

Royalston Historic District Commission
Royalston, Massachusetts, 01368

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 17, 2018

Attendees: Peter Kraniak (chair), Bob Casinghino, Clarence Rabideau, Pierre Humblet (secretary), Roger O'Donnell. All were voting members.

Peter opened the public hearing at 7:30 PM.

Members of the public were Beth Gospodarek, Lorraine Casinghino, Dr. George Krasowski, Theresa Ann Quinn and Kevin Flynn.

The hearing started with the two applications 2018-04-2 and 2018-04-3 about painting the exterior of 12 on the Common.

The main issue was to balance the preferences of the owners and the fear that the proposal would be detrimental to the character of the Common. Very rapidly the applicant withdrew 2018-04-2. Pure white and black color samples were compared to the proposed hues and some members of the public and of the commission expressed fears that the differences would be very noticeable if applied on large surfaces, while others thought that they were minor and would not be objectionable. The applicant explained that they had tried to stay within the guidelines and deviate as little as possible from current color schemes on the Common. He also explained that they tried to match the white to the color of the storm windows frames, but this approach was contested. It was argued that the color of the building was primordial and that storm window frames would blend in with it, or could be painted to match. The applicant noted that the areas inside the storm windows would not be touched.

The public hearing then moved to applications 2018-04-4 and 2018-04-5 about adding windows and changing sashes at 10 S. Royalston Rd. The applicant explained that the new windows were required to provide a second exit in an existing second bedroom and provide additional lighting. He noted that the house at 18 on the Common has five windows in the front gable. He was asked if he had considered creating a dormer on the west side instead. The answer was that the applicant felt this non-period change would be very visible from cars passing on S. Royalston Rd. About the sashes, he said that there were few original sashes, many were mismatched. He still supports repairing and reusing sashes when possible, but this is not the case here. The new aluminum covered wood inserts are of very high quality and among the best available. The new windows would use the same inserts as the existing windows.

Peter read a comment received by e-mail from Andy West: *"I am an abutter to 10 S. Royalston Rd., so please consider the following public input. I am against vinyl replacement windows, especially slide in replacements. When my windows failed, I put true divided-light, wood windows in my house. I am not against installing additional windows on the gable. Perhaps, they could be sized smaller to sympathize with the angle of the roof. "*

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Pierre moved to close the public hearing and Roger seconded. Peter closed it at 8:15 PM and opened the regular meeting.

Old applications

2018-04-3, white and dark brown color scheme at 12 on the Common. Members of the commission requested that it be clarified that the new shade of white would be applied to existing white areas and the new dark shades to the shutters and the transom fan. The application was amended.

Pierre motioned to approve the application as amended. Clarence seconded. Clarence, Peter and Pierre voted in favor. Bob and Roger voted against. The application did not gather the required four positive votes, so it was not accepted.

The applicant expressed the desire to resubmit the application immediately. Pierre suggested that the applicant apply paint samples to a shutter and to an easily visible section of a wall so that the commission and the public could evaluate the impact of the proposal. The applicant agreed. Pierre moved to accept the new application for consideration. Bob seconded. All voted in favor.

2018-04-5 adding two windows on the front of the second floor at 10 S. Royalston Rd. There was a short discussion about approving on the grounds of appropriateness or on the grounds of hardship due to building code regulations (means of egress). Pierre moved to issue a certificate of hardship. Bob seconded. All voted in favor.

2018-04-4 replacing the sashes at 10 S. Royalston Rd.

The applicant mentioned that the new sashes would be painted green, similar to the current ones, and the application was amended. Roger motioned to approve the application as amended. Clarence seconded. All voted in favor.

New applications

Of behalf of the Royalston Selectboard, Kevin Flynn submitted an application to renew/extend the approved application 2012-11-01 to construct an addition in the back of the Town Hall to house an elevator (it had already been extended twice before). The plans remain identical to those approved. The project will be put to bid soon and should be completed this calendar year. Bob motioned to approve the extension without requesting public inputs as the plans and the circumstances have not changed. Roger seconded. All voted in favor. Application 2012-11-01C

Minutes

The members read the minutes of the April meeting. Bob motioned to approve the meeting as read. All voted in favor.

Internal HDC matters

Pierre requested the permission to buy archival grade envelopes to store the HDC archives, on the HDC budget. The members were favorable to this proposal.

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Meeting adjourned

Roger motioned to close the meeting. Bob seconded. Approval was unanimous. Peter closed the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "P.A. Humblet".

Pierre A. Humblet
RHDC Secretary