

Royalston Historic District Commission

P.O. Box 125

Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Web site: <http://www.royalston-ma.gov>

E-mail: hdc@royalston-ma.gov

Application for Certificate

Instructions:

- Use separate applications for changes that are not related to each other.
- Include sketches or pictures showing design, sizes, colors, materials, etc. (a sketch is worth a thousand words).
- File four copies of the completed application at an HDC meeting; or mail, e-mail or give it to a commission member for filing at the next meeting.
- It is recommended that applicants attend the meeting or send an agent. Even well prepared applications generate questions and answering them quickly will avoid delays.
- Certificates expire a) after one year if the work was not started and pursued diligently, or b) in case of sale.
- If you have any questions, please contact the Commission.

Date December 20, 2012

Address of Property 11 NE Fitzwilliam Rd

Owner's Name Jim Barclay

Applicant's Name Jim Barclay

Applicant's mailing address: Street/P.O. Box PO Box 92

City, State, Zip Royalston, MA 01368-0092

Please check the certificate applied for:

☐ Appropriateness

☐ Non-Applicability

☐ Hardship

Short description of the proposed changes. (Provide the details on page 2 and on additional sheets and exhibits as necessary).

We are converting from oil to propane as a heating and cooking energy source. This conversion requires installing 3 large propane bottles outside. The code requirements for this installation include the requirement they be more than 5' from a window and this measurement dictates the bottles be mounted on the rear of the house a few feet from the Frye Hill end. In the spring, as weather permits, these tanks will be removed and replaced with a large, underground tank located well behind the house and out of sight. I've attached two pictures: #1 is from directly behind the tanks and #1 is facing North from beside the house.

Applicant's Signature

For Office Use Only

Date Filed Dec 18, 2012 Received by P. Hunsley Application Number 2012-12-1

Date Accepted for consideration Dec 18, 2012 Public Hearing ☒ Notices mailing date(s) Apr 30, 2013

Continuation date 3rd Thu in May 2013 Applicant's signature Jim Barclay Date 12/18/12

Decision Rejected Chairperson's signature P. Hunsley Date 12-18-12

Comments or conditions

not appropriate

P. Hunsley 5/12/13

Detailed description



Royalston Historic District Commission
Royalston, MA 01368

May 13, 2013

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing in regard to the application for appropriateness (#2012-12-01) for three green propane tanks submitted by James Barclay, 11 NE Fitzwilliam Rd.

I am confused to the intent of this application, as the applicant states in the application, "In the spring, as weather permits, these tanks will be removed and replaced with a large, underground tank located well behind the house and out of sight." Based on this comment, these tanks should be removed any day now and a tank will be buried.

I do not believe the three green tanks located in full view of Frye Hill Road's right of way are an appropriate installment of the tanks within the historic district. I agree with the applicant's intent to install a buried tank. Therefore, it is suggested that the commission vote against this application.

Sincerely,

Roger O'Donnell
3 Frye Hill Rd.
Royalston, MA 01368

Pierre A. Humblet

From: Daniel Schodek <dschodek@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2013 14:23
To: hdc@royalston-ma.gov
Subject: Gas bottles at 11 NE Fitzwilliam Road

Pierre A. Humblet, Secretary
Royalston Historic District Commission

Dear Pierre,

In response to your inquiry concerning the after the fact permission requests of the owners of the house at 11 Northeast Fitzwilliam Road to install three green gas bottles on the Northwest side of the house, we offer the following comments.

1. We have long understood that the owners have some sort of hardship exemption from HDC rulings, but do not know if the hardship still obtains. If the hardship assumption is correct, we are unclear whether the exemption permits the owners to place items such as gas tanks without prior HDC approval. We would think that any kind of hardship exemption for anyone in the town, not just the owners of 11 NE Fitzwilliam Road, would still require HDC approval. If not, the HDC should consider amending its rules to require prior approval (clearly we have not actually read over the HDC's charter which probably answers these questions -- our apologies for not doing so).
2. The current location and look of the tanks is not particularly attractive, and, had there been HDC approval, there might have been better alternatives to their current placement. It is unclear to us whether the current installation is temporary or permanent. If the placement is temporary (i.e., less than a year), then the placement of the tanks is okay with us, so long as they are hidden by a visual barrier that meets with the approval of the HDC. If the placement is permanent, the tanks would ideally be better placed elsewhere, or replaced by a large buried tank. (We are aware that the "filling portion" of buried tanks are still quite visible, but this would be okay with us).

All that being said, in these difficult economic times, if financial hardship is an issue, we do not wish to contribute to anyone's further difficulties.

Sincerely,

Daniel and Kay Schodek