

# Warwick Historic District Commission

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Warwick City Hall  
3275 Post Road  
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886

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

The following Commission members were in attendance:

Ms. Donna Tobin, Chair  
Ms. Ginny Leslie, Vice Chair  
Ms. Jennifer Siciliano  
Ms. Carol Pratt  
Mr. Maxwell Pounder

The following Commission members were absent:

Mr. Barry O'Brien  
Mr. William McQuade

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 6:05 p.m.

### **Petition #15-293-561**

Single family dwelling  
15 South Atlantic Avenue  
Pawtuxet Village

The petition was to install 28 replacement windows. The windows have been installed without the proper authorization and approvals.

Ms. Reynolds informed the Commissioners that a building permit had been obtained for the project, but it was issued incorrectly.

The Petitioner, Mr. Andres Ramirez, explained that the windows had replaced aluminum windows, circa 1960s, that had become unsafe. Two of the old windows had shattered during recent windstorms. The new windows are of a proprietary composite material called Fibrex (wood fibers and a special thermoplastic polymer) by Renewal by Andersen Window Replacement. There are half screens on the new windows; the old windows had both half screens and storm windows.

Mr. Ramirez told the Commission that he would not have intentionally had work performed without getting prior Historic District Commission approval. His contractor, whom he hired to represent him during the renovation process, had not informed him of the need for approvals, and Mr. Ramirez was out of the country when the work was completed.

Before-and-after photos were presented for the Commissioners' review.

It was noted that the new windows are an improvement and the composite material closely resembles wood. Commissioner Tobin noted that they appeared to have been replaced in-kind, in a 1/1 like pattern, that the windows appear to blend into the frame without changing the appearance and that the size of the openings had not been impeded at all.

Commissioner Leslie said she felt the windows were an improvement over the aluminum.

Commissioner Leslie moved to approve Petition #15-293-561 for replacement of 28 windows, based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standard #9. ("New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.")

Commissioner Pratt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 5-0; none were opposed.

Mr. Ramirez invited the Commissioners to come visit his property to see the windows, and inquired whether he needed Commission approval to paint the house. He was informed that the Commission has no purview over paint color. Mr. Ramirez said he purchased his home because he appreciated its historic qualities and would like to know what colors were appropriate for the era; Commissioner Leslie offered to loan him a book that might be of help. In terms of other renovations, Ms. Reynolds explained the difference between work that would require a building permit and HDC approvals and what can be done as a replacement in-kind.

### **Other**

The Commissioners reviewed and voted on minutes for the following meetings:

#### **Wednesday, March 18, 2015**

Commissioner Siciliano moved approval, seconded by Commissioner Leslie. The minutes were approved by Commissioners Tobin, Leslie, Siciliano, and Pratt. Commissioner Pounder did not vote as he was not present at the March 18 meeting.

#### **Wednesday, April 15, 2015**

Commissioner Leslie moved approval, seconded by Commissioner Pratt. The motion was unanimously approved, 5-0; none were opposed.

**Wednesday, May 20, 2015**

This vote was continued until the December 16, 2015 meeting, as there were not enough Commissioners present for a quorum to vote.

**Wednesday, June 17, 2015**

This vote was continued until the December 16, 2015 meeting, as there were not enough Commissioners present for a quorum to vote.

**Wednesday, August 19, 2015**

Commissioner Pratt moved approval of the minutes; seconded by Commissioner Leslie. The minutes were approved by Commissioners Tobin, Leslie, Siciliano, and Pratt. Commissioner Pounder did not vote as he was not present at the August 19 meeting.

**Wednesday, September 16, 2015**

Commissioner Pratt moved approval; seconded by Commissioner Pounder. Commissioners Tobin, Leslie, Pratt, and Pounder voted to approve; Commissioner Siciliano abstained as she was not present at the September meeting.

**July 2015 and October 2015**

It was noted that no meetings occurred in July or October 2015 due to the fact that no applications had been received for those months.

Commissioner Leslie motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Pounder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 5-0; none were opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.