

CITY OF SOWRSWORTH NH
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Meeting held on Wednesday, 26 November 2013

Minutes adopted on 22 January 2014

Members present: George Poulin, Chair; Councilor Coty Donohue; Arthur Hendrickson; Albert Marotta; Beth Poulin; Tim Metivier, City Code and Health Office; Charlie Murray, Secretary

Members absent: Madeline DeSantis; Sherie Dinger; Julie Rowe

Petitioners present: Ken Cops (on behalf of Shayne Devoe, HDC#26-2013)

Call to order: At 7:00 P.M. by the Chair

Approval of minutes of previous meeting: Motion to approve the minutes of 23 October 2013 as amended made by Mr. Hendrickson and seconded by Mr. Marotta. Motion passed unanimously.

Projects of minimal impact: Mr. Metivier reported that the following two projects of minimal impact had been approved since the last HDC meeting: (1) Brewster's Draft House, on behalf of Norm Rouleau, 2-6 Main Street, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 202, HDC#26-2013 that comprised approval to replace a freestanding sign; and (b) Edward Motyka, 17 Prospect Street, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 85, HDC #27-2013 which involved approval to erect a fence.

Old Business:

- A. The Chair reported no additional Old Business.

New Business:

- A. My Mobile, on behalf of Tony Doan, is seeking a certificate of appropriateness to erect signs on property at 59-65 High Street, in the Business Historic (BH) District, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 63A, HDC #25-2013.

As there was no one to explain the My Mobile petition, motion to table My Mobile's petition was made by Mr. Marotta and seconded by Councilor Donohue. Motion passed unanimously.

- B. Shayne Devoe is seeking a certificate of appropriateness for windows replacement on property located at 8 Noble Street, in the Residential Single Familyt-A, with a Historic Overlay (R1AHJ) District, Assessor's Map 10, Lot 132, HDC#28-2013. Mr. Ken Cops appeared as designee to explain the project to the HDC.

Mr. Hendrickson asked if the window replacement had already been done. The Chair responded that this petition constituted a post-construction approval. Mr. Murray asked if the siding was vinyl to which Mr. Cops responded in the affirmative. The Chair asked if the windows had grids or not to which Mr. Cops responded there were no grids. The Commission then had an extensive discussion both in general on grids in windows in buildings in the Historic District and on the specific history of grids/windows replacement in the property under discussion. Mr. Metivier reported that the petitioners were informed that on 16 October 2013 that a permit from the HDC was needed to perform this work. Mr. Cops replied that the contractor was never informed of this requirement. The Chair asked if 6/6 grids could easily be made for issuance of a certificate of appropriateness; Mr. Cops replied that 6/6 grids could be easily remanufactured if the HDC required it. Mr. Hendrickson replied that this was probably a 1950s Cape House and thus was not necessarily strictly under HDC authority; if it were a Colonial, then the matters of vinyl siding and window grids would be of greater importance because they could change the nature; furthermore Mr. Hendrickson noted that the windows would not be seen on the main road. Mr. Cops replied that buildings had been reducing the number of grids to allow in more sunlight. Mr. Hendrickson said that as glass became less expensive in the 19th Century, grids were reduced and larger panes of glass became more economical which also contributed to the decline in grid use in windows. Mr. Cops apologized to the Commission on behalf of the petitioner for not having secured permission for a certificate of appropriateness prior to completing the work. As the Commission deemed that given this specific building the window replacement did not indicate a major alteration, motion to approve the petition as submitted was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Hendrickson who recommended furthermore that a note be sent to the contractor informing them that permission was required before starting any work in the city's historic district. Motion passed unanimously.

- C. The Chair reported no additional New Business.

Workshop Business:

- A. The Chair requested scheduling another HDC workshop on the second Tuesday in January, 14 January 2014, at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall.
- B. Mr. Metivier reported that an inventory of outstanding Notifications of Violations would be completed before Thanksgiving. Short time turn-around deadlines would be established. If the deadlines were not met, the city had the option of bringing the violators to court either to force the renovations be carried out or to sell the property. To strengthen the HDC's authority, Mr. Metivier stated that adding

property in the city's historic district to either the state of New Hampshire's historic list or the US Federal Government's Historic Register could be helpful.

Communications and Miscellaneous:

- A. Motion to formally thank Councilor Donohue for his service as the City Council's representative to the Historic District Commission was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by the Chair. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. The Chair reported no further communications or miscellaneous business.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 7:40 P.M. was made by Mr. Marotta and seconded by Mr. Hendrickson. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pius Charles Murray

Pius Charles Murray
Recording Secretary