

Somersworth HDC Meeting Minutes

Aug 26, 2020

Laura called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Laura read the NH State Covid-19 electronic meeting authorization.

Laura called the roll,

Name	Present	Location
Charles	Not Present	N/A
George	Yes	Video
Laura	Yes	Council Chambers
Lindsey	Yes	Video
Matt	Yes	Video
Richard	Yes	Council Chambers
William	Yes	Video

Other Meeting Attendees	Location
Mr. Metivier (Building Inspector)	Council Chambers
Jeff Pratt	Video
Sherry Pratt	Video

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Richard made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Matt.

Name	Vote
George	Yes
Laura	Yes
Lindsey	Yes
Matt	Yes
Richard	Yes
William	Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

Projects of Minimal Impact

Mr. Metivier reported there were no projects of Minimal Impact.

Public Comments by Visitors

There were no public comments.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

A) 28 Linden St, HDC #29-2020

The applicant was not present and did not appear as an online participant.

Mr. Metivier provided a project summary and past history for the property.

Richard noted the chimneys appear to have been removed and questioned if they will be retained during the roof repair.

Mr. Metivier and Laura explained that the chimneys would fall under the roof application that was previously approved as minimal impact. The application on the agenda does not extend to the features on the roof, only the gutters and related trim.

George asked for more detail about the material of the gutters.

Matt discussed the original wooden gutters and their historical uses.

George made a motion to deny the application due to no applicant available to discuss the application and answer questions related to the product. William seconded the motion.

Name	Vote
George	Yes
Laura	Yes
Lindsey	Yes
Matt	Yes
Richard	Yes
William	Yes

Motion to deny passed unanimously.

Mr. Metivier noted that all present HDC members must sign the application denial in person and asked that members come to City Hall in the next several days to sign the denial.

B) 17 Noble St, HDC #31-2020

Mr. Metivier provided a project summary and past history of the property.

George noted that he is in favor of the application due to the use of replacement windows.

Matt agreed with George and would also be in favor.

Richard noted that from personal experience replacement windows do have the drawbacks of reducing the amount of light and could still be drafty if pockets around the window are not insulated properly and would prefer seeing original windows be rebuilt, but would not vote against the application.

George noted that the grilles are shown to be located between the layers of glass

George made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Matt.

Name	Vote
George	Yes
Laura	Yes
Lindsey	Yes
Matt	Yes
Richard	Yes
William	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

C) 4 Grand St, HDC# 32-2020

Tim provided a project summary and history of the property.

Jeff and Sherry Pratt were both in attendance and provided more details about the project.

Laura asked about the steps material and for more detail about the location and end points of the walls.

Mr. Pratt described the position and end points of the proposed walls.

Matt asked what style paver would be used for the walkways.

Mrs. Pratt noted they are proposing using a manufactured paver that resembles cobblestones.

Richard asked for details about the blocks to be used for the wall construction.

Mr. Pratt described using a four block pattern to mimic the house foundation.

Richard asked if any of the product sheet and pictures show the block to be used.

Mr. Pratt noted the pictures show the design concept but do not show the actual block material used.

Richard asked if the proposed blocks would all look like the same or would they vary in size and appearance.

Mr. Pratt noted that they are planning on using 4 differently sized and shaped blocks to construct the walls. The goal being to keep the historic look and prevent the mass produced repeating block look.

George noted that the Pratt's have always maintained the "Bate's House" as it is known.

Mrs. Pratt stated that they want to keep the historic appearance and try to keep all elements that contribute to the historic look of the neighborhood.

Mr. Pratt shared an example picture of the 4 block wall.

Richard noted that after seeing that picture, he is in full support of approving this proposal.

Laura asked if the porch columns would be altered in any way.

Mr. Pratt stated that the columns and porch would not be altered during the project.

Richard thanked the Pratt's for maintaining the building and property as they have.

Richard made the motion to approve the application with the inclusion of the picture showing the blocks to be used in the wall construction.

Mr. Metivier asked that the applicant to provide the planning department with a copy of the picture shown at tonight's meeting to compliment the application if approved during the vote.

The motion was seconded by George.

Name	Vote
George	Yes
Laura	Yes
Lindsey	Yes
Matt	Yes
Richard	Yes
William	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Laura asked the applicants if they would consider serving on the HDC considering their appreciation of the Historic District.

The Pratt's stated they would give it some thought.

Workshop Business

Matt suggested that we also reach out the Pratt's about having their house featured on the HDC website page.

Laura asked if Richard would like to continue handling the featured houses and other public outreach efforts for the HDC.

Richard stated he looks forward to continuing that effort.

Communications and Miscellaneous

Mr. Metivier provided an update about the stone retaining wall just completed at 28 Linden St. The wall was constructed of fieldstone and was very well constructed.

Richard agreed that it was well done and stated that there is a second new stone wall just downhill on the same side, but tough to notice with the trees, and should be very noticeable this fall once the trees shed their leaves.

Mr. Metivier noted that that wall was not anticipated by the applicant, but later realized the driveway would need a wall to provide a more level driveway.

Mr. Metivier stated that two notices of violations had been issued within the Historic District. One at the corner of High and Winter Streets and another on Winter St. Both were for no building permit and no approval by the HDC.

George made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Lindsey.

Name	Vote
George	Yes
Laura	Yes
Lindsey	Yes
Matt	Yes
Richard	Yes
William	Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:57pm

Submitted by Richard Brooks