

Royalston Historic District Commission

Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 16, 2017

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

Peter opened the meeting at 7:33 PM

Jim Barclay and Roland Hamel were present as members of the Town Building Committee, replacing Select Board member Chris Long who had excused herself. They wanted to keep the HDC aware of the Town building projects. The pending issues that are of interest to the HDC are as follows

- 1) Hearse house at the Center Cemetery: The building is rugged but in bad shape. It is on the to-do list but no immediate action is contemplated.
- 2) Raymond School: This is a case of brown field due to the presence of asbestos in the heating system (currently encapsulated) and in the original 1940's roof tiles. That must be taken care of before the building can be converted to office space. A grant is being written.
- 3) Town Hall Elevator: there is a possibility that the attic area may one day be converted into office or storage space. The design of the elevator may thus be changed to reach the attic level, to avoid having to perform an expensive retrofit should the attic occupancy plans be realized. An architectural firm is engaged to study the issues. The HDC expressed concerns about the elevator shaft "sticking out" of the building.
- 4) Town Hall windows: the original windows are drafty, as they have never been weather-stripped and as the storm windows were not properly installed. Two estimates were obtained, one to replace the sashes with modern composite windows, and one to install a single sheet of double pane glass in the existing sashes, preserving the interior muntins. Those avenues are unlikely to be pursued as the committee prefers to preserve the existing sashes and their divided lights.

The commissioners thanked the Building Committee members for taking the time to come to this useful information session and for anticipating issues.

Minutes:

The members read the minutes of the February meeting. Andy motioned to approve the minutes as read and Peter seconded. All voted in favor except Roger who abstained, as he did not attend the February meeting.

Peter reported he had talked to Geoff Newton who said he would send us a letter concerning the demolition.

Old application:

Application 2017-02-1 by the Historical Society to reroof the old schoolhouse. Peter recused himself as he serves as president of that society. Pierre moved to elect Andy as Chair pro-temp. Roger seconded. All voted in favor. Pierre announced that abutters had been notified and that none had requested a public hearing. Bob expressed the view that the proposed change to the roofing would not have a detrimental effect on the District, and he moved to approve the application as amended (the roof color had been added). Roger seconded. All voted in favor, except Peter who did not vote.

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New Application:

Pierre submitted an application by his spouse Marie to add a shade (replica of an early model) on the existing light fixture above the exterior door on the N side of 4 on the Common.

A member asked why the application did not propose a green and white enamel shade, like those that are prevalent around the Common. Pierre said he was not sure, but those are mostly on the exterior of barns, porches may have used a less rustic style.

Roger moved to accept the application for consideration without calling a public hearing. Bob seconded. All voted in favor except Pierre who recused himself.

Other HDC matters

The HDC has not received an answer to the letter sent to owner of 2 on the Common about the unauthorized demolition of a garden shed on that property. It has transpired that this property is now for sale again. There was a concern about owners making unapproved changes to buildings before sales. Andy motioned that we send a second letter strongly requesting an answer to the first letter.

Roger seconded. All voted in favor except Pierre who recused himself, being an abutter

Meeting adjourned

Bob made a motion to close the meeting. Clarence seconded. Approval was unanimous. Peter closed the meeting at 8:52 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 Humblet,
RHDC secretary