

Royalston Historic District Commission

Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 30, 1999

Attendees: John Poor, Peter Kraniak, Rick Carrier, Clarence Rabideau, alternate, Bob Casinghino, alternate, and Andy West, acting secretary. All were active voters.

Meeting called to order at 7:40 PM

This meeting was rescheduled due to lack of quorum from March 19, 1999.

The regular agenda of the meeting was rearranged to accommodate Ken Lively's applications. Lively presented 3 applications.

The first application requested permission to replace the roofing material on the house and barn with 3-tab "slate blend" color asphalt shingles. The current roof is 1-tab black, asphalt. After some discussion John Poor made a motion to accept the application and to notify abutters of the request. Poor confirmed that Lively understood that there would be a 14 day abutter notification period before the application could be acted upon. Rick Carrier seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. The abutters were identified as Bonni Widdoes, The First Congregational Church of Royalston, Dr. George Krasowski, and Henry Cole.

The second application requested permission to change the color of the sashes of the barn window from black to dark green. The new color will match the previously approved shutter color. After a short discussion Poor made a motion to accept the application and notify abutters of the request. Carrier seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The third application requested permission to remove the chimney on the north end of the main house to below the roof line. Lively stated that this application was a re-submission of one that was previously withdrawn. Previously, the Commission had suggested alternatives to removal and Lively had agreed to try them. Lively reported that all repair efforts to this point have failed and that the bricks in the chimney are so porous that water leaks in through the brick itself. He said that no other option exists than to rebuild the entire chimney from the ground up. He intends on doing so in the future. But, current repairs and budget constraints prohibit him from doing so at the present.

Poor said the Commission should not give an open ended permission to remove such a significant structure with no time limit for replacement. Lively said because the future is such an unknown he could not commit to a date of replacement. Poor suggested that a time limit of "3 years, or as soon as possible" be included on the application. This would help the commission to not forget about its removal. If Lively was not able to complete the replacement by then he could request an extension. Lively agreed to this.

Andy West suggested that measurements and drawings of the location of the chimney be added to the application for the record. All parties agreed.

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Peter Kraniak made a motion to accept the application and require a public hearing for it. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. West will post notices for the public hearing and notify abutters of the 3 applications. The public hearing was set for April 15, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. prior to the regular April meeting.

The regular order of business was resumed. The minutes from the November 19, 1998 meeting were read and approved. The March 8, 1999 minutes were not available.

Motion seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 P.M.

Old Business

The Favreau's on Frye Hill Rd. have not completed the covering of the foundation that was required of them last fall. West will contact them.

West reported that Marjorie Chase from Frye Hill Rd. has not responded to the letter he sent to her asking for after-the-fact applications for the removal of a fence and installation of a gate. He will ask the Selectboard to send her a request for action.

Clarence Rabideau reported that he completed a survey of the locations of all the light standards in the district. He asked for a map to plot the information. He stated that the lights are arranged in a fairly regular pattern. This implies that not very many lights are missing. West will supply a map.

The subcommittee creating the public info packs did not report a status. West said that a notice that the Commission is now requiring a 14 day notification period is needed soon as the building season is coming up.

The guidelines were discussed. Rabideau said that he and Karen had agreed to commence work on them in May when the school year is over. Then they would have more time to do it.

West announced that the Lively's sign has been removed. He also stated that he has had inquiries to the banner on the barn of the parsonage that states, "Jesus is the reason for the season." West will ask Rev. Asel to remove the sign.

West mention that he will bring a mock up of the "Entering the district" signs to the next meeting.

Jason Fortunato has still not presented an application to paint his stockade fence. He mentioned last fall that he was anxious to paint it. West will make sure he knows that the commission is waiting for him, not vice-versa.

New Business

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The new handicap ramp on the Raymond School is due for painting soon after being seasoned through the winter. West will contact them about this and about covering the bare underside with lattice.

Poor mentioned that money has been appropriated for the painting of the Town Hall. West will send a letter to the Selectmen reminding them.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew J. West,
Acting Secretary