Royalston Historic District Commission

Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Meeting Minutes

Date: August 17, 2006

Attendees: Andy West, Roger O'Donnell, Peter Kraniak, Bob Casinghino, and Celt Grant. All were active voters.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Vice Chair, Peter Kraniak. The minutes from the July 20, 2006 meeting were read and approved.

Active Applications

A public hearing was held before the meeting to get public input on an application from Pierre Humblet for changes to the design of roofing material on the ell at 4 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.

The Commission discussed the Humblet application. Andy made a motion to approve the application, Roger seconded. The application passed unanimously as Certificate 8-1-2006.

The Commission took up a pending application from Dwight Stowell for the addition of a fence to his property at 18 On The Common. Action on the application had been postponed from the previous meeting because of concerns about the design and missing information. The Commission requested shorter spans on the fence rails and more details. The applicant agreed to the changes and provided the necessary information. A public hearing was held July 20, 2006 for this application. Celt made a motion to approve the application as amended, Andy seconded. The application was approved as certificate number 8-2-2006 with four votes in favor and Bob Casinghino abstaining.

Rise Richardson, representing the Village School, presented an application to put up a fence at the Raymond School. Andy announced that he would abstain from discussion because of a conflict of interest by being an officer of the school and his children attend the school. Bob made a motion to accept the application for consideration with a public hearing to take place September 21, 2006 at 7:30 pm in the Town Hall, Celt seconded. The motion passed with four in favor and Andy abstaining.

The Commission took up a pending application from Dwight Stowell for the addition of a sign over the barn door at 18 On The Common. Postponement of this application until August 17, 2006 had been requested by the applicant and granted by the Commission at the June 15, 2006 meeting. A public hearing was held on this application on June 15, 2006. Some members felt that a sign of this type did not follow the historical precedent of commercial signage of mercantile of previous years. Roger felt that it is important to preserve the current environment of very few signs in the District. Celt noted that there is no evidence of any signage on that property. Andy made a motion to approve the application as submitted, Peter seconded. The motion failed, with one in favor and three opposed with Bob Casinghino abstaining.

Meeting adjourned

Bob motioned to adjourn the meeting, Roger seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Andy West, Secretary