

Royalston Historic District Commission

June 21, 2001

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Chairman Patience Bundschuh.

Members in attendance were Patience, Brenda Putney, Andy West, Clarence Rabideau, Bob Casinghino, John Divoll, and Rick Carrier.

Minutes of the May 17, 2001 meeting were tabled until July 19 for reading.

The minutes of the June 7, 2001 Special meeting were read and changed to specify that the version of the playhouse that was approved was the "squared off version (#2)". The minutes were approved as amended.

There were no new applications to act on tonight. Patience reported that Steve Chase's application has been filed with the Town Clerk.

Old Business: Patience sent a letter to the Selectmen asking that the Commission be advised of the next pole hearing, so we may try bring up the missing street light in front of the Smith's house, and the repairs to the lights in front of Casinghino's and Fortunato's. Bob Casinghino stated that the skirt is off from the light in front of his house, and he has it so that it may be put back on. The fixture in front of Fortunato's house is there, but is not working. Patience

asked Brenda to follow up and ask the selectman's office about notification of the next pole hearing.

Discussion was held as to our role as a commission, and what we should do about this particular situation. We discussed contacting Senator Brewer about the lack of response by Mass Electric. We also discussed going to the Selectman's meeting on July 10 and requesting action through their office, since they are the ones who approve payments of the bills.

Patience asked that people let her know if they are able to make it to the July 10th Selectman's meeting. Brenda suggested calling the Selectmen and asking to be put on the agenda, and asking the best way to get action on the issue.

New Business: Patience read a letter received from the Kelleys which was dated May 29, 2001. In the letter the Kelleys expressed concerns about the Bastille, and the fact that the tenant of the Bastille has been riding motorcycles in the dry field behind the building. The Kelleys feel that this could pose a fire hazard, and could threaten the buildings within the Historic District.

Discussion was held as to how the Commission should respond to the letter, and it was decided that although we are concerned for the safety of the buildings within the district, we have no jurisdiction over the activities on private property, and we should simply pass the letter on to David Tansey as received information only, and he can make a decision as to how he wants to handle the situation. Commission members felt that it is a stretch to even bring the matter before the commission, since it is more a matter of disturbing the peace, than safeguarding the property.

Bob made a motion to forward the letter to David Tansey just on an informational basis. It was voted to do so 5 for and 1 (Brenda) against. Brenda felt that the letter should be sent back to the Kelleys suggesting that they as the concerned party contact David Tansey directly. John joined the meeting at this point.

Back to Old Business: Design Guidelines

Patience suggested that the design guidelines sub-committee should meet and go over the guidelines and develop a printed copy to be handed out and voted on at the next meeting. The sub-committee will consist of Andy, Rick, Clarence, and Patience. They will meet on Monday June 25th at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Clarence gave a brief overview of the guidelines. He said that the basic outline has a lot to do with the parts of the house. He said we should think about what we want to cover as far as colors and architectural features. He said that there would be pictorials that would show some of the houses and we should think about how many we want to show. Photos are a wonderful resource for reference.

We discussed how many copies of the guidelines to make. John suggested 2 copies for the commission (1 to hold and 1 to loan), 1 for the library, 1 for the Selectmen and 1 for the Building Inspector, which would be a total of 5 copies.

Brenda suggested checking into Monty Tech to do the printing, and Patience thought we could get more for our money if we do less color. She suggested a color cover and black and white interior.

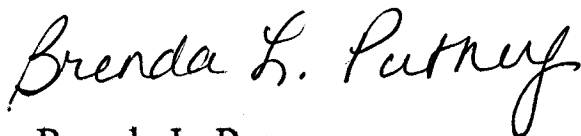
Patience suggested using our spot in the newsletter this month to report on the approval of the playhouse and also to define some of the terms used in the guidelines.

Andy spoke on the recent Historical Society Meeting, He stated that the Historical Society is considering going after grant monies for the fence at the Bastille. Patience thought there may also be private parties that would donate. The Board of Directors will decide if this is something the society will front, and then make an offer to David Tansey. This information was passed along as information only, Andy and Patience were not sure if they have made a decision yet.

Bob made a motion to adjourn, Rick seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda L. Putney". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Brenda L. Putney,
Secretary