

*Royalston Historic District Commission*  
*Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368*

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 19, 2000

Attendees: Patience Bundschuh, Peter Kraniak, Rick Carrier, Clarence Rabideau, John Divoll, Dick Corser, alternate, and Andy West, acting secretary. All were active voters.

Meeting called to order at 7:45 PM

After a brief discussion about an historic preservation conference Patience attended, the meeting was called to order.

Patience welcomed Dick Corser as a new alternate commission member.

Patience announced that she is permanently rearranging the order of business to have applications always be the first order of business.

Applications

Patience read an application for the demolition of the dilapidated house on the Carbone property on Northeast Fitzwilliam Road. She said that abutters had been notified and no response was received. Discussion followed. Members repeated their frustration with the condition of this building. It was mentioned that the structure had been gutted of historical architecture some time ago. Also, the flooring has failed because of rain and snow entering through door and window openings. But, the building was given a new roof a few years ago. Therefore, the beams may be salvageable. There are some companies that buy, remove, and reuse historic building parts. John Divoll made a motion to require the applicant to:

1. Contact an architectural salvage company to see if the structure is worth dismantling for its historical salvage value and provide proof of their opinion. Or, put an advertisement in a periodical that might reach an historical salvage company and provide proof of the ad placement.
2. Conduct a photographic and measurement survey of the exterior of the structure and provide a copy to the Commission.

Clarence seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The Commission must take action at the November meeting since the 60 day action period will end at that time. The motion was approved unanimously. Andy West will write a letter to Mrs. Carbone stating the Commission's conditions and that the required material and response must be received by November 15, 2000, the day before the HDC November meeting. The letter will state that the Commission will approve the application upon receipt of the required material.

Patience presented an application from the Village School for the construction of a small storage shed behind the Raymond School building. The application also stated that the shed will be removed from the property (est. 2 years) when the Village School moves to its new location at the former Camp Caravan on South Royalston Road. Sentiment from the members was that the structure is temporary and is not a significant factor in the history of the district. However, the members felt that the application should be accepted and acted upon to ensure fairness of the district system. Peter Kraniak made a motion to accept the application for consideration. Clarence seconded. Approval of the motion was

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unanimous. Abutters will be notified. Peter made a motion to waive public hearing. John Divoll seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Peter Kraniak brought up the subject of the Stanton's pool heater chimney. The chimney was approved by the Commission with the stipulation that the top portion be removed for the winter season. Commission members will look to see if the chimney has been removed.

Old Business

Patience read a letter from Mark Smith. His letter outlined the status of the current and future renovation projects on his house on South Royalston Road.

Patience gave an update on the Town Council's opinion on the Bastille fence. The opinion stated that if the town gave specific permission to Calvin Bullock to construct the fence, that permission ended when the property transferred to a new owner. However, a "revocable license" is in place. The town may allow the fence to remain. But, maintains the right to revoke the license at any time in the future. Patience showed a copy of the Warrant from a 1931 town meeting in which the town voted to grant approval for Bullock to erect the fence. Discussion followed.

Patience told the members that a meeting took place at Senator Brewer's office in Boston to discuss the smooth transition of the Landmark grant application with Mass Historical Commission to the new round coming up; and that she had not been invited. Attendees of the meeting were Brewer, Elsa Fitzgerald, David Tansey, Bill Reopel, and Francis Gould, MHC lawyer. Elsa Fitzgerald from MHC informed Patience when she was attending the historic preservation conference. Elsa had told Patience that she was surprised and concerned that the local historic district was not represented at the meeting. Patience said that she had addressed the issue with Bill Reopel. Reopel told Patience that he was surprised that she was not there also and had assumed that she was invited. Patience expressed her disappointment to him that he didn't bother to check.

Patience has heard a rumor that Tansey is preparing an application to submit in preparation for the grant submission. The consensus was for the Commission to sit tight and wait for the application to appear.

New Business

Commission elections of officers. Peter Kraniak made a motion to submit a slate consisting of Patience Bundschuh, chair, Andy West, vice chair, Jodi Brighenti, secretary. Clarence Rabideau seconded. Slate approved.

The Royalston Planning Board is considering an application for the town's first cell-phone tower. The current location applied for is off Jarvenpaa Road in South Royalston. Even though it is not in the district, the Planning board asked the commission for input.

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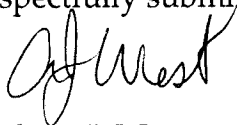
Chris Skelley from the Mass Historical Commission has offered to visit and hold a question and answer session with us. Patience suggested that a joint meeting with the nearby historic commissions would be an efficient use of Chris' time. We will ask him about the last Thursday of November. Patience said it might also be possible for Ann Grady, an historical architect, to come and give a presentation or workshop on our historical architecture.

Dan and Kay Shodeck want a date plaque for the front of their house. Patience will provide them with an order form.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> house on the left going up Frye Hill Rd, formerly owned by Werner and Patience Bundschuh, has new owners. Patience will provide an Historic District info binder.

Meeting adjourned at 10:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew J. West,  
Acting Secretary