



## *Somersworth Historic District Commission*

One Government Way  
Somersworth, NH 03878

Minutes of Regular Meeting on 25 January 2017: Adopted as submitted

### **Present:**

Laura Barry, Chair  
Arthur Hendrickson, Vice-Chair  
Martin Dumont, City Councilor and Representative to the HDC  
Tim Metivier, Building Inspector  
Richard Brooks, Commissioner  
George Poulin, Commissioner  
Pius Charles Murray, Commissioner and Secretary

### **In absentia:**

Jenna Dunham, Alternate Commissioner  
Beth Poulin, Commissioner

### **Petitioners Present:**

John Castro (on behalf of HDC #30-2016)  
Them Tran (on behalf of HDC #30-2016)

### **Agenda & Minutes**

**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 28 December 2016 as submitted was made by Councilor Dumont and seconded by Mr. Murray. Motion passed unanimously.

### III. Projects of Minimal Impact Report

Mr. Metivier reported one project of minimal impact as follows

1. 77 High Street, LLC, 77 High Street, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 62, HDC #31-2016. Approved to install a wall-mounted sign.

### IV. Comments by Visitors

There were none.

### V. Old Business

A. Them Tran is seeking a certificate of appropriateness for exterior building renovations on property located at 109 Main Street, in the Business Historic (BH) District, Assessor's Map 10, Lot 185, HDC #30-2016.

John Castro was present to discuss the renovations listed in HDC #30-2016. Mr. Castro described two alternatives that the owner, Them Tran, is considering. Whichever option was preferable to the HDC would be the renovation chosen: (a) to remove old window and frame in front of the heater to make room for vent and heater; or (b) to replace the window with a smaller window. Mr. Castro explained that it is a stock inside heater which because of the deck (and code regulations) requires the window to be moved.

Mr. Metivier asked what type of heater it would be. Mr. Castro responded that it would be a wall-mounted direct vent heater. Mr. Metivier replied that it must be at least 12" off the ground. The Chair asked what type of material would be used; she wanted to make sure that it was the same type of material as currently present. Mr. Brooks stated that it looked like vinyl siding. Mr. Metivier said that the siding is vinyl; Mr. Castro said he would replace with the same.

Mr. Metivier asked if Mr. Castro knew the specifications of the heater; depending on those specifications, the window may not have to be touched. Mr. Castro did not know the specifications. There was considerable discussion concerning which specific window was affected by heater's installation. Mr. Metivier offered to find out what the specifications were and he would send an email with an answer at a later time.

Motion to table HDC #30-2016, with the applicant's consent, until Mr. Metivier reports on the heater's specifications and the applicant would return to the HDC was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Mr. Poulin. Motion passed unanimously.

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

### VI. New Business:

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

### VII. Closing Comments by Visitors:

There were none.

### VIII. Workshop Business:

A. Mr. Metivier brought an issue requested by the Planning Department to the HDC. The older VFW Building is being renovated and will become a function hall. Code requires a kitchen with a commercial hood. Mr. Metivier wanted to know the HDC consensus concerning whether it wants to become involved or allow the owners to proceed. Mr. Hendrickson said that if the HDC gives a little, it can get a lot of good in this instance. Mr. Metivier described further what needs to be done: the building is made of fake brick and vinyl; the hood vent will go up the left side of the building and be slightly over the roof top, per code regulations. The HDC consensus was to allow the project to proceed.

#### B. Two upcoming workshops

The Chair stated that there would be a combined Workshop with the Cemetery Trustees at the February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting beginning at 6:00 P.M. To help the Commissioners to prepare for that discussion, the Chair handed out a number of photocopied articles to read prior to the Workshop.

The second workshop is scheduled for 28 February 2017 at 7:00 P.M. and would cover the issue of re-sizing the Historic District.

#### C. Any other Workshop Business that may come before the Commission.

### IX. Communications and Miscellaneous:

A. Councilor Dumont reported that Councilor Brian Tapscott had authored a report on the city's thirteen cemeteries in the 1980s which could provide good background information. He furthermore stated that the City Council has tasked him with recommending a budget for the Cemetery Trustees in FY 2018.

B. Mr. Hendrickson inquired about the renovation of the Somersworth Hotel. Mr. Metivier said that the project was in jeopardy because the drawings were done by an architect who no longer practices. State law requires a practicing architect to be do the drawings and be responsible to ensure that everything functions. Mr. Metivier advised staying tune for future developments.

C. The Chair reported that Historic District signs are being vandalized. The Chair has spoken with Shanna Saunders about obtaining bigger signs. Mr. Metivier stated that they could be tripled in size; the difficult issue is where to place them. Stay tuned for additional details.

*X Adjournment:*

Motion to adjourn at 7:46 P.M. was made by Mr. Poulin and seconded by Councilor Dumont.  
Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Pius Charles Murray*  
(Mr.) Pius Charles Murray, MLS, MPA  
Secretary