

# *Royalston Historic District Commission*

*Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368*

## Meeting Minutes

Date: November 21th, 2013

Attendees: Peter Kraniak (Chair), Andy West, Celt Grant, Clarence Rabideau, Pierre Humblet (Secretary). All were active voters.

Peter opened the meeting at 7:36

### Minutes:

The members read the minutes from the October meeting. Celt made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Pierre seconded. All voted in favor except Andy who abstained as he was not present in October.

### Old Application

Application 2013-10-1 by Jim Barclay to install a trellis fence painted green to hide the gas tanks in the back of the house at 11 North East Fitzwilliam. Roger O'Donnell, an abutter, had sent a letter opposing such installation as a solution. The commission reread the minutes of the public hearing about the tanks (application 2012-12-1). Another abutter, Dan Schodek, was then in favor of using a trellis but only as a temporary solution.

The commission discussed the situation at length, considering both this application and the rejected application 2012-12-1 for the gas tanks. It was felt that even if a fence was erected the tanks should still be moved to a more suitable solution, as the owner has offered to do. This application is a hardship application thus it can be approved subject to time restrictions. Also the application lacked precision about the way the trellis would be attached to the posts.

Andy motioned to approve the following text: "The installation of the temporary fence is approved for the duration of the presence of the gas tanks at their current location, notwithstanding that the tanks themselves are in violation of the Historic District bylaw. The three 4 x6 cedar lattice panels should each be framed on four sides with 1x4 trim boards, so as to cover each seam, supported by four 4x4 PT or cedar posts, and painted green." Celt seconded. All voted in favor.

The commission then discussed what to do about the tanks. The idea to involve the Selectboard appeared to be outdated for the moment; the applicant should be given more time. The commission drafted a letter to Jim Barclay reminding him that the tanks have been in violation since August 15 but that, because he was erecting a fence, he would have until November 30, 2014 to find a permanent solution. Past that date the commission would consider filing a clerk certificate as to violation at the registry of deeds and/or taking other actions.

Andy made a motion to send such a letter to Jim. Celt seconded. All voted in favor. Pierre will finalize the text and circulate it. Peter will then sign the letter and send it to Jim Barclay together with the conditionally approved trellis application and a copy of a clerk certificate as to violation.

### New application:

Chris Dawson has filed an application to reroof 2 on the Common with architectural shingles, replacing 3 tab shingles. There is ample precedent for such a change. Andy made a motion to accept the application for consideration. Clarence seconded and all voted in favor, except Pierre who recused himself as abutter. Andy made a motion to use the accelerated procedure described in section

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E.2.g.2) of the HDC rules and procedures whereby the application will be approved and signed by Peter if no abutter has requested a public hearing within 10 days of being notified of the application. Clarence seconded. All voted in favor except Pierre. Application 2012-11-1. Pierre indicated he would send the notice to the abutters the next day.

### Other commission matters

Pavilion being built in Bullock Park: Through Celt the builders have asked the HDC to decide on a color. It was felt that this was not critical, dark green or brown stain would do. Pierre will check if a color was specified in the application [Note: no color was specified].

Pierre mentioned that a section of the stone wall along dump road was demolished to allow equipment access. Peter will ask Keith Newton to rebuild the wall, leaving only an opening to bring supplies.

### Internal HDC matters

Boundary signs: Celt had brought a very nice model of attachment of the sign to the pole. It was felt that the design was excellent and that the brackets could be attached directly to the sides of the poles, instead of adding a layer of wood that would be attached with long screws from the back of the pole. Regarding the poles, Pierre has sent detailed information to Rick and others about the KDAT supplier, but we do not know if Rick has been able to find the poles.

### Common renovation committee:

Clarence reported that unfortunately the Town did not get a Park grant. The committee will regroup and look for other funding sources.

### Meeting adjourned

Pierre made a motion to close the meeting. Celt seconded. It was unanimously approved. Peter closed the meeting at 9:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Pierre A. Humblet,  
Secretary

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**Meeting Agenda  
December 19, 2013 at 7:30 PM  
Royalston Town Hall**

- Reading and approval of the minutes
- 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 signs
  - Common restoration
- Any other business that may come before the commission