

SOMERSWORTH Historic District Commission
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 22nd, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Matthew Gerding-City Council Rep., Laura Barry-Chair, Richard Brooks-Vice-Chair, George Poulin, Lindsey Gagnon-Secretary

Excused Members: NA

STAFF PRESENT: Tim Metivier, Code Enforcement Officer

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Approval of August 25th, 2021 meeting minutes.
 - a. Discussion: Mrs. Barry noted that minutes should be updated to say that Mr. Brooks was voted in as vice chair not Mr. Poulin
 - b. Motion: Mr. Brooks MOVED to accept the minutes with the revision
 - c. The MOTION is SECONDED by Mr. Gerding
 - d. The MOTION CARRIED by a 5-0-0 vote

2. Projects of Minimal Impact Report.
 - a. None to report

3. Public comments by visitors.
 - a. No comments were received via mail, email or phone. None were in person.

4. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. None

5. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. **Chris Steinke is seeking a certificate of appropriateness to install a retaining wall on a property located at 16 Winter Street, in the Residential Single Family/A with Historic Overlay (R1AH) District, Assessor's Map 11 Lot 178, HDC#14-2021**

Chris Steinke was present and confirmed the project details of the retaining wall to be built to help prevent the driveway from narrowing and/or eroding any further.

Mr. Gerding was pleased that natural stone was proposed to be used and was in support of the project.

Mr. Poulin stated he had no problem with the proposed project.

- i. Motion: Mr. Brooks MOVED to accept the application as presented
- ii. The MOTION is SECONDED by Mr. Gerding
- iii. The MOTION CARRIED by a 5-0-0 vote

b. **Michael Crosbie, is seeking a certificate of appropriateness to repair existing deck on a property located at 138-140 High Street, in the Residential/Business with Historic Overlay (R/BH) District, Assessor's Map 10 Lot 161, HDC#15-2021**

Michael Crosbie, the owner, and & Peter Bradt, the contractor, were present for any questions. Mr. Gerding stated he will abstain from the vote since he can see the property from his house and does not want a conflict of interest.

Mrs. Barry asked if they are planning on painting the deck as it is currently as that is something we require with the HDC. Peter noted that the pressure treated wood can't be painted right away or the paint won't stick.

Mr. Brooks asked if updates are only for the rear deck and not the front deck. Peter confirmed that is the case.

Mr. Metivier tried to locate the painting time period but could not. He suggested the earliest appropriate time frame for painting would be by the end of May as we are going into winter soon.

- i. Motion: Mrs. Barry MOVED to accept the application with the proposed condition that the deck needs to be painted by the end of May.
- ii. The MOTION is SECONDED by Mr. Poulin
- iii. The MOTION CARRIED by a 5-0-0 vote

c. **Somedowntown LLC, is seeking a certificate of appropriateness to install new signage made of PVC for a property located at 60 High Street, in the Business with Historic Overlay (BH) District, Assessor's Map 11 Lot 214, HDC#16-2021**

David Baker was present as a managing agent of Somedowntown. His goal is to improve the downtown aesthetics of the business renting space from him with some beautiful signage. He had examples with him to show the board.

Mr. Poulin asked about the color, knowing that we can't ask him to paint any specific color. Mr. Baker stated that he is probably going to paint the building a little darker after power washing it and consulting with his painter.

Mr. Gerding asked about the style of the sign and if it will be grooved or have an inlay for the lettering. Mr. Baker believes the sign will be flat (no dimension) but it will be made of quality material that will be durable.

Mr. Metivier asked what sign company Mr. Baker is using for the job. Mr. Baker stated Sundance Signs has been hired for the job.

- i. Motion: Mr. Brooks MOVED to accept the application as presented
- ii. The MOTION is SECONDED by Mr. Gerding
- iii. The MOTION CARRIED by a 5-0-0 vote

d. **Woodard Openo, is seeking a certificate of appropriateness to construct a shed addition on a property located at 25 Grand Street, in the Historic Moderate Density (HMD) District, Assessor's Map 11 Lot 16, HDC#17-2021**

Woodard (Woody) Openo was present and stated that the plan is to make a lean-to roof addition to the shed with a door to be constructed similarly to what is there. Mr. Openo would like to have the head of the door angled with the roof rake. This will allow the door to be 6 feet on one side and 5 feet on the other instead of only 5 feet on both sides.

Mr. Brooks commented that the plan is great and that he is happy to hear that the updates are going to match similarly to what's there.

Mr. Gerding asked about the angled door causing any structural concerns. Mr. Metivier stated there would be no concerns.

Mrs. Barry liked that the lean-to would create a saltbox look that is a typical addition for colonial homes.

- i. Motion: Mr. Poulin MOVED to accept the application as presented
- ii. The MOTION is SECONDED by Mr. Brooks
- iii. The MOTION CARRIED by a 5-0-0 vote

e. No other new business.

6. WORKSHOP BUSINESS

- a. June 30th 2022 is our Certified Local Government (CLG) grant deadline
- b. Report due for September 30th 2021
- c. Mrs. Barry suggested we try to invite other communities to these workshops that will be hosted from the grant funds.

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS

- a. Mr. Metivier read an email received by Michelle Mears, Director Development Services, confirming that the CLG grant was approved and that they are looking to schedule a kick off meeting. Mrs. Mears is also looking into new HDC boundary signs with a positive response thus far from upper management. Additionally, she believes updated street signs to differentiate streets in the district may be an item approved by the City Manager for funding. Mrs. Barry will reach out to Mrs. Mears on these items to further the conversation. Mr. Gerding will bring this up with the City Manager as well. Lastly Mr. Metivier noted trainings coming up with the NH Preservation Alliance via Zoom.
- b. Mr. Brooks asked Mr. Metivier about city staff taking meeting minutes. Mr. Metivier noted it was discussed but sounds unlikely that a staff person can do it.
- c. Mr. Metivier received a call from a resident who may be interested in joining the board and that resident was going to reach out to the mayor on next steps.
- d. Mr. Poulin shared that the Summersworth Historical Society and Museum is hosting the cemetery tour again this year on October 2nd.
- e. Mrs. Barry asked Mr. Gerding if there was an adopt a spot update. He believes the city is still vetting what spots need to be adopted and this should be more finalized come spring time for planting.

8. Adjournment

- a. MOTION: To adjourn made by Mr. Poulin.
- b. The MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Brooks
- c. The MOTION CARRIED by a 5-0 vote.
- d. The meeting adjourned at 7:34PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Lindsey Gagnon