

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 19, 2020

Attendees: Peter Kraniak (chair), Andy West (remote), Bob Casinghino (remote), Pierre Humblet (secretary). All were voting members.

Public Hearing on application 2020-02-1, lights on the north side of the Town Hall
No member of the public was present for that hearing and no comments had been received.

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:40pm.

Old applications

2020-02-1 Applications by the Town of Royalston to install three lights on the north side of the Town Hall. The commission discussed the height of the fixtures, which was not precisely mentioned in the application. Many felt that the lights themselves were relatively small and that they would be out of proportion if mounted on top of a 10 ft pole. A location about

Some members also were uneasy about the design of the light that would be placed near the spot used for that purpose on the old pictures. The proposed fixture has its light source out of view in its cap. No light bulb is visible (even without the frosted glass) and the light is projected out in a “non historical” manner. In addition, the selected fixtures produce about 4100 lumens, equivalent to about 2.5 incandescent 100 W bulbs. It was felt that this was too bright for that location, which would also be illuminated from the light near the front door and from the fixtures attached to the building.

Andy made a motion to reject the application on the ground that the design of the front fixture is not appropriate and would negatively impact the Historic District. A historical looking model should be investigated. Its purpose should be more decorative than functional. Bob seconded. All voted in favor.

New application

Tom Musco was present, representing the building committee of the town. He explained that the roof of the Raymond School is 80 years old and leaking. It needs to be replaced. Its shingles are made of asbestos. They are thin and smooth, perhaps to imitate slates. Replacing them with real slates is well beyond the means of the town. Tom has consulted the architect of the MHC and its local circuit rider, but they had no concrete suggestions to replace asbestos shingles. Metal is not considered appropriate. Considering asphalt shingles, the closest one would be of the 3-tab kind. They are very cheap but unfortunately they have a low warranty period. The proposed model [I need to look it up from the brochure, which is at home] is described as an architectural shingle but its relief is lower than most. It is closest to the current roof, among all solutions Tom investigated. True architectural shingles could last 50 years but they would look quite different. The committee members asked questions during Tom’s presentation and also advised him to consider imitation slates and composite materials, both in terms of cost and durability.

Andy then motioned to accept the application for consideration with a public hearing. Bob seconded. Approval was unanimous. Application 3 2020-03-1.

Meeting adjourned

Pierre motioned to close the meeting. Peter seconded and closed the meeting at 8:40 PM.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "P.A. Humblet". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The "P.A." is written in a smaller, more compact script, followed by "Humblet" in a larger, more elaborate cursive.

Pierre A. Humblet
RHDC Secretary