

ARREN VOLUNTARY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Minutes of November 24, 2009 Meeting

Warren Town Hall, 2nd Floor

7:00 pm

www.wvhdc.org

Attendees: Committee members: BG (Ret.) Richard J. Valente, Chris Fuller, Patricia Read, Eileen Collins and John DaSilva; Adam Sullivan and John Pinard from T-Mobil, Rick Norman from the United Methodist Church; property owner Wendy Farr and contractor Tom Fairchild

Absentees: Committee members: Edward J. Theberge and Janet O'Brien

Location: Planning Board Conference Room, Warren Town Hall

1- Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

5- New Business

Gen. Valente made a motion, seconded by Mr. DaSilva and passed unanimously to move

New Business up on the agenda.

At the request of the WVHDC, Adam Sullivan and John Pinard of T-Mobil were present to

answer questions regarding a proposal for installation of antennae, etc. at the United Methodist Church.

The committee had discussed the proposal at last month's meeting after its comments were sought which were to be submitted to the RI Preservation & Heritage Commission.

Mr. Pinard explained the plan which includes the installation of three antennae in the steeple and a GPS box on the front (southern exposure) side of the church proper. Three steeple windows will be removed and replaced with a radio frequency transparent material.

Mr. DaSilva asked who would be the custodian of the original glass. Mr. Norman said the Church would. All wires are to be inside.

Discussion focused on replacement window sashes. Mr. Norman said they would have to be replaced as they are "rotted."

Mr. Sullivan said T-Mobile could not "commit" at this time to replacing the sashes. The

WVHDC could make that comment when it sends a letter to RI Preservation.

Also discussed were the Church's gothic style cornices and whether they would be

replaced. Gen. Valente suggested that the Church take on that

task, not T-Mobil.

On the recommendation of Gen. Valente, Ms Collins made a motion to approve the

installation as presented, and to recommend that the Church replace/repair any architectural

features; Mr. Fuller seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

2- New/Review Applicants

a. Wendy Farr

15 School Street – new application

Mr. DaSilva recused himself as an abutter

Ms. Farr and her contractor Mr. Fairchild presented the proposal which includes (1) exterior prep and painting for \$6,000, (2) strip off old shingles and replace roof for \$6,000, and (3)

rework/restore some existing windows and replace others for an estimated \$5,400 – total project cost of \$17,400.

Much of the discussion focused on windows and Ms. Farr's plan to to replace two single

windows on the north side with double windows to allow for more light.

Gen. Valente said “older homes tended to be symmetrical.” Ms. Collins said in her opinion “architecturally adding the double windows was a bad idea.” Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve parts 1 and 2 of the proposal; and for 3, rework existing windows that the homeowner chooses to keep, replace other windows with simulated divided light wood windows as proposed, but eliminate changing the single windows on the north side to doubles.

Ms. Collins seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

3- Minutes

Mr. DaSilva made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 27, 2009 regular meeting after the correction of a misspelled word; seconded by Mr. Fuller and passed unanimously.

4- Old Business

a. Financial Report

Mr. DaSilva reported to date the WVHDC is operating \$1,270 under budget. He requested approval to pay the \$100 secretary stipend for November. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Status Report

Mr. DaSilva presented the status of open projects. There are

approved/open projects that

have never come before the board for finalization. The secretary will send letters to

Julie Blount and Phoebe Murdock to inquire as to the status of their projects.

c. Standards & Guidelines

General Valente said he had made notes regarding wording, duplication, etc. on the new

version of the document. He turned over his notes to Mr. Fuller who has spearheaded the

revision project. Mr. Fuller said he also had questions, one of which concerned materials.

Work on the revision will continue.

5-New Business (cont'd)

a. Approve meetings schedule for 2010

Gen. Valente made a motion to accept the schedule as presented, seconded by Mr.

DaSilva and passed unanimously.

6- Other

Several general comments were made. Ms. Collins said she listened to the recording of the

meeting in which plans for Mr. Rongione's new building to house a

restaurant at 279 Water St.

were discussed. She was interested in replaying comments concerning windows as she said she

believes windows that do not corresponded to the WVHDC's suggestions are being installed.

"It's a lesson learned. We need a materials list," she said

Mr. Fuller said he sees the absence of full plans presented at WVHDC meetings as a hindrance.

"If we're helping the Planning Board we need a full set of plans. There is a problem in responding

without having a full set of plans," he said

7- Adjournment

Mr. DaSilva made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Gen. Valente and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.