



***SOMERSWORTH HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION***  
**One Government Way**  
**Somersworth, NH 03878**

**Minutes of HDC Workshop Held on 23 July 2014**  
**Adopted as amended on 08/27/2014**

Members present: George Poulin, Chair; Madeline DeSantis; Al Marotta; Tim Metivier, City Code and Health Officer; Charlie Murray, Recording Secretary.

Members absent: Councilor Marcel Hebert, Arthur Hendrickson; Beth Poulin, Julie Rowe

Meeting Called to Order: At 6:23 P.M. by the Chair

Workshop Business:

A. HDC decals

Mr. Metivier reported that he had been in contact Labor Tech, the company that is donating both materials and labor to produce the HDC decals two weeks ago. The company would soon be making 500 decals. The building used in the photograph on the decal is that of the historic JAR Building. The Chair

suggested contacting the same company to inquire about helping the HDC to produce permits to put on all buildings, apartments, and homes in the city's historic district. Mr. Marotta recommended producing a brochure describing what the purpose of the decals is. The Chair further expounded that the brochures could explain why the HDC wanted the decals with a list of what building owners were expected to do to meet code standards when refurbishing buildings in the historic district. These latter ideas will be considered in a future workshop.

#### B. Guidelines for Fences in the Historic District

This question is associated in part with the ongoing debate concerning the use of vinyl in the city's historic district. Mr. Marotta read from the HDC Guidelines concerning fences: gates may serve as an alternative; missing sections should be repaired; flatboard is an option; the fence must reflect the tone of the surrounding neighborhood. Although there are some chain-link fences, most in Somersworth are stonewall.

The Commission's consensus was that the HDC should not stop the repair of existing fences, but at the same time, it should not approve the construction of new ones that do not accurately or appropriately "fit to the neighborhood" (as the HDC Guidelines put it).

Mr. Metivier said that his office was looking for more guidance through more specificity in the HDC Guidelines. He recommended that in a future workshop the HDC go through its guidelines and compare them to the city's ordinances on fences (19.14). Mr. Metivier furthermore recommending reading the Salem Historic District Commission Fence Guidelines. In addition, the Somersworth HDC should determine what to do about 4" vinyl picket fences, and it should not allow wooden or vinyl stockade fences, nor should it allow iron or wooden picket fences.

C. The Chair reported no additional Workshop Business.

#### Adjournment:

The Chair adjourned the workshop at 6:59 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Pius Charles Murray*

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Secretary, Somersworth Historic District Commission