

TOWN OF SILER CITY

The Siler City Downtown Advisory Committee met in Regular Session on Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 5:30 pm in Wren Memorial Library and through remote electronic meeting conducted by simultaneous communication via Zoom with Chair Szary presiding. Kivett read the mission statement.

DOWNTOWN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Loretta Kivett, Richard Szary, Sam Testerman

DOWNTOWN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Tim Booras, Cecil Wilson

DOWNTOWN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Denis de St. Aubin Jr., Wren Farrar, Jason Hoyle, Bill Horner

TOWN STAFF PRESENT: Planning Director Jack Meadows, Permit Specialist Justin Bridges

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Testerman to approve the agenda, seconded by Kivett & unanimously approved.

CONSENT

A motion was made by Wilson to approve the June 22, 2021 minutes, seconded by Testerman, & unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

a) 2021 Priority List of Recommendations

1) No Cost

a) Local Historic District and Historic Preservation Ordinance (Subcommittee Recommendation)

Of the subcommittee the vote was a 3-0 yes vote recommending approval and moving forward with Historic Preservation. This item will be discussed in further detail at the August meeting.

b) Public Works – Street Sweeper, Shopping Dispenser (Rich)

Last update on street sweeper was that Public Works wasn't paying their bills because they had not heard from them. Szary will check in with Public Works for an update on this.

c) Parking Plan (Rich)

a. Time limits, fines, handicap spaces, loading zones, enforcement, signs

b. Municipal Parking Lot

- i. E. Second St. – P# 62035 – owned by Campbell
- ii. N. Chatham Ave. – P# 15345 – owned by Wren
- iii. E. Beaver St. – P# 16316 – owned by Town
- iv. RR row along Birch Ave. – owned by Norfolk

Szary proposed three things concerning the parking plan: First, define parking on the main Downtown streets for customers, visitors and deliverers. Second, if parking is taken away from those merchants who have gotten used to having it, have the Town come up with alternative parking arrangements for them. Third, is

enforcement of parking regulations; making sure that everybody knows what is going on, making sure there is good signage, and having a process for collecting fees for Downtown. This discussion will be brought back in August.

- d) Landscape Plan for City Hall – Chatham Central High Agriculture Department (Jack) Planning talked with Chris Hart at Chatham Central and Chris thought this would be a good project for his students. Chris said he could give a cost estimate as to what the trees and plants would cost and what work would need to be done. This would be a school project at no charge. This conversation will continue at the August meeting.

2) Includes Cost

- a) Town take over maintenance of Chatham Avenue from 4th St. to Chestnut St.
 - a. Traffic light cost
 - b. Maintenance cost
 - c. No trucks except for trucks delivering to downtown buildings
Planning has emailed NCDOT concerning this and has not heard back from them yet.
- b) Visual Assessment by NC Commerce (\$250)
This is underway now with Bruce Naegelen. Bruce will report back by the end of August.

- b) Business/Property Owner Update Letter in English/Spanish (Rich) (send with public comment meeting invite in August 2021)

NEW BUSINESS

The email from Bill Horner was discussed. In Downtown Sanford they are providing free Wi-Fi. Questions about the cost are being researched and this can be discussed at a future meeting with more information. The committee was interested in this idea for Downtown Siler City.

REPORTS

- a) Siler City Merchants Association
The new Visitors Center in Pittsboro talked with the Merchants Association about getting more information to share about Siler City. The Merchants Association took an employee of the Visitors Center on a multiple hour tour of Siler City. Also, the Chamber of Commerce has their annual leadership program. In the past they have done a tour of Downtown Siler City. The Merchant's Association is organizing this for November.
- b) Planning and Community Development Department
A meeting was held at Best Foods Cafeteria on July 14th to discuss the minimum non-residential code. Approximately 20 people attended and had a q & a about the program. Also, Site plan review has begun for 120 W. Raleigh St. for a brewery and butcher shop. SCDO has raised \$8,500 for the façade grant program. Planning is waiting to hear back about the Duke Energy grant.

PRESENTATION

Christy Brantley with the office of Historic Preservation for the state spoke to the committee. Planning ask Ms. Brantley to provide some potential guidance on how the committee might move forward with Historic Preservation. Ms. Brantley discussed that the first step will be to establish a Historic Preservation Commission. Then, before a Town designate anything the Preservation

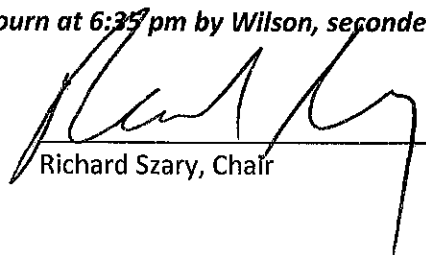
Commission would need to have rules of procedure and also design standards. Once those things are in place the commission would have a report made of the investigation of the area that the committee would want to be a Historic District and submit that to the State which would have 30 days to review and comment.

FUTURE BUSINESS

- a) Next Meetings @ 5:30 on Aug. 24, Sep. 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 16
The meetings will be held in person at Wren Memorial Library and via Zoom.
- b) 2021 Priority List of Recommendations
 - 1) Identify Draft Project List – Aug. 24, 2021
 - 2) Public Comment on Draft Project List – Sep. 28, 2021
 - 3) Approve Priority List – Oct. 26, 2021
 - 4) Approve PowerPoint Presentation – Nov. 16, 2021
 - 5) Present to Town Board – Jan. 3, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business a motion was made to adjourn at 6:35 pm by Wilson, seconded by Testerman and unanimously approved.



Richard Szary, Chair

ATTEST:



Justin Bridges, Permit Specialist