



## *Sommersworth Historic District Commission*

One Government Way, Somersworth, NH 03878

Regular Meeting of the HDC held on Wednesday, 23 May 2018: 1<sup>st</sup> draft

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

**Petitioners Present:**

<b><u>Name of Petitioner</u></b>	<b><u>HDC #</u></b>
David Baker, Ed Brown	HDC #12-2018
Brian Caple	HDC #09-2018
Bob Cullinane	HDC #11-2018
Shawn Mahoney	HDC # 13-2018

**Agenda & Minutes**

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

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

1. Motion to approve the minutes of the full HDC meeting of 25 April 2018 as amended was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Brooks. Motion passed unanimously.

**III. Projects of Minimal Impact:** Mr. Metivier reported the following projects of minimal support had been submitted and approved:

**IV. Public Comments by Visitors:** There were none.

**V. Old Business:**

A. Any Old Business that comes before the HDC.

**VI. New Business:**

A. David and Wendy Baker are seeking a certificate of appropriateness to rebuild the stonewall on property located at 11-13 Highland Street, in the Historic Moderate Density (HMD) District, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 57, HDC #12-2018.

Mr. David Baker and Mr. Ed Brown were present to discuss HDC #12-2018. The Bakeras asked to be moved up in the agenda as their contractor had another meeting to attend; the Chair gladly acceded to their request.

Mr. Metivier informed the HDC that this property had appeared before the Commission in 2006 receiving approval for a rear deck, in 2017 to repair the wall and remove vegetation, and last month for a consultative review of the request to repair the wall that is now before the HDC.

Mr. Baker explained that the project would keep 60' of the existing wall to the back edge of the house. The remaining 20' to the back property line was not viable.

Mr. Brooks inquired if the project intended to use some of the existing non-viable wall in the cement replacement. Mr. Brown replied that the project would use some of the remaining wall. Mr. Brooks also inquired if the slab on top would be replaced; Mr. Brown said that any slab missing would be replaced.

Motion to approve HDC #12-2018 as submitted was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Mr. Poulin. Motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

B. Gunwale Properties, LLC is seeking a certificate of appropriateness to erect a seasonal awning over the patio space on property located at 44 Market street, in the Business Historic (BH) District, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 187, HDC #09-2018.

Mr. Brian Caple was present to discuss HDC #09-2018. Mr. Metivier informed the HDC that this property has come before the Commission for several previous petitions: in 1999 for siding; in 2013 for exterior rehabilitation; and in 2013 and 2016 for sign installation. The current petition, HDC #09-2018, explained Mr. Metivier, seeks to install a seasonal awning, on the front of the building facing Canal Street. Mr. Caple described the project proposed to erect a seasonal awning made of sunbrella fabric that would entirely cover the frame. Lights (which Mr. Metivier said were part of the 2013 approval) would be attached to the frame.

The Chair asked what color (more red, or more white) would the awning be. Mr. Brown replied that the choice was more red to imitate its Colonial style. Mr. Gerding asked if a scalloped edge at the bottom would be used to which Mr. Brown responded that there would be a scalloped edge at the bottom of the awning. To Mr. Brooks' question concerning what seasonal meant, Mr. Brown replied that the awning would come down in winter. Mr. Poulin interjected that in his experience on the HDC the Bakers had been before the HDC several times and that every project had been done well. The Chair asked if the lights would be kept after the awning was taken down to be re-installed the next winter, Mr. Brown replied in the affirmative.

Motion to approve HDC #09-2018 as submitted was made by Mr. Poulin and seconded by Councillor Levasseur. Motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

C. Ruth Ann Cullinane Revocable Trust is seeking a certificate of appropriateness to replace the rear deck on property located at 84 Noble Street, in the Residential Duplex, with a Historic Overlay (R2H) District, Assessor's Map 13, Lot 16, HDC #11-2018.

Mr. Bob Cullinane was present to discuss HDC #11-2018. Mr. Metivier informed the HDC that there is no previous record of any petitions on behalf of the property to come before the HDC. Mr. Metivier further explained that this project proposes to remove the back deck and railings and replace the railings with RDI Transform railings (composite) and replace the deck with Trex Select Composite decking in saddle brown. Mr. Cullinane explained the project does not intend to extend the new decking, rather it is replacing decking that is old and deteriorating; the frame is still in good condition. The decking cannot be seen from the street.

The Chair wanted to know if the stairs and runners needed to be replaced; Mr. Cullinane said no. Mr. McNicholas asked if the frame needed to be touched in any way? Mr. Cullinane replied no. The Chair recommended that she preferred the use of pressure treated wood. Mr. Cullinane stated that anything that needed to be replaced would be replaced with the same material.

Motion to approve HDC #11-2018 as submitted was made by Mr. Poulin and seconded by Mr. Brooks. Motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

D. Tara and Shawn Mahoney are seeking a certificate of appropriateness to replace a fence on property located at 19 Maple Street, in the Residential Single Family-A with a Historic Overlay (R1AH) District, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 130, HDC #13-2018.

Mr. Shawn Mahoney was present to discuss HDC #13-2018. Mr. Metivier informed the HDC that there is no record of this property having come before the HDC before. He furthermore explained that this project proposed to replace a wooden stockade fence with a vinyl fence that matches an existing corner piece. Mr. Mahoney furthermore explained that the existing fence was damaged during a storm, with many sections damaged beyond repair. The new fence would be white vinyl matching an existing corner fence.

The Chair wondered why vinyl was selected. Mr. Mahoney replied that an existing fence near his neighbor's house. Mr. Poulin inquired how many sections in the fence; Mr. Mahoney responded fifteen.

Motion to approve HDC #13-2018 as submitted was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Mr. Poulin. Motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

E. Any New Business that comes before the Commission

**VII. Public Comments by Visitors:** There were none.

**VIII. Workshop Business:**

A. Ordinance subcommittee

The Chair reported that it may not be necessary for the city to undertake a new survey to remain certified. The Chair recommended that members of the HDC attend an Economic Development meeting on Tuesday, 19 June 2018, at 4:30pm.

B. Education and Outreach subcommittee

Mr. Brooks reported on the recent subcommittee meeting. He described the matrix developed and invited all HDC members to any subcommittee meeting to be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month.

Mr. Murray inquired if the Cemetery talk on 10 June 2018 would fulfill requirements for HDC certification. The Chair replied that she had asked and had been told that it would not formally fulfill workshop certification requirements but she still strongly encouraged HDC members to attend.

C. Cemetery subcommittee

Councilor Levasseur invited HDC members to a Cemetery Tour of Forest Glade on Sunday, 10 June 2018, on the theme of Garden Cemeteries.

G. Any additional Workshop Business

**IX. Communications and Miscellaneous:**

A. Tour of the new liquor store building

The Chair thanked Mr. Metivier for setting up a tour of the historic building where the new state liquor store is going. Since other HDC members indicated an interest in a tour, the Chair asked Mr. Metivier to make arrangements for another tour(s).

B. Reports by Mr. Poulin

1. The Historical Society would be participating in the Cemetery Tours on Saturday, 29 September 2018, at Forest Glade with actors. Mr. Poulin invited HDC members to attend.

2. 15-17 Grove Street

Mr. Poulin reported that the property seemed to be deteriorating and appeared unsafe<sup>3</sup>; he wanted something to be done. The Chair stated that Code Enforcement would deal with the owner. Mr. Metivier said that Code Enforcement has been trying to contact the owner and would continue to do so.

3. B/W Market

Mr. Poulin stated that he thought the renovations going on at B/W Market far exceeded the HDC approval to replace the windows not renovate the entire building. Early in the renovation, work went on until very late at night interfering with neighbors' sleep was another complaint. Mr. Metivier explained that during

4. Distinction between the Historical Society and the Historic District Commission

Mr. Poulin wanted to see a distinction made in the view of the general public between the Historical Society and the HDC. He understood that his dual role, as President of the Historical Society and a Commissioner of the HDC helps spread the confusion. But he would like to underscore that while the Historical Society is an all volunteer member organization while the HDC is a municipal board confirmed by the City Council with certain limited legal powers.

The Chair recommended referring the issue to the Education and Outreach subcommittee.

C. Forest Glade Cemetery

The Chair reported that an Eagle Scout was doing a project at Forest Glade Cemetery seeking to identify all military buried gthere.

The Chair reported that she attended the Cemetery Trustees meeting and that they expressed an interest in working together with the HDC. The Chair further reported that all requests for ongoing cemetery maintenance must go through DPW.

Prior to cleaning up Horne Cemetery on Somersworth Clean-Up Day, permission from DPW should have been obtained.

D. Councilor Levasseur reported that he had a lengthy report for the City Council including information on what the HDC has been doing.

E. Any additional Communications and Miscellaneous Business

**X. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 7:49pm was made by Mr. Poulin and seconded by Councilor Levasseur. Motion enthusiastically passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Pius Charles Murray*

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