

**Town of Smithfield
Historic Preservation Committee
Thursday, October 16th, 2025
5:30 pm
Town Hall
Conference Room**

Members Present:

Emery Ashley, Jr.
Elizabeth Anne Temple
Monique Austin
Jan Branch (Arrived late)
Emma Creech

Members Absent:

Mary Nell Ferguson

Staff Present:

Micah Woodard, Planner I
Julie Edmonds, Administrative Support Specialist

Staff Absent:

Stephen Wensman, Planning Director

Call to Order

Elizabeth Anne Temple made a motion to call the meeting to order, seconded by Emma Creech. Unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes

Elizabeth Anne Temple made a motion to approve the July 17th, 2025 minutes, seconded by Emma Creech. Unanimously approved.

New Business

Vote to approve the 2026 Meeting Calendar

Elizabeth Anne Temple made a motion to approve the 2026 Meeting Calendar seconded by Emma Creech. Unanimously approved

Emery Ashley Jr. asked staff if the follow-up letter had been mailed to business owners in the historic district.

Planner Micah Woodard said yes it was mailed prior to this meeting but no response has been received from anyone.

Emery Ashley Jr. asked if the letter from the HPC board had been mailed and Micah Woodard stated no not yet.

It was suggested that a letter be sent to property owners close to the historic district but not necessarily in the district.

Emery Ashley asked to see a draft of the letters before they were mailed to property owners or tenants.

Elizabeth Anne Temple made a motion to the Town of Smithfield to move the Holland House and relocate it within the Town of Smithfield. No one seconded the motion. She wanted it stated that she was disappointed no one seconded this request.

Emery Ashley Jr. stated we need to know if the owners are willing to sell the Holland House. He also stated we need to know the historic significance about the residence and lastly who's going to fund the purchase of this home.

Old Business

Emery Ashley Jr. briefly spoke on the previous letter mailed out to business owners in the historic district. He requested a second letter be mailed from the HPC board with more of a softer tone. He asked that the draft of the second letter be emailed to the HPC board first for review.

The board briefly spoke on the Native American Tuscarora Heritage Mural being painted near the Johnston County Courthouse off South Third Street. This property isn't in the historic district so it will not need to be approved by this HPC board.

Jan Branch asked if the HPC Board can regulate public art such as statues?

Micah Woodard stated regulating public art is not a characteristic of this board. He stated that would be more of an appearance commission or DSDC item.

David Moore of 113 S. Fifth Street, a citizen of Smithfield entered the meeting.

Emma Creech asked whose responsibility it was to maintain and keep up the appearance of murals.

Micah Woodard stated it would be the property owner's responsibility.

Emery Ashley Jr. requested a UDO as did Emma Creech. She also asked for a historical boundary map.

Jan Branch made a motion to clean up the mural portion of the design guidelines. Seconded by Emery Ashley Jr. Unanimously approved.

Adjournment

Jan Branch made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Emery Ashley Jr. Unanimously approved.

Our next HPC meeting is scheduled for January 15th, 2026 at 5:30 pm.



Julie Edmonds
Administrative Support Specialist
Planning Department