

Somersworth Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2023

Members Present: Mrs. Barry, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Gerding, Mr. Metivier, Ms. Shoen.

City Staff Present: Mrs. Mears.

Members Absent: Mr. Monahan, Mr. Poulin, Mr. Young.

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

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

Mr. Brooks made the motion to accept the 02-22-23 HDC meeting minutes as presented.

Ms. Shoen seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Brooks made a motion to accept the 03-08-23 subcommittee meeting minutes as presented.

Ms. Shoen seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0.

PROJECTS OF MINIMAL IMPACT

Mrs. Mears reported there were no projects of minimal impact.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

OLD BUSINESS

There were none.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Joe and Mary Boucher, 90 Noble St. HDC #08-2023

Mrs. Mears noted the proposal is for installing vinyl siding, wrapping the trim, eaves and rakes with aluminum, and adding PVC trim above the windows.

Joseph and Mary Boucher stated they initially planned to re-side the building with hardy board and repaint the trim, but due to costs and inability to find a willing painter, they have reconsidered and are now proposing to utilize the vinyl siding with aluminum wrap for all trim.

Mr. Metivier asked for clarification concerning what was approved prior to this proposal.

Mrs. Boucher noted the prior proposal needed the Applicant to provide an example of the trim detail and they could not get the contractor to supply that piece. They then found the cost to apply the additional trim would increase the overall project beyond their ability to afford the project. The proposal now is to apply vinyl siding and wrap the trim with aluminum.

Mr. Brooks asked if the project would use J-channel to terminate the siding at and along the trim, noting the existing trim does not currently have a way to integrate with the siding material.

Mrs. Boucher stated she was not familiar with the terms and parts involved to describe how this would be applied.

Mr. Metivier provided some explanation concerning the application and how the various materials would work together.

Mrs. Boucher stated she would have to speak with the contractor to get those answers. She also asked if it would be safe to assume the contractor would know what to do having completed other work within the Historic District.

Mr. Metivier noted there are many variables from one building to another and could not assume such.

Mrs. Barry asked if the applicant would consider tabling the proposal to allow the contractor to answer the questions concerning the application of the siding and aluminum.

Mrs. Boucher asked if it would be possible to get a list of the questions that would need to be answered.

Mrs. Barry stated they would provide questions.

Mrs. Barry asked if they were going to wrap the roof structure over the front door.

Mr. Gerding inquired about how the porch columns and roof structure would be addressed.

Mr. Brooks offered a suggestion of using a material such as hardy board to re-trim the building to help eliminate the need for J-channel.

Mr. Gerding asked if it would be possible to bring the contractor to the next meeting to help answer questions.

Mrs. Boucher did not believe the contractor would be able to attend the next meeting.

Mrs. Barry asked if the contractor had indicated their plan should they discover rotted trim that couldn't be wrapped in aluminum.

Mr. Metivier referenced the historical survey of the building and noted that the only feature that had so far diminished the historical integrity was the replacement of a door. The proposal as presented

could diminish the integrity much more if not applied properly and that would be contrary to the HDC intent of preserving the Historic District.

Mrs. Barry described the process moving forward comparing the options of tabling the application opposed to making a decision.

Mrs. Mears asked if the gutter installation was still being considered.

Mrs. Boucher said they were not planning on gutters at this time.

Mr. Gerding made a motion to table the application.

Mr. Metivier seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0.

B) PLANO Builders LLC, 5 Noble St. HDC #09-2023

Mrs. Mears noted the applicant had asked to continue the application to the next meeting.

Mr. Metivier made a motion to table the application.

Ms. Shoen seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

WORKSHOP BUSINESS

Mr. Brooks provided a summary of how the Subcommittee developed the Rules of Procedure proposal and outlined a few of the changes as well as noted that some of the sections, such as the Application Procedure, is in the Zoning Ordinance which would need to be removed from the Ordinance by the City Council to avoid having it listed twice. He also explained the proposal is presented in a red line version so that all changes can be seen.

Mr. Gerding offered to provide any ordinance change proposal to the City Council to facilitate the ordinance change.

Mr. Metivier mentioned the letter provided by the Department of Development Services and referenced some changes that should be considered based on their review of the proposal. He stated he would like to have time to review the proposal and then comment on it at the next HDC meeting.

Mr. Brooks outlined the changes suggested by the Department of Development Services and noted that these changes were expected as they were specifically addressing questions the Subcommittee had sent to the Department of Development Services to ensure aspects such as RSA numbers were correct and fees were not incorrect or duplicated.

Mr. Metivier suggested that the changes suggested by the Department of the Development Services be held off until the next meeting so that this meeting would act as the first reading and then at the next meeting the Board could make changes or amendments as needed, just as the City Council conducts business with ordinance proposals.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MISC

The Board discussed the ongoing progression and current status of the 85 Elm St project.

Ms. Shoen made the motion to adjourn.

Mr. Gerding seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Submitted by

Richard Brooks, HDC Secretary

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