

# **Somersworth Historic District Commission**

## **July 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Members Present; Mrs. Barry, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Poulin, Mr. Gerding, Mr. Metivier, Mrs. Shoen.

City Staff Present; Mrs. Mears.

Members Absent; Mr. Monahan, Mr. Young.

Mrs. Barry called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Mrs. Barry announced the HDC needs to hold an election for Secretary due to Mrs. Gagnon's resignation.

Mr. Metivier nominated Mr. Brooks.

Mr. Brooks asked if he could hold two positions being the current Vice Chair.

Mrs. Barry noted that is not allowed.

Mr. Brooks relinquished his position as Vice-Chair.

Motion passed 6-0.

Mrs. Barry nominated Mrs. Shoen for Vice-Chair.

Mr. Poulin second the motion.

Motion passed 6-0.

### **APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES**

Mr. Brooks noted several clerical errors in the minutes.

The board discussed proper wording and corrected them.

Mr. Brooks made the motion to accept the minutes as corrected.

Mr. Metivier seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0-1 with Mr. Gerding abstaining.

### **PROJECTS OF MINIMAL IMPACT**

Mrs. Mears reported two projects,

- 1) 79 Noble St was approved for Gas Service installation.

- 2) 15 Maple St was approved for a roof mounted solar array.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was none.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mrs. Mears read a message from Mr. Derosier from 17 Highland St. asking for an adjustment to the HDC decision concerning the deadline for painting of his previously approved fire egress.

Mr. Brooks noted that the board usually allows a full year rather than the shorter time frame that was approved and made the motion to approve a deadline of Sept 1, 2023.

Mr. Gerding seconded the motion.

Motion passed 6-0.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A) Jacqueline Kerrigan, 117-119 High St, HDC #14-2022**

Charles Kerrigan provided an overview of the proposed project.

Discussion focused three aspects of the project.

- 1) The removal of 3 chimneys with 3 faux chimneys to be installed as a replacement.
- 2) The installation of several mini split mechanical units and where they would be placed exactly. Concerns were expressed about the placement off them on the porch/deck areas possibly in the walking path of the tenants and the probability of tenants placing items on or around them potentially restricting the air flow. The board also discussed whether they should be screened with some sort of railing to hide and protect them.
- 3) The placement of vent ducts for gas hot water heaters.

Mr. Gerding made a motion to approve the project with two conditions, that three faux chimneys are constructed, the water heater vents be placed on a non frontage side of the building.

Mr. Metivier offered an amendment to require the mini split supply lines be painted to match the surface they are attached to in an effort to help blend them into the building.

Mrs. Shoen seconded the motion.

The motion passed 6-0.

#### **B) Knox Marsh Development, 149 High St, HDC #15-2022**

Robert Baldwin provided an overview of the proposed project.

Mr. Gerding recused himself as an abutter.

Discussion focused on which windows would be replaced and what portion of the window would be wrapped with aluminum.

Mr. Brooks made a motion to approve the project as presented.

Mrs. Shoen seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Gerding rejoined the Board.

**C) Narin Frichittavong, 125 Main St, HDC #16-2022**

Mr. Frichittavong provided an overview of the proposed project.

The discussion focused on the sign shape and placement. Several members noted that the sign should be placed on the marquee and not extend above that if wall mounted. Several members also favored installing a two sided hanging sign supported by an iron bracket.

All members favored the installation of the barber pole.

Mr. Metivier made a motion to approve the application allowing the applicant the option to place a wall mounted sign on the marquee without extending above or below it or as a projecting two sided sign installed above the marquee with an iron bracket painted black.

Mr. Gerding seconded the motion.

The motion passed 6-0.

**WORKSHOP BUSINESS**

There were none.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND MISC**

Mr. Gerding noted that the City Council had recently approved a Historic Marker for the Hilltop School.

Mr. Brooks commented on the property at 1 Winter St that has just had a second RFP issued, and was concerned that the Form Based Codes that were recently enacted only regulates the number of stories and the set back from the road. He noted that there are many more aspects that could have been regulated such as requiring brick construction to help preserve the existing streetscape of our historic downtown.

Mr. Poulin expressed disappointment with some of the comments by the ZBA concerning the property at 56 Winter St. and believes one ZBA member owes the HDC an apology. Mrs. Barry agreed. Mr. Brooks also questioned the procedure of that same meeting.

Mr. Poulin made the motion to adjourn.

Mr. Brooks seconded the motion.

Motion passed 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46pm.

Submitted by

Richard Brooks, HDC Secretary