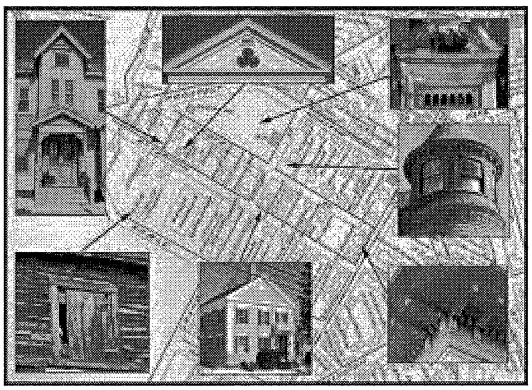
SOMERSWORTH HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION



Minutes of HDC Workshop
Tuesday, 11 March 2014

Final

Members present: George Poulin, Chair; Councilor Marcel Hebert; Arthur Hendrickson; Beth Poulin; Julie Rowe; Tim Metivier, City Code and Health Office; Charlie Murray, Recording Secretaty

Members absent: Madeline DeSantis

Meeting Called to Order: At 6:03 PM by the Chair

I. Mr. Metiver gave a PowerPoint presentation on the use of composite materials
   A. As part of his PPT presentation, Mr. Metivier brought several different items for show-and-tell to demonstrate how effective composite materials may be in imitating original structural elements for historical preservation.
   B. The HDC should update its guidelines to allow the 297 homeowners in Somersworth's historic district to use composite materials in refurbishing their homes.
   C. The current HDC handbook discourages use of vinyl itself
   D. In deciding whether or not to approve the use of vinyl, HDC guidelines should be updated to specify whether the refurbishing is contributing or non-contributing to buildings in the city's historic district.
   E. Mr. Metivier said he would get to the commission a website dedicated to How to Treat Windows.

II. Verizon Cell Towers
   A. Located inside bell towers
   B. Not visible
   C. The backup generator will be housed and hidden with a fence and retaining wall

III. Signage

A. The Commission was very happy about having signage made. Mr. Hendrikson said it had taken the commission seven years to get to this point.

B. Councilor Hebert inquired about having the Concord company that makes license plates do the Somersworth Historic District signs but was told that it only does license plates.

C. Mr. Metivier said the sign should be glued, printed, and attached.

D. Mr. Metivier said it should be the size of the Kiwanis signs and placed at the three boundaries of the city's historic district:

1. At the downtown bridge
2. At Washington and Main Street
3. At Washington and High Street

E. The Commission would also like decals to the placed on individual buildings within the city's historic district.

1. Three-colored decal: white-green-gold
2. Label Tec donated 500 of the decals
3. The decals are part of an educational effort by the Somersworth HDC to let homeowners know their homes are located within the city's historic district.
4. Decals should be located on the inside of windows to lessen exposure to the different New England weather elements.

F. Mr. Hendrickson asked for a second workshop on signage to address issues such as neon signs, temporary signs, banners, etc.

G. Mr. Metivier recommended that the commissioners read Chapter 19 of the Somersworth's Ordinances on signs.

Workshop meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pius Charles Murray

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Recording Secretary