

Royalston Historic District Commission
Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Public Hearing Minutes

Date: February 16, 2006

A Public hearing was posted and convened for the purpose of discussing eight applications submitted by Dwight Stowell, Jr. for changes to his property at 18 On The Common. Ten members of the public were present along with Commission Members. The applicant was not present at the public hearing. The applications were reviewed in the following order with public comment following:

1. Modifies the existing porch from a farmer's porch to an Empire style with columns. Public Comment included questions about the scale and footprint of the porch and that it did not fit the historic nature of a farmhouse. Detailed specifications should be required.
2. Changes the bay window on the front of the house to 2 3-sash floor to ceiling windows. Public comment was opposed to the change as not appropriate in the district. Also, there was inadequate detail in the application.
3. Moves the propane tanks on the side of the house to the rear. The application was withdrawn by the applicant in writing.
4. Adds a vinyl fence to make a dooryard enclosure. Members of the gallery felt that vinyl was not an appropriate material.
5. Adds wood shutters painted black to all windows on the house. Public comment included issue with the level of detail supplied and not appropriate to the current look of the house.
6. Changes the overhead style door on the small barn to 2 double swing-open carriage house style doors. Public comment included approval of the look, but would be more appropriate with the diagonal door bracing inside and that the application lacked detail about hardware.
7. Adds a sign over the large door on the large barn with the words "A. Mavericke Stowell, Farm No. 2." Public comment was opposed to the sign. Comments included, "No precedence", "It looks mercantile", "inappropriate."
8. Adds barn board front to the milk house attached to the large barn. Public comment favored acceptance of this application.

A letter from Werner Bundschuh and a letter from Malcolm Rogers were read during the hearing and are attached to these minutes.

Public Hearing closed at 8:15 p.m.

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Meeting Minutes

Date: February 16, 2006

Attendees: Peter Kraniak vice-chair, Celt Grant, Roger O'Donnell, Bob Casinghino, and Rick Carrier. All were active voters.

Meeting convened at 8:30 pm.

No minutes were available from the January 19, 2006 meeting.

Active Applications

A public hearing was held before the meeting for 8 applications from Dwight Stowell for changes to his property at 18 On The Common. The Commission discussed and acted on the applications as follows:

1. Modifies the existing porch from a farmer's porch to an Empire style with columns. Members felt that the application needed more details including a scaled drawing with specifications (materials and sizes) of all new items, including lattice and base type. The application should have a front and side elevation plan. Celt made a motion to reject the application, Roger seconded. The motion carried with 4 in favor. Bob Casinghino abstained as an abutter.
2. Changes the bay window on the front of the house to 2 3-sash floor to ceiling windows. Members felt that the application needed scaled drawings with exact placement of windows, more information on sash type, window type (i.e. double glazed), size of panes, profiles of muntins, and dimensions of sashes. Roger made a motion to reject the application, Celt seconded. The motion carried with 4 in favor. Bob Casinghino abstained as an abutter.
3. Moves the propane tanks on the side of the house to the rear. The application was withdrawn by the applicant in writing.
4. Adds a vinyl fence to make a dooryard enclosure. The details promised by the applicant were not available prior to the public hearing. Members felt that more information was needed about the gate and hardware, dimensions of pickets. There should also be a sample of material and scaled drawing of the ground plan. Roger made a motion to reject the application, Celt seconded. The motion carried with 4 in favor. Bob Casinghino abstained as an abutter.
5. Adds wood shutters painted black to all windows on the house. Members felt that the application should have exact dimensions of the shutters, description of hardware and mounting. Some members were concerned about shutter placement at location of the corner of the house where the electric meter exists. It appears that a shutter cannot be

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mounted on the left of the window. Roger made a motion to reject the application, Celt seconded. The motion carried with 4 in favor. Bob Casinghino abstained as an abutter.

6. Changes the overhead style door on the small barn to 2 double swing-open carriage house style doors. Members felt that the application should include the exact dimensions of hardware for doors and the design should be simpler such as moving the diagonal cross brace to the inside of the door. Celt made a motion to reject the application, Roger seconded. The motion carried with 4 in favor. Bob Casinghino abstained as an abutter.

7. Adds a sign over the large door on the large barn with the words "A. Mavericke Stowell, Farm No. 2." Members were concerned whether the letters would be carved or painted. They also felt there should be a scaled elevation drawing of the front of the barn showing the sign. Celt made a motion to reject the application, Peter seconded. The motion carried with 4 in favor. Bob Casinghino abstained as an abutter.

8. Adds barn board front to the milk house attached to the large barn. Celt made a motion to approve the application, Peter seconded. The motion carried with 4 in favor. Bob Casinghino abstained as an abutter. The application was assigned Certificate 2-1-06.

Meeting adjourned

moved to adjourn, seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger O'Donnell,
Secretary, Pro Tem