

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 19, 2019

Attendees: Peter Kraniak (chair), Bob Casinghino, Clarence Rabideau, Matthew Valliere, Pierre Humblet (secretary), Roger O'Donnell . All were voting members.

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

New applications

Selectboard member Christine Long was attending to present to applications related to the Town Hall addition.

The first one was for a certificate of appropriateness to temporarily install an electric generator and a gas tank on the north side of the town hall, to provide there phase power during elevator tests and possibly for actual service use until National Grid provides three phase power.

The commission requested that the application be changed to a hardship case, as what is proposed is clearly not appropriate. This was done. The commission then asked Ms. Long for how long the generator might be used in that location, but she answered she did not know and could not speak for the entire select board. Mathew then motioned to accept the amended application without requiring a public hearing, as it was only a temporary solution. Roger seconded. Application 2019-09-1.

The next application was for a certificate of non-applicability to install the same generator to a permanent location on the west line of the town hall property. The gas tank would be buried, with only some access pipes rising above ground. Pierre asked if the location would be visible from the Common. Ms. Long answered negatively. Mathew then motioned to approve the application. Roger seconded. Application 2019-09-2.

Ms. Long then asked the commission how it would feel about installing a roof above the ramp on the south side of the building. The general tone of the answers was negative, with many members arguing that the ramp should be removed, not only due to its aspect but also because it will cease to be required for handicap access and would become a liability for the Town, and because the building wall located behind the ramp might be rotting. Ms. Long mentioned that many users of the kitchen appreciate having it as an alternate access, particularly while an event is in progress. Some members said they would not object to installing stairs from the kitchen door to the parking area below.

Christine Statuto presented an application to install a picket fence with a gate on the south side of the house at 7 South Royalston Rd. The design appeared to be appropriate and likely to be approved. However, details were lacking, particularly the size of the double gate. The commission advised Ms. Statuto to come back with a more detailed application.

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Marjorie Chase had sent to Peter Kraniak an application for a certificate of appropriateness to cover the barn roof at 18 Frye Hill Rd with charcoal architectural shingles, instead of corrugated roofing. This was considered routine and reasonable. Pierre motioned to accept the application for consideration without requiring a public hearing. Roger seconded. Application 2019-09-3.

Roger O'Donnell then presented four applications for certificates of appropriateness for the following work at 5 Frye Hill Rd. They were all considered minor and approved for consideration without requiring a public hearing. All members voted in favor, except Roger who recused himself.

1) Replace the existing front lamp with a more antique one. Moved by Pierre, seconded by Bob. Application 2019-09-4

2) Install extra trim on the porch. Moved by Bob, seconded by Matthew. Application 2019-09-4

3) Paint the house in darker brown, as it was in 1993. Moved by Bob, seconded by Clarence. Application 2019-09-6

4) Change the roof shingles from grey 3-tab to hunter green architectural. Asphalt fragments found on the side showed that this color was used on the house in the past. Moved by Bob, seconded by Clarence. Application 2019-09-7

Minutes

The members also read the minutes of August and made several small corrections. Roger motioned to approve the amended minutes. Peter seconded. All voted in favor except Bob and Matt who abstained as they were not present at that meeting.

Meeting adjourned

Roger motioned to close the meeting. Clarence seconded. All voted in favor. Peter closed the meeting at 8:55 P.



Pierre A. Humblet  
RHDC Secretary