

# Portsmouth nh district commission



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

Conserve property values. Foster civic pride. Promote the use of the historic districts for the education, pleasure and welfare of the citizens of Portsmouth. It is a seven member commission with 2 alternates. As I first watched I noticed the room was very simple with grey walls and the state symbol in the back behind the board. Also the state flag and some other flags that I couldn't tell what they were, were also in the room. At first the board sat in the chairs on the upper level in red cushions and then later in the meeting moved down to a lower table with chairs around it for the work session tenting.

Then behind the table were chairs lined up for the public to come and sit down and listen to the meeting and there was a podium that they could come and give their opinion on the topics being discussed. Most of the commissioners were dressed in business casual and one was dressed in a suit. Everyone seemed to be pretty relaxed and ready to get to the job at hand. There was not a lot of public attending I noticed also. As the meeting started the Chairman in charge Joseph Alameda introduced everyone on the board and then they started the meeting with a call for a work session to be postponed but was immediately dismissed.

Then they called up a woman who was sick from the last week and an assistant had come in to pass the information through but did not get everything past the way she needed to and the woman in charge had to come back to get approval for the new windows being put in one of the historic buildings downtown. There were a few more people that came in through the meeting that talked about the windows and the materials that

were required to show that it had to be kept in style of the history of the alluding.

As the meeting progressed there was some confliction about the windows and the materials and what the procedure is to get the applications passed. After about forty-five minutes the board moved down to the table and started doing the work sessions. Two woman came up with posters of the ideas they have about a residential area on Collision Street. They are working on some townhouses in the historic block and because of this they have to bring everything to the board for approval.

I was in shock with how much everything mattered from the height of the alluding to how far from the road they are and where the garages are located so that you can't see Just cars from the windows. It was pretty cool watching the commissioner's talk about the building and the need to keep the respect for the generation that the building came from. I drive down this street every week and I honestly never really thought about the importance of the history until watching this. Although I think that the board can be a bit too picky on things that really probably don't matter in 2014.

I think they did a great Job getting their views across in a repressions manner. Some of the neighbors came and gave their approvals and disapproval for the new buildings also. I liked seeing the neighbors getting involved I think they should do that in situations like these so their voices are heard. I think this meeting shows how people in the government can come together like they did for the Constitution and decide on in this case important ways of keeping our town in the modern world while also keeping

the historic presence and value for years to come. It showed applications being passed and members voting.

Whether they agreed and disagreed and everyone getting the time to speak I found it very diplomatic. I wasn't confused by anything in the meeting. I just noticed how nitpicks they board could be about windows and the materials used to fix some problems on the homes and buildings. I would think that as long as it looked like wood and the historical building wasn't being altered it would be ok but the fact that it needed to be wood and not composite was very important to them. At times it seemed like people didn't really know what they were talking about on the topic at hand and were just speaking to get their voice heard.

I think if they had no real point to get across it might be better not to say anything and keep things short and sweet. I enjoyed watching this and I think I will go ahead and go to the next Historic District meeting to hear more because living in this town and keeping the historic feel is important as we move into the future. Keeping our town's heritage is important and needs to be around for our children and grandchildren.