

Royalston Historic District Commission
Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 21, 2011

Attendees: Peter (chair), Andy, Bob, Ken, Pierre (secretary), Rick (late). All were active voters.

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Minutes

The members read the minutes of the March meeting. Bob pointed out a typo and motioned to approve the minutes as corrected. Andy seconded. All voted in favor except Ken who abstained as he was absent in March.

The commission also noted that nobody had met John McClure to talk about the expiring certificate.

Correspondence

We have received a request from the MHC to provide a list of commission members. Pierre will answer.

New applications

Kevin McGuirk presented several applications on behalf of Dwight Stowell.

- 1) Barn at 18 on the common.
 - Change roofs of the barn and the adjoining milk shed to black architectural shingles instead of grayish 3 tab. Replace the wood trim along rooflines with new pine and apply translucent grayish finish.
 - Apply new layer of vertical shiplap hemlock siding (i.e. same style as existing) over the existing siding. Replace existing or missing window trims and corner boards and finish with a sealant. The work is to be done in yearly phases.

The commission thanked the applicant for restoring the barn. The matter of the roof generated little discussion. Pierre made a motion to accept for consideration a separate application for the roof work, without requiring a hearing. Ken seconded. All voted in favor, except Bob who recused himself as an abutter. Application 2011-04-01.

On the matter of the siding, Andy pointed out that if the project was only to replace the siding (instead of applying a new layer) with the suggested material, it would be a repair and no application would be required. Keeping the old underlay layer may cause problems over the years as it might disintegrate and leave the new outer layer without firm support. The extra thickness will also require repositioning the windows or extending their sills. Even without keeping the existing layer, Tyvek or similar could still be applied in a non-visible manner to protect the structural elements. The matter of applying a sealer was also discussed. It may be better to first let the new wood age.

The commission also remarked that a multi-year application can remain effective as long as the work is “pursued diligently”, which we would take to mean “pursued according to the proposed schedule” (the building inspector may use different criteria).

Andy made a motion to accept the application for consideration and to waive the hearing. Ken seconded. All voted in favor, except Bob who recused himself. Application 2011-04-02.

2) Sashes at 2 Warwick Rd.

The owner would like to change the window sash color from white to black for aesthetic reasons. The application cites several instances on black painted sashes in the district. Ken reported that he changed the color of his sashes from black to white some years ago. In light of this information Pierre made a motion to accept the application for consideration without requiring a hearing. All voted in favor, except Bob who recused himself. Application 2011-04-03

3) Woodshed at 2 Warwick Rd.

This was an informal discussion about a future application to add windows and remove a garage door on the woodshed located in the back of the house. The feedback from the commission was generally positive, as long as the woodshed keeps its unique characteristic to have 9 over 6 window sashes. Details about materials and colors should also be provided.

Pierre Humblet then presented an application to enlarge the door opening to the storage area under the South deck at 4 on the Common.

The committee found that the change was minor and that perhaps a certificate of non-applicability should be issued. However the change is visible from a public way, even if barely so, and we should not create undesirable precedents.

Bob made a motion to accept the application for consideration without requiring a public hearing.

Andy seconded. All voted in favor except Ken who recused himself as an abutter. Application 2011-04-04.

Old business

Parsonage dish: The minister had requested Direct TV to relocate the antenna at 2 on the Common to the roof. By chance Peter happened on the job site and noticed that the new spot was badly chosen. He stopped the work. The commission discussed preferred locations, mostly on the West side roof. Ken will contact the minister, thank him for his cooperation and ask him to reschedule the installation, giving us a few days' notice. Peter, Ken and Rick volunteered to be present. They will exercise good judgment in selecting a site together with the installer.

Plantings in front of Verizon equipment boxes: As part of the previous matter Ken will ask the minister if he would make a charitable donation of the trees in front of the antenna to the town. If we get the donation Ken will notify the members and organize a working party to plant the trees near the Verizon equipment. If we don't get a donation Ken will notify Pierre who will get technical advice from Marie, buy shrubs and organize a work party. On his side Andy will try to ascertain the location of the ducts to the equipment, either from the firemen or Verizon or dig safe.

Historic District signs: Rick had prepared sign mock ups for presentation at this meeting but they were accidentally discarded. The new plan is that Rick will get a jpeg image of the project and send it to Andy for printing in several sizes. Rick will also verify if he has received the image of the Town seal from Andy.

New business

Linking to the MHC web site: Pierre proposed that add a link to the MHC MACRIS web site from our web site. All the members agreed to the proposal.

Broadband: Andy reported on broadband projects. The proposal to have fiber coming up from Athol to the police station, the Town Hall, library, the community school and Whitney hall is moving

forward. That fiber would hang on telephone poles. It could eventually be used by private providers to provide services to residences, either by fiber or cable or by installing radio towers.

Meanwhile there are parallel proposals (such as one from WiValley) to use radio technology to serve houses. WiValley could do so by feeding a radio signal from New Hampshire to relay towers located in Royalston. That technology would require the erection of tall (75' to 150') but skinny (flagpole-like) towers. One proposed location is the fire station.

Meeting adjourned

Bob motioned to close the meeting, Andy seconded. Peter adjourned the meeting at 10:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Pierre A. Humblet,
Secretary

Royalston Historic District Commission
Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Royalston Historic District Commission
Meeting Agenda
May 19, 2011 at 7:30 PM
Royalston Town Hall

Old Applications:

- 2011-04-01: Barn and milk shed roofs, 18 on the Common
- 2011-04-02: Sidings of barn, 18 on the Common
- 2011-04-03: Change sash color from white to black, 2 Warwick Rd
- 2011-04-04: Enlarge door opening to storage under S deck, 4 on the Common.

New Applications:

As they may be filed at the meeting

Internal HDC matters:

- Correspondence
- Financial items
- Other internal matters

Other commission matters:

- Historic District boundary signs
- Parsonage TV dish
- Plantings in front of Verizon equipment near the firehouse

Any other business that may come before the commission