

# **WARREN VOLUNTARY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of October 30, 2012 Special Meeting**

**Warren Town Hall, 2nd Floor**

**7:30 pm**

**[www.wvhdc.org](http://www.wvhdc.org)**

**Attendees: BG (Ret.) Richard J. Valente, Eileen Collins and Steven Thompson**

**Absent: Edward J. Theberge, John Sheridan, John DaSilva and Patricia Read**

**Location: Planning Board Conference Room, Warren Town Hall**

## **1- Call to Order**

**The meeting was called to order at 7:44 by Chairman Valente.**

## **2- Discussion/Action Proposed Demolition**

**613-615 Main St.**

**Although the full board is not present, Chairman Valente said the discussion could proceed as there is a quorum. Mr. Thompson agreed and made a motion to proceed as a legal meeting, seconded by Ms. Collins. The motion passed.**

**Chairman Valente read the letter sent to the WVHDC from the Town Council seeking a recommendation. The recommendation must be handed in before the Nov. 20, 2012 Public Hearing. Other documents include the owners' request for a demolition permit and a memorandum from Building Official Nash. The Greek Revival house is an historical structure as it was built circa 1850.**

**The Council can grant a waiver to demolish only after the findings at the hearing. The three reasons to grant a waiver are:**

- (1) That the building poses a public safety hazard**
- (2) That preserving it would cause unreasonable financial hardship to the owner**
- (3) (That preserving the structure is not in the best interest of the community**

**Mr. Thompson showed the committee photos of the interior. He said the interior appears in good shape. He found records of the house in the Town Clerk's Office that attest to its historic and architectural value, he said.**

**Chairman Valente agreed that the house is an historic structure "that is an asset to the town."**

**Ms. Collins added that maintenance is not an issue since the house is vinyl-sided and "very restorable."**

**Gen. Valente said he spoke to Bill Nash who is working with attorneys for permission to gain access to the property and hoped to have a report for the Nov. 20 meeting. When asked, Mr. Nash said he has no reason to suspect that the house is hazardous or economically impractical to rehab.**

**Gen. Valente said in his opinion there is no reason to justify granting a waiver. It is not a hazard, poses no financial hardship to the owners and its loss would create a negative visual impact on the town, he said.**

**Mr. Thompson said he agreed with the assessment and made a motion to draft a recommendation outlining those points. Ms. Collins seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **6- Adjournment**

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.**