

# *Royalston Historic District Commission*

*Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368*

The regular July meeting was not held due to a lack of quorum. However 3 applications were filed at that time. They are:

2013-07-1 Application by Roger O'Donnell to replace the garage door at 3 Frye Hil Rd

2013-07-2 Application by Kevin McGuirk to reroof the main roof at 2 Warwick Rd with artificial slates and to install a ridge cap

2013-07-3 After the fact application by Christopher Dawson to construct a pressure treated wooden deck at the rear of 2 on the Common.

Peter decided not to call a special meeting to handle them and in absence of a vote to the contrary a public hearing to be held on Aug 15, 2013 was advertised for all of them.

## Meeting Minutes

Date: Aug 15th, 2013

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

### Public Hearing

At 7:36 Peter opened the public hearing on the application 2013-07-1: Application by Roger O'Donnell to replace the garage door at 3 Frye Hil Rd. The only member of the public present was the applicant. He presented his project, noting that, due to an error of the installer, the proposed door design was now slightly different from the one shown in the application. Only a few questions were asked.

No member of the public was present for applications 2013-07-2 and 2013-07-3 so Pierre made a motion to close the public hearing. Bob seconded. Peter closed the public hearing at 7:45 and opened the regular meeting.

### Regular meeting

#### Minutes

The members read the minutes of the June meeting. Two typos were found and corrected. Celt motioned to approve the minutes as corrected. Bob seconded. All voted in favor.

#### Old applications

2013-07-1, Application by Roger O'Donnell to replace the garage door at 3 Frye Hil Rd

The general view of the commission was that the change was to a non-historic part of the building and that the proposed design was an improvement over the existing door. Accordingly Bob moved to approve the application. Clarence seconded. All voted in favor.

2013-07-2 Application by Kevin McGuirk to reroof the main roof at 2 Warwick Rd with artificial slates and to install a ridge cap

Some commission members were concerned that this was an attempt to create "fake antiquity", as the size of the artificial slate was probably much smaller than whatever had been used in the past, the

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look was very uniform, contrary to natural slates, and the material obviously modern. To the contrary, asphalt shingles were in use when the Historic District was created and the current look can be preserved at minimal cost.

There were also concerns about the design and material of ridge cap. Kevin McGuirk was called and indicated it would be provided by the manufacturer of the artificial slates and would fit with the rest of the roof. He also indicated that artificial slate roofs could be seen in Baldwinville and on the Athol train station.

Given the novelty of the situation, the consensus was that the commission members needed to educate themselves. The decision was postponed to a special meeting to be held on Aug 22 at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall.

2013-07-3 After the fact application by Christopher Dawson to construct a pressure treated wooden deck at the rear of 2 on the Common.

It was generally accepted that the deck was an improvement over the existing concrete patio, both on aesthetic and safety grounds, but that it should be painted and that the steps should have risers.

Andy motioned to approve the application under the condition that risers be installed on both steps by Oct 15, 2013 and that the deck be stained by May 1<sup>st</sup> 2014. Bob seconded. All voted in favor except Pierre who recused himself as abutter.

### New Application

Andy West resubmitted an approved application to install a lantern in front of his house at 12 South Royalston Rd. The design is identical to that previously approved. It was pointed out that in such cases the abutters are not notified as the circumstances have not changed since the initial application. Pierre moved the re-approve the application. Clarence seconded. All voted in favor. Application 2013-08-1.

### Other commission matters:

#### Historic District boundary signs:

Peter reported that he went to the meeting of the Selectboard earlier in the month to show them the proposed design. They were sympathetic to it.

Keith requested that the signs be installed 4 to 6 ft from the pavement.

The posts will be 4x4. Rick will investigate the use of Kild Dried After Treatment, with Cedar and PT as alternatives.

The height would be more or less as in Acton, i.e. 6 to 7 ft at the top.

The signs would be attached using brackets or stainless steel bolts/screws. This will be determined later.

Common restoration: Clarence reported that a Park grant had been filed, asking 44k\$ for trees, memorial restoration, new memorial, benches and a fence around the center U. A glitch has developed: the granting agency does not allow power lines to cross the park and thus some would have to be relocated.

The idea of installing a fence across the common received negative comments, Clarence said that it was a place holder that would be revisited.

As an Eagle Scout project, Eric Duffin is proposing to install signs and a box with pamphlets to allow visitors to better appreciate the common.

11 NorthEast Fitzwilliam Rd.: The deadline we had given to Jim Barclay has expired. Peter will send a letter to the effect that he is now in violation of the Historic District Bylaw.

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Meeting adjourned

On a motion made by Bob, seconded by Celt and unanimously approved, Peter closed the meeting at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Pierre A. Humblet,  
Secretary

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**Meeting Agenda**  
**September 19, 2013 at 7:30 PM**  
**Royalston Town Hall**

- Old Applications: None
- Reading and approval of the minutes
- 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
  - Common renovations
- Any other business that may come before the commission