

Royalston Historic District Commission

Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 30, 2021 (special meeting)

Attendees: Peter Kraniak (chair), Andy West, , Bob Casinghino, Pierre Humblet (secretary), Rick Carrier, Beth Weaver (alt), Christine Statuto (alt), Joe Liebman (alt), Marie Humblet. Pierre and Joe recused themselves on matters related to 5 on the Common. Beth and Christine were active voters in all cases.

Peter opened the meeting at 7:33

Approval of the minutes

The members read the minutes of the September 16 meeting. Rick motioned to approve the minutes as read, Christine seconded and all voted in favor.

Old applications

Applications 2021-08-2 to resurface the driveway at 5 on the Common. Marie Humblet was allowed to repeat the presentations she had made at the public hearing on Sept 16, as many voting members were not present then. Joe reported he had talked to the applicant, who preferred not to change the project for cost reasons. Rick then motioned to accept the application and Christine seconded. Andy commented that "graded base" is a non-local processed material and that he had a bad experience with it on his driveway. However resurfacing a driveway is an easily reversible process so it will not affect the district in the long run. He added that we should not try to make the same decision for everyone, we should consider instead the historical significance of the change. The motion was then approved unanimously.

Applications 2021-08-3 to install a green light on the barn at 5 on the Common. Bob motioned to approve the application. Beth seconded and all voted in favor.

Applications 2021-08-4 to build a play house in the woods near 5 on the Common. Christine motioned to approve the application. Rick seconded. All voted in favor.

New applications

On behalf of the town, Keith Newton had sent two applications for certificates of appropriateness for work in the rear of the fire station on Athol Rd.

Applications 2021-09-1 to redo the rear roof of he fire station. After examining the application, the commission thought the work would not be in public view. Bob motioned to approve the application as an application for a certificate on non-applicability. Andy seconded. All voted in favor.

Applications 2021-09-2 to install vinyl siding on the rear of he fire station. For the same reason as before, Bob motioned to accept the application as an application for a certificate on non-applicability. Andy seconded. All voted in favor.

Election of officers

While Peter and Bob were ready to continue with their positions, Pierre pointed out that he had served as secretary for more than 10 years, that he was getting older and that he had made a

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number of mistakes recently. Thus he would prefer that someone else serve as secretary. While Beth Weaver expressed a willingness to help, no one volunteered for the position. Pierre then relented as Beth was willing to help as assistant secretary. Bob motioned to elect the slate Peter/Bob/Pierre. Christine seconded. All voted in favor.

Other commission matters

The Cassinaris never answered our letter about the demolished chimney on the garage at 10 S. Royalston Rd. In the past the HDC has always reviewed chimney demolitions carefully, as they are very noticeable architectural feature. It rejected some while allowing others. We do not want to create a precedent by allowing owners to proceed without permission, although they are likely to receive in this specific case. Beth volunteered to ask Peter to file an application.

At the Raymond School, the town building committee has had an aluminum ramp delivered, and said that they would ask permission later to install it. This places the HDC in a difficult position. Andy suggested that we send a letter to the Select Board with a copy to the building committee. Beth volunteered to write a draft that would be finalized at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned

Bob motioned to close the meeting. Rick seconded. Approval was unanimous. Peter closed the meeting at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted



Pierre A. Humblet
RHDC Secretary

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Meeting Agenda
October 21, 2020 at 7:30 PM
Royalston Town Hall

Regular meeting:

-Reading and approval of minutes

-Old Applications: None

-New Applications: As can be presented at the meeting

-Internal HDC Matters: Correspondence, Financial items, other internal matters such as:

- Update of the rules and regulations (definition of public view, posting of public hearings, antennas, ...)
- Follow up on chimney of 10 S Royalston Rd
- Follow up on ramp of the Raymond School

-Other non-anticipated issues that may come before the commission