

Somersworth Historic District Commission

January 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Members Present; Mrs. Barry, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Poulin, Mr. Gerding, Mr. Young, Mr. Monahan.

City Staff Present; Mr. Metivier.

Members Absent; Ms. Gagnon.

Mrs. Barry called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

Mrs. Barry noted that on page 2 section 9 of the Dec 16, 2021 minutes the vote did not identify the 1 opposing vote, Mr. Brooks.

Mr. Gerding noted that he was absent and not in attendance as the minutes indicated.

Mr. Brooks noted the same vote should be recorded as 4-1-0 not 4-0-1.

Mr. Poulin made a motion to approve the minutes of Dec 16, 2021 as edited.

Mr. Brooks seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0-1 with Mr. Gerding abstaining.

PROJECTS OF MINIMAL IMPACT

Mr. Metivier reported there were none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was none.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Thomas Crosslin, 55 Prospect St, HDC #01-2022

Mr. Metivier provided a history of the property and a summary of the project.

Mrs. Barry noted that this property had vinyl siding previously applied but was done so without covering or destroying the original wooden trim, brackets, or eaves.

Thomas Crosslin presented a summary of the project.

Discussion focused on the existing siding did not cover the original trim properly keeping the character intact. The existing vinyl siding would simply be replaced with the same style siding with an additional thin layer of fan fold insulation without covering or removing any existing trim.

Mr. Poulin made a motion to approve the project.

Mr. Gerding seconded the motion.

The motion passed 6-0

B) Patrick Bosa, 45 Market St, HDC #02-2022

Mr. Metivier provided a brief history concerning the removal of a building feature without a permit.

Joe Russo was present on behalf of the applicant and gave a timeline and reason for the removal of the alarm box due to safety concerns, as a piece of it had fallen onto the sidewalk below.

Discussion started with what was removed and what still remains on the building of the original Bank Alarm Box. The roof, front panel, and interior workings were removed from the building and recently returned too and are now in possession of City Staff.

Several of the HDC Members indicated a preference to have the Alarm Box repaired and reinstalled even if the inner working components were not reinstalled.

Mr. Russo indicated the brackets appeared to be solid and well attached. The back and louvered sides of the alarm box are still in place on those brackets.

Discussion also included several possible options to repair, refinish or rebuild the housing of the alarm box.

Mrs. Barry asked Mr. Russo if the applicant agree to table the application and allow the property owner to provide a clear plan for repair of the alarm box.

Mr. Russo agreed to table the application.

C) James and Kathy Kinneavy, 17 Lincoln St, HDC #03-2022

Mr. Metivier provided a brief description of the proposed project.

James Kinneavy provided additional info about the project noting that the lower sill of several windows had rot and would need new construction windows rather than typical replacement windows.

The discussion focused on the importance of keeping the same dimensions and appearance of window trim and corner boards by using integrated J-channel on the new windows and PVC trim. Several of the HDC members favored keeping the “Scallop and Diamond” siding located above the second floor windows.

Mr. Poulin made a motion to approve as written.

Mr. Monahan seconded the motion.

The vote failed 3-3, Mr. Poulin, Mr. Gerding, Mr. Monahan in favor. Mrs. Barry, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Young opposing.

Mrs. Barry made a motion to approve as written but requiring the applicant to provide better detail about the scalloped siding to be used above the second floor windows.

Mr. Brooks seconded the motion.

The motion passed 6-0.

WORKSHOP BUSINESS

Mr. Metivier announced future informational lectures that will be offered to the general public with the opportunity for questions. Those have been scheduled to precede several upcoming HDC meetings.

The Committee discussed the replacement of Street name signs indicating the Historic District. According to Mr. Brooks inventory count, would include 64-86 signs maybe even up to 100 if every street at every intersection were to be signed.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MISC

Mrs. Barry discussed the Winter St property that had not been constructed as approved. The property owner had asked to address the HDC via Zoom, which is not allowed now, as the Covid-19 precautions are no longer place.

Mr. Metivier provided an update about the brick foundation work at 9 Linden St which was being disputed by the Insurance Company covering the fire damage until The HDC Chair provided a letter outlining the decision by the HDC.

Mr. Metivier announced that he had submitted his resignation as Building Inspector Feb 11 2022, but had also submitted his application to the HDC earlier today.

Several HDC members thanked Mr. Metivier for his dedication to the City of Somersworth over the years.

Mr. Poulin made the motion to adjourn.

Mr. Brooks seconded the motion.

Motion passed 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.

Submitted by

Richard Brooks, HDC Vice-Chair