



Somersworth Historic District Commission

One Government Way
Somersworth, NH 03878

Minutes of HDC Workshop on 26 November 2019 at 6:30pm: Approved as amended

Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title/Role</u>
Laura Barry	Chair
Lindsey Gagnon	Vice-Chair
Edward Levasseur	City Councilor
Matt Gerding	Commissioner
George Poulin	Commissioner
Tim Metivier	Building Inspector
Pius Charles Murray	Secretary

Members of the Public in attendance:

Richard Brooks
William Poole

Agenda & Minutes

I. Call to Order: At 6:30pm by the Chair.

II. New Business:

The Chair introduced the theme of the workshop which was to set goals for the HDC for 2020. One reason for setting goals according to the Chair was to have in mind applying for grants for speakers from Historic New England which go for about \$200.00. Furthermore, the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources has a number of grants (cf. <https://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/grants/>), some of which

may be geared more for professionals needing Continuing Education Credits to maintain certification. The Chair stated that HDC programs should be more geared towards homeowners.

There was then a general discussion about possible types of grants for which to apply (e.g. energy, historic paint colors, etc.). Mr. Metivier inquired if admission for any HDC programs could be charged to help reduce costs. The Chair responded that she did not know the city's rules but would investigate further. Ms. Gagnon mentioned the possible for obtaining Home Depot cards as well as monitoring attendance.

After considerable discussion, the following HDC Goals for 2020 were agreed upon (not in any order):

1. Education
2. Plaques
3. Signage (particularly for the cemetery on the hill)
4. Walking Tours/House Tours
5. Updating the FAQ on the city's/HDC's website [e.g. Spotlight House]
6. Use of Channel 95 for a video such as "Piece on the Hill"
7. Little Indonesian Project

Following was a discussion for FY 2020 budget. The Chair was recommending \$600 for three educational programs. There was general agreement that asking for \$7,000.00 for a one-day workshop with CEU credits may be too much initially. Mr. Gerding recommended monitoring attendance before requesting a larger budget. Councilor Levasseur suggested requesting \$1,000.00 for marketing and refreshments. Mr. Gerding suggested matching a particular program to the season of the year. Mr. Poulin recommended asking a local stonemason to do a program for free. The Chair wondered if only Somersworth residents would attend.

There was further discussion on the types of plaques, type/amount of information on each plaque, and special plaque awards for best home improvement, etc. The Chair reminded the Commission that in New Hampshire, HDCs may not have a budget although the Conservation Commission, and Cemetery Commission do.

III Adjournment:

The Chair adjourned the HDC Workshop at 6:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pius Charles Murray
(Mr.) Pius Charles Murray
Secretary