



## *Somersworth Historic District Commission*

One Government Way  
Somersworth, NH 03878

Minutes of HDC Workshop on 19 December 2019 at 6:00pm: First Draft

### **Present:**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Title/Role</u></b>
Laura Barry	Chair
Lindsey Gagnon	Vice-Chair
Edward Levasseur	City Councilor
Matt Gerding	Commissioner
George Poulin	Commissioner
Tim Metivier	Building Inspector
Pius Charles Murray	Secretary

### **Members of the Public in attendance:**

Richard Brooks  
William Poole

### **Agenda & Minutes**

**I. Call to Order:** At 6:00pm by the Chair.

### **II. New Business:**

The Chair introduced the topic of the Workshop which concerned the HDC goals for 2020 identified at the previous Regular Meeting on 26 November 2019:

1. **Education.** The Chair reported that the Education goal was moving along fine. The Chair reported furthermore that the Director of Development Services had submitted a request for \$900 to the City Manager for funding several educational programs from Historic New England. Additional discussion included consideration of obtaining sponsorships from local companies for programs of interest to their industries (Mr. Poulin recommended a local brick layer who could offer such a program to discuss walls on historic properties) as well as Lindsey Gagnon’s proposal of approaching Home Depot to offer some of their cards to program participants. Mr. Murray asked if re-institution of the Education & Outreach Subcommittee should be considered; the Chair asked for volunteers. It was re-instituted as follows:

The Education & Outreach Subcommittee

Pius Charles Murray	Chair
Matt Gerding	Member
Lindsey Gagnon	Member

2. **Plaques.** There was considerable discussion concerning eligibility, types, and size. The Chair also wondered if sponsors could be found to help pay for plaques. Additional discussion concerned the material to be used; wood was decided upon by consensus. Mr. Metivier suggested contacting Trophy Plaques in Somersworth to discuss pitch and cost. According to the Chair, these plaques would initially be considered awards; the plaques would be displayed on the houses. The Chair asked the Commission to list some types of awards to be given; the list should be based on what the HDC values in homes in the Historic District. The list included: (1.) top five homes; (2.) Most improved home; (3.) Somersworth Founding Family homes; and (4.) Historic Home of the Year. The Chair asked Ms. Gagnon and Mr. Poulin to serve as coordinators. Mr. Poulin asked if Old Somersworth Survey Maps which the Historical Society has, could be included in the HDC petitions. The Chair said that Mr. Poulin’s suggestion would be investigated.

3. **Signage (particularly for the cemetery on the hill).** Mr. Metivier had mentioned that the signs indicating entrance into the Historic District were so small as to be virtually invisible. This engendered a discussion on signage throughout the Historic District. The Chair recommended that the HDC be much clearer about the signage: its size, placement, and information to be contained. Because Forest Glade is now on the National Historic Register, it could include signage. The consensus of the Commission was also to contact the state to investigate if any of the Historic District was on state property so that it could have state funded signs. Mr. Gerding recommended looking at signage on local streets signs that indicated the street was in the Historic District. The recommended size for signage was 5” x 5”. Mr. Metivier recommended contacting Traffic Safety and Public Works to coordinate placement of signs. The Chair asked Mr. Gerding to serve as coordinator of this project. The Chair furthermore suggested partnering with the Cemetery Commission for signage for Forest Glade.

4. **Walking Tours/House Tours.** Mr. Poulin has copies of former Walking Tours so he was asked to serve as coordinator. Mr. Gerding suggested timing such tours to the weather; spring and fall might be the best days. Use of Channel 95 was discussed from being its own goal to be included in Walking Tours/House Tours.

5. **Updating the FAQ on the city's/HDC's website [e.g. Spotlight House].** The Chair asked if the HDC wanted its own webpage. She would investigate further. Mr. Metivier thought that it would be linked to the city's Main web page. Recommended additional information included updated Historic District city ordinances and *HDC Standards for Review*, FAQ, and a newsletter. The entire Commission would be responsible for working on this goal.

6. **Use of Channel 95 for a video such as "Piece on the Hill."** The Chair recommended working with the High School; Ms Gagnon stated that she could connect with the head of the department. Commission consensus was that one of the first projects should be on the careful renovations done on the Hilltop School. Channel 95 could be useful in promoting the HDC. This goal was folded into the House Tours/Walking Tours goal.

7. **Little Indonesian Project.** The Chair suggested putting this goal on the HDC's radar so that it could partner with the Indonesian Community at appropriate times.

### **Summary of HDCs subcommittees established**

1. Education and Outreach Subcommittee: Mr. Murray, Chair; Mr. Gerding; Ms. Gagnon

### **Non-subcommittee Goal Coordinators**

1. Plaques: Ms. Gagnon and Mr. Poulin

2. Signage: Mr. Gerding

3. House Tours/Walking Tours: Mr. Poulin

### **III Adjournment:**

The Chair adjourned the HDC Workshop at 6:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Pius Charles Murray*  
(Mr.) Pius Charles Murray  
Secretary

