



Somersworth Historic District Commission
One Government Way
Somersworth, NH 03878

Minutes of Meeting of 24 February 2016 – Adopted as submitted

In Attendance:

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

Absent:

Arthur Hendrickson, Commissioner

Petitioners Present:

Members of the Public Present:

Richard Brooks

Agenda

- I. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.
- II. Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the January 2016 meeting as amended 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 since the HDC's last meeting.

IV. Old Business:

located
District,
A. Jim Deyo is seeking a certificate of appropriateness to install a chimney on property
at 149 High Street, in the Residential Business with a Historic Overlay (RBH)
Assessor's Map 10, Lot 131, HDC #01-2016.

found a
the
Mr. Metivier reported that Mr. Deyo wished to withdraw his petition because he
contractor who would be able to connect the disparate elements to his boiler without
need of a new chimney.

replied that
not the
to the
Councilor Dumont asked when the columns would be corrected. Mr. Metivier
Mr. Deyo has a buyer for the building. The HDC judgment stays with the structure,
owner; thus the new owner might be liable if Mr. Deyo doesn't fix the columns prior
sale.

B. No additional Old Business.

V. New Business:

two
A. 335-337 Main Somersworth, LLC is seeking a certificate of appropriateness to erect
signs on property located at 67-73 High Street, in the Business Historic (BH) District,
Assessor's Map 11, Lot 63, HDC #02-2016.

business
awning;
material
square feet,
with
The manager of Teatotaler's, Lauren, spoke on behalf of HDC #02-2016. The
requests to install two signs. One sign would be mounted on the facade above the
the other would project from the facade above the awning and be double-faced. The
for both would be acrylic with metal bolts. The size of the first sign would be 16
while the other would be approximately five square feet. The colors would be pink
white lettering; both signs would be lighted externally.

response was
material
Metivier
The Chair inquired about the material, citing the HDC visual guidelines. The
that the material would be made of resin. Mr. Poulin wanted to make sure that the
did not include plastic. Ms. Barry inquired about the type of wood to be used. Mr.
explained that it would be medium density wood, equivalent to an exterior grade of

plywood.

Motion to approve HDC #02-2016 as submitted was made by Mr. Marotta and seconded by Ms. Barry. Motion was approved by majority vote, 6-1; Mr. Poulin was opposed.

B. No additional New Business.

VI. Workshop Business.

A. Procedure for allowing public comment

The Commission held a workshop during which it discussed and debated Rules of Procedure governing public comments. In order to inform citizens that there might be an agenda item at an HDC meeting which could affect their property, the Chair asked if written notices should be given to abutters. Mr. Metivier was of the opinion that such written notification was not required. Mr. Poulin pointed out that notices already were publicly available in City Hall and in the Library; Mr. Metivier added that the material was also available on the city's website and on the local cable station (Channel 22), with all documentation available in the Planning Office. Councilor Dumont remarked that the Chair's observations concerning written notification for abutters was spot on. Councilor Dumont recommended allowing public comment in a manner similar to that of the City Council which allows public comment near the beginning and end of each meeting. Mr. Metivier further clarified that there is a thirty day window after each HDC meeting for an appeal to be filed which thus helps address the notification issue. The Chair inquired where exactly in the agenda should public comment be placed. Councilor Dumont stated that in his experience on various zoning boards members of the public could comment near the beginning and end of meetings after petitioners' petitions had been presented; after all had had their say, public comments would be closed. Such public comments were not intended as debates with petitioners or Commissioners.

manner as
limit
by Mr.
Marotta's
unanimously.

Motion to add two public comment sections to the HDC agenda in the same used by the City Council was made by Mr. Marotta. A friendly amendment to public comment by each member of the public to a five minute limit was made Murray, seconded by Councilor Dumont, and accepted by Mr. Marotta. Mr. motion as amended was then seconded by Mr. Poulin. Motion passed

with the

B. Mr. Metivier was reviewing the changes to the HDC application procedures Planning Department.

C. No additional Workshop Business

VII. Communications and Miscellaneous.

HDC
became

A. Mr. Marotta recommended studying the positive impact that the Durham was having on its community and how it addressed issues before they bigger problems.

input from
implementing a
sooner than

B. Councilor Dumont reported that the Mayor and City Council would like the HDC on re-sizing the city's historic district as the city studies Tax Incentive District. Councilor Dumont stated they would like input later.

C. No additional Communications and Miscellaneous.

VIII. Adjournment

Ms. Barry.

Motion to adjourn at 7:56 P.M. was made by Mr. Poulin and seconded by Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Murray

(Mr.) Pius Charles Murray
Secretary