

Historic District Commission of Temple, NH

Minutes – Wednesday August 23, 2023

Member Attendees: Lilliane Lebel, Nate Sartell, Ken Caisse, Tom St. Cyr

Guest Attendees: Lori Sherburne

Lilliane called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm.

The commission began our meeting with the discussion of July's minutes. There were no suggested amendments.

- Nate motioned to accept the minutes; Lillian seconded the motion. This was unanimously approved.

Lillian motioned a vote to recommend Lori Sherburne as a new HDC member to the select board. Nate seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved by the commission.

The commission then resumed our discussion of the current historic district ordinance.

- Lillian set a goal to have a completed draft in 6 months
- Ken suggested using existing aesthetic qualities of the historic buildings as a guide for future work. With this in mind, setting a clear vision for the commission might become easier.
- Lillian defined our role as a “resource” in addition to a governing body. She suggested including links to historic building resources on the town website. She also pointed out the need for positive language in our ordinance and

correspondence. “Encouraging” changes in keeping with historic character instead of demanding it.

- Considering the pace of our ordinance review, Tom questioned if sections 5 & 6 should take the bulk of our focus.
- Ken suggested changing the town building permit to include a “Historic District Approval” qualifier. This came with much approval from the commission. We will approach the select board with this possible change.
- We also discussed using “all efforts should be made to repair” as language to include in the ordinance.

Ken then discussed the difference between the code enforcement officer and the building inspector.

The commission then divided some home-work tasks for the month:

- Lillian: Reviews sections 1-3 as well as 5
- Nate: Review 4.0 (how to define quorum) and re-work 6.4
- Lori: Review 4.0-4.6
- Tom: Review 6.1-6.3 and research RSA on town minutes
- Tom & Nate to send drafts for 6.1 and 6.4 to Ken for his input regarding ‘paint, roofs, heat pumps, etc.’.

Nate brought up the possibility of having two HDC documents. One focusing on the philosophy of the commission; the second being more of a checklist document for minutia.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom St. Cyr

Temple HDC Secretary

