

# *Royalston Historic District Commission*

*Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368*

The regular meeting scheduled for October 21 was cancelled due to lack of quorum. At that time The Village Improvement and Historical Society of Royalston, Inc filed an application to replace the bulkhead door at 1 on the Common, Application 2014-10-1.

## Meeting Minutes

Date: November 20th, 2014

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

Peter opened the meeting at 7:35 PM.

### Minutes:

The members read the minutes of the September meeting. Clarence moved to accept them as read. Rick seconded. All voted in favor except Andy who abstained as he was not present in September.

As Peter had a conflict of interest on the following two applications he designated Rick to chair the meeting.

### Old application

Hardship application 2014-10-1 by the Village Improvement and Historical Society of Royalston, Inc. to erect a 4' x 4' red sign with white letters in the front of the old schoolhouse at 1 on the Common. This sign is required by the MHC in order to get State funding for the study of the work required to preserve the building. The sign is temporary and will be removed by September 2015 at the latest. The Historical Society thought a certificate of hardship was required as this is not a typical worksite sign, no actual construction will take place. Andy and Pierre disclosed that they were members of the Historical Society but had no conflict of interest in this matter. After a short discussion Clarence made a motion to approve the application. Rick seconded. All voted in favor, except Peter who recused himself.

### New application

Application by the Village Improvement and Historical Society of Royalston, Inc. for a certificate of appropriateness to replace the bulkhead door of the old schoolhouse at 1 on the Common by a new door, made of T1-11 plywood simulating 8" tongue and grove boards. The current door is made of real tongue and grove boards but it is disintegrating. It was thought it would be difficult to get a lasting solution using modern wood in a semi-horizontal position. The application was amended at the meeting to specify that it would be painted green (like the cupola shutters) instead of the current white, as it gets soiled quickly, being placed close to the ground. After a short discussion finding that the application was complete, Andy moved to accept the application for consideration and without requiring a public hearing. Rick seconded. All voted in favor, except Peter who recused himself.

### Old business:

Applications 2012-12-1 and 2013-10-1 about the gas tanks at 11 N.E. Fitzwilliam Rd. The fence permitted by the second application was built just before the end of November deadline. However the tanks themselves remain in violation as application 2012-12-1 was rejected. The commission discussed options. One option would be to write to the owners confirming what we wrote in October 2013, namely that -the tanks are in violation but given that a temporary fence was erected we would

## *Royalston Historic District Commission*

*Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368*

give them as much time as they needed to realize their projects, although that favor will not be extended to subsequent owners. Thus a clerk notice as to violation would be filed at the Registry to Deeds to notify potential buyers and protect the public interest. Another option would be to involve the Selectboard.

The commission decided to approach the Selectboard for advice. Pierre will compose an e-mail to Linda Alger and Andy will review it.

Another issue is that a gas permit was issued although it may not have specified the location where the tanks were erected. We need to follow up with the gas inspector and the Selectboard.

### Commission matters

Celt resignation: Peter reported he had sent a letter of thanks.

Officers elections: Peter and Pierre expressed interest in continuing in their role. Rick expressed his willingness to become vice-chair. Andy moved to elect that slate. Clarence seconded. All voted in favor.

Designation of a representative to the CPC: Marsha Charest, chair of the CPC, has asked that we designate a new HDC representative on the CPC as Celt has resigned. Rick expressed an interest in being active in the CPC, whose creation he had supported. Pierre moved to designate Rick as HDC representative to the CPC. Andy seconded. All voted in favor.

Common renovation committee: Clarence reported the latest news: The Town DPW will perform the tree removal and help the monument restorer with the heavy lifting; it will be responsible for the flag pole removal. The CPC has been offered 5 benches. The intention is not to anchor them permanently while preventing possible theft. The scale will be moved to a sheltered area for inspection. The black top installed on the Common will get a lighter color top layer in the spring.

### Meeting adjourned

Clarence made a motion to close the meeting. Rick seconded. It was unanimously approved. Peter closed the meeting at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Pierre A. Humblet,  
Secretary

*Royalston Historic District Commission*

*Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368*

Meeting Agenda  
January 15, 2015 at 7:30 PM  
Royalston Town Hall

- Reading and approval of minutes.
- Old Applications: 2014-11-1 Old schoolhouse bulkhead door.
- New Applications: As they may be filed at the meeting.
- Internal HDC Matters: Correspondence, Financial items, other internal matters.
- Other Commission Matters: Decide course of action on application 2012-12-1 (11 N.E. Fitzwilliam Rd). Release HDC boundary sign funds. Discuss activity for the 250th Town anniversary.
- Other non-anticipated issues that may come before the commission

Mass Archives program:

Cities and towns can request the display of the historical documents relevant to their town for special events or anniversaries. For information contact the Archivist of the Commonwealth.

Possibilities: charter, public auction docs, the 1794 map of the Town

Where to display?