

ROYALSTON HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

DATE: December 18, 1997

ATTENDERS: John Poor, Andy West, Peter Kraniak, Rick Carrier, Karen Pickford (alt.), Ken Lively (alt.), and guests Kathy Morris, Carolyn Connerat, Polly Longworth, Lisa Richardson, and Randy Favreau.

The meeting was called to order at 7:46 P.M..

The meeting had to be moved to the Library because the door to the Town Hall was locked.

It was decided to get right into new business and start discussing the application for the Library.

NEW BUSINESS

John Poor started the meeting as acting chairman until Andy West arrived. The Phineas Newton Library submitted an application for the placement of a pole light on the South side of the building. The application was read by John Poor. Kathy Morris continued the discussion on how the Library wanted to install a pole light for the safety of people going to the Library in the evening. An amendment to add "aluminum" to the black post was recommended. The motion to approve the application was made by Peter Kraniak and seconded by Andy West. The application was approved unanimously 5-0. Cert. # 22-97.

Andy West announced that a letter from Mark Smith for his resignation was received. Ken Lively was nominated to become a full active member to fill the vacancy. Ken Lively said he would accept the position. The nomination was approved. Andy West will notify the selectmen of Ken Lively's switch from alternative to full membership.

John Poor asked for volunteers for the position of secretary. After some discussion, Ken Lively volunteered. Andy made a motion to appoint Ken Lively to the position of secretary and John Poor seconded it. It was approved 4-0 with Ken Lively abstaining due to conflict of interest.

OLD BUSINESS

The minutes for the 8-21-97 meeting were read and discussed for their correctness. Once corrected, the minutes were approved. Andy made the motion to accept the minutes and Rick seconded. The vote was approved 6-0.

The minutes for 9-18-97 were read and accepted. Rick made the motion to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Karen. It was approved unanimously 6-0.

It was noted that there wasn't an October meeting.

The November meeting minutes were read and approved. Rick made the motion to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Karen. The minutes were approved 6-0.

Andy announced that he hasn't received a response from Mass. Electric on the street light fixtures. A gentleman from Mass. Electric did tell the commission that he has a personal supply of the old light parts in his back yard, although there isn't any official supply of the old lights. Andy was told by Keith Newton that the Town Barn doesn't have any old lights laying around. The Mass. Electric gentleman may be able to come up with 2 or 3 complete light sets. He stated that the old lights are thrown away once removed from use. Karen will call a Mr. Hannula to try and find old lights to be used in the district. Andy said he would pick them up if any were found. Karen will notify the Commission if she is able to locate any old lights.

John Poor announced that the tree planting for the Common was postponed until spring due to the arrival of the early winter.

The edited application for the new construction on Frye Hill Road was read by Andy. Andy told Mr. Favreau that several housekeeping issues needed to be addressed. The Commission will need the manufacturing literature on the turned posts for the front porch. This information was submitted by Mr. Favreau along with the information on the porch rail spindles. Andy then marked the literature which applied to the Frye Hill construction. Andy told Mr. Favreau that the commission would need 3 copies of the large drawing of the house plans for the file. The dimensions for the windows and the placement of the windows were provided.

Andy notified Mr. Favreau that the Commission will need a shingle scrap for the file, a door brochure of door #K15W, and a paint chip for the color of the front door. Mr. Favreau agreed to supply all of the information that was requested. Mr. Favreau was reminded that not all of the information that was promised to the Commission at the last meeting was provided. The Commission will discuss the color and style of the shutters as well as the style and placement of the front light at a later date.

It was mentioned by Mr. Favreau that progress on the house construction was moving very slow. John mentioned that the grading that was agreed to has not been met as of yet. Mr. Favreau said that the frost has set into the ground and that no more grading will be done until spring. The grade still drops off toward the backyard. Mr. Favreau was told that a new application will be needed if more of the foundation will be exposed than agreed to earlier. John told Mr. Favreau that he was upset at the present grade and again stated that if the plans for grading had changed, the Commission would need a new application. Mr. Favreau promised that the grading would be addressed in the spring. If a different grade is needed in the spring, John made the suggestion that the foundation be painted white to blend in with the house.

Mr. Favreau told the Commission that he will have more information at the January

meeting. Andy told him to keep the Commission up to date on the grading. Andy reminded Mr. Favreau that any exterior feature of the house construction is regulated by the Commission including stone walls, out buildings, lights, etc. and would need another application. Mr. Favreau agreed to this request. Andy signed the updated application. Andy will send a letter to Geoff Newton when all of the requested information is supplied to the Commission. Mr. Favreau told Andy he would drop off all the information on this Saturday.

(building inspector)

Andy stated that he had talked to Geoff Newton and Geoff stated that the (other) block on the occupancy permit is for the Historic Commissions use. Inspections of the Frye Hill house are allowed at the convenience of the owners. Any Commission member may inspect the house for compliance.

NEW BUSINESS

Rise Lisa Richardson from the Village School, that is presently in North Orange, stated that her school is interested in renting the Raymond School. Her concern was that she may need to install a handicapped ramp. John told Ms. Richardson a little history of a previous ramp for the school. John states the ramp was going to be on the South side of the building. The ramp construction was eventually canceled when a portable chair device was discovered.

It was suggested that a ramp that was not too obtrusive would be desired from the Commission. The Village School is not even positive that they will need a ramp. The school is still doing research on the Raymond School site. Andy recommended that a porch type of railing with spindles may blend in the best. Peter talked of a type of small wheel chair elevator that might also be considered by Ms. Richardson. Andy mentioned that there are several types of building materials that could be used such as concrete, steel, metal. and wood. It was agreed that pressure treated wood would probably look the best.

Ms. Richardson expressed concern about the lead paint that is present on the poles at the entrance to the building. She was told that a plastic collar was already in place to protect children from the lead paint. John expressed gladness that the Raymond School may be occupied again. Andy told Ms. Richardson to call him if he can be of assistance.

Peter questioned if Jason Fortunato still had a horse. The shed that was used for the horse seems to be gathering a lot of storage items. It was questioned if the application to build the shed was contingent on Jason having a horse? Andy recommended that this be looked into. It was stated that if Jason had specified that the shed would be used for the boarding of the horse, and it is now being used as a storage shed, that a violation may be present. If a violation is found to be present, the Building Inspector could possibly step in. John brought up the fact that Jason has improved the property considerably since he has moved in and that the property looks good overall.

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Rick brought up the fact that he believes that the Bowers on Frye Hill have changed the color of their house. Rick stated that the house is now white with PURPLE trim. Andy stated that the house was white when the plaque was put up. He wasn't sure of the trim color. No application was submitted for the house color change. Peter makes a motion ~~that the Bowers house is not in compliance with the Historic District color of houses and that an application was never submitted to change the house color.~~ and a letter be sent.
Karen seconded and all were in favor 6-0. Andy will send a letter to Eldora Bowers telling her that the color change was unauthorized by the Commission.

Rick stated that if there are any problems with the official Royalston Historic Commission picture book of all the houses in the District, to advise him and he will do what is needed to correct. Karen suggested that maybe closer pictures of the houses would be more beneficial for the future.

An application was received from Mark Smith to add a single flue chimney to his barn, Andy wonders about the actual height of the chimney to comply with code. The Commission may not want to see a chimney built to code that is 10 feet above the roof ridge. John recommends that the Commission allow up to 30 inches in height. Andy mentions the concern that a chimney in the barn may not be historically correct. Ken states that his barn at 5 The Common has a chimney, although it is not original. John moves to accept the application with the amendment that the finished height of the chimney not exceed 48 inches from the roof ridge. Peter seconded the application and it was approved unanimously 6-0. Cert. # 23-97.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth P. Lively

Kenneth P. Lively
Secretary