

Royalston Historic District Commission

Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Meeting Minutes

Date: Nov 19, 2009

Attendees: Peter Kraniak (Chair), Celt Grant (Vice-Chair), Bob Casinghino, Rick Carrier (late, as indicated below), Pierre Humblet, Ken Lively and Andy West. All were active voters.

Peter opened the meeting at 7:40 PM.

Minutes

The minutes had been sent the day before by e-mail and the members had read them. Three corrections were pointed out and the changes were applied. Celt motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Bob seconded. All voted in favor, except Ken who abstained, as he was not present in October.

New business (Rick arrived early in the discussion)

Peter mentioned that he had been contacted by Linda, from the Montachusett Planning Commission, to prepare the panel hearing for John McClure's appeal. She requested copies of the minutes, the bylaw and the certificate. She also wanted to know what dates would be convenient for the hearing. After some deliberation the date of Monday Dec 7 was selected, with Thu Dec 10 as backup. Peter will transmit the date preferences to Linda and Pierre will send the material (certified by the Town Clerk) on Tuesday.

Andy motioned to hold our regular December meeting after the hearing. Bob seconded. All voted in favor.

Old business

Ken reported his conversations with Charlie Scribner of the Congregational Church board about the chimney of the parsonage. Before the roof work started, Charlie had indicated during a phone call that the Church board understood its responsibility to the commission and the town and he gave the impression that the chimney would be rebuilt with the roof. However the roof was rebuilt on top of the former chimney opening. Later, at the Turkey Raffle, Charlie mentioned that some board members were not sure that the chimney had to be rebuilt. However they would send representatives to today's meeting (there were none) and the work would be done in the Spring.

Bob motioned to send a letter to Jeff Francis and to the board stating that they had until January 15, 2010 to replace the chimney. Otherwise we would petition the Worcester Superior Court, as specified in the bylaw and MGL Chapter 40C, which should be quoted in the letter. Celt seconded. All voted in favor, except Ken and Pierre who abstained as abutters. Pierre will compose a letter and send it to Peter for signature.

The meeting then turned to the gas tank at 7 on the Common. Peter reported that he had not received an answer from Henry. Andy made a motion to send a letter to Henry Cole requesting the removal or buying of the propane tank by January 15, 2010. Failing that we would file a petition with the Worcester Supreme court to enforce the law, which will be quoted in the letter. Bob seconded. All voted in favor, except Ken and Pierre who abstained as abutters. Pierre will compose a letter and send it to Peter for signature.

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Andy had sent a copy of John McClure appeal petition to the members by e-mail. Most had already read it. Pierre had prepared some arguments that we could make. A lot of brainstorming followed, where interesting ideas and suggestions were proposed. Pierre will take responsibility to synthesize and write them up. He may request a meeting to discuss them again once the hearing details are better known. He will present them at the hearing if he is not out of town that day. Several members will make statements at the hearing.

Meeting adjourned

Following unanimous approval of a motion made by Pierre and seconded by Rick, Peter adjourned the meeting a 10:07 PM

Respectfully submitted,

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

Pierre A. Humblet,
Secretary