

Meeting Minutes

Date: November 19, 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 Free Conference Call session hosted by the secretary. The call-in information was indicated in all meeting notices. The written material had been distributed by e-mail. All votes were taken by roll call.

Regular meeting

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

Peter opened the meeting at 7:32 PM

New applications

Application by Elizabeth Cassinari for a certificate of appropriateness to erect a fence in the rear of the house to keep deaf dogs. Elizabeth and Peter were present and answered a question about the design. The application was considered to be in good order. Roger motioned to accept it for consideration, waiving the public hearing. Pierre seconded. All voted in favor except Andy who abstained as abutter. Application 2020-11-1.

The Cassinaris were anxious to erect the fence as soon as possible. As we have to give notice, the earliest date possible would be during the week of December 7. After some discussion, Andy made a motion to move the regular December meeting to Dec 9. Roger seconded. All voted in favor.

Application by Charles Chaloult for a certificate of appropriateness to re-roof building at 9 Frye Hill Rd. Mr. Chaloult was represented by Matt Fauteux. During the discussion Matt confirmed that the new shingles would be architectural. Pierre wondered if all roofs would be redone, including on the addition on the north side of the barn. Matt explained that it was just a lean-to that had already been demolished, before the owner was aware of the Historic District regulations.

Pierre motioned to accept the application for consideration without requiring a public hearing and to approve it, contingent on no neighbors requesting a public hearing before the deadline. This because winter is coming, and this is how we usually treat this type of application. Andy seconded. All voted in favor. Application 2020-11-2

Application by Charles Chaloult for a certificate of appropriateness to move the window of the living room as explained on the application, and to remove the smaller window. Matt explained that this wing is recessed behind the main house, but it is still visible from the road. The former opening would be covered with the same clapboards as those on the main house. Pierre remarked that there was no application to remove the current siding and restore the clapboard, which he found to be an excellent idea, and that this change could be tacked to this application.

Pierre motioned to accept the application for consideration, with a public hearing, as the scope of the overall work justified having a hearing where all the design issues could be addressed. Matt Valliere seconded. All voted in favor. Application 2020-11-4

Andy thought that while we were discussing windows we should first consider those on the main house. He asked Matt if the current windows were inserts (thus with reduced glass area), or true windows. Matt answered that they were true windows that had been installed in 2016. It was pointed out that no application had been granted for that change. Peter explained that no one had noticed due to the remoteness of the location. Andy stated that according to the HDC rules, the current owner is responsible for the acts of the previous ones. Although we have never applied that rule, the scope of the change in this case is larger than in previous cases. Andy also discussed the muntins. The application proposes "Between The Glass" muntins, but given the age and the historic importance of this house, exterior muntins on the windows of the main house would be more appropriate. Matt said that they would consider the idea. Matt Valliere motioned to accept the application for consideration. Roger seconded. Motion was approved by unanimous vote. Application 2020-11-3

Next Matt presented the application for the kitchen window, which would be replaced by a window similar to that proposed for the living room. Like the living room, it is recessed behind the house. Andy motioned to accept the application for consideration. Roger seconded. All voted in favor. Application 2020-11-5

The discussion turned to the new window for the breezeway. As it is directly in sight of the road and located next to the main house, members thought that it would be better if it looked the same as the main house windows. Andy motioned to accept the application for consideration. Matt seconded. All voted in favor. Application 2020-11-6

Matt then discussed the addition of a garage door, replacing the window to the right of the existing garage door. He said that the existing garage door would be replaced to match the other door. That should be added to the application. Matt motioned to accept the application for consideration. Pierre seconded. All voted in favor. Application 2020-11-7.

Finally Matt presented the application to replace the siding on the garage, which is covered with plywood. The same siding would be applied to the breezeway, which has a similar construction. Pierre wondered if the small area above the garage doors could be covered with clapboard to match the main house, as it is in direct view of the road. Matt said they would consider the idea. Pierre motioned to accept the application for consideration. Peter seconded. All voted in favor. Application 2020-11-8

The members made several comments appreciating the fact that after years of neglect the applicant would finally take good care of the house.

Approval of the minutes

The members read the minutes of October. Roger motioned to approve them as read. Matt seconded. All voted in favor, except Matt who abstained as he was not present.

Meeting adjourned

Roger motioned to close the meeting. Matt seconded. Peter closed the meeting at 8:30 PM.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "P.A. Humblet". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large, stylized "H" at the end.

Pierre A. Humblet
RHDC Secretary