

Royalston Historic District Commission
Royalston, Massachusetts

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 15, 2011

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

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

Minutes

The members read the minutes of the August meeting. Celt motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Ken seconded. All voted in favor except Bob who abstained, as he was not present in August.

New application

Beth Gospodarek filed an application to change the color of the first floor window trim at 13 N.E. Fitzwilliam Road from white to the same green as on the upper level shingles. Bob moved to accept the application for consideration without requiring a public hearing. Ken seconded. All voted in favor. The application was assigned number 2011-09-01.

Old application

Pierre reported that he received an e-mail from Patience Bundschuh withdrawing the application 2011-08-01 to remove and partially replace the gutters at 17 on the Common. No further action is required.

A member noted that some gutters may have already been removed.

Election of officers

Peter, Celt and Pierre stated that they were ready to continue to serve as Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary, respectively. Bob motioned that the officers be reelected to their current positions. Ken seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Correspondence

The Historical Commission has received a copy of a letter from the MHC to the Army Corps of Engineer about National Grid refurbishments projects along its right-of-ways (see Appendix). This matter was already discussed at the August meeting. No action on our part was requested.

Old business

Windows at 8 N. Fitzwilliam Rd. The commission noted that it had not received an answer from John McClure to its July letter and that the front windows have not been replaced. However side windows seems to have been installed in the approved style. The commission decided to contact John informally through Peter and to inquire about the situation. If necessary we will consider sending a registered letter at the next meeting.

Dish antennas: It was reported that the pole of the former dish antenna at 2 on the Common has been pulled out. Pierre will prepare a letter to the parsonage requesting that the same action be taken there.

Plantings in front of Verizon equipment near the firehouse: No action will be taken before January.

Historic District boundary signs: Members wondered about the availability of funds appropriated by the Town Meeting. Pierre will contact Andy. Rick would like to move ahead and order some signs. We will decide the final size at the next meeting.

New business

Bob Casinghino reported that citizens have complained about trailers being stored permanently at the fire station. The commission composed a letter, Pierre will prepare the letter and Peter will sign it.

Meeting adjourned

Celt motioned to close the meeting and Bob seconded. Peter adjourned the meeting at 8:52 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P.A. Humblet". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and "A".

Pierre A. Humblet,
Secretary



August 4, 2011

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Tim Smith
Senior Environmental Scientist
New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid
40 Sylvan Road
Waltham, MA 02451

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 Mr. Smith:

Staff of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, office of the State Historic Preservation Officer, have reviewed the archaeological sensitivity assessment conducted by JMA, Inc. and additional information, received August 2, 2011, for the project referenced above.

Review of JMA's archaeological sensitivity assessment and additional information indicates that the project, as currently proposed, includes replacement of pole structures within the existing pole locations, and use of existing access roads within the transmission line right-of-way. Structures 45, 47, 87 and 89 on Tap 1, and Structure 82 on Tap 2 will be replaced in new locations. JMA recommends no archaeological survey at these new pole locations, as the new pole locations are in areas of low archaeological sensitivity, due to steep slope, and poorly drained and/or rocky soils.

JMA's assessment also indicates that the transmission line right-of-way in the vicinity of recorded archaeological site 19-WR-398 adjacent to the Millers River has been subject to previous disturbance, including earth movement, grading and gravel pit operation. Proposed project impacts for replacement of Structures 95, 96 and 97 on Taps 1 and 2 are limited to the existing pole locations and access roads, which should minimize impacts to undisturbed portions of the right-of-way.

As the project has been designed to utilize previously disturbed portions of the right-of-way, and minimize ground impacts within undisturbed portions of the right-of-way, in MHC's opinion, the project, as currently proposed, is unlikely to affect significant historic or archaeological resources. Therefore, the MHC withdraws its previous request for an intensive (locational) archaeological survey. If project plans change, then current project information, including updated line sheets, should be submitted to the MHC for review and comment.

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 me at this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan K. Patton", written over a horizontal line.

Jonathan K. Patton
Archaeologist/Preservation Planner
Massachusetts Historical Commission

xc: Karen Kirk Adams, USACOE-NED, Regulatory
Kathleen Atwood, USACOE-NED
Bettina Washington, THPO, WTGH(A)
George Green, Jr., Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
David Foulis, DEP-WERO
Athol Historical Commission
Royalston Historical Commission
Martin G. Dudek, JMA, Inc.

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Royalston Historic District Commission
P.O Box 125
Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Royalston, October 17, 2011

Royalston Select Board
P.O. Box 125
Royalston MA 01368

Dear Select Board members:

Concerned citizens have brought to the attention of the Historic District Commission that the area near the fire/police station seems to have become an unsightly permanent collection point for miscellaneous Town vehicles and trailers.

Since this is within the Historic District, in fact at its entrance, we would like to suggest that you contact the persons in charge of these vehicles to have them relocated to an area that is not visible from a public way in the Historic District.

We thank you for your attention on this matter

Sincerely,

Peter Kraniak
HDC chair

Royalston Historic District Commission
P.O. Box 125
Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Royalston, October 17, 2011

Pastor Jeff Francis
P.O. Box 73
Royalston MA 01368

Dear Jeff:

The Historical District Commission would like to thank you for relocating the dish antenna from the front lawn of the parsonage to the back roof, as you had said you would.

We also would like to request that the area be returned to its original state (except for plantations) and that the pole that used to support the antenna be removed as well, as Chris Dawson, across the street, has already done with his.

We thank you for your attention on this matter

Sincerely,

Peter Kraniak
HDC chair

Royalston Historic District Commission
Royalston, Massachusetts

Meeting Agenda
October 20, 2011 at 7:30 PM
Royalston Town Hall

Old Applications:

None.

New Applications:

As they may be filed at the meeting

Internal HDC matters:

Correspondence

Financial items

Other internal matters

Other commission matters:

Historic District boundary signs

Windows at 8 NE Fitzwilliam Rd.

Any other business that may come before the commission