

Somersworth Historic District Commission

One Government Way
Somersworth, NH 03878

Minutes of Regular Meeting of 27 April 2016 – Adopted as amended

In Attendance:

Madeline DeSantis, Chair
Albert Marotta, Vice-Chair
Councilor Martin Dumont, City Council Representative
Laura Barry, Alternate
Richard Brooks, Alternate
Arthur Hendrickson, Commissioner
Beth Poulin, Commissioner
George Poulin, Commissioner.
Tim Metivier, City Code Inspector
Pius Charles Murray, Secretary/Commissioner

Petitioners Present

Christopher Chartier (on behalf of HDC #03-2016)

Agenda

- I. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:12 P.M.
- II. Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the 24 February 2016 meeting as submitted was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Poulin. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. Projects of Minimal Impact: Mr. Metivier reported that no projects of minimal impact had been submitted nor approved either in February 2016 or March 2016.
- IV. Public Comment by Visitors: There were none.
- V. Old Business:
 - A. As there was no Old Business, the Chair warmly welcomed Mr. Brooks to the Commission.
 - B. No additional Old Business.
- VI. New Business
 - A. Christopher Chartier is seeking a certificate of appropriateness to replace windows, install siding on the barn, and erect a fence on property located at 38 Highland Street, in the Historic Moderate Density (HMD) District, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 46 (HDC #03-2016).

Mr. Chartier described the three parts of his renovation project: (a) to replace all windows as part of a lead abatement project with vinyl replacement windows maintaining the same 6/6 grid; (b) to install vinyl siding on the exterior of the barn/garage to cover lead; and (c) to erect a fence along the property line, the materials of which have not yet been decided.

Ms. Barry inquired about the window sills, and what condition the windows were in to warrant replacement. Mr. Chartier responded that he was replacing all 27 exterior windows, some of which were rotted, and was maintaining the same 6/6 grid. Mr. Marotta said that although the use of vinyl was not normally approved in such projects such as this one, the petitioner has a serious problem. Mr. Marotta suggested trying to find a compromise, perhaps doing partial vinyl. The Chair asked for clarification that the vinyl siding on the barn would be used to cover lead, to which Mr. Chartier agreed. A question arose concerning the credentials of the contractor contacted by Mr. Chartier to prepare this application. Mr. Metivier explained the difference between a lead-certified and the higher credentialed abatement company consulted by Mr. Chartier.

Motion to approve HDC #03-2016 for window replacement and vinyl siding on the barn with the condition that the petitioner return to the HDC with details for the erection of the proposed fence was made by Mr. Poulin and seconded by Mr. Marotta. Motion passed unanimously.

B. No additional New Business.

VII. Closing Comments by Visitor. The Chair asked if there were any closing comments by visitors. There were none.

VIII. Workshop Business.

A. Proposed HDC application changes.

Mr. Metivier reported that the proposed changes to the HDC application had passed muster with the Planning Department and now simply needed HDC approval. The Chair inquired whether or not applicants received the same packet as the HDC Commissioners did when submitting their applications. Mr. Metivier replied that they did not. The Chair then suggested that applicants receive at least the HDC Resource Form which describes what is historic about their homes, especially since very few seem aware of why their home is listed in the Historic District. Mr. Metivier responded that the Chair's request constituted a procedural adjustment that did not need to be added to the application policy.

Motion to approve the revamped HDC application policy was made by Mr. Marotta and seconded by Mr. Poulin. Motion passed unanimously.

B. The Chair announced that she was not renewing her term and would leave the HDC when her term expired at the end of April 2016 and that this was her last meeting. Motion of appreciation for the Chair's service on the HDC was made by Mr. Poulin and seconded by Mr. Murray. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Motion to elect Mr. Marotta as HDC Chair effective at the next HDC meeting was made by Mr. Poulin and seconded by Councilor Dumont.

D. Historic District stickers

Mr. Metivier inquired how many Historic District stickers had been given out; very few replied the Commissioners. The Chair stated that people she had given them to (including her own parents) had not put them up.

E. Historic District signs

Mr. Hendrickson asked about the Historic District signs that the Commission had approved some time ago. Mr. Metivier replied that the department is investigating options to make new signs by looking at what other communities have done and he will report back to the Commission when there is something to report.

F. Vision 20/20

Mr. Metivier presented excerpts of a letter from the Vision 20/20 Committee requesting that the HDC consider a minor adjustment to the historic district boundary to include two additional buildings in the Mill Section. Motion to table the Vision 20/20 communication was made by Mr. Poulin and seconded by Councilor Dumont. Motion passed unanimously.

G. There was no additional Workshop Business.

IX. Communications and Miscellaneous.

A. There was no additional Communications and Miscellaneous business.

X. Adjournment

A. Motion to adjourn at 7:45 PM was made by Mr. Poulin and seconded by Ms. Barry. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Murray

(Mr.) Pius Charles Murray
Secretary