

Toby Barbour  
Mike Bralley  
Tom Brewster  
Richard Bullins  
Tom Childress  
Margie Douglas  
Sheila Edwards  
Johnathan Gibson

## *Pocahontas Management Team*



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**Michael Closs, Chairperson**

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**June 8, 2011**

**Present:** Debbie Milton, Arthur Scott, Greg Jones, Hunter Greene, Mary Anne White, Michael Closs, Joy Rumley, Johnathan Gibson, Toby Barbour, Darrell Hunley, Bobby Shew, Barbara Shupe, Carolyn Smith, Reggie Blackwood, Paul Baker.

**Absent:** Mike Bralley, Tom Brewster, Richard Bullins, Tom Childress, Pat Synan, Russell Synan, Curtis Gillespie, Jerry Gravely, Patsy Valach, Margie Douglass, Sheila Edwards, David Hill

Michael Closs opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

Michael Closs stated that there was a Community Meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in which the Community choice option number two out of the three proposals that was presented by Hill Studio. Michael Closs stated that there is conflict over in inclusion of the old kitchen area of the Company Store into option two.

Hunter Greene of Hill Studios provided a progress update. Hunter Greene stated that the bid documents would be available on April 18, 2011. Hunter Green presented drawing that showed how the facades of the Company Store and Iron Fronts would be stabilized. The stabilization would include steel supports behind the facades. The facades would then be scraped and repainted. The existing footers would tie into the steel support behind the facades.

Hunter Green stated that the old kitchen area is up in the air. Historic Pocahontas, Inc is the property owner and wants the structure to remain. Hunter Greene stated there is \$208,000.00 in the budget for stabization for five structures, repair and finishing. The old kitchen area is structural sound but it may not be financially feasible. Hunter Green questioned what historic value would the old kitchen area add to the project.

Bobby Shew stated that the old kitchen area is structural sound and should be saved. Bobby Shew stated that we need economic development. We need to clean up the Town and save the history of the Town. Bobby Shew created a drawing of different ways of how a 70'x130' white box can be inserted behind the Iron Fronts. This would allow for a retail location while preserving the façade of the Iron Fronts.

Bobby Shew stated that David Woodard is looking at opening a snack bar. Bobby Shew stated that we need a Taco Bell and other larger retailers. Greg Jones stated that we should focus on mom & pop business to help retain & brand our local culture. We don't want to create

Pocahontas is being the same as any other Town. Joy Rumley stated that it could go either way. There are tourists that want local business and those who prefer the comfort of a national brand.

Mary Anne White stated that the people of the community voted for option number two and option two does not include saving the old kitchen area. Hunter Greene stated that cost will be the determining factor. Arthur Scott stated that we should leave the old kitchen structure in to determine cost. Historic Pocahontas is the property owner and they have a say on what happens on their property. It would be easier to determine cost and then make decisions then to leave it out entirely and not know. Arthur Scott stated that he is aware that some people are upset but personally it didn't matter to him if the old kitchen area stays or not. Arthur Scott stated that he just wants something done, so let's do something.

Bobby Shew stated that the old kitchen area can be made into a 36'x36' Bed & Breakfast that will appeal to the ATV market.

Hunter Greene stated that the old kitchen area if save will not be used for a storage area. That would conflict the CDBG grant parameters.

Joy Rumley stated that we don't know what the contractor bids will be. The contractor bids may come over estimate. Just because it can be stabilized doesn't mean it is cost effective.

Hunter Greene stated that the Hill Studio will recommend the contractor once the bids are in. The invitation for bids will begin on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Darrell Hunley stated he would like the stone church on West Water Street included in the project area. The stone church is being developed into a food bank and fine arts center. Darrell Hunley stated that they have partnered with Bluefield College to help form a pottery shop. Joy Rumley stated that this maybe looked into under phase two, but the project area cannot be redrawn under the current phase.

Without any further business, the Management Team meeting was adjourned.