

Royalston Historic District Commission

March 21, 2002

No one showed for the public hearing scheduled for this evening.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the H.D.C. was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman John Divoll.

Members in attendance were John, Jodie, Peter, Patience, Andy, Bob, and Brenda.

Bob made a motion to accept the minutes of the February meeting, as amended, Andy seconded, and the motion carried.

John made a note for the record, that the rate for electricity to streetlights owned by the town would be a "G" rated non-metered rate, not residential rate.

Old Business: Application from Andy West for the addition of lattice work to the underside of the ramp at the Village School.

Brenda asked if there would be access to the underneath, in case of animals getting in there, etc. Andy said there would be. No one else had any further questions. Brenda made a motion to approve the application, Bob seconded the motion. John, Patience, Bob, Brenda, and Peter voted in favor. Andy and Jodie abstained from voting. Application #3-1-02 was approved.

Rise Richardson from the Village School stopped in and asked if an application would be necessary to install totem poles around the playground, for a school project. The poles would be painted with designs (not really bright colors), and would be about 8' above the ground. The poles would remain in place until the Village School moves to the Camp Caravan site.

Andy feels that the commission should address it, and either an application for appropriateness or non-applicability should be filed. Bob agreed, and stated that we should be somewhat careful as to how we deal with "temporary" items. Discussion was held as to the placement of the poles, and if an application would be necessary if they were placed behind the school. Peter stated that he feels we should ask them to fill out an application. This would cover the commission, and also puts a temporary term limit on the poles. Bob agreed, and stated that this would also help us to define "temporary". Patience agreed, she stated that it is part of their school curriculum, and should support them. She also stated that the application should be for appropriateness.

Back to old business: Andy asked John if there was any new information from Mass. Electric. John stated that the bulb that is in the fixture at this time is the lowest wattage bulb.

Andy discussed research that he has done in the last month. He e-mailed the H.D.C. Network explaining the light dilemma. He read the responses he received to the Commission. One response in particular was from Longmeadow, they stated that we should be able to have more options, as they were given 10 alternatives.

Andy feels that with this pending, Mass. Electric lights that are currently up are not being repaired, such as the light in front of his house, which Mass. Electric is now saying is not repairable.

Andy pointed out that basically we have 2 avenues. One is to keep the present lights, and maybe rewire them to make them compatible with newer bulbs, and the second is to install new lights. He stated that Lexington has installed compact fluorescent bulbs in the same fixtures that we have. John asked him to find out who funded this change, and who is maintaining them.

Andy talked about different types of lights available, and the whiteness of the different types of lights. He stated that in his research, he has found that the biggest savings would come from Induction lighting. The light given off has a c.r.i. (amount of whiteness) of 80% versus the c.r.i. of 40% from the High Pressure Sodium lights. To use these bulbs would require rewiring the fixtures, and the bulbs are more expensive, but the bulbs are rated to last up to 20 years.

Andy has talked to the lighting consultant that helped out in the town of Wendell. He is the one who told him about induction lighting. He works with towns to help them to find their best options. Peter stated that Wendell has bought all their lights, and pays for the maintenance of them, and for less money. Andy showed pictures of many different streetlights available. He stated that the consultant he spoke with is willing to come talk to us. Brenda suggested that we set up a meeting with him and the Selectmen. John suggested we go to their next Wednesday meeting.

Bob made a motion to meet with the Selectmen on Wednesday March 27th. Peter seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Peter made a motion to accept the application for consideration. Andy seconded, and the motion carried. A public hearing was set for April 18th at 7 p.m., with the regular meeting to follow.

New Business:

Application from Steve Chase and Beth Gospodarek. The application is to build a new barn across the road from their house. In going over the application, the commission noted many things that were missing from the application. A list was compiled, and the applications will be sent back to Steve and Beth, along with a letter explaining what the Commission will need to make the applications acceptable.

Patience make a motion not to accept this application at this time, for reason of not enough information. Andy seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Brenda gave an update on the signs. She stated that the plans have been given to the instructor at Poet's seat, and she is waiting to hear back from him. Peter asked if we can get them by this fall. Brenda said she would ask.

Bob stated that Carl Kamp has replaced a stone foundation with cinderblock, and it is visible. A letter will be sent to Carl asking for an application after the fact, and also asking what his plans are as far a grading, etc.

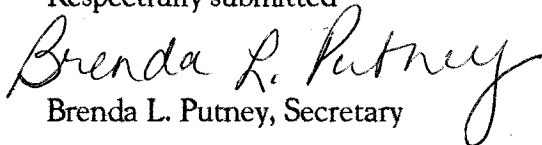
Andy also stated that he heard, but has not confirmed that Jason Fortunato has installed a new window on the side of his house facing the columns. Members will look to see if this is fact, and we will follow up at the next meeting.

Andy asked if we should contact Landmark to follow up on the approved applications. John said that the Selectmen have asked Landmark, and have gotten no response.

Bob made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brenda seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted


Brenda L. Putney, Secretary