

SOMERSWORTH HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 28, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Laura Barry-Chair, Richard Brooks, George Poulin, Kimberly Shoen, Timothy Metivier-Alternate, Elizabeth Nguyen-Alternate, Paul Goodwin, and Adam Young

EXCUSED MEMBERS:

STAFF PRESENT: Michelle Mears, Director of Planning and Community Development

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Approval of the minutes of the meetings:

a. January 25, 2024 Workshop Meeting Minutes

Mr. Metevier MOVED to APPROVE the meeting minutes of 12/27/2023 as submitted.

The MOTION was SECONDED by Ms. Barry.

The MOTION CARRIED 7-0-0.

b. January 25, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Brooks MOVED to APPROVE the meeting minutes of 12/27/2023 as submitted.

The MOTION was SECONDED by Mr. Metivier

The MOTION CARRIED 6-0-1, with Mr. Goodwin abstaining.

2. Projects of Minimal Impact Report.

25 Grand Street, in the Historic Moderate Density (HMD) District, Assessor's Map 11 Lot 16, HDC#05-2024. Application for in-kind roof repairs was **approved**.

3. Public comments by visitors.

a. There were none. Ms. Barry welcomed Paul Goodwin to the board.

4. OLD BUSINESS

a. Any old business to come before the Board.

Mr. Metevier asked for an update on a property on 24 Maple Street and was told Code Enforcement is addressing the issue. Ms. Mears reviewed records of permits approved and where things stand. Mr. Metevier agreed to suspend further discussion until approvals can be reviewed.

All voted in favor of having City staff research issue.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Cynthia White/Ali Kalem are seeking a certificate of appropriateness for installed windows on a property located at 2 Main Street, in the Business (BH) District with Historic Overlay, Assessor's Map 11 Lot 202, HDC#03-2024.**

Cynthia White addressed the Board and explained they used existing frame openings and custom-made windows for the project. The windows have already been installed and they are seeking after - work approval at this point.

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Discussion occurred about this being a prior sun porch that was screened in during COVID to be classified as outside dining and now the proposal is to make it a fully enclosed, heated, all-season space.

Ms. Barry stated no objection and Mr. Brooks stated no objection.

Note: these modifications are not visible from a public road which makes a difference from some of the Board member's perspectives.

MOTION:

Ms. Barry MOVED that the request of Cynthia White/Ali Kalem for a certificate of appropriateness for installed windows on a property located at 2 Main Street be **APPROVED**.

The MOTION was SECONDED by Mr. Goodwin.

The MOTION CARRIED 6-1-0, with Poulin opposing.

Mr. Poulin expressed concern about the work being done prior to seeking approval.

- b. **Peter Merrill is seeking a certificate of appropriateness to install a dormer on a proposed attic unit on a property located at 86B High Street, in the Business (BH) District with Historic Overlay, Assessor's Map 11 Lot 217, HDC#04-2024.**

Peter Merrill addressed the Board and said he wants the dormer to be located on the front of the building despite the drawings submitted with the request showing the dormer to be located on the back.

Mr. Goodwin and Mr. Brooks noted they would want the dormer to look like what is already on the building beside it.

Merrill then stated that the plan was to have the dormer look like the one nearby on an adjacent building, however, the plans show a much different style.

Several members of the board including Mr. Brooks noted that they were not willing to grant approvals for things that are significantly different than what is shown in the request for approval.

The applicant was given the option of tabling the project to come back before the Board with more detail and correct information on plan for the location as well as the style to be constructed.

Merrill asked to table his application.

MOTION: Mr. Brooks MOVED that the application of Peter Merrill be **TABLED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:**

To provide the following:

1. A drawing of the proposed dormer roof;
2. A drawing of placement on the roof and where that falls on the façade
3. An exact detail of materials used; and
4. Plans and details for the fire escape, if one is proposed.

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The MOTION was SECONDED by Mr. Goodwin.

The MOTION CARRIED 7-0-0.

- c. **Mark Cross is seeking a certificate of appropriateness for a deck replacement on a property located at 9-11 Beacon Street, in the Historic Moderate Density (HMD) District, Assessor's Map 11 Lot 76, HDC#06-2024.**

Mark Cross was present to represent the application. He answered questions from the Board.

Ms. Nguyen indicated she would like to see balusters come up above and have finished tops as the current deck does rather than have a flat top flush with the top of the railing as seems to be proposed.

Mr. Poulin proposed the condition that the deck be will be stained by the end of summer.

MOTION:

Ms. Shoen MOVED that the request of Mark Cross for a certificate of appropriateness for a deck replacement on a property located at 9-11 Beacon Street be APPROVED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

1. For the deck to be stained or painted within 6 months.

The MOTION was SECONDED by Mr. Goodwin.

The MOTION CARRIED 7-0-0.

6. WORKSHOP BUSINESS

- a. Mr. Metevier addressed Historic plaque signs and confirmed their size and that they will be made out of Azek. He stated his agreement that the Summersworth Historical Society will manage the funding.

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS

Ms. Mears noted a request for a re-permit for a window replacement on Lincoln St.

Mr. Metevier noted the grills from inside some windows have fallen out. He stated the Board had asked for the grills to be mounted inside to preserve the older window look, but they have failed and now look terrible. He says if other ideas come before the Board, they should be considered.

Mr. Metevier also noted Grove Street has a “telephone pole forest”. He asked whether there are options for getting rid of old ones?

Ms. Mears noted that this has been brought up at the City Council level. They are working with utility.

Ms. Barry discussed the need for a Historic Plaque Program meeting at 6PM before the next HDC meeting.

Mr. Poulin said they didn't refill the paving around a storm grate on Grove Street. He said it's been 2 years now and it's quite loud when it is driven over.

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Mr. Goodwin asked about the Plaque Program, specifically, where plaques will be located. Mr. Metivier noted the plaques will be street facing and the rear front entrance is a suggestion not a requirement. Mr. Goodwin requested that the program have formal guidelines.

MOTION: Mr. Metivier MOVED to adjourn the meeting.
The MOTION was SECONDED by Mr. Poulin.
The MOTION CARRIED 7-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly A. Shoen

S/ Kimberly Shoen