

Exeter Historic District Commission

November 17, 2016

Draft Minutes

Call meeting to Order: Pam Gjettum, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm in the Wheelwright Room of the Exeter Town Office Building.

Members present: Pam Gjettum, Vice Chair, Julie Gilman, Selectwoman, Valerie Ouellette, Clerk, Curtis Boivin

New Business: Public Hearing: Continued public hearing on the application of COAST (Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation) for new construction of a bus shelter and bench to be located within the town right-of-way adjacent to the properties at 10 and 12 Front Street. Pam asked Rad Nichols, the Executive Director of COAST to speak. Before he spoke, Pam stated that she loved the design and everything about it except where it is going to be. Pam then asked the commission if they had anything to say before Mr. Nichols spoke. Julie stated that at the last meeting, there was an even number of people and there were two motions, and both of them failed. Julie then stated that their purpose today is to get an affirmative vote for the site. Valerie was at the first meeting and not the second, so she knew what was being talked about. Mr. Nichols stated that there are some utilities that affect how much movement can happen in that specific spot. There is an alternative to move to the other side of the fiber optic line that runs across the street. Mr. Nichols's understanding of this is that it would put him in front of the house next door. This would also put them further away from the curb cut, which would not be good if there was somebody in a wheelchair that needed to board the bus. They would not be stopping at the bus stop and at the shelter at that point. They would be pulling up to where the curb cut is. Pam once again stated that she loves everything about it, except for putting in right in the middle of historic downtown. Pam asked Mr. Nichols if he really loves the spot and he stated that they do. He stated that his understanding of that spot is they have a strong agreement from the selectmen. Julie stated that there is an opportunity for COACH at this spot. Since they have had more time, Julie has been looking at the painted outline and it is really restricted by the sidewalk end where there are underground utility lines. Julie stated that she thinks it can probably be moved over another five feet or so. Curtis asked Pam if the stop was further up the street, would it make a difference for her. It would not. Julie asked her if she has driven down the street and Pam stated that she has walked down many times. Julie stated that the only view that will be blocked, is by car and a little bit of walking from the other side of the street. Julie stated that she thinks it is an appropriate placement for the service that it provides. Pam then stated that if they were to put this in front of Walgreens or Jerry's, she would say it was a great idea. Mr. Nichols stated that when the street improvements are made on Lincoln Street, they might consider that as another new stop. He thinks it would premature now to locate that facility there. Pam then stated that the commission really had no more to say at this point. She asked Mr. Nichols if he had anything else he would like to say. He stated that he would appreciate the support.

At this point, Pam called for another vote. Curtis made a motion to accept the location of the proposed bus shelter with the condition that it would be moved five feet up the street in the south direction. Mr. Nichols stated this would be acceptable to him. Julie seconded the motion. Three were in favor so the application was accepted.

Next up under New Business is the application of Angela Sullivan (d/b/a the Black Cat Studio) for new signage at 167 Water Street. Julie made a motion to table this application because Angela was not present and there was no one there either to represent her. Pam agreed and the application was tabled.

Next is the second reading of the adoption of the new HDC Guidelines. Pam stated that she would not be reading all of them. Pam stated that the guidelines are available in the Town Office Planning Office and also the library. She also stated that they are also in the Exeter Historical Society as well. They are available to any member of the public. Julie stated that when they were working on the guidelines, it was discussed that the commission was going to let the historic district property owners know that they have this new set of guidelines. Julie's question is does the commission want to send a copy to each property or send a postcard. Pam asked approximately how much would it cost to send each homeowner a copy of the guidelines. Julie stated it would be \$40 per folder. Pam stated that this idea would be ideal, but not sure how the selectmen would feel about it. Julie then stated that it would be around \$4000 plus postage. Julie will bring this to the selectmen. Julie also mentioned that they could send out postcards to the residents saying look at the website. Curtis stated that he thinks a postcard would save some trees and is a good idea. Pam agreed and stated they should try the postcard first.

Next on the agenda is the report on the site walk and paint color selection for the bridge railings. Julie stated that she has not done the site walk because of the rain. Pam stated that Valerie took some nice pictures. Pam picked 8462, a dark color. Julie stated that one whole side needs to be painted because it has been replaced and does not match what is currently there. Valerie showed her pictures to the members. Curtis asked when they would need to make a decision. Julie stated it would probably not be until the Spring so there is no big rush for their decision. Julie stated that she would like to wait. Pam tabled this for now. The members who have not taken the site walk, will do so.

The last on the agenda is the approval of two sets of minutes. October 20<sup>th</sup> and November 3<sup>rd</sup>. After reviewing, Curtis made a motion to approve the October 20, 2016 minutes. Valerie seconded. All were in favor and minutes approved. Julie abstained because she was not at that meeting. Pam stated that now they have the Special Meeting Minutes from November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Julie stated that the second paragraph starting with why right smack in the heart of historic downtown should be taken out. Curtis said it could be rewritten as Pam's quote. Pam will make this change. Julie made a motion to accept the HDC Special Meeting Minutes as amended. Curtis seconded. All were in favor and November 3, 2016 minutes approved.

With no further business, Julie made a motion to adjourn. Valerie seconded. All were in favor and meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick  
Recording Secretary