

*Royalston Historic District Commission*

*February 21, 2002*

The meeting was called to order at 7:43 p.m. by Chairman John Divoll.

Members in attendance were John, Brenda Putney, Andy West, Bob Casinghino, and Peter Kraniak.

The minutes of the November 15, 2001 meeting were read. Bob made a motion to accept the minutes as read, Andy seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The minutes of the December 20, 2001 meeting were read. Bob made a motion to accept the minutes as read, Andy seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Discussion notes were attached from the January 26, 2002 meeting night. No official meeting was held that evening, for lack of a quorum.

An application was received from Andy West (for the Village School) to add 2 panels of lattice work to the underside of the ramp at the Raymond School Building. The application showed the lattice work, painted white with a green frame. Peter, Bob and Brenda all felt that it would look better if the frame was also white, instead of green, and would be much less noticeable that way. Andy agreed to this request.

Peter asked whether or not the Village School already had permission for this on their former application filed when they built the ramp. Andy stated that they did not. They had the option at the time, but chose not to go with it.

Bob made a motion to accept the application for consideration, with the modification that the frame around the lattice be painted white. Brenda seconded the motion. Bob, John, Peter, and Brenda voted in favor of the motion, Andy abstained from voting.

Andy noted for the record that there are not vinyl windows in his house.

An application was received from the Selectmen for permission to change the Street lights. Discussion was held on this application, in which a lot of concerns were voiced.

Andy wondered if there were any other options available. Peter stated that he likes the light, but not the hue. He would like to see what Lexington, Concord, and some of these other Historic Districts have done. He stated that Wendell has post lights, and they look nice.

John has been in contact with Mass. Electric, and stated that other lights can be purchased by the Town at higher rates, and the town would also have to pay for maintenance on these lights, and would then be charged residential rates for electricity, rather than the municipal rate that we are currently paying. Mass. Electric has stated that these are the only option, with the exception of regular street lights.

Bob feels that the arm is too short on this light, and that the light would look more appropriate if it had a 4" arm instead of a 2 1/2" arm. Peter and Brenda agreed.

Another concern voiced is the height of the light, that the light would look better if it were lower. John stated that regulations today forbid electric lines to cross below the telephone lines. Telephone lines are required to be 18' high now. Even if the current fixtures were to remain, any that have not been raised already, will be.

Mass. Electric has stated that these same lights have been installed in Old Deerfield. Peter said he believes that the lights in Old Deerfield are on posts, not on the telephone poles. He suggested that we hold onto this application until we are able to get more information about what other districts have done.

Andy feels that the old fixtures aren't deteriorating, and he suggests that the old lights remain, and be used with different bulbs if Mass. Electric is no longer going to supply these bulbs.

Bob feels that the old lights should be maintained by Mass. Electric, but if they aren't, these fixtures could be acceptable, but that the bulbs are too harsh. They would be much better with a whiter light.

Andy discussed the historical value of the present fixtures, and stated that we should fight harder to keep them, especially if they are being removed everywhere. Andy also said he will contact Chris Skelley to see what other towns have done.

Peter said he would call some other Historic District Commissions, and ask what they have done.

Bob asked how many watts are in the light now. Many felt that the light may be more acceptable with a lower wattage bulb. John thought that the present bulb is the lowest available, but will check. It was also the consensus that with a whiter light, these fixtures could be acceptable. John asked Mass. Electric about a whiter light already, and was told that they aren't available.

Peter asked about writing the C.E.O. of Mass. Electric. Andy suggested contacting Senator Brewer.

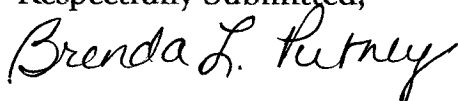
It was decided to hold onto this application for now, in order to give the Commission more time to check into options.

Brenda made a motion to hold a public hearing on Andy's application at 7:15 on the night of the next meeting, which is March 21, 2002. Peter seconded the motion. John, Peter, Bob, and Brenda voted in favor, Andy abstained from voting.

Andy noted that he had received a letter from a man by the name of Bastille, wondering if there could be any ties to the Bastille here in town. Andy wrote back to him, explaining how the building came by that name.

Bob made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda L. Putney". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Brenda L. Putney, Secretary