

Minutes of March 12, 1981 Meeting
Royalston Historic District Commission

Meeting held at Phineas Newton Library, March 12, 1981 at 7:30 p.m. and convened by Chairman Bob Gravley; it was noted that a quorum was present.

Present at meeting: Bob Gravley, chairman
John Peer, Glenn Freden, Colleen Richardson,
Doreen Simmington (first meeting), Dr. Frye,
Tom Musco, Mary Jane Green.
Jay Richardson.
It was noted that Alan Bowers had a conflict and could not attend, and that Waine Kirkman was in the hospital.

Chairman Gravley stated that the main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the appropriate "next step" in Jay and Colleen Richardson's application for solar panels.

Members were shown the two sketches of the panels, and also an aerial view of the yard and house.

Discussion followed;

John Peer noted that the plumbing will be on the back side of the house w/ the exception of two pipes running from the panels. Regarding the description of the type of panels, Jay Richardson stated that they would be metal, which could be painted. John Peer thought it would be essential for this to be done. Jay R. also described the glass to be used as low tempered sheets, with a surface appearing to be reflective. Panels will be raised and at a slight angle.

Dr. Frye commented that if anything justifies changes now-a-days, it is the economic situation of today.

Bob Gravley stated that it is his concern that the historic integrity of the older structures not be hampered with; we need to limit the external impact of alternative energy in the Common and that this application seems to do this.

Motion was made by John Peer that we approved the request #4-81 as presented and proceed with next step. Motion seconded by Glenn Freden. Following members in favor: Glenn Freden, Doreen Simmington, John Peer, Bob Gravley, Tom Musco, Dr. Frye. No opposed.

The question was raised as to the need for a public hearing.

BG stated that he was concerned with the by-law wording "insubstantial" because it really is a substantial change.

GF stated that he felt that there was no need for a public hearing.

JP noted that the solar panels were appurtenances, and do not alter the exterior architecture of the house.

Secretary read aloud from page 3. of the By-Laws under "Powers and Duties"; The Commission shall keep an open mind toward alternative energy features being added to buildings within the district.

It was noted that the type of certificate that is being considered is the Certificate of Appropriateness. Consensus that this was correct.

Suggestion was made that we forego the public hearing and send letters to these neighbors who can view the panels directly; a letter would also be posted on the bulletin board at the Post Office.

Concern was voiced about the word "insubstantial". It was noted that the panels will be at the rear of the house, do not affect any architectural changes, and are mainly hidden by trees.

Question was asked if we were all agreed that we do not go the public hearing route: unanimous response. (GF, DS, JP, BG, TM, RF)

Decision was made for the secretary to send out letters to the following people notifying them of the application: Kelley, Mildred French.

Motion made by John Peer: ...Moved that in accordance with Section 4 of the By Laws, subheading "Public Hearings" that a public hearing be waived in the case of this application in view of the insubstantial nature of the appertenances involved. ~~and the placement thereof.~~
Motion seconded by GF.

Discussion followed.

Motion made to include the words "and the placement thereof:" after the word "involved." All in favor: unanimous: Glenn Freden, Doreen Simmington, John Peer, Bob Gravley, Tom Musco, Dr. Frye. Opposed; no

All these in favor of the motion so amended. Glenn Freden, Doreen Simmington, John Peer, Bob Gravley, Tom Musco, Dr. Frye. Opposed: No.

Motion carried.

Discussion followed about wording of the letter; agreed to describe system as "five panelled solar hot water system to be placed on the back roof facing south and to be as unobtrusive as possible."

Agreed to meet March 26th, 1981 at the Library at 7:30 p.m.

Chairman and or secretary will attempt to set up definite date for the Mass. Historic Commission to come out and talk to us.

Meeting adjourned, approximately 8:50.

Respectively submitted:

Mary Jane Green
Mary Jane Green, secretary.

Secretary's addition: It was noted that member Colleen Richardson did not vote on issues involving the application, for obvious reasons.

mjg