

Historic District Commission
September 18, 2025
Draft Minutes

Call Meeting to Order; Grayson Shephard, Chairman, called meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Novak Room of the Exeter Town Office Building.

Members Present: Grayson Shephard, Chairman, Pam Gjetum, Clerk, Julie Gilman, Select Board Rep., Gwen English, Planning Board Rep.

New Business: Public Hearing: The application of Brad and Virginia Herring for changes to the existing structure located at 65 High Street for the replacement of front steps and porch stoup. Case #25-3.

Virginia Herring spoke and said, our front porch stoup is rotted and falling apart and Brad actually put his foot through it. We want it to look the same and keep it the same size. Basically, look the same. We spoke with a few contractors and they all said that we might want to consider using a composite material because it would last longer. If we keep it colored gray, we have samples here from the contractor which are composite and we would match it as close as we could. One contractor recommended for the top using a composite which he agreed is good material because it would not rot. He also recommended using hard wood. If we did go with the wood, he still recommended using PVC on the riser and the side that hits the ground to prevent rot. Those are our two proposals. Wood and PVC or composite and PVC.

Grayson then asked the commission if they had any questions.

Julie asked, on option 2 you clarify that the risers and the side lattes would be the azek material but you did not present what the lattes would be in the first option.

Virginia said, it would be the same PVC and everything white.

Grayson said, the initial question is, is the application complete? Julie said so moved and Pam seconded. All were in favor and the application was accepted.

Grayson then said, thank you for the application. The applicants will leave all the samples for the commission to have.

Grayson then said, the question now is do we approve the application with the condition of option 2 in the email dated 9/9/25.

Julie made a motion to approve the application with the change of materials using option 2 from the email submitted by Virginia Herring on 9/9/25 and color choices were given and we would find white to be appropriate. Pam seconded. All were in favor and the application was approved.

Grayson then asked for any public comments and the applicant's neighbor was present and he said, it sounds great.

Next on the agenda is the application of Carl Stevens for changes to the existing structure located at 61 High Street for replacement of the cedar shingle roofs on the tower and front porch with architectural asphalt shingles (to match the rest of the roof). Case #25-4.

Carl Stevens spoke and said, there are two parts. There is the roof and the change of the front yard. The roof was replaced after the hail storm in 2006. The main house was replaced with an architectural shingle but it was suggested to me that we do the tower and the round porch cedar. The roof has held up ok but that part of the house faces north and it never dries out and so the lower roof is now growing moss. We need to replace the roofs and I don't want to use cedar again. I would like to replace the cedar with asphalt.

With the front yard, we wanted to lower it because over the decades the yard is slowly crowned and we have those curves. My wife does an agricultural class and she decided that better than lowering the lawn and having grass again have permanent plantings. The first step would be to pull off the sod. She would compost all winter and then in the Spring the plantings would go in. She would also like to put a tree in.

Julie said, you have some shrubbery on the left side. Do you want to even keep that? It is so close to your house.

Carl said, we do have a gas meter there so it is kind of a nice visual block. I don't think we necessarily want to move it.

Gwen said, as a member of the Tree Committee in Exeter, I am all for it, This is a happy thing to see.

Grayson asked, do I have a motion to accept the application as complete?

Pam said, I would like to make a motion to accept the application as complete. Gwen seconded. All were in favor and the application was accepted.

Grayson then asked, any further discussion on this application?
There was none.

Julie made a motion to approve the application as presented. Pam seconded. All were in favor and the application was approved.

Other Business: Approval of the Minutes from August 21, 2025. After review and one change, Pam made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Grayson seconded. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Julie said, I don't know if anyone has received any emails about the NH Preservation Alliance Conference that will be held on October 2nd at the town hall. You do have to sign up for it and there is a fee but the town will reimburse you.

With no further business, Grayson made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick
Recording Secretary

