

Stantonsburg Seal Building Transformation Project

Summary :

The Stantonsburg Seal Building Transformation Project represents the second phase of the Town of Stantonsburg's Seal Building site redevelopment. The first phase included the demolition of the original, dilapidated Applewhite Building, or "Seal Building" because it is featured on the Town Seal, and preservation of its prominent, historic facade. This second phase will make critical safety improvements and further preserve the Seal Building facade, comprehensively study its potential long-term use as an asset to downtown development, and explore public-private partnership opportunities that may increase Stantonsburg's tax base. Future phases will construct or otherwise implement the selected Seal Building development option(s), which will be presented to the Town of Stantonsburg as an outcome of this second phase.

Planning Activities:

The Town of Stantonsburg will procure one qualified firm to lead a site-specific master planning process focused on the Seal Building Site. The firm's process will include:

- 1: A public engagement process that will target Stantonsburg residents and business owners primarily to gather the community's vision for the Seal Building site. This public input process will involve at least one in-person charrette hosted at the Seal Building site.
- 2: A structural survey of the existing Seal Building façade to objectively determine its potential to be used again as a newly constructed building's façade.
- 3: A subsurface survey of the entire Seal Building site to objectively determine its potential to support a building in the future. This survey will identify any underground utilities or environmental concerns that may be a barrier to future construction.
- 4: Presentation of test-fits that include an analysis of potential cost and critical steps for implementation.
- 5: Review of potential public-private partnerships that may help finance Seal Building site development. The potential public-private partnerships will also describe the Town of Stantonsburg's role in detail.

Public Improvements Activities:

The project's public improvements will include:

- 1: Filling in the below-grade crawl spaces below the lower storefront window frames necessary to make sidewalk-level entry clear of safety hazards.
- 2: Removing the rotted wood from the lower storefront window frames and within the former building footprint.
- 3: Painting of the lower storefront windows, doorways, doors, and support columns to improve the façade's appearance and weatherize, preserve, and protect the virgin timbers and all other salvageable wood framing.

In conclusion, the Town of Stantonsburg is currently awaiting the award agreement documentation from the North Carolina Department of Commerce. The Town expects to procure a planning firm and begin the site improvements in July. The process is expected to be complete before December. Grant writing technical assistance was provided by the Upper Coastal Plains Council of Governments, who will also assist the Town with administering the project. Please contact David R. Beaman, Town Manager, for additional information.