

Royalston Historic District Commission

Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 20, 2006

Attendees: Rick Carrier, Andy West, Roger O'Donnell, and Celt Grant. All were active voters.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Acting chair Celt Grant.

The minutes from the June 15, 2006 meeting were read and approved.

Les and Deb Black appeared before the Commission asking if they needed approval from the Commission to construct on a garage on their property which is just outside the district. The building inspector sent them to the Commission for sign-off. Andy stated that it was his understanding that the bylaw did not cover property not within the district. A review of the bylaw revealed some confusing text. Andy said he would clarify with the Mass Historic Commission. The Commission granted the Blacks a Certificate of Non-applicability as the prevailing opinion was that the HDC bylaw did not extend to neighboring property.

Active Applications

A public hearing was held before the meeting to discuss an application from Dwight Stowell for a picket fence at his property 18 On the Common. Andy announced that no response was received from the abutter notices. No members of the public were present during the hearing to speak for or against the application. Information was promised by the applicant was not provided. This information included: Post detail drawing, vertical placement of picket sections (height from the ground), and the method of attachment of rails to posts. In addition, the members voiced concerned over several issues that need to be corrected before approval. The first is that two of the rail sections stretch 11 feet. Members felt that the span is too large for the wood dimensions called for. The Commission recommends adding another post in that span yielding three 7-foot sections. The second issue is the size of the posts. The application calls for 4" posts. Each rail cross-section figures to 3" (3/4+3/4+1 1/2). A standard 4" post measures 3 1/2" leaving 1/4" reveal either side of the post. The members feel that 6 x 6" (5 1/2") posts would be more to scale. The third question is what happens to the fence as the grade slopes down toward the small barn. Will it angle down following the land or will it be level and step down? Andy will send a letter to the applicant with the concerns listed above. The Commission will act on the application at the August meeting.

The Commission reviewed an application for exterior lights submitted by Andy West for changes to 12 South Royalston Road. The proposal changes the design of two existing electric lights on either side of the front door from carriage-style to cage-style lights. There was little discussion and no objections to the proposal. Roger motioned to approve the application. Rick seconded. The application passed with 3 in favor and Andy abstaining. The application was assigned as 7-1-2006.

Meeting adjourned

Andy motioned to adjourn the meeting, Roger seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy West,
Secretary