

Royalston Historic District Commission

Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Meeting Minutes

Date: Dec 7, 2009

Attendees: Peter Kraniak (Chair), Celt Grant (Vice-Chair), Bob Casinghino, Rick Carrier, Pierre Humblet, Ken Lively and Andy West. All were active voters.

Peter opened the meeting at 9:50 PM, after the end of the MRPC hearing on John McClure's appeal.

Minutes

The minutes of Nov 19, 2009 had been sent by e-mail and members had read them. Celt motioned to approve the minutes as written. Bob seconded. All voted in favor.

Old business

Many members commented on the appeal that had just been decided in favor of the HDC. Bob thanked Pierre for preparing the counterarguments. Rick said that it was good to hear everybody make a statement; we were all in this together.

A discussion followed on the next steps. After some back and forth, Andy made a motion to send John McClure a letter offering to work with him to find a solution that is energy efficient, cost effective and appropriate to the district. Bob seconded. All voted in favor. Andy went to work writing such a letter and it was printed and signed by Peter.

Peter announced that the letters to Henry Cole and to the First Congregational Church had been sent, as decided at the last meeting.

New business

Pierre had e-mailed a new version of the application form and Andy had printed it. Pierre explained some goals, such as

- obtaining more information about the applicant and less about the owner
- opening the door to decisions being formally continued to a later meeting, with the approval of the applicant, when more information is necessary or decisions are complex.
- documenting the reasons of our decisions.

However the most complex issue was on how to meet the 15 days deadline to give initial feedback to the applicant. The current method asking that completed applications be given to a member is not ideal in that respect. The form will also suggest that the applicant bring the application to a meeting. This is not perfect, particularly for simple applications. A decision on best to achieve this goal will be made later but the current draft should be used temporarily as it was already an improvement.

Next Pierre pointed out that HDCs in many towns have documented their internal procedures in writing, and that it would be useful to do likewise. A first draft based on the Brookline rules was distributed. Members will read it, think about the issues and send edits (without starting a debate) to Pierre, who will combine them into a next version. That version will be discussed at our next meeting.

Finally Chris had contacted Andy and Pierre, writing that he could not find his copy of an approved application to change the style of his roof shingles. Although some members recalled that Chris had

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mentioned roof work, they did not recall voting on the matter and abutters did not recall receiving hearing waiver forms. No trace of the application was found in the minutes. Pierre will contact Chris and suggest 3 avenues:

1. Do a temporary fix.
2. Change the roof using shingles that match the existing design and color.
3. Submit an application. We will expedite the approval process while respecting all the requirements.

Meeting adjourned

Following unanimous approval of a motion made by Bob and seconded by Celt, Peter adjourned the meeting at 11:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "P.A. Humblet". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Pierre A. Humblet,
Secretary