**Walter M. Gardner, Jr. Robert F. Davie Jr.**

 **Mayor Town Administrator**

**TOWN OF WARRENTON**

*“Historically Great - Progressively Strong”*

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**Revitalization Committee Minutes**

**Tuesday, February 16, 2016**

A meeting of the Warrenton Revitalization Committee was held at the Warrenton Rural Fire Station on April 19, 2016 at 6:00pm. Members in attendance were Tim Williams, Crystal Smith, Cheryl Bell, Jereann King, Craig Hahn, Meredith Hunter, Michael Coffman, Woody King, Bob Shingler and Rose Derring, as were Commissioners Frank Holt and Kimberly Harding, Town Administrator Robert Davie and citizens Michael Layne and Cliff Jackson. A quorum was present.

The minutes of the prior meeting were reviewed and approved with no corrections.

Michael Coffman reviewed ideas from each of the sub-committees of the Town Café: Promotion, Design and Economic Restructuring. Ideas from the promotion group centered around generating places to stay via AirBNB, since there are no local hotels or motels for visitors. Also noted was the idea of after-hours events at Robinson Ferry, that extended beyond 10:00PM. From the Design committee, Frank Holt read a summary of suggestions that centered around a bicycle and pedestrian path linking Warrenton with the County recreation facility on Highway 158. From Economic Restructuring committee Commissioner Harding outlined the suggestion that a merchants association should be created to facilitate cooperative promotion of local businesses, beginning with a list of businesses provided by the Town.

Membership in the National Retailers Association was discussed, as the Town had purchased a membership in the prior year. It was noted that the Warren County Chamber has a membership that includes can be utilized by any chamber member. Some suggested that a merchants association be incorporated into the Chamber organization. Woody King noted that the Chamber represented businesses throughout the county but that the merchants association would primarily serve Warrenton merchants.

A permanent location for the Farmers Market was briefly mentioned, citing the Cotton Gin as a potential location. Meredith Hunter noted the unique farmers market in Lexington, NC was housed in the old train station, and that Preservation Warrenton might consider helping to renovate a building for the Warrenton Farmers Market.

Springfest was discussed and assignments for setup given. The event is sold out, as 70 non-food vendors are booked. Food vendors also are signed up in record numbers. The bouncy house will not be coming. Robert Davie will investigate if special insurance for the event is required, since the bouncy house will not be a part of the event. Tranzition Band has been replaced by Braketime Band due to a death in the band.

Harvest Market was discussed as were ideas and potential contacts for sponsorships. Michael Coffman is working on a document that will outline the available annual sponsorships for potential sponsors.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.