

Royalston Historic District Commission

Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 23, 2009

Attendees: Celt Grant (Vice Chair), Bob Casinghino, Rick Carrier, Chris Dawson (alternate), Ken Lively (alternate), Roger O'Donnell, Pierre Humblet, and Andy West. Celt chaired the meeting and designated Ken Lively as active voter. Chris Dawson did not participate in the votes.

Roger read the minutes of the June 18 meeting and a correction was made. Andy motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Bob seconded. All voted in favor, except Celt, who abstained as he was not present in May, and Rick, who had not yet arrived.

Old business

Roger reported that the steps at 12 The Common were fixed. He will send a thank you letter.

New business

Andy went over the HDC mail. There were some instructions about town accounting and offers for surplus property.

Old applications

Ken explained that after reroofing the main roof of 5 The Common, the work was extended to the barn, using the same material as the house. Technically this requires a modification to the approved application. Andy moved to approve a modified application to cover the barn work. Roger seconded. All voting members voted in favor except the abutters, Ken and Pierre, who abstained.

New Applications

At 8 PM Celt opened a hearing to consider Chris Dawson's application for 2 The Common.

- An abutter had written to Chris objecting to the design of the dormers on the 2nd floor. Chris presented a modified design where eyebrow windows that had been suggested at an earlier HDC meeting replaced the dormers.
- Chris also proposed a modification of the South entrance door, using 9 lights and 2 panels instead of 12 lights. There was a lot of discussion about the appropriateness of this design, which dates back to the 1950's. However it was felt that there was no practical alternative to provide light to the hall.
- Another minor change was made to the East attic window.
- Chris mentioned that he preferred using vinyl rather than wood for the new and replaced windows, but insisted particularly on doing so for the two new East windows in the old structure. The reason is that they are located in a room where the four existing windows are already vinyl.
- For information, the satellite dish will be relocated on the East side of the South roof. It was also suggested that it could be hidden near the South chimney.
- The members asked for several clarifications about more minor issues.

At 8:45 Celt moved to close the public hearing. Andy seconded, all approved.

After a straw vote, Celt suggested to Chris to modify the application to use wood material for all new and replaced windows, except the two East windows of the main structure.

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It was felt that this was not creating a damaging precedent for vinyl windows in the district as the circumstances were rather unusual and the existing vinyl windows had been installed without authorization.

Chris modified the plans accordingly and added a number of precisions.

Andy then moved to issue a certificate of appropriateness for the modified application. Bob seconded. All voted in favor except the abutters, Ken and Pierre, who abstained. The certificate was assigned number 2009-07-03.

The commission then considered the application by D. Stowell to reroof the garage at 18 the Common. The shingle design would not change while the color would become light gray, matching the house. No public comments had been received. After a short discussion Roger motioned to issue a certificate of appropriateness. Andy seconded. All voted in favor, except Bob who abstained as an abutter. The certificate was assigned number 2009-07-01.

Finally the commission debated the application by D. Stowell to add a trellis on the easterly side of the back porch entrance at 18 the Common. No public comments had been received. After a short discussion Andy made a motion to issue a certificate of appropriateness. Roger seconded. All voted in favor, except Bob who abstained as an abutter. The certificate was assigned number 2009-07-02.

Meeting adjourned

At 10:03 Bob made a motion to close the meeting, Roger seconded and Celt closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "P.A. Humblet". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "P.A." and the last name "Humblet" clearly distinguishable.

Pierre Humblet,
Secretary