



Somersworth Historic District Commission

One Government Way
Somersworth, NH 03878

Minutes of Regular HDC Meeting on 23 August 2017: Adopted as Submitted

Present:

Laura Barry, Chair
Martin P. Dumont, Sr., City Council Representative
Tim Metivier, Code Inspector
Richard Brooks, Commissioner
George Poulin, Commissioner
Pius Charles Murray, Secretary

In absentia:

Beth Poulin, Commissioner
Edward Levasseur, Alternate Commissioner

Petitioners present:

Konni K. Atwood (on behalf of HDC #19-2017)
Thomas Crosslin (on behalf of HDC #17-2017)

Agenda & Minutes

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

II. Approval of Minutes:

- (a) Motion to approve the minutes of the regular HDC meeting of 24 May 2017 as submitted was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Councilor Dumont. Motion passed unanimously.
- (b) Motion to approve the regular HDC meeting of 26 July 2017 as submitted was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Brooks. Motion passed unanimously.

- (c) Motion to approve the HDC Workshop minutes of 24 May 2017 as submitted was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Brooks. Motion passed unanimously.
- (d) Motion to approve the Ordinance Subcommittee minutes of 18 July 2017 as submitted was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Brooks. Motion passed unanimously.
- (e) Motion to approve the Ordinance Subcommittee minutes of 25 July 2017 as submitted was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Brooks. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Projects of Minimal Impact:

Mr. Metivier reported that there had been four projects of minimal impact submitted for approval during the previous month as follows:

- (a) Norm Rouleau, 2 Main Street, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 202, HDC #13-2017. Application to repaint the existing sign was approved.
- (b) Jeff Trimble, 28 Lincoln Street, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 105, HDC #15-2017. Application for a solar array was approved.
- (c) Greg Morrison, 30 Prospect Street, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 73, HDC #16-2017. Application for free removal was approved.
- (d) Andrea Lovell, 63 Prospect Street, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 155, HDC #18-2017. Application for roof replacement was approved.

This series of projects of minimal impact engendered some discussion among the Commissioners. Mr. Brooks inquired by what criterion or criteria was Mr. Trimble's solar array approved as minimal impact; to which Mr. Metivier replied that it could not be seen on the street. Councilor Dumont remarked that he noticed that the Chair's signature was missing on the application forms submitted to the HDC; it was his understanding that the HDC had revised its application in part to ensure that the Chair made sure that applications were complete before submission to the HDC. The Chair replied that some of the former forms had not yet been used up and would be before the revised application forms start appearing before the HDC; the Chair stated that she tries to examine all applications now according to the spirit of the HDC's revision even if the forms do not allow that yet.

IV. Comments by Visitors:

There were none.

V. Old Business:

There was none.

VI. New Business:

A. Thomas & Sara Crosslin are seeking a certificate of appropriateness for some window replacement on property located at 55 Prospect Street, in the Residential Single Family with a Historic Overlay (R1AH) District, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 108, HDC #17-2017.

Thomas Crosslin was present to discuss the project.

Mr. Metivier described the proposed project HDC #17-2017 as described in the application as follows: "Three windows of the dining room bay window and 1 window in the attic are original wood/single paned glass. The attic window is broken allowing weather to penetrate the inside of the structure. One window in dining room bay is actively leaking water when raining. All proposed changes are to stop water infiltration and further degradation to the home. Remove and replace existing wood windows with Haney Classic Vinyl windows of equal size and style. All new windows will be equal in quality and style of existing vinyl windows currently installed in the home. The attic window has a curved top and will not be altered, just replaced." Mr. Metivier informed the HDC that this property had received approval in November 2010 to replace grills in the front and numerous side windows.

Mr. Brooks asked if the windows being replaced with this petition faced Lincoln Street; Mr. Metivier responded that one window did but that another one did not. The Chair inquired whether the window was being replaced as opposed to new construction which would include new trim. Mr. Metivier replied it would be new construction.

Motion to approve HDC #17-2017 with the stipulation that the windows be replaced with the trim remaining in place was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Mr. Poulin. Motion passed unanimously.

B. The Atwood Family Revocable Trust is seeking a certificate of appropriateness to repair/replace the existing front porch and stairs on property located at 19 Mt. Vernon Street, in the Historic Moderate Density (HMD) District, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 23, HDC #19-2017.

Konni K. Atwood was present to discuss the project. Mr. Metivier read the description of the project HDC #19-2017 from the application as follows: "repair/replace existing front porch and stairs to recreate the same as existing wood structure." Mr. Metivier informed the HDC that the property had received two previous approvals for projects: in 2013 for windows, and in 2011 for the roof.

The Commission's discussion centered on trying to ascertain that the trim and decorative motifs would remain the same. Mr. Brooks furthermore inquired about the proposed railing as there was no specific detail in the application. Examination of the included historic photos of the structure was ambiguous. The Chair and Mr. Poulin stated that in their opinion the contractor had an excellent reputation and would produce something historically accurate.

Motion to approve HDC #19-2017 as submitted was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Poulin. Motion was approved by a majority vote, 4-1, with Mr. Brooks opposed.

C. Notification of Open HDC Seats created by two resignations.

The Chair announced that both Arthur Hendrickson, Commissioner, and Jenna Dunham, Vice Chair, have resigned. Thus there are two openings for full Commissioners. When asked if Mr. Levasseur was interested in transferring from an alternate Commissioner to a full Commissioner, the Chair responded that she had spoken with him but that he preferred to remain an alternate. Furthermore, the Chair has consulted with the Mayor who has some replacement ideas as well.

D. Election of Vice-Chair

Motion to nominate Mr. Brooks as Vice-Chair was made by Mr. Poulin and seconded by Councilor

Dumont. Motion to close nominations was made by Councilor Dumont and seconded by the Chair. Motion to close nominations passed unanimously. Mr. Brooks accepted the nomination to become Vice-Chair.

Motion to elect Mr. Brooks as Vice-Chair was adopted by majority vote, 4-0-1, with Mr. Brooks abstaining. The Chair congratulated Mr. Brooks on his election.

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

VII. Comments by Visitors:

There were none.

VIII. Workshop Business:

A. Report on the status of the proposed new Historic District Ordinance

The Chair reported that she has sent a copy of the proposed Historic District Ordinance to Peter Michaud at the state level. The Chair reported that it may take some time before the HDC hears anything. The Subcommittees that have actively worked on aspects of the proposed Ordinance do not have to hold any new meetings until input from Mr. Michaud is received, according to the Chair.

B. Any other Workshop Business that may come before the Commission.

IX. Communications and Miscellaneous:

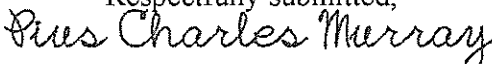
A. Mr. Brooks inquired if historic photos of homes were sent to applicants to help them see what the Historic District is using as criteria. Mr. Metivier replied that the packets are not put together until an application is received, although applicants may request and photocopy at the Planning Office an historic photograph of their property.

B. Councilor Dumont reported that the trip to Thetford Mines in August was canceled due to insufficient interest; the trip needed at least 30 people but only 18 had signed up by the deadline. Next year is Thetford Mines's turn to travel to Somersworth. For 2019, when it would be Somersworth's turn to return to Canada, Councilor Dumont will look for extra help in advertising the trip.

C. Mr. Poulin reported no additional contacts scheduled with the Cemetery Trustees yet.

X. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 7:48 pm was made by Councilor Dumont and seconded by Mr. Brooks. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

(Mr.) Pius Charles Murray, MLS, MPA
Secretary