

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
ONE JUNKINS AVENUE, PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**EILEEN DONDERO FOLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**7:00 p.m.**

**November 10, 2010**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Sandra Dika; Vice Chairman Richard Katz; Members John Wyckoff, Tracy Kozak, Planning Board Representative William Gladhill

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** City Council Representative Anthony Coviello; Elena Maltese; Alternates Joseph Almeida, George Melchior

**ALSO PRESENT:** Roger Clum, Assistant Building Inspector

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**I. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Approval of minutes – September 8, 2010

It was moved, seconded, and passed by a vote of 4-0 and one abstention (Mr. Gladhill) to approve the minutes as presented.

**II. WORK SESSION**

1. Continued discussion on miscellaneous topics pertaining to the review criteria and process

Chairman Dika stated that since the Historic District Commission was a quasi judicial board, they were not able to gather outside of the public forum. As a result, it occasionally becomes necessary to take an evening to catch up on certain issues. She presented the Commission with a list of items to be discussed. The highlights of the discussion are listed below.

Solar Displays –

- Commission thought it was a good idea to establish some guidelines. They would not want to see solar panels on a front façade. There was discussion concerning placement of panels in other areas on the lot but discovered it would result in a loss of heat. Age, architectural details, and significance of the structure would need to be taken into consideration.
- It was noted that technology was always changing so trying to make of list of what was acceptable would be obsolete in no time.
- The Commission felt they had the tools in the current ordinance to deal with future applications.

- The Commission agreed that energy efficiency should be encouraged and thought it would be helpful to have a reference link on the City website to the Clean Air/Cool Planet website.

#### Wind Turbines –

- It was noted that there was a windmill on top of the Ricci lumberyard which has experienced its share of trouble.
- The City has made provisions for windmills in the Zoning Ordinance but it was doubtful that the Commission would see them anytime soon.

#### Green Walls and Green Roofs –

- The Commission felt that green walls and roofs were great additions to structures and there were a number of good places in the City for them. It was felt they should review them the same way they review roofing material.

#### Synthetic materials –

- There was discussion about the chemicals associated with the synthetic materials harming structures over time. There was currently a class action law suit involving the Hardi Company.
- It was mentioned that Nantucket, MA had a tiered system of review that should be considered. It might be helpful when reviewing synthetic materials.

#### Asphalt Shingles vs. Slate or Shake

- The Commission cited cost as the frequent reason for going from slate to asphalt. It was pointed out that Strawberry Banke had some new shake roofs. The Commission was pleased to hear that.
- It was discussed that non-profit organizations could possibly qualify for tax relief if they are listed on the historic register. Possibly a link to that tax relief program could be provided on the City's website.

#### Signs –

- It was announced that the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment had a work session scheduled to discuss the sign ordinance.
- Internally lit signs are currently not allowed in the Historic District. Those internally lit signs currently in the district were installed prior to the regulations.

#### Fences –

- There was considerable discussion concerning stockade fences. A stockade fence was universally regarded as a modern fence and many Historic District Commissions do not allow them, along with chain link fences. The Commission felt they should have

guidelines concerning them. It was noted that a lot of stockade fences are located at the rear of properties and serve as a back drop to gardens.

Generators and Compressors –

- At the present time, there did not seem to be any issues with the review process for these items.

Satellite Dishes and Meters –

- It was noted that satellite dishes are getting larger and they currently do not require a permit.
- Meters on the side or back of the building are not reviewed by the Historic District Commission.
- There was also discussion on exposed conduit.

Shutters –

- It was agreed that shutters should be back within the Historic District Commission's purview.

Chairman Dika passed out copies of the Historic District Visual Guideline booklet that was first published in 1977. She stated that she had found someone who would republish it.

### **III. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:30 p.m., it was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Good  
HDC Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved at the Historic District Commission meeting on January 5, 2011.