

Royalston Historic District Commission

Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 16, 2011

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

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM.

Minutes

The members read the minutes of the May meeting. Bob motioned to approve the minutes as written. Ken seconded. All voted in favor except Celt who abstained, as he was not present in May.

Old applications

Peter opened the public hearing on the application by Kevin McGuirk to replace the woodshed at 2 Warwick Rd with a similar but larger structure, application 2011_05_01. Pierre indicated that notices had been sent to the abutters on May 25th and published in the Athol Daily News. Kevin was present. He went over the application and answered some questions from the commissioner. The color of the door and of the latch were added to the application while the detailed window specifications were deleted..

After 20 minutes Bob motioned to closed the public hearing and Ken seconded.

The commission then deliberated. The general feeling was that the change was well planned and would not be detrimental to the Historic District. Andy requested that that the fact that the windows had true divided lights with single glass be added to the application. Kevin agreed. Pierre then made a motion to approve the amended application and to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness. Ken seconded. All voted in favor except Bob who recused himself.

Internal matters

At the May meeting the commission had decided that applicants e-mail addresses and telephone numbers should be removed from applications before posting on the website. Pierre requested that these items be removed from the form altogether, in order to simplify the Secretary's work. After a brief discussion the commission agreed. It was noted that it remains possible to ask for e-mail addresses and telephone numbers at the meeting.

Old business

Historic District boundary signs: As Rick was absent this matter was not discussed further.

Planting near the Verizon equipment: Celt had looked at the site and he exposed the characteristics of the location. Four or five plants would be needed to hide the equipment, with a height of 6 to 7 feet. One of the plants would be in a location prone to being covered by snow piles. Rhododendrons and yews would be particularly suitable.

Celt volunteered to look more into the matter and to find and price suitable varieties.

The commission discussed ways to raise the necessary funds. This will be addressed once we have a better idea of the cost.

Other issues

Andy indicated that the Athol branch of the USPS is looking into installing regular mailboxes in the Town center and/or to charge for post office boxes. However the Springfield headquarters signed the current contract and may not be aware of Athol's request. It is not clear how far this matter will go.

Meeting adjourned

Andy motioned to close the meeting and Celt seconded. Peter adjourned the meeting at 9:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P.A. Humblet". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pierre A. Humblet,
Secretary