

**TOWN OF BEDFORD**  
**January 5, 2016**  
**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Bedford Historic District Commission was held on Tuesday, January 5, 2016, at the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, NH. Present were: Janet Tamulevich (Vice Chairman), Bill Duschatko (Town Council), Charlie Fairman (Planning Board Liaison), Jeff Oxman (Alternate), Courtney Gray (Alternate), and Karin Elmer (Planner 1)

Vice Chairman Tamulevich called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and introduced members of the Commission. Chairman Richard Polonsky, Town Councilor John Schneller, Judy Perry, and Erin Fisher were absent.

II. Old Business:

A. Continued Hearings: None

III. New Business:

B. Public Hearings:

**MOTION by Mr. Fairman to accept the application submitted by Eric and Nancy Erickson. Councilor Duschatko duly seconded the motion. Vote taken - all in favor. Motion carried.**

**1. Eric & Nancy Erickson (Owner) – Request for approval of replacement siding at 36 North Amherst Road, Lot 20-52, Zoned R&A.**

**MOTION by Ms. Gray to table the application of Eric and Nancy Erickson to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Historic District Commission as the applicants were not present. Mr. Fairman duly seconded the motion. Vote taken - all in favor. Motion carried.**

IV. Other Business: None

V. Approval of Minutes:

**November 3, 2015**

**MOTION by Mr. Fairman to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2015 Historic District Commission meeting as written. Councilor Duschatko duly seconded the motion. Vote taken; motion carried, with Vice Chairman Tamulevich abstaining.**

VI. Communications: None

## VI. Members Comments and Concerns:

Mitchell Soderburg stated as a member of the audience, I am here from Boy Scouts Troop 5 taking notes for a merit badge.

Councilor Duschatko stated this application is a good example of the overreach in terms of interpreting what has to be done by the Historic District Commission and a very poor use of community resources. The application this evening was dealing with a property that was built in 1980 and all the applicant is asking to do is replace the current wood siding with vinyl siding, which would have the same look and feel of the wood siding but a different color almost in keeping with the predominantly white design within the Historic District. I feel this is a big imposition on our residents to file an application to come before the Historic District Commission, and a change of this level could be handled by the Planning Department or the building inspector. We have rules and regulations of the use and type of materials that are known within the departments and if not we could define them better. Maybe this is something the Commission can discuss or I can take it to the Town Council for discussion. Vice Chairman Tamulevich stated I would agree. I believe it is costly to the homeowner who has to pay an application fee. I feel this is a very simple matter that could be handled by the Planning Department with the guidelines that are in place.

Mr. Fairman stated I would disagree. I feel the integrity of the Historic District depends on this Commission including any building no matter how old it is. If the applicant was to come here and ask to put siding of a ridiculous color, we may feel different and the Planning Department and building inspector would not question those decisions as long as they meet Town codes. If those making changes in the Historic District don't come before the Historic District Commission they could do anything they wanted. Only the Historic District Commission can control the appearance of buildings in the Historic District. I feel it is not expensive and not a major expense to come before this Commission. Vice Chairman Tamulevich stated it is my understanding that we do not have control over color. Ms. Elmer stated in the past the Commission did, but that went by the wayside and the ordinance was changed. Vice Chairman Tamulevich stated if an owner of a building within the Historic District wanted to make any major change to their building, they would be required to come before us. Mr. Oxman stated the language of any change but there may be a happy medium. I would agree that any type of major structural issues should come before the Historic District Commission. Councilor Duschatko stated in my opinion we could limit it to something as basic as nonstructural additions or renovations; for instance more efficient roof treatment.

Ms. Elmer stated this would be a change that the Commission would make to their regulations. I would recommend that all members of the Commission read the minutes from this meeting and we could schedule it as an item on next month's agenda for discussion. If the Commission chooses, I can draft a new regulation for you to review and if you want to make the change, we would schedule a public hearing and post the proposed change.

Vice Chairman Tamulevich stated this will be an item on next month's agenda.

Natalie Anderson asked when the rules and regulations were drafted, weren't they based on common sense? Vice Chairman Tamulevich replied over time things change, there may be new products and processes that weren't available when they were written, so the ordinance has to be massaged when these changes come to light. Mr. Fairman stated also, what is common sense for one person may not be common sense for another. Things change since the ordinance was originally written so it is good to keep those rules and regulations up to date.

VIII. Adjournment:

**MOTION by Mr. Fairman to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Councilor Duschatko duly seconded the motion. Vote taken - all in favor. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted by  
Valerie J. Emmons