

Somersworth Historic District Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

1<sup>st</sup> Draft

In attendance:

Laura Barry, Chair  
Richard Brooks, Vice-Chair  
Edward Levasseur, City Councilor  
Matthew Gerding, Commissioner  
George Poulin, Commissioner  
Tim Metivier, Building Inspector

In Absentia:

Pius Charles Murray, Secretary

Petitioners Present:

- I. Call to Order  
At 7:00pm by Chair
- II. Approval of Minutes  
Table minutes from prior meeting since Secretary Murray was not present.
- III. Projects of Minimal Impact  
Mr. Metivier reported the following projects of minimal impact had been submitted and approved from October and November:
  - a) Partick Kilbourn, 12 Page Street, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 141, HDC #42-2018. Approved to re-roof a section of the house.
  - b) Leslie Darling, 13 Linden Street, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 121, HDC #44-2018. Approved to re-roof.
- IV. Public Comments by Visitors  
None
- V. Old Business  
None
- VI. New Business
  - a) Gregory Morrison is seeking a certificate of appropriateness to replace an awning on property located at 30 prospect Street, in the Historic Moderate Density (HMD) District, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 73, HDC #45-2018

Mr. Gregory Morrison, property owner, and Mike Barret, carpenter, were present to discuss HDC #45-2018. Mr. Morrison explained that the awning is circa 1970's and is damaged. Explained that he would like to put up a new awning that is similar to awnings from homes around the area. Mrs. Barry asked whether the handrail would be replaced, and Mr. Morrison explained that it would not be replaced. Mr. Levasseur asked whether the metal awning on the other side of the house would also be replaced, to which Mr. Morrison said that the others would not. Mr. Brooks asked whether the hip-style roof would be replicated with this new awning. Mr. Morrison and Mr. Barret explained that there was not enough space to do a hip-style roof, and that they would instead do a gable-style. Gable-style would also help to dump water and snow off to the side, because there was not enough room to add a gutter. Also, because the awning is so close to the driveway, there is not enough room to do a larger hip-style roof.

Motion to approve HDC #45-2018 as submitted, made by Mr. Brooks, and was seconded by Mr. Levasseur. Motion passed unanimously.

- b) The VFW Post 4485 is seeking a certificate of appropriateness to install a fence on property located at 43 High Street, in the Business Historic (BH) District, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 64, HDC #46-2018

Mr. Charles Arkwell, Quarter Master of VFW Post 4485, was present to discuss HDC #46-2018. Mr. Arkwell explained that pitbulls on the neighboring property have been running loose, disrupting and attacking patrons and guests of the VFW, thus they would like to put up a fence to keep the dogs off of the property. Mr. Brooks explained that the dog owners should be responsible, and that it seems unfair that they have to put up a fence to keep the dogs out, and asked whether the owners have been cited. Mr. Metivier reiterated that it is against city ordinance to allow dogs to run at-large. Mr. Arkwell said that the police have called, and they were in fact attacked by the dogs. Mr. Brooks explained that chain-linked fence is not the preferred fence type, and asked whether other types have been considered, to which Mr. Arkwell explained that others have not. Mr. Brooks explained that rod iron or even stockade would be preferred to chain-link. When asked where the fence would run, Mr. Arkwell explained that the fence would run from the wall on the top-tier parking lot of the property to the back corner of the parking lot. Mrs. Barry clarified that this was in order to separate the properties, and reiterated that chain-link is not preferred. Mr. Levasseur clarified that the fence would not run directly to the street. Mr. Arkwell agreed, and said that it would only run to the top wall/planters along the top parking lot of the property. Mr. Brooks asked how tall the planters were, and Mr. Arkwell explained that it was approximately five feet tall, but varied depending on where it is along the hill of the property. Mr. Brooks asked

how high the fence would be, and Mr. Arkwell explained that it would be six feet tall, which should be tall enough to keep out the dogs. Mrs. Barry asked about other fencing types, to which Mr. Arkwell asked about stockade fencing. Mrs. Barry explained that stockade fencing may not be strong enough in that location. Mr. Poulin explained that the location of the potential fence on the property is not within eyesight from the street, and though he does not normally support chain-link fencing, since this fence is not visible, he is in support. Mr. Metivier described a stockade vinyl fence on the other side of the property that was installed to cover an air conditioner.

Motion to approve on the condition that if at anytime in the future the fence would like to be extended, that they use another fence type. Seconded by Mr. Poulin. Motion passed, with only Mr. Brooks in the dissent.

- c) Fairchild James, LLC is seeking a certificate of appropriateness to install new skylight on property located at 24 Cliff Street, in the Residential Single Family-A with a Historic Overlay (R1AH) District, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 123, HDC #47-2018.

Mrs. Mary Ellen James was present to represent the application for HDC #47-2018. Mrs. James explained that there was no light in that room of the building. The bedroom is in the gabled side of the home, is about 12 feet wide, and run the width of the whole side of the building. She said that she would appreciate having a window in the room, as she was sure the tenants were using it, and felt like it was healthier to have a window. Mrs. Barry asked if Mrs. James could explain the size of the windows, and Mrs. James explained that the windows would be small in size, and match the size of the existing windows in the home. Mrs. James said that if the windows were any larger it would require the structural work. Mr. Brooks explained that due to the location of the windows on the roof, the positioning of the home, and the fact that the skylights would be flush to the rood, they not be easily visible. Mr. Brooks said he would be in favor. Mr. Levasseur asked the Chair if there was any precedent previously passed in regards to skylights. Mrs. Barry explained that they have been passed previously, usually when out of view. Mr. Gerding reiterated that the skylights would fit this precedent, and would be out of view. Mr. Metivier reminded the homeowner that adding the skylights would not change that room not being considered a bedroom by the city. There was then a lengthy discussion on building codes that was unrelated to the passing of HDC #47-2018.

Motion to approve as is was made my Mr. Levasseur, and was seconded by Mr. Gerding and Mr. Brooks. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Other Business

None

VIII. Closing Comments from Visitors

None

IX. Workshop Business

Mr. Brooks discussed that there was no Education and Outreach meeting in November. He printed the matrix that the subcommittee to share with the members present. Explained that the topics were good, and asked that the members look over it for the next meeting. Mr. Brooks discussed that the slides were active on Channel 22. He also explained that the featured building was available on the HDC page of the city website, however was only posted as a picture with none of the submitted text. Hoped that this could be changed, and Mr. Brooks read the text that should be on the website. Mrs. Barry explained that the homeowner was excited to feature this house, and she wanted to spread the word to other homeowners, and she also explained that anyone interested to being apart could contact the HDC directly. Mrs. Barry also explained that the next Education Outreach meeting would be in January.

X. Communication/Miscellaneous

Mrs. Barry explained that the committee will be looking into a goal setting workshop. There will also be a second reading and a public hearing of the HDC Ordinance changes at 7:00pm on Monday 12/3/18. Mrs. Barry also explained that she met with city staff member, Christine Pappas, about marketing issues, and discussed what the HDC prides and is trying to accomplish. Mrs. Barry mentioned that the roof-raising on Main Street property was halted. Mr. Metivier explained that the building application was different than what was approved, thus the application was denied. Mrs. Barry also asked if there was any progress with the roof of the building owned by the old Aclara/GE, to which Mr. Metivier said that there was no progress. Mr. Levasseur asked about adding potential reports of violations to the agenda. Mrs. Barry said that this would need to be discussed with city staff, and it could be added to the rules of procedure. Mr. Brooks asked about communications about things that pertain to the HDC when discussed in other city commission or meetings, and asked that the HDC have an at-will or as-needed representative on other committees. Mr. Levasseur said he would bring this up at 12/3/18 meeting.

XI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Poulin and was seconded by Mrs. Barry. Motion passed unanimously. 7:57pm.