

Royalston Historic District Commission
Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Meeting Minutes

Date: August 18, 2011

Attendees: Peter (chair), Celt, Ken, Pierre (secretary). All were active voters.

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

Minutes

The members read the minutes of the July meeting. Celt pointed a typo and motioned to approve the minutes as corrected. Pierre seconded. All voted in favor except Ken who abstained, as he was not present in June.

New application

Werner Bundschuh presented an application to remove the wooden gutters at 17 on the Common and replace them by white aluminum gutters. There ensued a long discussion about how to best attach the gutters for a flat roof. In particular Werner had abandoned the idea to reuse the old iron brackets that were holding the wooden gutter. He was also unsure that he would replace all the gutters.

The commission noted that the manner of attaching aluminum gutters is usually left unspecified in applications.

The commission proposed that Werner rewrite the application to match his current intentions, with the proviso that before we approve the application we would learn what gutters will actually be replaced. Werner modified the application accordingly.

Pierre made a motion to accept the modified application for consideration without requiring a public hearing. Celt seconded. All voted in favor. The application was assigned number 2011-08-01.

Correspondence

The Historical Commission has received a copy of a letter (see next page) from the MHC to the Army Corps of Engineer about National Grid refurbishments projects along its right-of-ways. The letter requests that an archeological survey be performed. No action on our part was requested.

Old business

Historic District boundary signs: As Rick was absent this matter was not discussed further.

Planting near the Verizon equipment: Celt had nothing to report

Windows at 8 NE Fitzwilliam Road: Peter reported mailing the letter to John McClure on Monday July 25.

Meeting adjourned

Pierre motioned to close the meeting and Celt seconded. Peter adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Pierre A. Humblet,
Secretary

Rec'd July 29, 2011
JFD



July 20, 2011

Christine Godfrey
Chief, Regulatory Branch
Regulatory Division
US Army Corps of Engineers
New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

RE: New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid A1-B2 Chestnut Hill Athol Taps 1 & 2 Refurbishment,
Athol and Royalston, MA. MHC #RC. 50976.

Dear Ms. Godfrey:

Staff of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, office of the State Historic Preservation Officer, have reviewed the Project Notification Form, received July 6, 2011, for the project referenced above. The proposed project includes repair or replacement of existing electrical transmission line poles, including construction of vehicle/equipment storage/staging access, vegetation clearing and access road improvements within existing transmission line right-of-ways in Athol and Royalston.

Review of the preliminary cultural resource review prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc. and the Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth determined that archaeological site 19-WR-398 is recorded within the project areas in Athol. This site was first identified by an avocational collector and the site horizontal and vertical boundaries have not been defined. Undisturbed portions of the project area are considered by MHC to be archaeologically sensitive. This sensitivity is due to the favorable environmental characteristics of the areas, with wetlands and fresh water resources in close proximity, and with areas of level, well-drained soils, favorable for ancient and historical period land use and occupation.

MHC requests that an intensive (locational) archaeological survey (950 CMR 70) be conducted for the project. The goal of the investigation is to provide a detailed archaeological sensitivity assessment for the project, to locate and identify any significant historic and archaeological resources that could be affected by the project, well in advance of any project construction. The results of this survey will be considered in consultation with the Corps in order to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to identified significant historic and archaeological resources.

These comments are offered to assist in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 CFR 800) and M.G.L. Chapter 9, Sections 26-27C (950 CMR 70-71). If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Jonathan K. Patton at this office.

Sincerely,

Brona Simon

Brona Simon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director
State Archaeologist
Massachusetts Historical Commission

xc: Josh Holden, National Grid
Kathleen Atwood, USACOE-NED
Bettina Washington, THPO, WTGH(A)
George Green, Jr., THPO, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
David Foulis, DEP-WERO
Athol Historical Commission
Royalston Historical Commission
Rae Gould, Nipmuc Tribal Nation
Martin G. Dudek, JMA, Inc.

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