



Somersworth Historic District Commission

One Government Way
Somersworth, NH 03878

Minutes of Meeting on 22 November 2016: Adopted as Amended

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:

None

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 27 October 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 five projects of minimal impact as follows:

1. Cafe 319 for Norm Rouleau, 2-6 Main Street, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 202, HDC #22-2016. Approved to replace the existing wall sign.
2. Trackside Tacos for Gunwale Properties, 44 Market Street, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 187, HDC #24-2016. Approved to replace the existing sign.
3. Seeds of Faith, 21 Grand Street, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 17, HDC #25-2016. Approved for exterior renovation.

Mr. Hendrickson began an extensive discussion of the various problems with the Seeds of Faith property. On the one hand he hopes that the HDC has not granted Seeds of Faith blanket permission to fix everything, on the other hand he hopes that no one at Seeds of Faith in their enthusiasm as volunteers interprets the HDC permission as a blanket permission. The Chair stated that the HDC in HDC #25-2016 approved the trim. Councilor Dumont explained that a contractor who is not familiar with all the HDC rules and regulations has taken this non-profit organization under his wing. Due to Mr. Hendrickson's continued concerns that some HDC rules may be being violated on the Seeds of Faith property, the Chair asked Mr. Metivier to send the new city code enforcement officer to examine the property and report back next month to the HDC.

4. Gary Boisse, 21 Highland Street, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 52, HDC #26-2016. Approved to replace a section of the roof.
5. Mark Hunter, 62-64 Elm Street, Assessor's Map 10, Lot 190, HDC #28-2016. Approved to replace the roof.

IV. Comments by Visitors

There were none.

V. Old Business

A. 19 High Street.

Mr. Brooks brought up 19 High Street due to its request for vinyl siding with high pressure treatment. The Chair reminded the Commission in considering applications such as this one that includes a request for vinyl siding that it be careful in the impression it gives to the public; the Commission appears to lack consistency. Despite publicly complaining about vinyl windows and vinyl trim in the historic district, the Commission has nevertheless approved applications with them. Councilor Dumont contributed that he thought piecemeal renovations have made it difficult to be consistent. He recommended that the Commission consider form-based codes. The Chair said that the Commission needs more guidelines on windows, trim, stone in order to put more teeth in the Commission's guidelines. These could be topics for future workshops during which the Commission could invite specialists to assist.

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

VI. New Business:

A. Joseph and Mary Boucher are seeking a certificate of appropriateness for roof replacement on property located at 90 Noble Street, in the Residential Duplex, with a Historic Overlay (R2H) District, Assessor's Map 13, Lot 17, HDC #23-2016.

No one showed up to discuss the project. The Chair opined that the applicants may have confused the day – Tuesday before Thanksgiving, not the usual Wednesday.

According to the description in the application, the applicants want to install a Forever Metal roof to replace their asphalt part of the roof as well as the earlier roof due to leaking which is causing damage to the ceilings in the house.

The Chair reminded the Commission that it could not table item #23-2016 without the applicants' approval; thus it must consider the application as presented and either approve, amend, or reject. The Chair remarked that with the planned renovation nothing was being lost in the building's overall good integrity.

Motion to approve HDC #23-2016 as submitted was made by Councilor Dumont and seconded by Mr. Poulin. Motion was adopted unanimously.

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

VII. Closing Comments by Visitors:

There were none.

VIII. Workshop Business:

A. There was considerable discussion about the Horn Cemetery. Mr. Brooks made a visit to the cemetery and reported on its poor condition; this visit was a follow-up to comments made last month by Mr. Poulin. Mr. Hendrickson offered a brief history. The Chair said that it is important to conserve, not just maintain, the headstones for which there might be grant money. Councilor Dumont recommended inviting the Cemetery Trustees to do a combined workshop with the HDC. The Chair suggested having the combined workshop in February 2017 with a site visit in March 2017 or April 2017.

B. The Chair wanted to schedule a workshop on PVC and windows in the historic district before the January 2017 meeting at 6:00 pm.

IX. Communications and Miscellaneous:

A, Mr. Metivier reported to the Commission that the city has new software that blows up the picture of the historic district and identifies individual properties on it. Mr. Metivier has asked if the full scale map could be reduced to be included in HDC members' handbooks.

B. Jenna Higgins announced that since the last HDC meeting she was married and is now Jenna Dunham. The Commission congratulated her.

X Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 7:55 pm was made by Councilor Dumont and seconded by Mr. Poulin. Motion passed unanimously.

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



**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!
2017**