

Royalston Historic District Commission

Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 15, 2021

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.

Attendees: Peter Kraniak (chair), Bob Casinghino, Matt Valliere, Pierre Humblet (secretary), Roger O'Donnell. All were active voters. Members of the public: Elizabeth Hastings, Joe Liebman, Christine Statuto and Ben Schodek.

Peter opened the meeting at 7:32.

Approval of the minutes

The members read the minutes of March 18. Bob pointed out a typo. Roger moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Bob seconded. All voted in favor except Matt who abstained as he was not present in March.

New applications

Ben Schodek submitted an application for a certificate of appropriateness to add a four-season solarium in the rear of the house at 1 Frye Hill Road. Ben went over the application, which contained five figures and was very clear. He pointed out that only the south side would be visible from the road. That side would have new window that was left over from previous renovations and would match the rest of the house. The new roof would also match the existing roof.

The members and the public asked various questions and requested that dimensions be provided but did not make objections. Roger stated that is an abutter and thus would not vote, but that he approves the design.

Bob then motioned to accept the application for consideration, with a public hearing at the next regular meeting. Pierre seconded. All voted in favor except Roger who recused himself.

Application 2021-04-1

Other commission matters

Bob asked Matt about the recent addition to Matt's house at 5 on the Common. It is visible from the road, but no application has been submitted so far. Matt acknowledged that fact but said it was not supposed to be that way (he has sent a letter about it). He will work with an architect to rectify the situation.

The commission also discussed the format of the next meeting. New rules would allow it to take place at the Town Hall, if the number of participants still allows for safe distancing, or to have a hybrid format. Several members stated they would rather not participate in person. It was informally decided that a few people would test that the audio equipment at the Town Hall can support a hybrid meeting. Based on their feedback the chairman who would decide between a hybrid or remote only meeting.

Royalston Historic District Commission

Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Elizabeth Hastings, Joe Liebman and Christine Statuto had been invited to the meeting so that they could view the HDC in action and ask questions. They all explained that they were interested in preserving the Historic District and had the capacity to be effective commission members. Their names will be forwarded to the Selectboard for possible appointment to the three vacant alternate positions.

Meeting adjourned

Bob motioned to close the meeting. Roger seconded. Approval was unanimous. Peter closed the meeting at 8:25 PM.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "P.A. Humblet". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pierre A. Humblet
RHDC Secretary