



## **Somersworth Historic District Commission**

One Government Way  
Somersworth, NH 03878

Minutes of Regular Meeting of 27 July 2016 – adopted

### In Attendance:

Al Marotta, Chair  
Councilor Martin Dumont, City Council Representative  
Richard Brooks, Commissioner  
Arthur Hendrickson, Commissioner  
Jenna Higgins, Alternate  
George Poulin, Commissioner.  
Tim Metivier, City Code Inspector  
Pius Charles Murray, Secretary/Commissioner

### In Absentia:

Laura Barry, Alternate  
Beth Poulin, Commissioner

### Petitioners Present:

Robert Baldwin (on behalf of HDC 10-2016)  
Al Bigonia (on behalf of HDC 12-2016)  
Kim O'Connell (on behalf of HDC #09-2016)

## Agenda

I. Call to Order: The Chair called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

The Chair warmly welcomed Ms. Higgins as a new Alternate to the Commission. He asked her to introduce herself and praised her background as one needed for the Commission to do its work effectively.

II. Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the Workshop and regular meeting of 22 June 2016 as submitted was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Poulin. Motion was adopted unanimously.

III. Projects of Minimal Impact Report. Mr. Metivier reported the following project of minimal impact:

Norman Rouleau, for Thomas Perron, 2 Main Street, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 202, HDC #11-2016.  
Approved to replace the freestanding sign.

IV. Public Comments by Visitors. There were none.

V. Old Business.

A. Any other Old Business that may come before the Commission. There was none.

VI. New Business.

A. Kim O'Connell is seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness to rebuild stairs on property located at 3 Lincoln Street, in the Residential Single Family-A, with a Historic Overlay (R1AH) District, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 137, HDC #09-2016.

Ms. O'Connell appeared before the Commission to discuss her project. She wishes to repair/replace the stairs that go up to the second floor that are in serious need of repair. She explained that the project would replace the existing pressure-treated stairs and rails with new new pressure-treated stairs, rails, with a pressure-treated deck.

The brief discussion centered on the difference between the picture of the rails presented and the description in the project as brought up by Mr. Poulin. Ms. O'Connell (confirmed by Mr. Metivier) stated that the picture presented is what the finished project is expected to look like. Councilor Dumont asked what color the painting of the stairs would take. Ms. O'Connell replied that since the stairs would be pressure-treated the stairs could wait until spring to be re-painted the same color as the existing rails.

Motion to approve HDC #09-2016 as submitted was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Brooks. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Knox Marsh Development, LLC is seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for exterior repairs and renovations on property at 149 High Street, in the Residential/Business Historic (R/BH) District, Assessor's Map 10, Lot 131, HDC #10-2016.

Mr. Robert Baldwin was present to describe the project for HDC 10-2016. Mr. Baldwin's project involved several elements: (a) replacing the handrails on the front and side of the property and painting them the same color as the existing handrails; (b) replacing the old failing windows with energy efficient white vinyl windows of the same size; (c) to repaint the siding white to match the existing and to repaint the shutters black to match the existing; to repoint cracks and paint the brick on the rear white to match the rest of the building, and to install black shutters on the windows; (d) to repair the aluminum as needed where it is existing; and (e) to install white vinyl siding over the T-111 panel over the rear of the building as per insurance request.

Mr. Metivier informed the Commission that the work which had already begun on the building was halted and the contractor informed that the project had to go before the HDC. The HDC's main difficulty with this building is that over time so many different materials have been used which had adversely affected the historical integrity of the building. Mr. Hendrickson and Councilor Dumont questioned the insurance company's requirement to install vinyl siding to replace the T-111 where necessary. Councilor Dumont stated that insurance companies do not necessarily take into consideration the requirements of the HDC. The Chair mentioned that all the windows, including the

new replacements, should have a 2/2 grid; furthermore, all the pictures of the building show metal railing, not wrought-iron. Mr. Metivier explained that pipe-style railing has been approved in part by the HDC.

Motion to: (a) table the installation of the handrails; (b) table the installation of the white vinyl over the T-111 as per insurance request; (c) approve replacing old failing windows with energy efficient vinyl windows of the same size with 2/2 grid; (d) approve repainting the siding white to match the rest of the building and paint shutters black to match as well as to repoint cracks and paint bricks in rear white to match the rest of the building; and (e) to repair the aluminum siding as needed was made by the Chair and seconded by Mr. Poulin. Motion was adopted unanimously.

C. The Al Bigonia Living Trust of 2011 is seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for siding on the garage on property located at 4-10 Pemberton Lane, in the Historic Moderate Density (HMD) District, Assessor's Map 10, Lot 151, HDC #12-2016.

Mr. Al Bigonia was present to describe the project for HDC 12-2016. This project wishes to put vinyl siding on the back side of the garage/apartments.

Mr. Metivier explained that what had originally been a two-storey garage had been converted to apartments. Mr. Hendrickson expressed concern about the use of vinyl which further diminishes the historical significance of the building even if previous owners were allowed to install vinyl on the other sides of the building.

Motion to approve HDC #12-2016 as submitted was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Ms. Higgins. Motion carried 4-1 with Mr. Hendrickson opposed.

D. Any other New Business that may come before the Commission.

VII. Closing Comments by Visitors. There were none.

VIII. Workshop Business.

A. The Chair asked for a consensus that he forward to the Mayor the goals adopted at the last Workshop. The Commission agreed.

B. Mr. Metivier suggested that the HDC consider tweaking city ordinances affecting the HDC in part because the ordinances are almost 25 years old.

C. Mr. Metivier asked if the HDC should be involved in decisions in which lighting fixtures are affixed to buildings. The Commission consensus was that the HDC should be involved. Until a change is made in the appropriate ordinances, Mr. Metivier said he would exercise his best judgment on applications seeking to affix lighting.

IX. Communications and Miscellaneous.

A. Ms. Linda Chairon wanted to place a shed on her property and asked for some guidance from the HDC. Mr. Metivier explained to her the procedure she would need to follow.

X. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 8:31 P.M. was made by Councilor Dumont and seconded by Mr. Murray. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Pius Charles Murray*

(Mr.) Pius Charles Murray, Secretary