

The Town of Smithfield Appearance Commission met on Monday, June 24, 2025 at 5:35 in the Town Hall Conference room located at 350 East Market Street, Smithfield, North Carolina.

Members Present

Kaitlyn Tarley – Chairperson
Emery Ashley, Jr. – Vice Chair
Michelle Choe
Carmen Zepp
Julia Narron

Members Absent

Robin Cook
Sharon Lynch
Pam Yelle

Staff Present

Elaine Andrews – Town Clerk

Staff Absent

Lawrence Davis – Public Works Director

Call to Order

Chairperson Kaitlyn Tarley called the meeting to order at 5:38 pm.

Budget Update:

Chairperson Kaitlyn Tarley reported that one fall planter installation had not been included in the budget due to a communication oversight. The expense has since been deducted, resulting in a minor budget adjustment, which she brought to the Board's attention.

Bridge Mural Design Options:

The Town of Smithfield's Appearance Commission convened to review and approve the mural design for the Bridge Mural Project. The Board received two more design options for consideration from the artist, Magen Pike. The design options discussed were, the original proposal of water marks from prior year flood levels, a concept featuring elements such as ducks, fish, and another concept which contained inspirational words. The inspirational words concept made reference to the Mountains to Sea Trail.

Members debated the merits of combining designs versus selecting a single cohesive concept, considering factors like visual consistency, educational value, and the artist's input. It was also discussed whether certain designs presented would cost more to replicate. Concerns about the artist's timeline and the need to respect her creative vision were raised, and the Board agreed to minimize further revisions.

Board members also discussed adding a plaque to describe certain features and elements of the mural, and allocating that expense to the next budget. The Board discussed merging concepts, but there was some concern regarding costs for the changing of paint in that scenario.

After thorough discussion, the Board made several motions:

Carmen Zepp made a motion to approve the design with the Ducks. The motion failed for lack of second.

Vice-Chairman Emery Ashley made a motion to approve the original design replicating the continuous historic flood lines. The motion was seconded by Michelle Choe. It was the consensus of the majority of the Board to choose the design as initially presented by the artist.

The Board had additional discussion for ideas for future public art projects, such as crosswalk or alley murals and educational features like flood level markers, were also considered for future exploration.

The Board decided not to meet in July, with the next meeting scheduled in August for discussion of the following action items:

- Reach out to the artist to confirm approval of the original proposed design.
- Explore additional mural or public art opportunities in other locations, such as crosswalks or alleys.
- Discuss potential funding sources or grants to support additional public art projects

Adjourn:

Emery Ashley made a motion, seconded by Julia Narron to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:10pm. Unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:


Elaine Andrews, Town Clerk

