

**SOMERSWORTH HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 27, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Laura Barry-Chair, Richard Brooks, George Poulin, Timothy Metivier-Alternate, Elizabeth Nguyen-Alternate, Matt Gerding, and Adam Young

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Kimberly Shoen and Timothy Monahan-Alternate

STAFF PRESENT: Dana Crossley, Planning Technician

The meeting was called to order at 7:00.

1. **Approval of the minutes of the meetings:**
 - a. **October 25, 2023 Workshop Meeting Minutes**
 - b. **October 25, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes**
 - c. **November 21, 2023 Workshop Meeting Minutes**
 - d. **November 21, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Metivier stated he had a correction for the minutes of 10/25/2023 page 13 last paragraph, to change 'do' to 'did'.

MOTION: Metivier MOVED to APPROVE the meeting minutes of 10/25/2023 workshop, 10/25/2023 regular meeting as amended, 11/21/2023 workshop and 11/21/2023 regular meeting.

The MOTION is SECONDED by Brooks.

The MOTION CARRIES 7-0.

2. **Projects of Minimal Impact Report.**

Crossley stated the following was approved as a project of minimal impact:

- 59-65 High Street, in the Business with Historic Overlay (BH) District, Assessor's Map 11 Lot 63A HDC#38-2023. Application for a roof and fascia replacement was **approved**.

3. **Public comments by visitors. – None**

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Any old business to come before the Board – None

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Conrod Nicely is seeking a certificate of appropriateness to install an 11.15 square-foot double-sided projecting PVC sign affixed to an existing bracket at a property located at 44 Market Street, in the Business with Historic Overlay (BH) District, Assessor's Map 11 Lot 187, HDC#39-2023 SIGN#22-2023.**

Crossley stated the applicant is seeking to install a projecting sign on the existing sign mount constructed of PVC material. She noted that the applicant had reached out to Staff today to indicate they may not be able to attend the meeting due to a work conflict.

December 27, 2023 HDC Minutes

It was noted that the applicant was not present to represent the application.

Barry stated the Board could review the application tonight but if they had any questions for the applicant in order to make a decision, they would need to continue the application for representatives to be in attendance.

Metivier inquired what the size of the previous sign was.

Crossley stated the submitted documents indicate the prior sign for Smoke and Cream was 44" x 36.5" and the proposed for Flame is 44" x 36.5".

Metivier stated he would be in support of this sign proposal.

Brooks stated he would like to ensure it was not high gloss. Does not want it to be Plexiglass look. Did not see it in the application but wanted to be cautious.

MOTION: Metivier MOVED that the request of Conrod Nicely for a certificate of appropriateness to install at 11.15 square foot double-sided projecting PVC sign affixed to an existing bracket at a property located at 44 Market Street be APPROVED WITH THE FOLLOWING CONDITION:

1. The sign material shall not be of high gloss finish.

Brooks SECONDED the MOTION
MOTION CARRIES 7-0.

6. WORKSHOP BUSINESS

- a. Metivier reported on the Historic Plaque Program Workshop. He provided a brief overview of the topics discussed and next steps for the program. He noted the next meeting will be scheduled prior to the regular HDC meeting in January.

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS

- a. Gerding stated that this is his last meeting on the HDC. He thanked the Commission for all their hard work and dedication. Noted this is volunteer work and he appreciates all that they do and provide to keep the City functioning. He noted a new City Councilor will be appointed to the HDC as the representative. He noted the inauguration is scheduled for Thursday January 4th at 6PM. He stated he would like to give a shout out to Public Works for installing the Historic Street Signs. He noted how great those look. He stated the first City Council meeting after the inauguration is 1/8/2023 and at that meeting he will be announcing Special Committees and Mayoral appointees. He noted one committee of note for this group is the Historic District Advisory Committee to review and address some of the questions and concerns that came out of the recent EDC joint meeting.
- b. Poulin inquired on the status of the Lydia's House of Hope and the restaurant work. Crossley noted that these topics are on Director Mears radar and believe that there has been communication with the property owners.
- c. Metivier stated he appreciates all the work and effort Gerding has done as a member and Council Representative on the HDC. He stated he feels Gerding has been one of the best Councilor Representatives on HDC.

December 27, 2023 HDC Minutes

- d. Crossley noted that a new 2024 schedule has been provided on the desk. Please note that the January meeting has been moved to Thursday January 25th due to the NH Primary Election and City Council meeting conflicts.
- e. Barry stated she is excited to see Councilor Gerding move into his new role as Mayor. She looks forward to the things coming in the new year and hope the Commission and continue with efforts to educate and provide programs for the Community possibly through CLG. Noted that there have been some hard parts to this year and was happy to see the City and the Boards work together.

MOTION: Metivier MOVED to adjourn the meeting.

The MOTION was SECONDED by Poulin

The MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Crossley, Planning Technician