



Somersworth Historic District Commission

One Government Way
Somersworth, NH 03878

Minutes of Meeting on 28 December 2016: Adopted as submitted

Present:

Laura Barry, Chair
Arthur Hendrickson, Vice-Chair
Martin Dumont, City Councilor and Representative to the HDC
Tim Metivier, Building Inspector
Richard Brooks, Commissioner
Jenna Dunham, Alternate Commissioner
George Poulin, Commissioner
Pius Charles Murray, Commissioner and Secretary

In absentia:

Beth Poulin, Commissioner

Members of the Public Present:

Daniel Bard (on behalf of HDC #29-2016)
Jared Sims (on behalf of HDC #29-2016)

Agenda & Minutes

I. Call to Order: At 7:00 P.M. by the Chair.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes of the HDC meeting of 22 November 2016 as amended was made by Mr Murray and seconded by Councilor Dumont. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Projects of Minimal Impact Report

Mr. Metivier reported no projects of minimal impact.

IV. Comments by Visitors

There were none.

V. Old Business

A. Daniel Bard is seeking a certificate of appropriateness for front porch repairs on property located at 31 Prospect Street, in the Historic Moderate Density (HMD) District, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 115, HDC #29-2016.

Jared Sims and Daniel Bard were present to discuss HDC #29-2016.

Mr. Metivier explained the background leading to this application. The HDC had approved two previous applications (HDC #22-1999 to repair boards and HDC #21-2014 to repair the chimney). Mr. Sims explained that the proposed repairs would not be changing the structure but only repair the existing structure: (a) replacing deck boards with P.T. 5/4; replace columns with new wood columns; replace all trim boards; replace pickets under the deck; and repair the railing, installing newer lower sections replacing rotted lower sections.

The Commission's discussion centered on insuring that the color of the wood would match the rest of the house, and to ensure that a painting schedule would be established and followed. There was an extended discussion on establishing a reasonable painting schedule with Mr. Sims.

Councilor Dumont inquired about time limit of the previous two applications; Mr. Metivier stated that since they had not been given any time limit by the HDC they were still open. Furthermore explained Mr. Metivier that, if the repairs in the previously approved applications were not completed, the applicant could be cited for Violation of Property Maintenance.

Motion to approve HDC #29-2016 as submitted with the stipulations that painting would be completed within 8 months and that the repairs follow the legend created by Mr. Metivier (see attachment) was made by Mr. Poulin and seconded by Mr. Brooks. Motion was approved unanimously.

B. Any other old business that may come before the Commission.

VI. New Business:

A. Them Tran is seeking a certificate of appropriateness for exterior building renovations on property located at 109 Main Street, in the Business Historic (BH) District, Assessor's Map 10, Lot 185, HDC #30-2016.

There was no one present to discuss HDC #30-2016. The Chair reminded the Commission

that, in the absence of any representative to discuss an item and the agreement of the applicant to table an item, its options are either to approve or deny the application. Both the Chair and Mr. Hendrickson expressed reservations about the application and had questions about it for the applicant. Motion to deny HDC #30-2016 due to an incomplete and ambiguous (e.g. missing items included types of materials to be used in the repair; reason why window is to be made smaller) application was made by Mr. Hendrickson and seconded by Mr. Murray. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Any other new business that may come before the Commission.

VII. Closing Comments by Visitors:

There were none.

VIII. Workshop Business:

A. Overlay Districts

The Chair stated that she would like to schedule a Workshop to discuss the possibility and feasibility of establishing additional Overlay Districts in the Historic District; based on Mr. Metivier's suggestion that this Workshop be held on a separate date than a regularly scheduled HDC meeting due to the necessity of a lengthy discussion, the Workshop is TBD.

Mr. Metivier explained that the Historic District is an overlap of different zoning areas in the city. Councilor Dumont cited the City Council's creation of a special area around the Hilltop School as an example. Councilor Dumont furthermore stated that the City Council is concerned about the lack of vision in what the HDC would allow for or hinder in development for businesses in the Historic District. At the same time, the Commission wishes to communicate to the City Council the importance of and advantages of historic preservation.

B. February 2017 Workshop with Cemetery Trustees.

The Chair stated that there would be a combined Workshop with the Cemetery Trustees at the February meeting. To help the Commissioners to prepare for that discussion, the Chair handed out a number of photocopied articles to read prior to the Workshop.

C. Workshop on PVC and guidelines for windows.

The Chair stated that there would be a Workshop prior to the January 2017 meeting to discuss PVC and HDC guidelines for windows.

IX. Communications and Miscellaneous:

A. Mr. Hendrickson asked Mr. Metivier if he had visited Seeds of Faith to investigate its repair work being done on its property; Mr. Metivier reported that he was scheduled to visit Seeds of Faith tomorrow, 29 December 2016.

B. Mr. Metivier informed the HDC that the Somersworth Hotel had been sold recently. A Building Permit to begin work shoring up the interior has been issued. According to Mr. Metivier, the new owner plans to have storefront businesses on the ground floor and residences upstairs.

X Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 8:13 pm was made by Councilor Dumont and seconded by Mr. Brooks. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Pius Charles Murray
(Mr.) Pius Charles Murray
Secretary

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