

The Small Town Main Street/Historic Hayesville Inc. Board of Directors July meeting covered topics and statistics relating to the N. C. Department of Commerce reports required by STMS for the fiscal year between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. Statistics from the report will be presented to the Clay County Board of Commissioners and Hayesville Town Council at their monthly meetings, but below are some highlights from the report as well as recent activities by STMS/HHI volunteers.

The reinvestment statistics show increases in the number of new businesses and expansions of those previously established providing new full time or part time jobs. Five businesses opened in the most recent fiscal year within the downtown limits adding 19 full time jobs and 14 part time positions. Investments for the new or expanded businesses totaled more than three million dollars. The North Carolina rate for volunteer hours has risen to \$27.63 per hour and enough hours were contributed to downtown projects to show more than \$207, 000 in the report which can be used as matching funds for possible grants.

Board members reviewed STMS/HHI accounting balances which have increased for the year due to successful fundraisers and individual donations for specific projects. The annual Trash to Treasure sale was a success bringing in extra funds for the completion of the Old Town Hall as a small classroom for historical and cultural presentations. Appreciation is extended to those who donated items for the sale; to Blair Creek Plaza for providing shop space and to Friends of Historic Hayesville committee volunteers for conducting another successful fundraiser.

The Old Town Hall should be finished by September in time for the Clay County Communities Revitalization Association annual Cherokee Festival and later available for other activities. The Spring Steins & Wine event also provided funding for the classroom in addition to downtown beautification including plants at the Post Office, Hayesville Town Hall and inside Historic Clay County Courthouse/Beal Center square.

The Barn Quilt project is ongoing with an increase of custom orders created and painted by five HHI volunteers. Designs can be seen locally and in other regions as far away as Canada. Appointments for custom orders are available in the small studio behind the HHI Centennial Exhibit location on Sanderson Street next to the Hayesville Post Office.

New business on the agenda included approval to support advertising of the annual Shop Small Shop Local promotion during Thanksgiving weekend and the annual Song Writers Circle concert on Saturday, Nov. 26 at Historic Clay County Courthouse/Beal Center as part of the festivities. Another agenda item was a request from American Legion Post 532 to support an informative visit by U. S. Astronaut Ron Garan to Clay County Middle and High School students in September. The board voted to pledge \$1, 000 in support with hopes that other groups and individuals will help local veterans sponsor such a special event for the school.

Volunteers on the STMS/HHI Economic Vitality, Promotions, Design and FOHH committees provide reports to the board of directors each month. July reports included minutes of the Economic Vitality group composed of business and nonprofit volunteers, new downtown maps promoting locations, HHI website updates and review of cost for downtown banners promoting businesses.

The Promotions Committee coordinated an additional "Blue Ridge Country Magazine" ad in the current issue which was presented to board members. Recognition was given to participating nonprofit partners and Clay County government for supporting the third ad of this year promoting local activities. The magazine is distributed in seven regional states and provides reader requests to HHI for local attractions. Lake Chatuge and the CCCRA Cherokee Festival are in the top 10 of reader choices in 2021-2022 polls.

HHI Board of Directors appreciate all the community support to the STMS/HHI 501c3 nonprofit organization completely managed by a team of volunteers. Visit: www.historichayesvilleinc.com for details on HHI projects, make donations, volunteer or join a committee.