

SAVE DAVIDSON | Overview

Mission: To preserve Davidson's small-town quality of life by educating and engaging citizens in Town governance, community advocacy and activism.

History of SAVE DAVIDSON – United for ENGAGEMENT, EDUCATION, ADVOCACY and ACTIVISM

- Beginning in February 2017 as Save West Davidson's Tree Canopy, Save Davidson was founded by residents first concerned about the sale and private development of 19 acres on Beaty/NC115 with its tree canopy, pond, and natural woodlands. Decades ago that land was planned and purchased as a park especially for West Side residents.
- The group quickly expanded in its number of followers and purpose, allowing the wider Davidson community to share information on town-wide issues and act in concert for all.
- To give a broader voice to specific town project concerns, the founders officially changed the group's name to "SAVE DAVIDSON" in June 2017.

Key Accomplishments

- **September 2017** Members of SAVE DAVIDSON engaged in active advocacy to eventually end the sale and private development of Town-owned Beaty property purchased to be a park.
- **November 2017** Educated and endorsed candidates for the 2018 municipal elections. Ultimately changing the composition of the board and leading to more open education for BOC members and a noticeably more engaged citizenry.
- **March 2018** Save Davidson advocated for low-income residents who were erroneously charged Town of Davidson's Solid-Waste Fee of \$201/year over a period of several years. Affected citizens requested appropriate relief from prior Davidson Town boards but were unable to have the fee removed or to be heard. Pursuit of this issue has resulted in eligible residents receiving reimbursements of fees totaling \$28,000 across 44 parcels.

Griffith Street Hotel

- Although Davidson's Planning Board disapproved conditional rezoning for a developer of a 4-story, 115-room hotel at the corner of Griffith Street and Davidson Gateway Drive, planning staff persuaded the Town's Board to grant it. Location is directly next door to the elementary school division of Community School of Davidson (CSD) and adjacent the Westside Terrace, an historic enclave of Davidson natives long part of an inherently affordable neighborhood.
- A group of citizens have filed suit against the Town citing flawed process.
- Concerned citizens have created a Facebook Group "*Citizens for a Safe hotel Location in Davidson*"

Watershed Ordinance Text Amendments

- Davidson is updating its Planning Ordinance (DPO) Section 17 (Watershed Ordinance). Its Planning Department proposes text amendments that directly affect property values for citizens residing in the critical watershed area (CA), (everything west of Main Street). It may limit citizens' ability to rebuild on or add on to existing structures including addition of driveways, patios, garages, sheds, covered decks, or any other impervious material/structure/surface. Changes include: variances, density averaging, buffers, built upon area (BUA) limits, redevelopment and storm water management. Watch SAVE DAVIDSON's continued updates.

Potts Street Development

- Crescent Communities submitted a plan for 276 apartments, 19 townhouses and 9 homes on 21-acre Potts Property in May 2017. The land is in Class IV Critical Watershed (drinking water). Project straddles Davidson and Cornelius. The high-density apartments and townhouses were planned on the Davidson side and the homes were planned on the Cornelius side. Crescent removed their application from the Cornelius side in September 2017.
- Crescent submitted a second high-density plan for apartments and townhouses on the Davidson side in October 2017. The Mecklenburg County Fire Marshall disapproved Crescent's plan multiple times, whereas it did not meet the land development checklist. Kimley-Horn found multiple failing and worsening intersections in their Transportation Impact Analysis (TIA) submitted to Davidson in December 2017. According to Town Manager Jamie Justice, Crescent is currently fighting the results of the TIA. Crescent reportedly submitted a third plan to the Davidson Planning Department in the past week. Crescent was recently acquired by a Japanese firm, Sumitomo Forestry.

Potts/NC115 and Potts-Sloan-Beaty Corridor Project

- In October 2017, residents of Davidson and Cornelius were invited to a public meeting regarding NCDOT Projects U-5873 (roundabout in front of the Lake Norman YMCA) and U-5907 (Potts/Sloan/Beaty Connection, or PSB). Kimley-Horn gave residents two weeks to respond. Many citizens found out for the first time that their homes, businesses and yards would be impacted or "taken" by the two projects and the ten-foot path proposed by the Town. The path involves using eminent domain that will encroach on both historic and newer properties. Project will potentially remove 100-year-old oak trees and crape myrtles on one of the oldest and most beautiful streets in Davidson. None of the past town plans, including the 2013 Walks & Rolls Plan, involved a ten-foot path on South Potts Street.
- Potts Street residents expressed concern at the April Coffee Chat after receiving notices from a Raleigh attorney seeking to represent them against the "taking" of their property. Justice stated that the project is still in the design phase.
- Residents requested to be considered "consulting parties" under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) which would allow the residents to provide neighborhood representation for those who will be greatly impacted by the two projects.

Support the Movement!

- **Connect** via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, savedavidson.org
- **Join** Join the email list at savedavidson@gmail.com
- **Become** a neighborhood point person to share information and updates
- **Attend** Town Meetings and SAVE DAVIDSON Events
- **Host** an Info Session with SAVE DAVIDSON representatives to educate your neighborhood
- **Buy** a SAVE DAVIDSON magnet for your car, a t-shirt or a sign for your yard
- **Donate** to support SAVE DAVIDSON: Make check payable to "Save Davidson;" mail to SAVE DAVIDSON, PO Box 16, Davidson, NC 28036 or pay online at savedavidson.org