

SOMERSWORTH Historic District Commission
MINUTES OF MEETING
November 23rd, 2021

**MEMBERS PRESENT: Matthew Gerding-City Council Rep., Laura Barry-Chair,
Richard Brooks-Vice-Chair, George Poulin, Lindsey Gagnon-Secretary, Tim Monahan**

Excused Members: Adam Young

STAFF PRESENT: Tim Metivier, Code Enforcement Officer

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

1. Approval of October 27th, 2021 meeting minutes.
 - a. Motion: Mr. Poulin MOVED to accept the minutes
 - b. The MOTION is SECONDED by Mr. Gerding
 - c. The MOTION CARRIED by a 6-0-0 vote
2. Projects of Minimal Impact Report.
 - a. 141-143 High Street, in the Residential/Business with Historic Overlay (R/BH) District, Assessor's Map 10 Lot 143, HDC#19-2021. Application to re-roof was approved.
 - b. 125 High Street, in the Residential/Business with Historic Overlay (R/BH) District, Assessor's Map 10 Lot 148, HDC#20-2021. Application to re-roof was approved.
 - c. 30 Market Street, in the Business with Historic Overlay (BH) District, Assessor's Map 11 Lot 183, HDC#22-2021. Application to re-roof was approved.
 - d. 2-6 Main Street, in the Business with Historic Overlay (BH) District, Assessor's Map 11 Lot 202, HDC#23-2021. Application to replace existing rooftop unit was approved.
 - e. 2 Main Street, in the Business with Historic Overlay (BH) District, Assessor's Map 11 Lot 202, HDC#21-2021. Application to reface existing sign was approved.
3. Public comments by visitors.
 - a. No comments were received via mail, email or phone. None were in person.
4. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. **MacKenzie Ventures, INC, is seeking a revision to the certificate of appropriateness to construct a new single-family, cape-style home on a property located at 56 Winter Street, in the Residential Single Family/A with Historic Overlay, Assessor's Map 11 Lot 173 4A, HDC#21- 2020**
 - i. Steve MacKenzie came in attendance.

- ii. Mr. Metivier read the letter submitted by Mr. MacKenzie which described the issues that occurred during the project. The windows that were installed are the wrong style window. He ordered the larger trim style window based on the conditions specified at the last HDC meeting. In addition there was J-Channel discovered around the bulk head and the freeze board and was not supposed to. The manufacturer of the home stated that the J-Channel was the only way to attach the siding in these areas.
- iii. Mrs. Barry questioned what the manufacturer of the house has said regarding the windows. Mr. MacKenzie stated that when he asked the manufacturer about the windows they said that the windows ordered they could not get due to COVID related issues. The other concern Mr. MacKenzie has is if the window are replaced that they will have to tear into a brand new house.
- iv. Mr. Gerding did also noted that it looks as though the door has J-Channel and should not. Additionally the corner boards appear to be the same sizes as the incorrect window trim size.
- v. Mr. Brooks suggested the even if just the front window trim is corrected at minimum would be a compromise.
- vi. Mr. Poulin asked about the addition of the cellar windows. Mr. MacKenzie noted that the windows were added to try and break up the look of concrete a bit.
- vii. Ms. Gagnon noted that the current issues regarding communication and supply due to COVID is a real struggle from her experience. She agrees that the front facing windows and other related trim items are more important than the other sides.
- viii. Mrs. Barry suggested the decision be tabled to give the applicant time to question the manufacturer about what can be done to fix the issues.
- ix. The decision was tabled to next meeting.
- b. No other old business.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Somedowntown LLC, is seeking a certificate of appropriateness to replace windows on a property located at 60-64 High Street, in the Business with Historic Overlay (BH) District, Assessor's Map 11 Lot 214, HDC#25-2021**
 - i. David Baker is present for the meeting. The transom is being replaced along with the 6 over 6 window or 4 over 4 depending on the size of the window to match what is existing. This will be to replace all the windows in the building.
 - ii. Mr. Gerding suggested we add the windows on the side of the building as the applicant mentioned they may need those replaced as well.
 - iii. Discussion went back and forth regarding what windows to add to the application, but it was noted that the third story top transom windows are original to the building so it may not be preferred to replace them. The first story, store front windows, would also not need to be included. It was decided that the front windows needs more research done on what was truly the original transom configuration.

- iv. The application was officially amended to include the side windows along with the back windows for replacement of like kind.
- v. Motion: Mr. Brooks MOVED to accept the application as amended.
- vi. The MOTION is SECONDED by Mr. Gerding
- vii. Motion Passes 6-0-0 vote
- b. No other new business.

6. WORKSHOP BUSINESS

- a. CLG Grant update on speakers and dates of the workshops:
 - i. 2/23/22 6:00pm in Council Chambers – Elizabeth Paliga of Historic New England – Energy Conservation Retrofitting Old Homes
 - ii. March 2022 – Leigh Shoberth of Historic New England – lecture about exterior paint colors
 - iii. April or May 2022 – Jennifer Robins of Historic New England – Old House Do's and Don'ts
 - iv. Additionally the planning office staff has reached out to Christine Pappas about making marketing materials for the events.
- b. The storybook map was discussed. The committee needs to work on getting a list of homes that would be good to feature if the home owners are willing. It was decided that at the next meeting this would be discussed to form a committee to do so.
- c. No street sign updates yet. May find out more after budget season ends.

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS

- a. 45 Market Street Alarm Update – Mr. Metivier had nothing to report other than he has tried to reach out to the contractor and they have not returned calls or emails.
- b. New restaurant opened at the old train station.
- c. Somersworth/Berwick Holiday Parade 12/3/21 at 1:30pm

8. Adjournment

- a. MOTION: To adjourn made by Mr. Gerding
- b. The MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Brooks
- c. The MOTION CARRIED by a 6-0 vote.
- d. The meeting adjourned at 6:20PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Lindsey Gagnon