

Somersworth Historic District Commission Meeting

Wednesday, August 28th, 2019

In Attendance:

Laura Barry, Chair
Lindsey Gagnon, Vice Chair
George Poulin, Commissioner
Matt Gerding, Commissioner
Ed Levasseur, City Councilor
Tim Metivier, Building Inspector

Absent:

Pius Charles Murray, Secretary

Petitioners Present:

Kimberly A. Shoen
Marcia Brown

Called to Order: 7:00pm

1. Approval of prior meeting minutes:
 - a. Mr. Poulin made a motion to accept, and Mr. Levasseur seconded. Minutes accepted
2. Projects of Minimal Impact
 - a. Mr. Metivier explained that the application of Travis Nason, of 50 Grove Street, was approved to construct a fence.
3. Public Comments By Visitor:
 - a. None
4. Old Business
 - a. None
5. New Business
 - a. Kimberly A. Shoen of 125 High Street, HDC #30-2019
 - i. Mr. Metivier explained the project, and reiterated that this project was not for mansard roof, nor the dormers to mansard, but for the flat roof only at the very top of the house.
 - ii. Ms. Barry explains the discussion from the last meeting and the time sensitive nature of the project.
 - iii. Ms. Shoen was requested last week to address the small fence feature around the top of building, and explained that it was a 1970's or 1980's feature. It was

Present in the 1986 pictures in packet. She was able to find a contractor in VT that manufactures and sells similar features. Contractor recommended that they do not attach the feature at the corners – can go close, but they do not make them to attach at corners. Contractor decided that the current feature is past its time, not able to be saved, and was designed specifically for slate style roof. Thus, a new feature would be needed.

- iv. Mr. Poulin asked the color of the new feature, to which Ms. Shoen said it would be stainless steel.
- v. Mr. Levasseur asked that Ms. Shoen describe the feature more because the picture of the snow fence feature wasn't clear. Ms. Shoen said that it was made of four feet spaced brackets, same style as current. The pieces will be cut at length to get it to the corners. Many companies recommend dart-like roof items, and some companies did not believe it was necessary for the house. Mr. Gerding asked for the reason the companies did not recommend the snow fence feature, and if there was a disadvantages to it, to which Ms. Shoen said that Somersworth doesn't get the immense amounts of snow that would make it necessary. Mr. Levasseur explained that the snow fence feature is listed as a defining feature in the HDC survey documents about the home.
- vi. Mr. Levasseur made a motion to approve application as submitted with amendment that the snow fence feature must be installed as submitted, to which Mr. Poulin seconded.
- vii. Mr. Metivier and Ms. Barry thanked Ms. Shoen for her preservation of the home.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

- b. Marcia Brown of 20 Noble Street, HDC#31-2019
 - i. Mr. Metivier explained the project, and explained that the homeowner wanted to match in-kind with similar style and material.
 - ii. Ms. Brown explained that rain is coming inside windows of the bay window, because the roof has failed. Her intent is to not change any architectural features, and said that any wood that can be maintained will be. Also explained that any wood that needs replacement will be replaced with cellular-PVC – a material that mimics wood but holds paint better and does not mold.
 - iii. Ms. Brown also brought an amendment that included a request to remove the trees that are compromising the foundation of the house, a request to repair any foundation damage, and a request to replace the garage door. Ms. Barry explained that the foundation work would constitute a repair, and may not require a submission to the HDC.
 - iv. Ms. Brown explained the specifics of the different projects, including replacing and repairing the bay windows by either using and repairing any wood that can be saved, and replacing with identical cellular pvc. She also explained that they would replace the foundation of the bay windows to allow for better ventilation, and that they would also be replacing the roofs and drip edges of

the bay windows with copper. HDC members expressed that they were pleased with the repairs and replacements being discussed.

- v. Ms. Brown explained that she would like to replace her windows with the most energy efficient windows as possible, but has not yet selected specific windows. Would be looking for more modern windows, and would likely use vinyl. She explained that she would keep the replacement windows identical in appearance.
- vi. Ms. Brown also explained that the replacement garage door would be made of fiber glass and would be identical in appearance to the current garage door.
- vii. Mr. Levasseur made a motion to approve as the application as presented with the amendments that the broken windows be replaced with windows that have matching grill patterns, and that are approved to be vinyl, and to include the amendment to replace the garage door with fiber glass and identical in appearance as existing. Mr. Poulin seconded.

Motion Passed Unanimously

- 6. Any other New Business
 - a. None
- 7. Closing comments By Visitors
 - a. None
- 8. Workshop Business:
 - a. Mr. Levasseur explained that the new ordinances were approved. He was happy that we continue to put in the time and effort to preserve our city's historic buildings. Ms. Barry explained that two edits were asked for, one in regards to the engineering report for demolition, and the second was about having a third person added for the approval of minimal impacts.
 - b. Ms. Barry said that she will be reaching out to the Cemetery Commission to find out when they will be doing more cemetery headstone cleanings.
- 9. Communications and Miscellaneous
 - a. Mr. Metivier recently attended a workshop with multiple communities, DAS, DHHS, and various housing authority personnel on lead removal and lead abatement. Will be following up with two more workshop gatherings – goal will be how to abate lead in our Historic District.
 - b. Mr. Gerding hoped the community had a happy first day of school.
 - c. Mr. Gerding also warned of break-ins in the Historic District, and alerted members of the community to be safe and lock their doors.

Adjournment: Ms. Gagnon made a motion to adjourn at 8:16pm, Mr. Poulin seconded.

Minutes taken by Matt Gerding