

Somersworth Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2023

Members Present: Mr. Brooks, Mr. Gerding, Mr. Metivier, Mrs. Nguyen, Mr. Poulin.

City Staff Present: Mrs. Crossley.

Members Absent: Mrs. Barry, Mr. Monahan, Ms. Shoen, Mr. Young.

Mr. Poulin called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Mr. Poulin welcomed the newest HDC member, Elizabeth Nguyen.

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

Mr. Brooks made the motion to accept the 03-22-23 HDC meeting minutes as presented.

Mr. Metivier seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0.

PROJECTS OF MINIMAL IMPACT

Mrs. Crossley reported 17 Linden St. was approved to replace a wooden stockade fence and 55 Prospect St. was approved to re-roof and rebuild a chimney.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

OLD BUSINESS

A) Joe and Mary Boucher, 90 Noble St. HDC #08-2023

Joseph and Mary Boucher and Contractor, Mike Mackenzie approached the podium. Mr. MacKenzie provided a thorough overview of the proposed project describing the layer of insulation that would be applied over the existing siding and trim with vinyl siding installed with aluminum wrap being applied over the trim to duplicate the trim as it exists.

Mr. Brooks thanked Mr. MacKenzie for providing such a thorough presentation outlining many of the Commission's concerns from the previous meeting.

Mr. Gerding thanked Mr. MacKenzie for providing such a detailed presentation.

Mr. Metivier asked about the possibility that the window sills may be trimmed or cut off and then covered.

Mr. MacKenzie stated that no window sill or trim would be trimmed or cut.

Mr. Metivier asked about the use of vinyl being used under the eaves and soffits.

Mr. MacKenzie stated that a vinyl beaded porch panel would be installed.

Mr. Metivier asked if the door and brackets above would be wrapped, replaced or painted.

Mr. MacKenzie stated those would both be painted and not altered or covered otherwise.

Mr. Brooks asked about the porch structure and what would be planned for that area of the building.

Mr. MacKenzie stated the porch columns and railings would be painted.

Mr. MacKenzie noted the windows would have a PVC crown molding applied across the top to duplicate the trim that exists now.

Mr. Metivier made a motion to approve the application as presented and discussed here tonight.

Mr. Brooks seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0.

B) PLANO Builders LLC, 5 Noble St. HDC #09-2023

Mrs. Crossley noted the application was continued from the previous meeting to allow for the applicant to attend and present before the Commission.

Scott and Denise Gordon provided a brief description of the proposed project.

Mrs. Nguyen asked about the width of the steps.

Mr. Gordon stated the steps will be 4 feet wide.

Mr. Brooks asked about the door that would be installed in place of a window.

Mr. Gordon noted the window is the closest to the rear door and would access the front unit from the proposed deck.

Mr. Brooks asked if the windows would be 6 over 1 as the existing windows are.

Mr. Gordon stated yes, they would be 6 over 1.

Mrs. Nguyen asked about the second-floor window if they would keep the same style window.

Mr. Gordon stated they were going to match it as closely as possible.

Mr. Gerding asked about the basement window that appears smaller than the rest.

Mr. Gordon stated that was actually a door with a small window structure in the door and noted that would not be replaced.

Mr. Metivier asked about several details concerning the proposed deck structure.

Mr. Gordon described the deck would have stairs running towards the back of the property and would be large enough to access both the existing and new door.

Mr. Metivier asked if the existing door had a 9 light window and all doors would be of the same style.

Mr. Gordon stated they would all be 9 light doors.

Mr. Poulin asked if storm doors would be installed.

Mr. Gordon stated no storm doors would be installed.

Mr. Metivier made a motion to approve as presented.

Ms. Gerding seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Matthew Hawkins, 8 Beacon St. HDC #10-2023

Mr. Poulin stated the applicant had sent an email asking to table the application until the next meeting.

Mr. Metivier made a motion to table the project as requested by the applicant.

Mr. Gerding seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0.

WORKSHOP BUSINESS

Mr. Brooks asked if anyone had comments or questions concerning the proposed Rules of Procedure.

Mr. Metivier stated he had reviewed them and they were well done.

Mr. Gerding reminded the members of the revisions suggested by the Planning Department.

Mr. Brooks noted that the Commission had not made those changes but could do that this time.

Mr. Gerding made the motion to make those suggested changes.

Mr. Brooks seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Gerding suggested that the Commission not vote on accepting the Rules of Procedure tonight because there are several members absent, simply to allow those other HDC members to have an opportunity to express their comments or concerns before the Commission votes.

Mr. Gerding provided an update about way finding signs and street signs the City is proposing for the downtown area. The street signs would be black with white lettering and would have “1729 Historic District” above the street name for streets within the Historic District.

Mr. Brooks clarified the signs are actually two separate sign systems. One is the way finding with their own posts and signs, the other are the street signs simply replacing the street signs as they exist.

Mr. Metivier stated the street signs look great and look forward to them moving forward.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MISC

Mrs. Crossley noted that the Land Use Board appreciation dinner invites were just sent out.

Mr. Metivier made the motion to adjourn.

Mr. Brooks seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Submitted by

Richard Brooks, HDC Secretary