



Somersworth Historic District Commission

One Government Way, Somersworth, NH 03878

Regular Meeting of the HDC held on Wednesday, 24 January 2018 – Second Draft

<u>Present</u>	<u>In absentia</u>
Laura Barry, Chair	Beth Poulin, Commissioner
Richard Brooks, Vice-Chair	
Edward Levasseur, City Councilor	
George Poulin, Commissioner	
Tim Metivier, Building Inspector	
Pius Charles Murray, Secretary	

Petitioners Present:

Paul Blair, on behalf of HDC #37-2017	Brad Fredette, on behalf of HDC #14-2017
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Agenda & Minutes

I. Call to Order: At 7:01 pm by the Chair

II. Approval of Minutes:

1. Motion to approve the minutes of the full HDC meeting of 11.21.2017 as submitted was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Councilor Levasseur. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Motion to approve the minutes of the full HDC meeting of 12.28.2017 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 were no projects of minimal impact approved.

IV. Public Comments: There were none.

V. Old Business:

A. Regal Properties, LLC is seeking a certificate of appropriateness for exterior renovations on property located at 8 Prospect Street, in the Historic Moderate Density (HMD) District, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 79, HDC #37-2017.

Paul Blair re-appeared before the Commission to show examples of the details of the post columns he wanted to use. He brought with him photographs of the porch to be worked on, a copy of an advertisement for L&G's Victorian Gingerbread Fretwork Porch or Corner Trim Bracket 12" that he wished to use, as well as actual wood examples.

Mr. Metiever described the original applications as requesting to replace roof sand shingles; Mr. Metivier furthermore stated that the application was approved subject to Mr. Blair's returning to the HDC to show the detail he wished to use on the post's columns.

Mr. Brooks asked if the proposed new windows would be weather resistant; Mr. Metivier stated that in order to meet code they would have to be weather resistant (e.g. pressure-treated, mahogany, etc.). Mr. Blair explained that currently only the posts are weather resistant. Mr. Blair also re-iterated that given the size of the porch, the brackets would be 12". The Chair wanted to ensure that the brackets selected would be appropriate for a Victorian-style home; Mr. Blair assured the HDC that his choice would be appropriate.

Motion to approve the choice of brackets described (and shown) by Mr. Blair as described was made by Councilor Levasseur and seconded by Mr. Brooks. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Conrad and Claudette Fredette are seeking a certificate of appropriateness for window replacement on property located at 118 High Street, in the Business Historic (BH) District, Assessor's Map 10, Lot 158, HDC #14-2017.

Mr. Brad Fredette was present to discuss HDC #37-2017 who explained his re-appearance before the HDC as necessitated by a change in design after it was determined that the original design would not be code compliant since an egress would be needed on the upper floor. One window would be converted to an egress because a room was being converted to a bedroom. The remaining windows on the North elevation would be converted from double hung to single hung. On the South elevation, one window would be removed. All windows would be changed from wood to Anderson-type.

Mr. Brooks complimented Mr. Fredette on the excellence of the drawings submitted. Mr. Brooks asked about the uniformity of window size. Mr. Fredette replied that because the style of window was being changed to the Anderson-type the new construction would use a j-channel to help drain any rain or water accumulation; the grid would remain as 1/1. The Chair asked if any casing would be added, to which Mr. Metivier replied that the windows and door were as shown in the drawings.

Motion to approve HDC #37-2017 as submitted was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Mr. Murray. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. New Business:

A. Any New Business that comes before the Commission

VII. Public Comments by Visitors: There were none.

VIII. Workshop Business:

A. Report on Historic District changes in city ordinances.

Mr. Brooks asked if there could be a workshop prior to the next HDC meeting to go over input from the state of New Hampshire. The Board consensus was that this was a good idea and a workshop date for the next meeting was set.

Related to this request, the Chair said that a letter of intent for a grant to prepare the city's ordinances re-designated appropriately had been sent but the HDC was told that it had not completed the pre-submission process; thus applying for the grant would be deferred until next year.

B. Report of the Cemetery Subcommittee

Councilor Levasseur stated that there was no report to be made.

C. Goal-setting session

Mr. Brooks asked if a workshop on goal-setting both to compare what we had done since last year and to set new goals. The Chair said she would invite Shanna Saunders to a workshop before the HDC meeting in March to do a goal setting workshop.

D. Seeking new HDC members from the Planning Board

Mr. Brooks submitted a written request for submission to the Planning Board members seeking applicants for the open HDC seats; his justification centered on the fact that some projects (e.g. the Somersworth Hotel renovation, etc.) come before more than one land use board so cross-pollination is a good thing. The Board agreed; the Chair said that there was a procedure to follow. She would take a look at Mr. Brooks's submission and submit what was appropriate to the Chair of the Planning Board.

E. Advertising on the city's website for new HDC members

Mr. Brooks submitted a written proposal for an advertisement for the city's website seeking applicants from the general public for the vacant HDC seats. Mr. Metivier said that there is a procedure to follow. The Chair would investigate further.

F. Any additional Workshop Business.

IX. Communications and Miscellaneous:

A. The Chair announced the Appreciation Dinner on Thursday, 1 February 2018. The Chair strongly encouraged HDC members to attend as in the past HDC was not well represented.

B. Any additional Communications and Miscellaneous Business

X. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 7:31 pm was made by Mr. Poulin and seconded by Mr. Brooks. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pius Charles Murray

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

Happy New Year