

Royalston Historic District Commission

Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Meeting Minutes

Date: Aug 20, 2009

Attendees: Peter Kraniak, Chair, Bob Casinghino, Ken Lively, Pierre Humblet, and Andy West. All were active voters. The Royalston building inspector, Geoff Newton, was also present.

Peter opened the meeting at 7:35.

Minutes

Andy read the minutes of the July 23, meeting. A few corrections were made. Andy motioned to approve the corrected minutes. Bob seconded. All approved.

Old business

Bob reminded the group that we had sent a letter to Henry Cole but never received an answer. Geoff suggested that according to our bylaw we can have a summon issued by going the 3rd fl of the District Court in Worcester and explaining the matter to the Clerk. He also provided various tips about how to maintain proper documentation and to win a case. Finally he reminded the commission that copies of the certificates should be sent to the building department.

The discussion then veered to the case of where John McClure, at 8 N.E. Fitzwilliam Road, who had his roof redone with a new shingle design and had apparently changed some wood windows to vinyl without requesting authorization from the HDC. The building inspector stated that he had not issued a building permit for the work.

Bob made a motion to send a letter both by regular and by registered mail to John McClure to

- note the violations
- ask him to reverse the changes and to present applications for these changes for review by the Commission
- request confirmation in writing within 14 days of his intention to submit an application by the Sept 17 meeting
- mention that legal action would be taken if needed.
- send a follow up letter ~~would be~~ on Sept 4, again by plain and certified mail, if the first one had not been answered. Andy seconded. All voted in favor.

The committee then composed the contents of the first and second letters to John McClure and Peter signed them.

The attention of the group then turned again to the case of Henry Cole who has installed a visible propane tank at 7 On The Common without authorization. Bob made a motion to send a letter to Henry Cole, again by regular and certified mail, to

- appreciate the work done on the property
- note the violation
- remind him that he has not answered previous letters
- ask him to reverse the installation and to present an application at our next meeting if he wants a visible tank.
- mention that legal action would be taken if needed

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Andy seconded. All voted in favor except Ken abstained as abutter.

Pierre will compose the letter and send it to Peter for signature and mailing.

New business

Andy mentioned he received a call from a gentleman in Rochester NY who has acquired a collection of town records dating from 1765 to 1804, including about secret meetings held in Boston that led to the creation of Royalston. The gentleman is willing to sell them to the town at his cost (\$3000).

Efforts are under way to evaluate the proposal, gather the money (the Historical Society is a possible source) and secure the collection if Royalston were to acquire it

Meeting adjourned

Following unanimous approval of a motion made and seconded, Peter adjourned the meeting at 9:35.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "P.A. Humblet".

Pierre A. Humblet,
Secretary