

# *Royalston Historic District Commission*

*Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368*

## Meeting Minutes

Date: August 5, 2021

Attendees: Peter Kraniak (chair), Andy West, Bob Casinghino, Matt Valliere, Pierre Humblet (secretary), Rick Carrier, Beth Hastings (Alt), Christine Statuto (alt), Joe Liebman (alt).

### Public hearing

Applications 2021-06-02 and 2021-06-03 for a porch and stairs on the north side of 5 on the Common.

Peter opened the meeting at 7:35 PM and designated Joe Liebman as a voting member.

Theresa Quinn, owner of 11 on the Common was present. She complained that the work on the porch had been done without a certificate and moreover that the owner was a member of the HDC. She thought this gave a bad image of the commission. In similar circumstances, before she modified the rear of her house a few years ago, she had obtained a certificate of appropriateness, although the area was minimally in public view. Otherwise she had no complaints about the design of the projects. Matt Valliere acknowledged the difficulty of the situation and said that the intention had been for the architectural features to be completely hidden from public view. He pointed out that we were here because he had submitted certificates to correct the situation.

Theresa then left, and the commission discussed how to avoid this issue in the future, like introducing fines for work done without permission, or requiring certificates of non-applicability for new construction. No firm proposal was made. There was also a discussion about making sure that all new owners are aware of the rules, and complaints about how the HDC is often portrayed by members of the public to new owners.

Bob made a motion to close the public hearing and Rick seconded. All voted in favor.

### Regular meeting

Peter called the meeting to order

### Approval of the minutes

The members read the minutes of the July meeting. Bob motioned to approve minutes as read. Matt seconded. All active voters voted in favor.

### Old applications

The commission then turned to the applications considered during the public hearing. Matt, Joe and Pierre recused themselves. Peter designated Beth and Christine as active voters.

Bob motioned to approve 2021-06-2 (stairs) and Christine seconded. Bob motioned to approve 2021-06-3 (porch) and Andy seconded. Approval of both was unanimous.

### New applications

Application by Matt Valliere for a certificate of appropriateness to create two patios at ground level on the south and north side of 5 on the Common. Matt explained what he wanted to do and

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answered a few questions, pointing out that the patios would be minimally in public view, if at all. This proposal was non-controversial and Andy moved to accept it for consideration without a public hearing. Christine seconded. All voted in favor. Application 2021-08-1

Matt presented an application for a certificate of non-applicability to resurface the driveway at 5 on the Common with dense grade aggregate. All members agreed that the driveway needed work. The discussion centered on non-applicability. As it turned out that the level of the driveway would be raised by a few inches and the color changed, Andy said he wanted to avoid creating a bad precedent and he motioned to accept the application for consideration as being for a certificate of appropriateness, without a public hearing. Christine seconded. All voted in favor and Matt modified the application accordingly. Application 2021-08-2

### Other commission matters

The members spent the rest of the evening editing the rules and regulations, see attached draft.

### Meeting adjourned

Bob motioned to close the meeting. Rick seconded. Approval was unanimous. Peter closed the meeting slightly past 10 PM.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "P.A. Humblet".

Pierre A. Humblet  
RHDC Secretary