



HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Minutes

City of Rochester

Wednesday January 18, 2023

City Hall Annex (second floor conference room)

33 Wakefield Street, Rochester, NH

(These minutes were approved on February 15, 2023)

Members Present

Molly Meulenbroek, *Chair*

Peter Bruckner, *Vice Chair*

Jeremiah Minihan

Matthew Winders

Members Absent

Laura Hainey, excused

Alternate Members

James Connor

Staff: Crystal Galloway, *Planner I*

I. Call to Order

Chair Molly Meulenbroek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Seating of Alternates

No alternates were needed.

III. Public Input

There was no one from the public present to speak.

IV. Approval of November 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Winders and seconded by Mr. Minihan to approve the November 16, 2022 minutes. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

V. New Applications:

A. City of Rochester, 33 Wakefield Street Certificate of Approval to install a mural located on the front of the City Hall Annex Building.

Michael Scala, Director of Economic Development said he loved what was done to the building when it was renovated in 2017. He explained he has a print of the building when it was originally constructed and would like to install it on the front of the building along with an informational plaque like the other murals that have been installed in the area.

Mr. Bruckner asked if it would be possible to have a QR code to accommodate more information.

Ms. Meulenbrock said she thought it would be more appropriate to have a display inside the building because having a mural on the front façade could take away from the historic value of the building.

Mr. Winders said if the picture is located outside more people would have a chance to view it which could lead to taking an interest into the history of the building.

Mr. Minihan said he liked that it is similar to the murals that have been installed on the side of the Fire Station.

Mr. Bruckner asked if there might be a different location or possibly a freestanding picture with an informational board.

Mr. Scala said he would look at other options and locations and bring it back to the Commission.

A motion was made by Mr. Bruckner and seconded by Mr. Winders to postpone the application to install a mural to the February 15, 2023 meeting. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

B. John Maranda, 16-22 North Main Street Certificate of Approval for a new sign.

Applicant John Maranda presented the proposed sign for his new business. He explained for the time being the sign would be a 10' x 12" letters only located above the shop in Times New Roman font then later on he would have a projection sign.

Mr. Minihan said the proposed sign matches well with the other businesses in the area.

The Commission discussed the need to return for approval when he is ready to install the proposed projection sign.

A motion was made by Mr. Bruckner and seconded by Mr. Minihan to approve the sign as presented. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

VI. Certified Local Government Grants – Historic Resources Survey Update

Ms. Galloway told the Commission Preservation Company is about half way done with the second part of the project which is creating forms for each property. She said they are hoping to be finished by spring.

Mr. Winders said he is still interested in moving forward with his QR code project, however he is not sure if he will have time to be able to finish it due to other commitments.

VII. Annual Meeting

A. Election of Officers

Mr. Bruckner made a motion to nominate Molly Meulenbroek for Chair of the Historic District Commission. Mr. Winders seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Winders made a motion to nominate Peter Bruckner for Vice Chair of the Historic District Commission. Mr. Minihan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

B. Review of 2022 Projects

Ms. Galloway reviewed the 2022 projects that had been approved by the Commission as well as administratively.

C. Plans for 2023

Ms. Galloway told the Commission she hasn't heard of any major projects for the coming year as of right now. However, she informed them the purchase and sales agreement for 38 Hanson Street has expired so she is not sure if there will be a new proposal coming.

Ms. Meulenbroek discussed the need for the Commission to be firm when it comes to demolition applications.

Ms. Meulenbroek discussed the CLG grant opportunities for 2023. She said this year they

are doing three mini grants, one would cover the cost of a membership for the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC), the second would cover the cost of NAPC Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP), and the third would cover the cost of attending the NAPC Forum Conference which would be held in 2024.

The Commission briefly discussed which grants they would like to apply for, settling on NAPC Membership and the CAMP grants.

VIII. Other Business/Non-Scheduled Items

There was no other business to discuss.

IX. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Bruckner and seconded by Mr. Winders to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Crystal Galloway,
Planner I