

WARREN VOLUNTARY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Minutes of September 23, 2008 Meeting

Warren Town Hall, 2nd Floor

7:00 pm

www.wvhdc.org

Attendees: BG (Ret.) Richard J. Valente, Edward J. Theberge, John DaSilva, Chris Fuller, Patricia Read and Eileen Collins

Absent: Janet O'Brien

Location: Council Chambers, Warren Town Hall

1. Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. New/Review Applicants

a. Joanne DeVoe and Thomas Padwa

67 King St. Warren, RI

Final Review

Ms. DeVoe and Mr. Padwa presented the final photographs as well as invoices and

cancelled checks for repairs and improvements to the front porch of their King Street

home.

The couple explained that the porch had required repair and that by eliminating a small attached

room which they never used they could "open up" the porch. Ms.

DeVoe also said rather than keep the solid skirt she and Mr. Padwa opted for balusters. The renovation also included some landscaping in porch area.

Ms. DeVoe thanked the committee for “the program” because “it forced us to plan,” she said.

Committee members complimented the couple on the improvements.

Ms. Read told the couple

the “exactitude” of their paperwork was the best she had seen in 10 years.

Ms. Read made the motion to approve the \$16,252.09 in costs. The motion was seconded by Mr.

Theberge and passed unanimously. The original cost estimate was approximately \$16,000.

The paperwork will now be forwarded to the Tax Assessor for historical tax credits.

3. Review of Minutes

Mr. Theberge made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2008 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Read and passed unanimously.

Before the “Old Business” portion of the meeting, Mr. Theberge entertained a discussion on a

letter he had drafted and sent to Planning Board Chairman Andre Asselin regarding the Wharf

Tavern application for renovations.

Ms. Collins questioned what entity was responsible for the waterway walkway and decking which

Mr. Theberge had noted was in disrepair. Mr. Theberge referred to paragraph four of

the letter which states that the responsibility for the upkeep is with the Town according to a

decision by the State in 1986.

4. Old Business

a. Financial Report

Mr. DaSilva reported that \$290 would be expended in September which included payment for the

Website and stipend to the secretary.

Mr. Theberge commented that the Warren Voluntary Historic District Website is now “an official department” on the Town of Warren’s Website.

b. Status Report

Mr. DaSilva told the committee that he is working on repairing the corrupted status report file but

would need help. The secretary offered to assist him in updating the report so that it would be

ready for the October meeting.

e. Demolition Ordinance

No Demolition Ordinance update was presented.

d. Rules & Regulations

e. Standards & Guidelines

Both matters were postponed until the appointment of a new Warren Town Manager.

5. New Business

Mr. Theberge discussed the Planning Board Meeting he had attended the previous evening which dealt with the application for a new building at the Town Wharf. The building is slated to contain office space and a restaurant on the first floor.

Mr. Theberge said he was disappointed that the owners did not provide a detailed plan/design; only a sketch which he showed the committee. He also said there was discussion at the meeting of an elevator shaft on the east side of the building which, with the removal of the windows, would create a “windowless” wall.

He told the committee the bottom line was that the Board approved the plan but that the windows had to go back, perhaps covered by shutters.

Mr. Theberge said the proceedings were “difficult to follow” and in his opinion, the entire plan

should be reviewed. Mr. DaSilva agreed and said he feels specific architectural renderings should be submitted.

Comments from members on the plan included the lack of a plan for landscaping and the size of the kitchen.

General Valente suggested Mr. Theberge draft a letter to the Planning Board expressing concerns And requesting clarifications. Mr. Theberge agreed to do so and will submit copies to members.

6. Other

Ms. Read commented on how lovely Water Street looks with all the trees in bloom.

She suggested officially crediting Tree Warden John Massed with the improvements. She will draft a etter to that effect.

7. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Theberge seconded by Ms. Collins, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

The next meeting is Tuesday, October 28, 2008 at 7:00 P.M.