

Royalston Historic District Commission

Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 15, 2004

Attendees: Clarence Rabideau, Peter Kraniak, Karen Kolamaga, Bob Casinghino, Dick Corser and Andy West, secretary. All were active voters.

Meeting called to order at 7:43 PM by Vice Chairman Peter Kraniak

A public hearing was held at 7:00 pm, preceding the meeting to allow public discussion of the pending application from The Village School for permission to add a portable classroom at the rear of the Raymond School.

Applications

Andy West announced that he would abstain from voting because he is a board member of the school and a parent of children who attend the school. The Village School Application was discussed. Clarence suggested that the application be changed to request the addition for a maximum of 5 years and that the proposed building be no larger than the proposed footprint instead applying for a fixed size. Walt Thornton agreed to the changes. Questions were asked about the Village School. Andy and Walt answered the questions. Peter Kraniak made a motion to approve the application as amended. Bob seconded. Approval was unanimously with one abstention as certificate 4-1-2004. Karen arrived after the vote.

Dwight Stowell submitted an updated application for the fence along the front of his property. Dr. Stowell sited that changes were made during construction because he discovered that the proposed fence design belonged to a time period not appropriate for his house. Discussion ensued about the protocol for accepting amendments. Karen made a motion to send Dr. Stowell a letter to state that application changes must be applied for in advance and approved by the Commission. Changes not approved may have consequences including the removal of the unapproved changes. Dick Second. Approval was unanimous. Clarence made a motion to attach the changes to the application of amendment with prejudice. Vote was 4 in favor, 1 against, Bob abstained because he is an abutter to the Stowells.

New Applications

Bob presented an application to change the roofing material on his house and barn from slate (with original wood shakes underneath) to an asphalt 50 year "shingle." The roofing is designed to simulate the appearance of wood shakes. In addition, the porch and wellhouse will be changed to the new material. Samples were provided. Andy made a motion to accept the application for consideration with a public hearing. Karen second. Motion carried unanimously. Bob abstained. The public hearing will be May 20, 2004 at 7:15 PM at the Town Hall.

Minutes from March 18, 2004 meeting were read and approved.

Royalston Historic District Commission

Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Old Business

Peter asked if the Commission wanted to renew effort on the "Entering Historic District" signs. The members stated their opinions – some for, some against. Some members suggested that if there is a sign there should be one in front of the Town Hall lawn or something.

The handbook needs to be updated and handed out to some new residents. Andy will try to get copies of all the materials to put some new books together.

Peter asked if the Commission wanted to send a letter to John Poor in sympathy for his wife's passing. John was a long time member of the commission. The members decided that since the memorials were all low key, the commission will not send a letter.

Peter suggested that the roadway entering the district near the fire station be spruced up since it is an entrance to town.

Peter asked about the status of the town buying the streetlights. Andy reported that Mass electric was rebidding

Andy suggested that the commission set about pre-approving some architectural features and procedural items. Members should come to the next meeting with a list of items that the commission should consider.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew J. West,
Secretary