

# *Royalston Historic District Commission*

*Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368*

## Meeting Minutes

Date: July 16, 2020

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, this meeting was held remotely. It took place on a FreeConferenceCall.com session hosted by the secretary. The call-in information was posted with all meeting notices. The written material had been distributed by e-mail. All votes were taken by roll call.

Attendees: Peter Kraniak (chair), Bob Casinghino, Clarence Rabideau, Matthew Valliere, Pierre Humblet (secretary), Roger O'Donnell. All were active voters.

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

### Old applications

Application 2020-06-1 for a certificate of appropriateness to add a gutter on the south side of the garage at 17 on the Common. This being a minor change and no request for a public hearing having been received, Roger motioned to approve the application. Clarence seconded. All voted in favor.

### New applications

Jim Barclay was on the call to present an application for a certificate of appropriateness to demolish the chimney of the Raymond School at 0 on the Common. He explained that this was necessary to insulate the building (R68 between the floors and the attic) and to solve a structural issue: the chimney has not settled as much as the roof and is keeping the roof bowing upward around the chimney. The chimney demolition was first recommended by a UMass professor on June 29. In addition, Jim felt that the location of the chimney is awkward and that the building would look better without it.

Many HDC members explained that they did not disagree that the chimney was strangely positioned, but that they feared that allowing the demolition for weak reasons might become a precedent for other such requests. They wondered if there were no other solutions, such as capping and insulating the chimney to achieve the desired result. Jim pointed out that sources of funding are limited, that complicated measures would add to the cost and make the project unfeasible, and that high insulation was necessary to obtain Green Community funding.

The commission requested that Jim provide better documented engineering and financial reasons to demolish the chimney. As the building is currently under tarps, Jim requested that the HDC reach a decision speedily.

Bob motioned to accept the application for consideration with a public hearing that will be held at 7:30 PM on Aug 6, 2020. Clarence seconded. All voted in favor. Application 2010-07-1

Jim also discussed the need to ventilate the attic. The upper vents will be out of sight in the cupola and on the back roof. Soffit vents are often used at the bottom, but he felt that they would not be in character. Instead he proposed SmartVents, which work by creating a 1" slit in the roof.

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deck, or a series of 1.5" holes, and raising somewhat the shingles in the lower rows to allow air to reach the slit. According to pictures he provided, the system is almost invisible, at least from the angles used in the pictures. The commission appreciated Jim efforts but did not really discuss if an application would be necessary.

Minutes

The members read the minutes of the June meeting, which had been distributed by e-mail. Roger motioned to accept them as read. Peter seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned

Roger motioned to close the meeting. Bob seconded. Peter closed the meeting at 8:40 PM.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "P.A. Humblet". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Pierre A. Humblet  
RHDC Secretary