

ROYALSTON HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 21, 1999 MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Patience Bundschuh at 7:40PM

Members present were: Andy West, Rick Carrier, Clarence Rabideau, Karen Pickford, Patience Bundschuh. Alternates present were: Bob Casinghino, John Divoll, Jody Brighenti

The minutes of the September meeting were read by secretary, Karen Pickford. A motion was made by Andy West to approve the minutes. Rick Carrier seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Old Business:

Two applications were to be voted on.

1. Application from
Boyd Estus, 6 NE Fitzwilliam Road

Patience Bundschuh read the application to the commission. Abutters have been notified and there is no objection. The application states that Mr. Estes would like to turn a blind window into a true window. This window is located on the second story, south side, second window in from the street. A discussion follows: Patience reports the top row on the south side of the house has four windows. It is noted that John Poor's house and John McClure's house (both on Fitzwilliam Road) also have blind windows. Patience notes this and shows diagrams to the commission that depict the variations of blind windows on these two houses. On the south side of John Poor's house they are all closed. It is concluded that there is no continuity amongst these houses. Andy West notes the historic aspect of blind windows. John Divoll notes that if a shutter is closed we cannot determine if a window is true or not. Most members agree with Mr. Divoll. The discussion ends. A vote is taken. Bob Casinghino makes a motion to grant a certificate of appropriateness to this application.

Rick Carrier seconds the motion. The unanimous vote is in favor. A Certificate of Appropriateness #14-99 is granted.

2. Application from Charles Fisher
18 The Common

Patience reads the application to the commission. The application is an after the fact modification of two chimney caps at Mr. Fisher's property. Patience reports that she spoke to Mr. Fisher and he stated that the chimney caps are causing damage to his home. He felt he had to address the problem right away. Mr. Fisher regarded this as maintenance.

A discussion followed: It was determined that the brick chimney caps that had been replaced were in fact recent and the new metal caps are similar to the ones that preceded the brick ones. Patience notes that the same chimney caps are on Humphrey Nash's house on the common. The discussion ends. A vote is taken. Andy West makes a motion to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness to this application. Clarence Rabideau seconds the motion. The unanimous vote is in favor. A Certificate of Appropriateness #15-99 is granted.

Andy West makes a motion to table old business and go on to new business because of the arrival of Angel Favreau of Frye Hill Road who has two applications for her property. Bob Casinghino seconds this motion. Vote to table old business is approved.

New Business

1. Application for Consideration from Angel & Randy Favreau, Frye Hill Road.

Patience reads the application to be considered for a Certificate of Appropriateness for a garage & breezeway to be added on their Frye Hill Road property. A discussion follows: The commission asks many questions of Angel Favreau. Clarification is needed for many aspects of the application. Clarence Rabideau asks for a "scale" to the building plans. There are none. Mrs. Favreau is told that the commission will need blueprints and building plans. Clarence Rabideau states the need for a clearer application. Bob Casinghino

tells Mrs. Favreau that building plans will be necessary for the commission to accept the application for consideration. The commission gave Mrs. Favreau examples of information needed in her final application.

2. Next application from Angel & Randy Favreau, Frye Hill Road.

This is an after the fact application for a paved driveway. Angel presents the application. A short discussion follows. Andy West makes a motion to accept the application for consideration. Clarence Rabideau seconds the motion. There is a unanimous vote to accept for consideration. Abutters will be notified. It is decided that no public hearing is necessary.

Return to Old Business:

3. A discussion is held about a post repair made by John Marsh at The Columns. It is determined that there is no record of what the post in question looked like before the repair was made. Patience reports that a detailed video of the repaired fence has been made by Henry Felt as a record. It is agreed that there are inconsistencies in the fence. Karen Pickford offers to talk to John Marsh about the repair.

4. The fence at The Bastille is discussed. It is noted by the commission that the fence is deteriorating. Patience asks if the commission should contact The Landmark Trust about the fence. A discussion ensues about this. It was decided unanimously that a letter should be sent to The Landmark Trust expressing concern about the condition of the fence. The commission thought that the letter should ask Mr. Tansey to clarify his plans to save the fence as the commission feels it is an important feature. Also the letter should contain a request for a general update on the status of plans for the Bastille. Patience will write the letter.

Patience presents a photo that is a closer detailed look at the one story ell that originally existed and housed the kitchen at this property. This photo shows the roof of the ell is a one pitched shed roof not a gable roof as originally thought. The photo is from the collection of the former owner, Fair Alice McCormick.

5. Clarification of the Farm Law is discussed. Andy West reports he spoke to Chris Skelley of MHC about this law. Patience then reads the email received from Chris Skelley. The email states that Chapter 40A (in which the farm law is present) are zoning laws. Chapter 40C laws are pertinent to architecture and appearance. The commission may not disapprove a gate but it may say what it should look like. John Divoll asks the commission to continue to keep Chapter 40A under consideration.

Other Old Business

Design Guidelines Committee: Clarence Rabideau asks the commission for feedback and takes questions concerning his preliminary design guidelines.

John Divoll shared information about the history of specific houses with the commission. Patience asks if he would consider doing a history walk with us at some time in the future. He said he would.

The meeting is adjourned at 10:30PM

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Pickford, Secretary