



## *Somersworth Historic District Commission*

One Government Way  
Somersworth, NH 03878

Minutes of Regular Meeting on 19 December 2019 at 7:00pm: First Draft

### **Present:**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Title/Role</u></b>
Laura Barry	Chair
Lindsey Gagnon	Vice-Chair
Edward Levasseur	City Councilor
Matt Gerding	Commissioner
George Poulin	Commissioner
Tim Metivier	Building Inspector
Pius Charles Murray	Secretary

### **Petitioners Present:**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>HDC Petition #</u></b>

### **Members of the Public in attendance:**

Richard Brooks  
William Poole

### **Agenda & Minutes**

**I. Call to Order:** At 7:00pm by the Chair.

## **II. Approval of previous minutes:**

<b><u>Motion</u></b>	<b><u>1st</u></b>	<b><u>2nd</u></b>	<b><u>Decision</u></b>
Approve workshop minutes of 11/26/2019 as amended	Mr. Murray	Ms. Gagnon	Adopted unanimously
Approve regular mtg minutes of 11/26/2019 as submitted	Mr. Murray	Mr. Gerding	Adopted unanimously

## **III. Projects of Minimal Impact:**

Mr. Metivier reported that in October 2019 three projects of minimal impact had been approved as follows:

1. Kimberly A. Shoen, 125 High Street, in the Residential/Business with a Historic Overlay (R/BH) District, Assessor's Map 10, Lot 148, HDC #36-2019. **Application to repair deck and stairs was approved.**
2. Alexander Reynolds, 28 Maple Street, in the Residential Single Family/A with a Historic Overlay (R1AH) District, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 147, HDC #40-2019. **Application to re-roof existing roof was approved.**
3. Christina Cullen, 16 Winter Street, in the Residential Single Family/A with a Historic Overlay (R1AH) District, Assessor's Map 11, Lot 178, HDC #35-2019. **Application to re-shingle the back of the barn with cedar shingle was approved.**

## **IV. Comments by Visitors:** There were none.

## **V. Old Business:**

A. The Chair introduced the Director of Development Services's request for \$900 for the HDC to be able to apply for Historic New England program grants. The Chair called for the HDC to approve the request.

### **Motion to Approve Request for \$900**

<b><u>Motion</u></b>	<b><u>First</u></b>	<b><u>Second</u></b>	<b><u>Decision</u></b>
To approve the request for \$900 submitted by Ms. Saunders as submitted	Mr. Murray	Ms. Gagnon	Adopted unanimously

B. Any other old business that may come before the Commission.

## **VI. New Business:**

A. Green Rock Investments, LLC is seeking a certificate of appropriateness to install new siding on a property located at 14 Mt. Vernon Street, in the Historic Moderate Density (HMD) District, Assessor's Map 10, Lot 139, HDC #47-2019.

Petitioners Present: Humberto Andrade and Anderson Denton.

Discussion: According to Mr. Metivier the project involved encapsulating the existing siding with 4 ½' clapboard style premium grade charter oak vinyl siding by Alside. The existing corners will be retained. The siding will be installed over the existing field of siding. The fascia board, rake with custom bent contoured white aluminum capping and soffits covered with new white soffit panels. The front entry and side open porch will be retained.

Mr. Andrade explained that the property was covered with asbestos which had to be removed to make it habitable. It will be covered by blue vinyl siding.

Mr. Gerding asked if the side of the barn would also be covered with vinyl. Mr. Andrade replied that the barn was wood. There was considerable discussion about the reason for encapsulation. The Chair said that it was very rare. Mr. Denton stated that the reason was to encapsulate the asbestos shingles. The Chair then turned the discussion to the clapboard. To the Chair's query how the clapboard's corner would project out, Mr. Denton replied that the project would use j-channels.

The introduction of the use of j-channels prompted extensive discussion and investigation of alternatives. Mr. Poulin said that this was an 1850s home for which vinyl may not be appropriate; he recommended painting the clapboard. The Chair asked for informational purposes only how much more expensive removing the asbestos and painting the original siding would cost. Mr. Metivier replied that it would be exponentially more expensive than the proposed project.

Decision: Motion to deny HDC #47-2019 was made by Councilor Levasseur and seconded by Mr. Poulin.

### **To Deny HDC #47-2019 by hand**

<b><u>Vote "Yes"</u></b>	<b><u>Vote "No"</u></b>	<b><u>Abstain</u></b>
Councilor Levasseur	Ms. Gagnon	Ms. Barry
Mr. Poulin	Mr. Gerding	
	Mr. Murray	
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>

The Chair announced that the motion to deny HDC #47-2019 was defeated by a vote of 2-3 with one abstention. The discussion then turned to consideration of alternatives.

Mr. Gerding inquired if the petitioners would be open to any alternatives. Mr. Andrade responded that they would have to check the condition of the asbestos. Mr. Denton added that there could be nails holding the asbestos in place. Mr. Gerding then asked if any asbestos tubes were broken, to which Mr.

Metivier replied that there had been a cement fix. The Chair said that the vinyl with j-channels was not appropriate for the neighborhood. It is virtually impossible to know if everything underneath had rotted. Seeing the asbestos painted was not appropriate for the neighborhood.

**Decision:** Motion to Table HDC #47-2019 with the agreement of the petitioners and with the stipulation that a decision concerning the side corner boards be discussed and an example of the window wrap be presented was made by the Chair and seconded by Ms. Gagnon. **Motion was adopted unanimously.**

B. Any other new business that may come before the Commission.

## **VII. Closing Comments by Visitors:**

Mr. Books thanked the Commission for its serious deliberation over HDC #47-2019; he gave an illustration of the success of painting an entire house with a similar issue as that of the petitioners of HDC #47-2019.

## **VIII. Workshop Business:**

A. The Chair stated that there is an error in the recently enacted City Ordinance for the Historic District. The Chair also reported that there may be others. Councilor Levasseur recommended packaging all the proposed corrections into one presentation before the City Council otherwise it would leave a bad impression of a sloppy job done. Ms. Gagnon said that all the corrections could be before the City Council in January 2020.

B. Any other Workshop Business.

## **VIII. Communications & Miscellaneous**

A. The Chair wished everyone Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

B. Any other Communications and Miscellaneous.

## **X Adjournment:**

<b><u>Motion</u></b>	<b><u>1st</u></b>	<b><u>2nd</u></b>	<b><u>Decision</u></b>
To adjourn at 8:20pm	Councilor Levasseur	Ms. Gagnon	Adopted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Pius Charles Murray*  
(Mr.) Pius Charles Murray  
Secretary

