



Somersworth Historic District Commission

One Government Way
Somersworth, NH 03878

Workshop Minutes of 29 March 2017: Adopted as Submitted

Present:

Laura Barry
Richard Brooks
Pius Charles Murray, Chair and Secretary

Member of the Public Present:

Edward Lavesseur

I. Call to Order: At 6:00pm by the Chair

II. Workshop Minutes:

The Chair explained the purpose of the Workshop which is to examine Somersworth's City Ordinances pertaining to the Historic District and recommend changes. The Chair recognized Mr. Lavesseur and asked for his input. Mr. Lavesseur stated that he wanted to express his strong support for the continued existence of the historic district and the Historic District Commission; he had read an article in the newspaper that said there was a motion before the Somersworth City Council proposing to abolish the Historic District Commission, a motion to which he was opposed.

The Workshop then began its discussion of Somersworth's city ordinances. Ms. Barry said that she had spent time looking more closely at those of Exeter, while Mr. Brooks had read those of Durham more closely. Mr. Lavesseur recommended that the Workshop consider examining Keene's ordinances as well. The Workshop after a brief discussion decided that the structure of Durham's historic district ordinances most closely resembled Somersworth's; however appropriate material from all three towns was considered and incorporated as deemed needed.

As Mr. Levasseur prepared to leave, the Workshop informed him of the opportunity to serve as an Alternate Commissioner if he was interested by submitting an application for Appointment to

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Municipal Boards. The Workshop thanked him for his input.

The Workshop decided on an outline of the proposed ordinance, a copy of which is attached. The Workshop also decided to include pictures in its procedures and guidelines as Exeter does.

III. Adjournment: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pius Charles Murray

(Mr.) Pius Charles Murray
Chair and Secretary

Attachment (1)



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HDC Workshop on Ordinances

Outline of Proposed Ordinance changes

Section 1 Authority: cf. 19.14D

Section 2 Designation of the historic district

Purpose

Boundaries

Description

Section 3 Purview of Historic District Commissioner

Exempt activities

Projects of Minimal Impact

Projects of Major Impact

Section 4 Procedures for review for Certificate of Appropriateness

Step-by-step process

Application

Review

Section 5 Standards for Review

Required Maintenance

Roofing

Windows and doors

Fences

Demolition

– Demolition Delay

– Demolition by neglect

Streetscape and Buildings

New Construction/Additions

Site Elements

Commercial property

Signs

Mechanical Features

Exterior Materials

Section 6 Appeals and Enforcement