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**Revitalization Committee**

**July 21, 2020**

**Minutes**

Chairman Michael Coffman called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM at Town Hall with nine persons present and one attending by Zoom in order to comply with COVID-19 restrictions. Members in attendance were: Michael Coffman, Jereann King Johnson, Bob Shingler, Rose Derring, Mike Kelley, Roger St. Louis, Georgiana Weddington, Mark Wethington, and Kimberly Harding via Zoom. Also in attendance was Robert Davie, Town Administrator.

The minutes of the June 2020 meeting were reviewed and two changes suggested by Kimberly Harding and Jereann King Johnson. A motion to approve the minutes with amendments was made by Kimberly Harding and seconded by Jereann King Johnson. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Under Old Business Michael Coffman discussed items under the Promotion Committee including activities for Halloween. Given the unknown of COVID restrictions around Halloween, Rose Derring suggested a walking ghost-tour where social distancing and masks could be used. Christmas lights were discussed and Bob Shingler motioned to purchase colored lights instead of white lights. The motion was seconded by Georgiana Weddington and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

There was no report by the Design Committee.

For the Economic Vitality Committee, Mark Wethington reported that the All Saints Church renovation project was making progress. The initial goal is to paint the boarded up windows in the form of stained glass and utilizing local artists and possible Arts Council for assistance. The building needs approximately $1 million in renovation work that includes gutting the basement and addressing mold and water issues and also the roof which needs replacing. Mark stated that the Episcopal Diocese is hope to put up $30,000 initially and raise money for much of the balance. The Bishop will be in attendance at a 100-year anniversary celebration on September 10th, 2020. Mark also reported that the American Legion intends to repair and occupy the old Fritz’s gas station.

Michael Coffman announced one vacancy to be filled on the Revitalization Committee. He also announced online training sessions for Main Street and encouraged members to attend.

Under New Business Michael Coffman said he would be sending out an email with prior work plans for subcommittees, so that subcommittees could begin updating their work plans. He also revisited the idea of changing the layouts of the two annual festivals, having vendors in the street instead of on the courthouse square. Michael Coffman noted the branding survey and encouraged members to complete the survey as well as distribute wherever possible.

Jereann King Johnson asked about a status on the proposed Church Street park and suggested and recommended engagement of the neighborhood. She will take the lead on that engagement process. Robert Davie stated that the Town had not yet been notified on its park application. Rose Derring inquired about the brewery. Robert Davie stated that lending terms from banks had changed since the project was approved, and due to COVID restrictions it was more difficult to obtain loans for businesses that were shut down by the Governor. Jereann King Johnson asked about the empty lot at the corner of Macon and Main Streets. Michael Coffman stated that Jimmy Harris was working with several organizations to assist in the landscaping.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.