

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Workshop –HDC Presentation September 17, 2018 at 6:00pm

Councilors Pepin, Dumont, Vincent, Michaud, and Levasseur were present

Mayor Hilliard opened the workshop at 6:00pm.

Laura Barry, Chair of the HDC, Richard Brooks and Pius Murray presented information regarding the condition and integrity of the Historic properties in Somersworth and updating the HDC Ordinance.

The presentation of Somersworth's Historic Districts is attached and on file.

Councilors asked the following questions after the presentation.

Councilor Witham asked if the Commission plans to increase or decrease the size of the HDC. Ms. Barry said their intention is not to change the size of the HDC at this time.

Councilor Witham asked if the HDC is allowing for lesser requirements for non-conforming buildings. Ms. Barry said that new buildings are not held to the same standard as historical buildings.

Councilor Witham said he can see that maintaining the integrity is important, but there seems to be a conflict with integrity and condition. It is costly to maintain high integrity. The commission has been more understanding. Will this ordinance allow flexibility? Design reviews should be ever changing as materials change.

Councilor Vincent said there seems to be a conflict between procedure of what code will allow, making same for same changes, and the difference between minimal and major impact changes.

Councilor Dumont said there are those who have made a strong effort to maintain integrity and good condition. People who purchase have no idea that there is an HDC.

Ms. Barry said the first step is education. There are grants available through the CLG that will assist them with education, create packets with information about houses and the HDC.

Richard Brooks stated that even if windows are replaced, it decreases the integrity of a historic building.

Mayor Hilliard asked that the HDC format the Ordinance to be on the agenda for the October 15, 2018 City Council Meeting.

Workshop adjourned at 6:35pm

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Harris, City Clerk