

Royalston Historic District Commission

Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

The regular meeting scheduled for December 18, 2014 was cancelled due to lack of business.

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 15th, 2015

Attendees: Peter Kraniak (Chair), Andy West, Bob Casinghino, Clarence Rabideau, Pierre Humblet (Secretary), Rick Carrier (Vice-chair), Roger O'Donnell. All were active voters.

Peter opened the meeting at 7:35 PM and welcomed Roger's return on the commission.

Minutes:

The members read the minutes of the November meeting. Some changes were made. Clarence moved to accept them as amended. Andy seconded. All voted in favor except Bob and Roger who abstained as they were not present in November.

As Peter had a conflict of interest on the following application he designated Rick to chair that part of the meeting.

Old 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 groove boards, painted green. The current door is made of real tongue and groove 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 commission was not enthusiastic about the new design. It was also pointed out that contrary to the case of 4 S. Royalston Rd there are no gutters on the schoolhouse and T1-11 in a semi-horizontal position may not fare well. Peter then withdrew the application.

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 (Roger reported that the fence was not built according to the specifications; a tank is still visible). However the tanks themselves remain in violation as application 2012-12-1 was rejected. In November the commission decided to approach the selectboard to see if it wanted to consider the matter. We provided and outline of the situation and of the possible ways forward. The feedback was that the board preferred not to get involved. One selectboard member recommended keeping an open dialogue with the applicant, the other had no objection to the filing of a clerk's notice as to violation. After a short discussion, Andy made a motion to send a letter, both by regular and by registered mail, to the owners. The letter would say that we invite them to present an acceptable timeline (i.e. ending in early summer) to remove the tanks from their current location, at or before the February 19 HDC meeting. In absence of such a timeline we would file a clerk's certificate as to violation without further notice. The letter would be written by Pierre and reviewed and signed by Peter. Bob seconded. All voted in favor except Roger who recused himself as an abutter.

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Commission matters

Boundary signs. The boundary signs have been installed and there is some money left in the account. Andy pointed out that it would be prudent to have some replacement signs made before returning the leftover funds to the Town. This suggestion was accepted. Rick will contact the manufacturer.

Town 250th anniversary celebration. Pierre mentioned that the State Archives have a program to display historic documents when a Town is celebrating an important anniversary. He suggested that we contact the state archives to enquire. The Library has expressed interest in displaying the items. This proposition was approved.

Community Preservation Committee: Rick reported he has attended his first CPC meeting, which was brief.

Meeting adjourned

Bob made a motion to close the meeting. Roger seconded. It was unanimously approved. Peter closed the meeting at 9:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Pierre A. Humblet,
Secretary