

**Town of Smithfield
Historic Preservation Committee
Thursday, July 17th, 2025
5:30 pm
Town Hall
Conference Room**

Members Present:

Emery Ashley, Jr.
Mary Nell Ferguson
Elizabeth Anne Temple
Monique Austin
Jan Branch

Members Absent:

Staff Present:

Micah Woodard, Planner I
Julie Edmonds, Administrative Support Specialist

Staff Absent:

Stephen Wensman, Planning Director

Call to Order

Jan Branch made a motion to call the meeting to order, seconded by Monique Austin. Unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes

Jan Branch made a motion to approve the April 17th, 2025 minutes, seconded by Mary Nell Ferguson. Unanimously approved.

New Business

None

Old Business

The HPC committee discussed the original letter mailed in February 2024. The letter was sent to notify downtown business owners that their property is within the Smithfield Historic Overlay District. This designation provides some protection of the historic character and certain renovation and expansion projects affecting the exterior of the property may require a Certificate of Appropriateness. A follow-up letter has been discussed. Everyone is agreeable the follow-up letter is necessary.

Emery Ashley Jr. suggested the original letter be resent again; then give it a week and send a follow-up letter.

Emery Ashley Jr. emailed each board member on 7-17-2025 sharing the proposed Design Guidelines changes. He thinks it needs to be revisited. He stated murals are an example of something this town will see a lot more of. Therefore, we need to make any necessary changes to the ordinance as soon as possible. He stated older towns such as Tarboro or Mt. Airy to see what their guidelines are.

Jan Branch suggested reaching out to Heidi with the DSDC to find towns similar to Smithfield.

Mary Nell Ferguson suggested New Bern. She likes the feel of the community. It's clean and welcoming. Micah Woodard suggested Edenton, NC.

Micah Woodard passed around a picture of a house at 1317 Buffalo Rd. He researched to see if it had a name but he couldn't find one. It is a very old home. It was recently purchased by Village on the Neuse, LLC. They've received their final approval to build a subdivision.

Elizabeth Ann Temple said it's called the Holland House and it's at least 100 years old. She would like to see the Town of Smithfield purchase the home and relocate it.

Micah Woodard stated the house isn't in the historic district therefore it would have to be designated as part of the jurisdiction. He suggested everyone read the powers on the commission and become familiar with the board's role.

Emery Ashley Jr. said we need to find out more history on the house. We also need to find out how we would go about acquiring this house and where would the funds come from to do so?

Emery Ashley Jr. suggested we have a final draft of the text amendment by the next meeting so we can have a better grasp on this mural situation.

Adjournment

Jan Branch made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Mary Nell Ferguson. Unanimously approved.

Our next HPC meeting is scheduled for October 16th, 2025 at 5:30 pm.



Julie Edmonds
Administrative Support Specialist
Planning Department