

SOMERSWORTH HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
January 25, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Laura Barry-Chair, Richard Brooks, George Poulin, Timothy Metivier-Alternate, Timothy Monahan-Alternate, and Adam Young

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Paul Goodwin, Elizabeth Nguyen-Alternate, and Kimberly Shoen,

STAFF PRESENT:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

1. Approval of the minutes of the meetings:

- a. **December 27, 2023 Workshop Meeting Minutes**
- b. **December 27, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Metivier MOVED to APPROVE the meeting minutes of 12/27/2023 as submitted.

The MOTION was SECONDED by Brooks.

The MOTION CARRIED 5-0-0.

2. Projects of Minimal Impact Report.

None

3. Public comments by visitors.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Any old business to come before the Board

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Jonathan Hill is seeking a certificate of appropriateness to install areas of refuge outside of the third-floor attic windows on a property located at 14 Fayette Street, in the Residential Multi-Family with Historic Overlay (R3H) District, Assessor's Map 10 Lot 7, HDC#01-2024.**

Mears provided a brief summary of the project.

The property owner **Jonathan Hill** described the need for an area of refuge outside the third-floor window.

Metivier noted the code requirement for bedrooms to have this secondary egress when the window is more than 22 feet above grade. Mr. Metivier also noted that the building has been extensively altered and has lost much of its historic integrity and would be in support of the proposal.

Brooks agreed with Metivier reasoning and opinions concerning the building and proposed project.

MOTION: Brooks MOVED to APPROVE that the request of Jonathan Hill for a certificate of appropriateness to install areas of refuge outside of the third-floor attic windows WITH THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

That the areas of refuge be painted or stained within 6 months of project completion.

The MOTION was SECONDED by Young.

The MOTION CARRIED 5-0-0.

- b. **Ethan P. Clark, is seeking a certificate of appropriateness to replace a door and renew certificate of appropriateness HDC#35-2022 for replacement of siding, trim and windows for a property located at 37 Lincoln Street, in the Residential Single Family/A with Historic Overlay (R1AH) District, Assessor's Map 11 Lot 156, HDC#35-2022 & HDC#02-2024**

Mears described the proposed project and noted that the project was previously approved but had expired. She also noted the applicant had added the replacement of a door to the project which was not included in the prior approval.

The property owner **Ethan Clark** approached the podium and offered to answer any questions.

Metivier stated the project only adds the replacement of a door which is in character and would be in favor of approving the project as presented.

Poulin asked if the door was an exterior door to the porch.

Clark stated it is an exterior door that has a matching design to the original door. They had tried to repair the original door, but it is beyond repair.

Brooks recalled the original approval required two meetings due to the level of detail and historical integrity this house retains. He also noted that siding jobs within the Historic District are sometimes poorly done and other times are well done and noted the applicant seems intent on providing a good quality job and looks forward to the project being completed.

Barry asked Mears about the wording needed for the approval to reference the earlier approved project.

Metivier made a motion to approve the project as previously approved with the addition of the porch door as presented.

The applicant asked if the approval could provide a longer time frame.

Metivier explained the project could be approved as minimal if more time was needed.

MOTION: Metivier MOVED to APPROVE the request to replace a door and renew certificate of appropriateness HDC#35-2022 for replacement of siding, trim and windows.

The MOTION was SECONDED by Brooks.

The MOTION CARRIED 5-0-0.

**c. Certified Local Government Overview with Historical Resources Staff –
Brandee Loughlin, Preservation Planning & Development Coordinator, NH
Division of Historical Resources**

Brandee Loughlin, Preservation Planning & Development Coordinator and **Amy Dixon**, Community Preservation Coordinator of the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources were in attendance.

Loughlin asked if any Board members had questions about the CLG and received none. She then asked a series of questions related to the review they conduct yearly.

Poulin excused himself from the meeting at 7:30pm.

Barry also informed Loughlin about the new Mayor forming a Housing Task Force. The group discussed the potential topics and concerns the Committee will likely discuss and consider.

Loughlin also spoke about the benefits of joining the NEPC.

The group also discussed the need for an updated contextual survey of the Historic District which was last completed in the 80's.

Dixon asked the HDC to participate in the Statewide Preservation Plan Survey they are conducting this year.

Barry announced that the Mayor is forming a Housing Task Force which will include a HDC member. Brooks offered to serve as that member. Metivier stated he had considered the position but offered his support for Brooks to serve in that position. Barry announced Brooks would fulfill that position.

6. WORKSHOP BUSINESS

Metivier provided a summary of the progress of the Historic Plaque Program Committee that met just prior to our meeting tonight.

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS

There was a brief discussion about several recently opened restaurants within the City.

MOTION: Metivier MOVED to adjourn the meeting.
The MOTION was SECONDED by Brooks.
The MOTION CARRIED 4-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Brooks, HDC “Substitute” Secretary
