

Proposal to Save the "Little Church"

April 17, 2025

To: Town Council of Shallotte

106 Cheers Street

South Brunswick, NC 28470

From: Christie Marek- Founder/Chair of Brunswick County Conversation Partnership

2986 Longwood Rd NW

Ash, NC 28420

Update for the Preservation and Donation of the "Little Church" by Brunswick County Conservation Partnership

Introduction

The purpose of this proposal is to advocate for the preservation and future placement of "Little Church," a significant historical structure also known as St. Marks Church, here in Shallotte for over 100 years. We are partnering with Karen and Chris Moshoures on this mission. It was, and still is, our intention for the Town of Shallotte to take possession of "Little Church" while also being put in conservation with my 501c3 nonprofit. So it will never be at risk again.

Historical Significance

"Little Church" is a memorial to the group of individuals who struggled financially to establish a house of worship over 100 years ago. She holds deep cultural and historical importance for our community, symbolizing faith and perseverance. We believe she deserves to be showcased in a fitting environment that honors her legacy. We would love to see it placed in or near Mulberry Park.

Current Condition and Concerns

While we have embarked on plans to remodel the church further, we need to see it moved and put into conservation, so it will never be at risk in the future.

Currently, her location at a busy intersection poses risks, including potential claims by the NCDOT in the future. Moreover, moving the church will be considerably more challenging once we begin remodeling efforts, such as installing front and back steps, invalid ramps, an outdoor accessible bathroom, landscaping, signage, and more.

For these reasons, before proceeding with any remodeling, we would like to consider donating “Little Church” to the Town of Shallotte with specific stipulations to ensure her preservation and proper placement.

Proposed Actions

We all envisioned the “Little Church” situated near the graveyard at Mulberry Park, where it can serve as a serene and reverent location that complements her historical significance. We understand that this may not be an option and willing to consider meeting to listen to other locations you might have in mind. Brunswick County Conservation Partnership want to see it put in conservation while taking on the responsibilities of caring, maintaining, and organizing the move of the “Little Church” here in Shallotte.

We propose the following actions regarding the donation and preservation of “Little Church”:

1. Donation to the Town: Brunswick County Conservation Partnership will be partnering with Dr. Chris Moshoures in the donation of the “Little Church” to the Town of Shallotte with flexible stipulations aimed at her preservation and relocation.
2. Relocation Planning: Collaborate with town officials to develop a plan for a final resting place for the relocation of the “Little Church” within or near Mulberry Park, unless another location can be agreed on.
3. Funding for Preservation: Brunswick County Conservation Partnership will maintain the upkeep, maintaining, and relocation of the “Little Church” by taking on the financial responsibilities, seeking grants, and community support for the restoration and relocation.
4. Community Engagement: Initiate a campaign to involve local residents in the preservation efforts and acknowledge the historical significance of the church. We have had a huge amount of concerns from the residents of not only Shallotte but the entire county.

Conclusion

We urge the Town Council to take swift action in accepting this proposal to preserve and create a partnership with Brunswick County Conservation Partnership for the relocation of the "Little Church." It is crucial for maintaining our town's heritage, honoring its historical significance, and ensuring she finds a safe and respectful resting place. Together, we can ensure that "Little Church" continues to be a cherished part of our community's history for generations to come.

Contact Information:

Christie Marek

Founder/Chair for Brunswick County Conversation Partnership

(910) 386-9205

christie.marek@brunswickcountyconservationpartnership.org

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your positive response and collaboration in preserving "Little Church" for the benefit of our community.