

Royalston Historic District Commission

Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 21th, 2013

Attendees: Peter Kraniak (Chair), Celt Grant (Vice Chair), Andy West, Bob Casinghino, Clarence Rabideau, Pierre Humblet (Secretary), Rick Carrier. All were active voters.

Peter opened the meeting slightly after 7:30 PM.

Minutes.

The members read the minutes of the February public hearing and meeting. On a motion made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved as read.

New applications

Kevin McGuirk presented an application for work on the barn at 18 on the Common. The application presented at the meeting was substantially different from that submitted by e-mail on March 20th and Kevin made clear he was mainly soliciting feedback on the project.

On the S, N and W sides the proposed work was mainly repairs, although some windows were proposed to be moved on the South side to space them equally. The feedback on that was negative, as it would change the current character of the barn, making it look like new. Other proposals, such as recessing the South door to protect it from the rain, met no objections. There were no objections either to using new looking wood on the exterior walls, as it would eventually age.

On the East side the updated application suggested creating large windows with undivided glass, with markedly different shapes on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors (a Palladian window on the 3rd floor). This feature was not present in the original application and had been clearly designed quickly. It wasn't clear at the time how much that side was visible from public roads. Assuming it is visible the commission, while appreciating the preservation efforts of the owner over the years and recognizing his legitimate desire to make the best possible use of the space, suggested that the proposal was inappropriate and that other designs should be considered. The large windows on Pat Jackson's house on old Winchendon road were cited as an example.

The commission estimated that the current plans lacked dimensions and other details and that they were not stable enough to call a public hearing on them. Kevin asked if a public hearing was necessary. Andy replied that public hearings are the default option in our bylaw and that they are only waived for totally non-controversial applications.

Other commission matters:

Historic District boundary signs: The commission has received an e-mail from Selectboard member Linda Alger stating that she would ask the Finance Commission to reinstate the funds appropriated by the 1999 Regular Town Meeting.

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Common restoration: Clarence reported that the Common Restoration commission is focusing on the restoration of the monument.

Meeting adjourned

On a motion duly made, seconded and unanimously approved, Peter closed the meeting around 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Pierre A. Humblet,
Secretary