

Royalston Historic District Commission

Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 17, 2021

Attendees: Peter Kraniak (chair), Bob Casinghino, Christine Statuto, Joe Liebman (remote), Matt Valliere, Pierre Humblet (secretary, remote), Rick Carrier, Roger O'Donnell (remote).

Regular meeting

Peter opened the meeting at 7:31 PM

Approval of the minutes

The members read the minutes of the May meeting and made a correction. Bob motioned to approve them as amended. Matt seconded. All voted in favor except Roger who abstained.

Other commission matters

Peter raised the issue of the demolished chimney on the garage of 10 S. Royalston road. No update has been received since last month. Peter will send a letter requesting that it be rebuilt or that an after the fact application be submitted.

Pierre indicated that he had corresponded with Tom Musco by e-mail about the Raymond building. The building committee has demolished the ramp because it does not meet code. It will be rebuilt as close as possible to the former version. The columns by the entrance were made of sheet metal. They will be replaced by a TBD material. Applications will be submitted when a new design is defined.

Public hearing notices. The commission discussed if we should continue to use the Athol Daily News given the hike in prices. Alternatives were discussed (using the town web site, the mytowngovernment web site, postings), but no decision was made. Pierre will consult with the selectboard chairperson.

The commission discussed what to do about Startlink antennas. Joe has installed one on the roof of 9 non the Common. He said he did the best he could, but they are difficult to hide. The one on the library is not within public view.

A long discussion followed. The gist of it is that the commission felt it could not forbid the installation within public view but it should induce residents to do the best they can to hide the antennas. It was remarked that they would eventually disappear without leaving traces as the technology improves. The subject will be revisited.

Meanwhile Matt motioned to delete the current section on data communications antennas from the rules and regulations. Bob seconded. All voted in favor.

New application

Bob submitted an application for a certificate of appropriateness to install a custom made metal handrail along the stairs of the side porch. at 21 on the Common. Pierre requested that the position of the handrail be indicated (on the west side of the stairs). That application was so amended and Pierre motioned to accept it for consideration without requiring a public hearing. Rick seconded. All voted in favor (except Bob who recused himself). Application 2021-06-1

Royalston Historic District Commission

Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Matt then submitted an application for a certificate of appropriateness to construct stairs from the new porch on the north side of 5 on the Common. Bob motioned to accept it for consideration without requiring a public hearing. Christine seconded. All voted in favor, except Matt, Pierre and Joe who recused themselves. Application 2021-06-2

Matt submitted an after the fact application for a certificate of non-applicability to construct a new porch on the north side of 5 on the Common. It was remarked that only the part of the structure that is in public view should be considered, and the application was changed into request for a certificate of appropriateness for that part. Bob motioned to accept it for consideration without requiring a public hearing. Roger seconded. All voted in favor, except Matt, Pierre and Joe who recused themselves. Application 2021-06-3

Meeting adjourned

Roger motioned to close the meeting. Bob seconded. Approval was unanimous. Peter closed the meeting at 9:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "P.A. Humblet". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Pierre A. Humblet
RHDC Secretary