

Royalston Historic District Commission

P. O. Box 125

Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Royalston, August 1, 2014

Planning Board
P.O. Box 125
Royalston, MA 01368

Dear Planning Board members,

Thank you for your letter dated May 6, 2014, about the boundaries of the Royalston Local Historic District and those of the Historic Residential Zoning District.

The limits of the Local Historic District are shown in a map filed at the Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 636 Page 44. The interpretation of this map is clarified by the metes and bounds description included in the 1979 (or early 1980) Final Report of the Royalston Historic District Study Committee (available on the HDC web site). An equivalent version of this description appears in the 1987 zoning bylaw.

As they are defined mostly by permanent features, such as stone walls, the HDC feels that the boundaries are sufficiently well defined to properly administer the Historic District. However there is some uncertainty whether the section of undeveloped land (west of the cemetery) defined in paragraph i) of the zoning bylaw was actually included in the Historic District when it was created at the Town Meeting. Research is being pursued on this topic and we will keep you informed of what we find.

The HDC is of the opinion that there is no requirement that a local historic district coincide with a zoning district. Thus we have no objection if the Planning Board was adopting different district boundaries. However if the zoning district boundaries do not coincide with those of the Local Historic District, or in case they stop to coincide depending on the research on paragraph i) discussed above, it may be wise to remove the word "Historic" from the name of the zoning district (it could become the "Royalston Center Residential District"), to avoid possible confusion of the public.

If the Planning Board prepares a zoning map where some boundaries coincide nominally with those of the Historic District, we would appreciate having the opportunity to review such map.

Sincerely,

Peter Kraniak
HDC chair