



## **SOMERSWORTH HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Date: 27 May 2015  
Place: City Hall, Somersworth, NH

Minutes of Regular Meeting: Adopted as Amended

### **Present:**

George Poulin, Chair  
Albert Marotta, Vice-Chair  
Laura Barry, Alternate  
Madeline DeSantis, Commissioner  
Arthur Hendrickson, Commissioner  
Beth Poulin, Commissioner  
Tim Metiver, Building Inspector  
Pius Charles Murray, Commissioner/Secretary

### **Members Absent:**

Martin Dumont, City Councilor  
Julie Rowe, Alternate

### **Petitioners Present:**

Al Bignoia (on behalf of HDC #08-2015)  
Tim Bascom (on behalf of HDC #09-2015)  
Tom Bascom (on behalf of HDC #09-2015)  
Dave Haney (on behalf of HDC #08-2015)  
David Smith (on behalf of HDC #18-2014)

### **Others Present:**

### *Agenda*

I. Call to Order by the Chair at 7:03 P.M.

II. Motion to approve the minutes. Motion to accept the minutes of the workshop and regular meeting of 22 April 2015 as amended was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Ms. DeSantis. Motion passed unanimously.

### III. Report of Minimal Impact Projects

Mr. Metivier reported that there were two projects of minimal impact approved in May 2015 as follows:

1. Buy, Sell, Trade shop, on behalf of 77 High Street, LLC, 77-79 High Street, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 62, HDC #04-2015 was approved to replace a wall-mounted sign.
2. Go Team, LLC, 66-70 High Street, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 215, HDC #06-2015 was approved to fix the roof.

### IV. Old Business

- A. ABK Realty Management, LLC is seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for exterior renovations for property located at 17-31 Market Street, in the Business Historic (BH) District, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 93, HDC #18-2014.

David Smith was present representing the petitioner for HDC #18-2014. Mr. Metivier stated that ABK Realty had previously appeared before the HDC on 08-26-2014 and asked to replace all siding and replace it with oak which represented a balance between code compliance and HDC guidelines. Mr. Metivier asked if the railing would be corporate or PCP. Mr. Hendrickson noted that the railing was not listed on the application. In the Commission's deliberations, Ms. DeSantis stated that an application can be submitted and amended or that stipulations could be added to an application's approval. Motion to table HDC #18-2014 until detailed plans are submitted was made by Mr. Hendrickson and seconded by Mr. Marotta. Motion passed unanimously.

- B. There were no additional items of Old Business.

### V. New Business

- A. The Al Bigonia Living Trust of 2011 is seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for exterior renovations on property located at 10 Pemberton Lane, in the Historic Moderate Density (HMD) District, Assessor's Map 10, Lot 151, HDC #08-2015.

Al Bigonia and Dave Haney were present to discuss HDC #08-2015. Four exterior renovations are proposed: (a) to install an egress window in Apt 4A on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor with a ladder to meet insurance requirements; (b) to install a composite handrail on front steps to meet insurance requirements; (c) to replace the current basement door with a flush fiberglass door to insure better security; and (d) to put a balustrade on the back deck rails leading from Apt 4A to the basement for insurance requirements and fire escape.

The Chair asked what type of window would be installed to which Mr. Bigonia replied a vinyl window. Ms. Barry asked about the trim for the balustrade and was informed that it would be wood.

There was then an extended discussion on the placement of the bottom part of the fire escape for Apt 4A which would be located next to a ground floor garage which could also be on fire, the materials of the railing and the balustrade, and the need to replace the basement door with fiberglass.

Motion to approve HDC #08-2015 with the stipulations that the handrail be a pipe handrail and that the balustrade be made of wood was made by Ms. Barry and seconded by Mr. Murray. Motion passed unanimously.

- B. 90 High Street, LLC is seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness to add dormers on property located at 90 High Street, in the Business Historic (BH) District, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 218, HDC #09-2015.

Tom Bascom and Tim Bascom were present to discuss HDC #09-2015. The proposed renovations included the following: (a) to add two dormers, both in the front and back; (b) to remold the upstairs apartment including two interior staircases; (c) to remold the business in the cellar; (d) to add three bathrooms, one kitchen, and remold the front door and staircase. Mr. Tom Bascom said that the dormers would be added to the third floor; ultimately he would like his company to buy the entire building and add dormers to the entire third floor. Mr. Tim Bascom and Mr. Tom Bascom took turns describing the two options available for remodeling the upstairs apartment; the first option offered more room and was closest to the existing structure; the second option was more ornate and would enhance the building's look.

There was extensive discussion among the Commissioners concerning the two options. Motion to approve Option #1 on HDC #09-2015 was made by Ms. Barry and seconded by Ms. DeSantis. Motion passed 4-1; Mr. Murray voted against.

- C. Dan Brown & Karleen Shibbal are seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness to build a new home on property located at 18 Emery Street, in the Residential Single Family-A, with a Historic Overlay (R1AH) District, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 165, HDC #10-2015.

In the absence of any petitioners to discuss HDC #10-2015, motion to table HDC #10-2015 was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Ms. DeSantis. Motion passed unanimously.

- D. There was no additional New Business.

## VI. Workshop Business

There was no Workshop Business.

## VII. Communications and Miscellaneous

- A. Ms. DeSantis asked the Chair to investigate the status of alternate member Julie Rowe who has not attended any meetings in a long time.
- B. Mr. Metivier explained the reason that the Buy, Sell, Trade shop was allowed to replace its existing wall-mounted sign: by city ordinance since it doesn't cover 50% or more of its window grate, and is not neon but internally lit.
- C. Mr. Hendrickson asked about the sign at the corner of High Street which blocks the signs of business; was it a Gateway sign or a Historic District sign? Mr. Metivier would investigate.
- D. Mr. Metivier mentioned that he thought it ironic that although Mr. Brown is facing time constraints on the construction of his new home, he nevertheless did not make it to tonight's HDC meeting when he could have received an approval thus helping to ease his time constraints.

#### VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:37 P.M. was made by Ms. Barry and seconded by Ms. DeSantis. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Pius Charles Murray*

(Mr.) Pius Charles Murray, M.L.S., M.P.A.  
Commissioner/Secretary

Adopted as amended at the HDC Regular Meeting on 22 July 2015

N.B. An audio recording of this HDC Workshop is available. Please note that when microphones are used, voices are much clearer. Please remember to use your microphone for best recording. == PCM