days?

Mr. Helmer stated that for designations the State is allowed 30 days to review the case if they fail to make a recommendation then Council could then make a vote.

Mr. Johnson asked if it is not done today, could it still be submitted to Raleigh and would it be 30 days from that time?

Mr. Helmer stated if it is done next, it will be approximately 45 days between the time we submit to the deadline for Council.

Chairman William asked Mark to set up an appointment for next week. Mr. Helmer said Tuesday would be fine.

Mrs. Branch asked Mr. Helmer what do we have in the budget for street signs?

Mr. Helmer stated the Board asked for \$6,000.

Mrs. Branch asked if \$2,000 had been denied and how would we go about shopping for signs at this price?

Mr. Chris Johnson stated that Marty Anderson, the Public Works Director, was checking into the cost on the signs. Marty is an Engineer and has been saving the DSEC \$25,000 by supervising and managing the streets project and in stead of having to pay a outside engineer the state is allowing us to use our resident engineer saving us \$25,000.

Chairman Williams asked if every sign in the entire district had to be changed?

Mr. Chris Johnson stated that would be his recommendation.

Mr. Helmer stated that the first thing to do would to be to designate the Historical Overlay District. Until then, they will not be recognized. This will require Planning Board and Town Council approval. We can get bids to see what the signs are going to cost, and work on location.

Mr. Chris Johnson asked are we talking about having three overlay districts?

Mr. Helmer said that this was correct.

Mr. Chris Johnson stated using Front Street to Church Street as the western boundary.

- River to Spring Branch
- Spring Branch to South First Street
- South First Street East and West Street to Rose Street
- Rose Street North and South to Sixth Street
- Sixth Street East and West to Downtown development boundary line (Northeastern).

Everything that is not in the hatch mark will be in the DSEC district.

Mr. Helmer stated that he would map these boundaries and have it ready for review next meeting.

Mr. Chris Johnson stated using Buffalo Creek to the New Water treatment as the Northern boundary line.

- North Street taking in Oakland Height Cemetery to Seventh Street
- Everything on West and East side of Seventh (Office and Institution)

Mrs. Booker suggested that the committee should take a ride at sometime point and time to make sure no house is left out.

Chairman Williams asked how soon could we present this to Town Council?

Mr. Helmer stated that it would have to be presented to State first.

Mr. Chris Johnson asked Chairman Williams if he would have the application completed so that it can be submitted next week?

Chairman Williams stated that he would have it ready and in the mail by next Thursday.

Mr. Chris Johnson stated that we have the Town Councils approval if we perceive a step at a time and let them know step by step then they will see the benefits of what we are doing.

Mr. Helmer gave each member a copy of Article 21, and if they wanted changes to be made to the section it needs to be done in the near future.

Mrs. Booker asked what is the mechanism that gets any project to this group?

Mr. Helmer stated that the project has to be designated historic by this board and recorded at the courthouse. Mr. Helmer stated that the members should look over the Article and if you have suggestions, email him with comments.

The meeting was adjourned