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

EILEEN DONDERO FOLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

7:00 p.m. December 19, 2007 reconvened from December 12, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Sandra Dika, Vice-Chairman John F. Golumb, Richard

Katz, John Wyckoff, Tracy Kozak; City Council Representative Edward Raynolds, Alternates Elena Maltese and Joseph Almeida

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Planning Board Representative Jerry Hejtmanek

ALSO PRESENT: Roger Clum, Assistant Building Inspector

Chairman Dika reconvened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. She explained that this meeting would be the last one that Vice Chairman Golumb would be attending as a Commissioner. She explained that Vice Chairman Golumb had recently been elected to the Police Commission and would be starting his duties in January. She thanked him for his service to the Commission and told him that he would be missed. Chairman Dika presented Vice Chairman Golumb with a plaque recognizing his 14 years of service to the Historic District Commission.

Vice Chairman Golumb stated that it had been an honor and a pleasure to serve on the Historic District Commission. He said that he had learned a lot and appreciated the friendships of his fellow Commissioners. He added that he would miss the camaraderie.

Councilor Raynolds told Vice Chairman Golumb that the Commission would miss his experience and expertise.

Mr. Katz commented that he did not think there was a Commissioner who took his duties more seriously than Vice Chairman Golumb. He added that he was an inspiration to them all.

Mr. Wyckoff stated that after his first meeting on the Historic District Commission, Vice Chairman Golumb called him and welcomed him to the Commission. Ms. Maltese mentioned that he called her too. She said that she knew Vice Chairman Golumb would do a good job in his new endeavor as Police Commissioner.

I. OLD BUSINESS

A. Approval of minutes – November 14, 2007

Mr. Katz pointed out that his name was omitted from the list of members present.

Ms. Maltese made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Golumb. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

B. Petition of **Michael Delacruz, owner, and Brandy Higgins, applicant,** for property located at **75 Congress Street,** wherein permission was requested to allow exterior renovations to an existing structure (install exterior lighting, add three glass display cases) as per plans on file in the Planning Department. Said property is shown on Assessor Plan 117 as Lot 5 and lies within the Central Business B, Historic A, and Downtown Overlay Districts. (*This item was postponed at the December 12, 2007 meeting.*)

SPEAKING TO THE PETITION

Mr. Michael Delacruz was present to speak to the application. He explained that the applicant wanted to put gooseneck lighting over her storefront. They were proposing eight lights across the storefront. He said that he was also seeking approval of copper sconce lighting for the Vaughan Mall side of the building. Finally, he was seeking approval for three poster boxes that would be affixed to the exterior of the building. He said that they would be made out of mahogany, would be 4 or 5 inches deep with copper flashing and cornice on the top. Mr. Delacruz pointed out that it was suggested on the site walk that lighting for the boxes be considered. He thought that was a good idea and would look into it.

Chairman Dika explained to the public that the Commission had already dealt with this application twice before so the Commission might not have many questions.

Mr. Almeida asked if the mock up of the display cases that they saw on the site walk would be the same dimensions. Mr. Delacruz replied yes. Mr. Almeida asked if the word "sign" could be scratched from the drawings and the application since the Commission was not approving any signage for the display cases. Mr. Delacruz was agreeable to that.

Chairman Dika asked if there were any more questions for the applicant. Hearing none, she asked if anyone from the public wished to speak to, for, or against the application. Seeing no one rise, she declared the public hearing closed and awaited a motion.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

Ms. Maltese made a motion to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness for the application with the understanding that the word "sign" be removed from the drawings and application. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kozak.

Councilor Raynolds stated that this was one application where the site walk was helpful. He said it was nice to see the light fixtures and the taped out section on the side of the building where the display cases would be. He said that he would be voting in support of the motion.

The motion to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness for the application with the understanding that the word "sign" be removed from the drawings and application passed by a unanimous (7-0) vote.

C. Petition of **New Hampshire Legal Assistance, Inc., owner,** and **Joe Terravecchia, applicant,** for property located at **154 High Street,** wherein permission was requested to allow

exterior renovations to an existing structure (install two skylights) as per plans on file in the Planning Department. Said property is shown on Assessor Plan 118 as Lot 26A and lies within the Central Business B, Historic A, and Downtown Overlay Districts. (*This item was postponed at the December 12, 2007 meeting.*)

Mr. Almeida stated that he would be recusing himself from the discussion.

SPEAKING TO THE PETITION

Mr. Joe Terravecchia, representing the owner, was present to speak to the application. He said he was seeking approval for two skylights. The skylight on the back of the building would be taking the place of the existing roof hatch. He explained that the third floor was in the process of being finished and they would like to get more natural light into the area. Mr. Terravecchia pointed out that the skylights are not in line with the second floor windows. They would be offset by a 1 ½ feet. He said that the reason for this was because of the roof framing.

Ms. Maltese asked if the third floor would be used for habitation. Mr. Terravecchia replied no, that it would be used for storage although people will be up there fairly frequently.

Vice Chairman Golumb asked about the roof hatch size. Mr. Terravecchia said that it was 34" wide. He felt it was about 8" shorter than the proposed skylight. Vice Chairman Golumb asked if there was another skylight that would be a better fit to the existing opening. Mr. Terravecchia stated that there was one that was closer in size, however, the owner was requesting one that was a little bit larger with dimensions of 34 1/4" by 50 1/4". He explained that there would be a new interior stairway in the area of the proposed skylight.

Mr. Wyckoff said that the Commission finds it important that skylights are lined up with second floor windows. He pointed out that he was concerned that the skylight did not line up appropriately.

Chairman Dika asked if they had considered bringing the light in through another method like a light tube. Mr. Terraveccia replied no, they had not considered that.

Ms. Kozak asked if both skylights were illuminating the same interior space. Mr. Terraveccia replied yes, it was one large space. Ms. Kozak asked if he would consider a larger skylight on the back and eliminating the one on the front since it is all the same space. Mr. Terraveccia responded yes.

Mr. Katz pointed out that the Commission does not find skylights on the front of a house appropriate, although he said there were three skylights on the front of a house at the corner of High and Hanover Streets. He wondered how they got installed. He said that he would like to see the front skylight eliminated and the back skylight downsized to a size approximate to the roof hatch that is there now.

Vice Chairman Golumb stated that he agreed with Mr. Katz. Mr. Terravecchia said that they would be happy with that.

Chairman Dika asked if there were any more questions for the applicant. Hearing none, she asked if anyone from the public wished to speak to, for, or against the application. Seeing no one rise, she declared the public hearing closed and awaited a motion.

DECISION OF COMMISSION

Mr. Katz made a motion to approve the installation of the rear skylight only, #306 on the cut sheet, and that it is installed in place of the roof hatch at the back of the building. The motion was seconded by Councilor Raynolds. Chairman Dika asked for discussion.

Vice Chairman Golumb stated that he the suggestions that Mr. Katz and Ms. Kozak put forward were an excellent solution.

Chairman Dika called for the vote. The motion to approve the installation of the rear skylight only, #306 on the cut sheet, and that it is installed in place of the roof hatch at the back of the building passed by a unanimous vote.

Chairman Dika asked Ms. Good to check the records regarding the house at the corner of High and Hanover Streets with three front skylights.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Petition of **George C. Hurtt Revocable Trust 2006, owner,** for property located at **69 New Castle Avenue,** wherein permission was requested to allow exterior renovations to an existing structure (replace rear window at back of house with French sliding door) and allow new construction to an existing structure (construct steps at back of house) as per plans on file in the Planning Department. Said property is shown on Assessor Plan 101 as Lot 49 and lies within the General Residence B and Historic A Districts.

SPEAKING TO THE PETITION

Ms. Heather Hurtt, owner of the property, was present to speak to the application. She stated that page one of her submitted plans showed what she was requesting. She said that she would like to replace the rear window with a sliding French door. She said that this would allow for a better flow in and out from the main eating area of the house. The door proposed would be an Eagle brand with simulated divided light, with an aluminum clad exterior and 7/8" mullions.

Ms. Hurtt added that she would also like to build a stoop coming from the French doors. It would have 12" treads with risers no more 7 3/4" and a cedar railing on the side. She added that the grid pattern would be two over five to match the sliding French door off of the kitchen.

Vice Chairman Golumb asked the Commission if the foot and a half of wall on either side of the new French door would be adequate. Ms. Maltese stated that she pondered the same thing. She said that she was more comfortable with it now that it would be an entrance. Mr. Wyckoff added that he thought it was acceptable.

Chairman Dika asked if there were any more questions for the applicant. Hearing none, she asked if anyone from the public wished to speak to, for, or against the application. Seeing no one rise, she declared the public hearing closed and awaited a motion.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

Vice Chairman Golumb made a motion to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maltese.

Ms. Maltese stated that she felt the changes complimented the structure and made the area more useful. Vice Chairman Golumb echoed Ms. Maltese's comments.

Chairman Dika called for the vote. The motion to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness passed by a unanimous (7-0) vote.

2. Petition of **Sanders Family Corporation, owner,** for property located at **367 Marcy Street,** wherein permission was requested to allow exterior renovations to an existing structure (remove existing siding, restore clapboards, reconfigure existing windows) as per plans on file in the Planning Department. Said property is shown on Assessor Plan 102 as Lot 27 and lies within the Waterfront Business and Historic A Districts.

Ms. Kozak stated that she would be recusing herself from the discussion and vote.

SPEAKING TO THE PETITION

Mr. David Witham, architect for the project was present to speak to the application. He stated that they had a work session with the Commission last month and got positive feedback concerning the project.

Mr. Witham explained that they were only looking to do exterior renovations. There would be no construction taking place. He pointed out that the building currently had asbestos siding. He said it was their intention to remove it and repair and replace the clapboards that are underneath.

On the left side of the building, Mr. Witham said that they would remove the siding; remove the aluminum storms and replacing with sash kits with simulated divided light. He added that they would be removing an old shed that was on the back of the second floor roof.

On the Marcy Street elevation, the siding would be removed and the front face of the building would have cedar shakes. He explained that the overhang would be retained. The parapet wall on the right would be removed.

Mr. Witham stated that on the right side elevation, the asbestos siding would be removed; aluminum storms removed and sash kits installed, and wooden shutters installed. He added that on the first floor, the window locations and the size of the windows would stay the same but they planned to install new windows. He explained that they will have a panelized system below the windows of the main structure. Mr. Witham said that they would be replacing the doors with wood doors. He pointed out that the windows would have historic sills applied to them.

Mr. Wyckoff asked about the replacing of two doors at the rear of the building with two double hung windows. Mr. Witham explained that the doors were not needed so they were putting windows in their place to bring light into the space.

Ms. Maltese asked if the deck would remain. Mr. Witham said that it would for now.

Mr. Almeida asked about the removal of the upper floor shed that housed a condenser. He asked if the condenser would remain. Mr. Witham said that there is nothing inside that shed currently.

Vice Chairman Golumb commended the owners and the applicant for taking on this project.

Chairman Dika asked if there were any more questions for the applicant. Hearing none, she asked if anyone from the public wished to speak to, for, or against the application. Seeing no one rise, she declared the public hearing closed and awaited a motion.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

Ms. Maltese made a motion to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness for the application. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wyckoff. Chairman Dika asked for discussion.

Ms. Maltese stated that the applicant has looked at the defining characteristics of the original structure and has found a way to bring them back. She said that she was pleased with the application.

Councilor Raynolds added that it would be a very nice enhancement to the building and to the area.

Hearing no other discussion, Chairman Dika called for the vote. The motion to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness for the application passed by a unanimous (7-0) vote.

3. Petition of **Kathleen M. Beauchamp and Kent A. Logan, owners,** for property located at **21 Blossom Street,** wherein permission was requested to allow new construction to an existing structure (construct 5' x 5' landing/stairs) as per plans on file in the Planning Department. Said property is shown on Assessor Plan 110 as Lot 3 and lies within the General Residence A and Historic A Districts.

Mr. Almeida stated that he would be recusing himself from the discussion.

SPEAKING TO THE PETITION

Ms. Kathleen Logan, owner of the property was present to speak to the application. She stated that she was in need of a back stoop. She explained that it would be constructed of mahogany with a pressure treated frame and mahogany handrails. The size of the stoop would be 5' x 5'.

Chairman Dika asked if there were any questions for the applicant. Hearing none, she asked if anyone from the public wished to speak to, for, or against the application. Seeing no one rise, she declared the public hearing closed and awaited a motion.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

Ms. Kozak made a motion to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness for the application. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wyckoff. Chairman Dika asked for discussion.

Ms. Kozak stated that this was a very simple, straightforward stoop that was sensibly designed. She felt it would be an improvement to the house.

Hearing no more discussion, Chairman Dika called for the vote. The motion to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness passed by a unanimous (7-0) vote.

4. Petition of **Scott R. Derouin, owner,** and **Gerald Thibault, applicant,** for property located at **188 Gates Street,** wherein permission was requested to allow exterior renovations to an existing structure (replace windows in house and garage, replace siding and corner boards on house and garage with composite material, replace entry doors on house, replace garage doors, add garage entry door) and allow a new free standing structure (install AC compressor) as per plans on file in the Planning Department. Said property is shown on Assessor Plan 103 as Lot 17 and lies within the General Residence B and Historic A Districts.

SPEAKING TO THE PETITION

Mr. Scott Derouin, owner of the property and Mr. Gerard Thibault, contractor for the project were present to speak to the application.

Mr. Derouin explained that there were a number of items he was seeking approval for. He stated that he would like to replace all of the windows in the house and garage with Marvin SDL windows, replace the siding with fiber cement board, replace the garage doors and the entry doors to the house, add a garage side door and add an AC compressor unit.

Mr. Almeida asked if they had a sample of the fiber cement board they were planning to use. Mr. Thibault explained that a representative from Selectwood was to come to the meeting with samples of hardiplank and windows, but had not arrived yet. Mr. Thibault said that they were proposing the smooth finish hardiplank.

Mr. Katz stated that it was a requirement of the Commission to have the clapboard siding break the meet and on top of the windows. He asked if it was possible to do it with the hardiplank. Mr. Thibault replied yes.

Mr. Wyckoff asked if the windows would have window sills underneath them. Mr. Thibault replied yes. Mr. Wyckoff also asked if the hardiplank would be painted. Mr. Thibault replied that it would come prepainted from the factory. Mr. Wyckoff said that concerned him because it would be a sprayed product on the hardiplank. Mr. Thibault said that it was warranteed for 25 years.

Mr. Wyckoff said that he would like to see a brushed coat on the hardiplank. Mr. Katz pointed out that was something the Commission could not request of the applicant. Mr. Wyckoff stated that he was just pointing it out because the house is on a very historic street in a very historic neighborhood. He did not want the sprayed on factory finish to look like aluminum siding. Mr. Derouin pointed out that the same material was used on the Middle Street condominiums at the corner of Middle and State Streets. He asked if the Commission would prefer the rough texture to the smooth texture. Mr. Wyckoff replied no as did other Commissioners.

Ms. Maltese asked if the choice of the new front door was historically correct for the age of the house. Chairman Dika asked what the age of the house was. Mr. Derouin stated that it was built around 1927. Mr. Katz commented that the choice was historically correct. Mr. Thibault pointed out that the storm door would be going back on. Mr. Almeida reminded the Commission that they had approved a similar door recently on a home at the corner of Gates and Mechanic Street. Mr. Wyckoff and Chairman Dika said that they were okay with the choice.

Vice Chairman Golumb asked if the reveal of the clapboards would be 4". Mr. Thibault replied yes.

Mr. Almeida asked if the trim on the garage would be the same as the house. Mr. Thibault replied yes. Mr. Almeida asked the dimensions of the corner boards. Mr. Thibault said that 1" x 5" corner boards would be used.

Chairman Dika asked if there were any more questions for the applicant. Hearing none, she asked if anyone from the public wished to speak to, for, or against the application. Seeing no one rise, she declared the public hearing closed and awaited a motion.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

Councilor Raynolds made a motion to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness with the stipulation that 1" x 5" corner boards are used. The motion was seconded by Mr. Katz. Chairman Dika asked for discussion.

Mr. Wyckoff stated that his suggestion about painting the hardiplank was to give it a truer wood look.

Chairman Dika called for the vote. The motion to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness with the stipulation that 1" x 5" corner boards are used passed by a unanimous (7-0) vote.

5. Petition of Elena M. Ewing Revocable Trust and David P. Ewing Revocable Trust, owners, for property located at 24 Salter Street, wherein permission was requested to allow new construction to an existing structure (add new shed dormer and windows to second story addition) and allow exterior renovations to an existing structure (replace two windows on first floor of addition) as per plans on file in the Planning Department. Said property is shown on Assessor Plan 102 as Lot 34 and lies within General Residence B and Historic A Districts.

Chairman Dika stated that she would be recusing herself from the discussion and vote.

SPEAKING TO THE PETITION

Mr. David Ewing, owner of the property was present to speak to the application. He stated that he was seeking permission to add four windows on the west side of the existing addition, two on the first floor and two on the second floor. He explained that the addition was built without any windows on that side. He said that they would like additional light and ventilation. He explained that adding the two windows to the second floor would require a dormer.

Ms. Kozak said that the elevation drawing showed a break in the roof across the entire roof. She wondered if that was correct. Mr. Ewing stated that there was no break. He said that there was a straight line from the peak to the new dormer. Mr. Katz said then the two lines going from the soffitt of the new dormer to ridge should not be in the drawing. Mr. Ewing replied that was correct. He submitted a different drawing for clarification.

Mr. Almeida asked if he was proposing casement windows in the new dormer. Mr. Ewing replied yes and pointed out that the casement windows are not identical. He said that the windows that are there now are Colby's and the proposed windows are Marvin's.

Vice Chairman Golumb asked if the proposed windows would be 6 over 6. Ms. Maltese said that the first floor windows looked to be 4 over 4's. Mr. Ewing explained that the existing windows on the gable end of the gambrel are 6 over 6.

Mr. Almeida said that he saw some features on the head and sill details on the proposed windows that are not shown on the existing windows. He asked if the windows would be trimmed out to match the existing window details. Mr. Ewing replied yes.

Councilor Raynolds noted that the house had a very nice chimney cap.

Vice Chairman Golumb asked if there were any more questions for the applicant. Hearing none, he asked if anyone from the public wished to speak to, for, or against the application. Seeing no one rise, he declared the public hearing closed and awaited a motion.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

Ms. Maltese made a motion to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness with the stipulation that the new window details match the existing window details. The motion was seconded by Mr. Almeida. Vice Chairman Golumb asked for discussion.

Ms. Kozak stated that it was a very sensitive dormer design. She said that she appreciated that they did not break the roof plane and recognized that they had to sacrifice to do so. She said the applicant chose to be sensitive to the historic design of the house.

Vice Chairman Golumb called for the vote. The motion to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness with the stipulation that the new window details match the existing window details passed by a unanimous (7-0) vote.

6. Petition of **Sean M. and Lina Tracey, owners,** for property located at **24 Johnson Court,** wherein permission was requested to allow new construction to an existing structure (7'6" x 12' single story addition at front elevation, 5'4" x 18' single story addition with open deck at roof level at rear elevation, and 7' x 18'6" second story addition created by a gabled dormer) as per plans on file in the Planning Department. Said property is shown on Assessor Plan 102 as Lot 47 and lies within the General Residence B and Historic A Districts.

SPEAKING TO THE PETITION

Mr. Robert Rodier, architect for the project was present to speak to the application. He submitted new handouts to the Commission.

Mr. Rodier stated that the handout showed minor modifications to some of the windows and doors. He explained in detail the changes to the Commission. He added that all of the doors have been upgraded to an Andersen 400 series brand.

Mr. Rodier explained the site plan that was included in their packets and showed them where the three additions would be located. Addition A would encompass the shed roof entryway facing Johnson Court as well as the trash storage unit. Addition B was a single story addition with a roof deck above. Addition C was a dormer above the rear entryway.

Mr. Wyckoff asked if the shed roof roofing material would be continuous. Mr. Rodier replied yes, that there would be no division except for the angle changes. Mr. Wyckoff commented that it was a complicated addition and that the architect has done the best he could.

Mr. Katz stated that the applicant had chosen a vinyl window. Mr. Rodier explained that the existing windows in the house are vinyl windows. He said that the previous owner did not follow the Commission's prior ruling and so his client has inherited this situation. He pointed out that there are 42 windows in the house and they are 2½ years old. In addition, new sills have been put on all 42 windows. So a lot of work has been done. Mr. Rodier said that they would be adding about 9 or 10 new windows with the additions so it made sense to propose the vinyl windows. He felt they would draw the least attention to the existing windows.

Mr. Katz asked if the grids would be between the panes of glass. Mr. Rodier replied yes.

Chairman Dika said that she recalled the situation and explained that one thing was approved and the prior owner went and did something else. She said that the current owner has been very cooperative in trying to rectify what he can with the house.

Mr. Katz stated that the alternative would be to bring all of the windows up to speck and that did not seem feasible. He said that he did not like it but he could live with it. Ms. Maltese pointed out that this was a very special circumstance. Mr. Katz told the Commission that they should be prepared for an applicant to come before them who wants to put in vinyl windows and brings this application up. The Commission should be able to explain the reason they were approved here and why they will not approve them in another application.

Mr. Wyckoff pointed out that the two additions were somewhat separate from the other windows. He said that he could see the windows being upgraded to simulated divided lights on the dormer addition. He thought it was a shame to have a house of this quality with low grade windows. Mr. Katz thought it would just accentuate the difference between the two types of windows. Mr. Rodier added that he would not have chosen to go in this direction; he just thought it was the best decision.

Mr. Wyckoff asked about the doors. Mr. Rodier explained that they were proposing quality doors. They would be simulated divided light.

Ms. Kozak asked if they would match the sill details to the existing windows. Mr. Rodier replied yes. She pointed out that the photos show that the applied sill is the full 4 inch height of the casement but on the drawn elevations it looks like the flat picture frame wraps around the bottom with the side sill below that. Mr. Rodier confirmed that the existing sills in the photographs would be duplicated on the new windows.

Mr. Almeida asked how the addition with the roof deck above it would meet the neighboring flat roof. Mr. Rodier explained in detail how the two would be joined together. Mr. Almeida asked if the roof shingles would match the existing shingles. Mr. Rodier replied yes. There was also detailed discussion regarding the area where the trash bins would be located and how it related to the sills above that area. Mr. Almeida asked if was possible to carry the lesser pitch plane across the area. Mr. Rodier said yes. Mr. Almeida said that it was important to avoid touching the window sill.

Mr. Almeida asked if the eave details would match what is on the rest of the house. Mr. Rodier replied that they would.

Chairman Dika asked if there were any more questions for the applicant. Hearing none, she asked if anyone from the public wished to speak to, for, or against the application. Seeing no one rise, she declared the public hearing closed and awaited a motion.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

Councilor Raynolds made a motion to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness for the application as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maltese. Chairman Dika asked for discussion.

Councilor Raynolds stated that he felt they had a very productive work session with the applicant and he responded positively to the suggestions.

Mr. Almeida commended the architect and the owner for dealing with this difficult project in a sensitive way.

Hearing no more discussion, Chairman Dika called for the vote.

The motion to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness for the application as submitted passed by a unanimous (7-0) vote.

As a final comment, Vice Chairman Golumb thanked Ms. Good and Mr. Clum for their support of the Historic District Commission.

III. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:55 p.m., it was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Good HDC Secretary

These minutes were approved at the Historic District Commission meeting on February 6, 2008.