

WARREN VOLUNTARY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Minutes of November 23, 2010 Meeting

Warren Town Hall, 2nd Floor

7:00 pm

www.wvhdc.org

**Attendees: Edward Theberge, John DaSilva, Janet O'Brien and BG
(Ret.) Richard J. Valente**

Also present was Arnold N. Robinson, AICP, of RWU

Absent: Eileen Collins, Chris Fuller and Patricia Read

Location: Planning Board Conference Room, Warren Town Hall

1- Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Ed Theberge called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

2- Review of Applicants

a. Final Review – Mary Healey Jamiel and Kurt Jamiel

44 Church Street

The Jamiels provided cancelled checks and the explanation regarding the exterior

painting project and the reason why the total was \$10,856.63 rather

than the \$9,170 that had been approved. Mr. Jamiel said there were unanticipated structural issues and deteriorating clapboard that had to be replaced, as well as foundation work.

Following calculations and the creation of an itemized listing, Mr. DaSilva made a motion “to approve the itemized listing just submitted subject to having attached receipts to substantiate what has been submitted.”

Ms. O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion passed and the paperwork will be submitted to the Tax Assessor for historic tax credits.

b. Amendment – Lombard Pozzi

240-244 Water Street

The cost of Mr. Pozzi’s original roofing project, approved in December, 2009, was \$9,700. He said his plan was to replace half the roof but after work began it was discovered that the remainder of the roof was in disrepair and leaked. Cost for the additional portion of the roof is \$10,700.

Mr. DaSilva questioned whether the amendment would qualify for the tax credit program since work had already begun. Mr. Theberge said the new portion of the project was a cost overrun.

“It depends how you look it,” said Mr. DaSilva. “Technically it’s not a cost overrun.” After further discussion Mr. Theberge said, “What it comes down to is there had to be a continuation of the original

project.”

Gen. Valente made a motion to approve the final amount totaling \$20,000, seconded by Ms. O’Brien. The amendment was approved unanimously.

Mr. Pozzi also said he was seeking reimbursement from the Building Official’s Office for the permit fee. The secretary was told to write a letter to that effect to the Building Official on Mr. Pozzi’s behalf.

Mr. Pozzi asked to be placed on the December 14, 2010 agenda for final review.

Guest

Attending the meeting was Arnold N. Robinson, AICP, an educator at RWU in Historic Preservation, Community Planning and Feasibility Analysis.

Mr. Robinson said his sophomore class is currently using Warren as a “laboratory” and will be assisting with the Comprehensive Plan update.

Gen. Valente spoke re- the WVHDC, its origin, mission and how it operates. He told Mr. Robinson that a unique feature of the WVHDC is that it recognizes homes that are 100 years old or older as historic no matter where they are in town. They need not be in the Historic District, per se.

Mr. Robinson said that in the current Comprehensive Plan draft there

are only two sentences that refer to an historic district. “It’s very thin,” he said.

Gen. Valente replied. “What we need to combat that is to put together a draft and submit it to the Manager and the Planner.”

He and Mr. DaSilva went on to explain how the WVHDC came about, how residents of a proposed regulatory historic district mounted a campaign against it. However, the Town Council wanted to demonstrate that it was not against historic preservation and convened a committee, a precursor to the WVHDC, to come back with recommendations and proposals.

Mr. Robinson said none of this history is in the Comp Plan, “I’m disappointed it has been given short shrift,” said Gen. Valente. He also said he believed the WVHDC should have input into the Comp Plan. He said, “We haven’t been consulted by anybody.”

3-Review of Minutes

a. October 26, 2010

Mr. DaSilva made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted, seconded by Gen. Valente. The motion passed.

4- Old Business

a. Financial Report

Mr. DaSilva reported that November expenses amounted to \$249. 88:

\$100 for the secretary, \$90 for maintenance of the existing Website and \$59.88 for the Web Hosting site that is being worked on by the Planner. He said he has spoken to the Planner and that the new Website is not complete. He will check in with her again before the next meeting.

b. Status Report

Same as last month.

5- New Business

a. Resignation

Gen. Valente made a motion to accept the resignation of Janet O'Brien with regret and asked the secretary to draft a thank you letter. The motion was seconded by Mr. DaSilva and passed.

b. 2011 Meetings Schedule

Mr. DaSilva made a motion to approve the 2011 schedule as submitted by the secretary, seconded by Gen Valente. The motion passed.

c. Armory Letter

Gen Valente made a motion for a letter to be drafted and sent from the WVHDC in support of the Armory Project to National Grid. Mr. DaSilva seconded. The motion passed.

6- Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.