

# Warwick Historic District Commission

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Warwick City Hall  
3275 Post Road  
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886

## **Meeting Minutes Wednesday, February 18, 2015 Warwick City Hall Planning Department**

The following Commission members and staff were in attendance:

Ms. Donna Tobin, Chair  
Ms. Ginny Leslie, Vice Chair  
Mr. Maxwell Pounder  
Mr. William McQuade  
Mr. Barry O'Brien

The following Commission members were absent:

Ms. Carol Pratt  
Ms. Jennifer Siciliano

The following staff members were present:

Trish Reynolds, Warwick Planning Department  
Sue Baker, Warwick Planning Department

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson at 6:06 p.m.

### **Petition #15-244-106**

**Commercial/Piezoni's Pizza/Cumberland Farms  
3377 Post Road  
Signage**

Commissioner Tobin introduced the Petition.

Mr. Nicholas Lacroix, the Petitioner, explained that, due to construction of the new Cumberland Farms in Apponaug Village, his restaurant was moving into a building occupied by the existing Cumberland Farms store. He is seeking approval to reface and modify an existing exterior sign and install a wall sign.

Mr. Lacroix explained that the refaced sign would contain the Piezoni's logo, be two-sided, and illuminated with an interior light, but was open to suggestions relative to illumination, as he respected the historical qualities, ambiance, and homey feel of the Village. It was suggested that goosenecks, a spotlight, or lighting similar to that at the Pawtucket Credit Union location, where the light washes down, be utilized. Ms.

Reynolds noted that changes to this existing sign could have been done administratively, but the Petitioner chose to bring both signs before the Commission as a package.

Mr. Lacroix presented a rendering of the proposed sign that will be centered on the exterior building wall. The background will be black and gold leaf will be used for the word "Piezoni's." Gooseneck lighting would likely be used for this sign. Some existing wall signs will also be removed.

Discussion took place as to whether the Petitioner might want to consider having both signs in the same color and design so as not to confuse the business' identity. He explained that the franchise designed the sign for him. The same color combination has been used in Pawtucket store, to positive reviews. Commissioner Tobin noted that the Commission has no purview over color but suggested that perhaps the black in the wall sign be given a cast of dark green to give the signs more continuity.

Commissioner McQuade made a motion to approve Petition #15-244-106, citing Secretary of Interior Standard Number 9 in regard to new additions, exterior alterations or related new construction, and stipulated that the lighting for the exterior sign shall be gooseneck lighting, lighting for the building sign shall be gooseneck and they shall be made to be similar to those predominately placed in the Village.

Commissioner Leslie seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. None were opposed.

**Petition #15-292-295**  
**Residential/Multifamily**  
**44 Lawn Avenue**  
**Pawtucket Village**

Commissioner Tobin introduced the Petition.

The Petitioner, Dave Langevin, showed the Commission photos of his property and explained that he is seeking permission to remove all existing clapboard siding on the south, east and west elevations and remove the clapboard above the porch on the north elevation, and replace the clapboard siding with wood grain vinyl siding.

He introduced photos of a property across the street that is predominately vinyl-sided; Ms. Reynolds noted that the siding had been in place on that property for many years.

Commissioner Pounder inquired why the Petitioner wanted to do this work. Mr. Langevin said the clapboard was in tough shape and he was also concerned about lead paint beneath the existing top coat.

Commissioner Tobin read into the record the Planning Department's recommendations.

She noted that the Commission is held to the Secretary of the Interior Standards, which were voted on by the district when it was created by the Warwick City Council and

that, in that respect, the Commission's hands are tied in that respect; vinyl siding is not something they are allowed to permit.

Commissioner Tobin inquired if Mr. Langevin was aware as a property owner of this restriction within a historic district. He replied that he was not originally know that, but was made aware of it.

Mr. Langevin noted that there are four houses on his street with vinyl siding and showed the Commission additional photos; Commissioner Leslie noted that there were likely many more that have clapboard.

Commissioner McQuade questioned whether Mr. Langevin had considered other options such as HardiPlank, or similar – a concrete material – which have been allowed in certain circumstances. Mr. Langevin said he was not familiar with those products but if vinyl siding is not allowed, he would just go over what is already existing in order to keep it consistent with other properties on the street.

Commissioner McQuade reiterated Commissioner Tobin's comments about the restrictions the Commission faces relative to vinyl, and noted that some property owners had been required to remove vinyl in the past.

Commissioner Leslie made a motion to deny the Petition. Commissioner McQuade seconded the motion. The Petition was approved unanimously; none voted against.

Commissioner McQuade thanked the Petitioner for being understanding of the Commission's position on vinyl siding in light of the standards they are bound to uphold.

Ms. Reynolds is to mail a letter in kind to the Petitioner.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- **Review and approval of minutes of January 21, 2015 meeting**

Commissioner McQuade made a motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Leslie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously; none were opposed.

- **Clouds Hill listing on the National Register of Historic Places**

Ms. Reynolds informed the Commission that Clouds Hill has received designation on the National Register of Historic Places and that the City had sent a letter in support of this effort.

- **Annual Preservation Conference**

Ms. Reynolds reminded the Commissioners about the upcoming Preservation Conference and asked what Commissioners might be interested in taking part. Commissioner Leslie indicated she planned to attend.

- **Discuss scheduling for Commission subcommittee meeting**

It was agreed that a Subcommittee to begin examining design standards and district boundaries would meet on Wednesday, March 4, at 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner Leslie made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner McQuade seconded the motion. It passed unanimously; none were opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.