

Montague Historical Commission
Meeting minutes/summary of April 29, 2021

Meeting held on-line and recorded

Commissioners attending:

David Brule

Chris Clawson

Ed Gregory

Suzanne Lomanto

Jeff Singleton, interested party

Proceedings:

1. Convened at 11.
2. Minutes approved and voted.
3. Discussion of the situation at the Montague Center library/ former Town Hall:
 - a. Building determined to be structurally at risk; also non-ADA compliant (lack of elevator access to second floor, etc)
 - b. Exterior walls are deteriorating: mortar, slate roof
 - c. Heating and cooling issues: forced hot air system is obsolete, inefficient
 - d. Interior structural issues
 - e. Does there exist funding for all town buildings and is this a priority?
 - f. Commissioner comments: specific exterior wall needs? “Sustain building in its original conditions; elevator is less a priority”. In fact, “The town should make this a high priority, attention should be paid to Montague Center, not just Turners Falls; this building is central to MC history and is situated right on the Common” ; “the upstairs has historic and cultural value, a great venue for future social functions” “There should be grant possibilities, especially ADA grants, etc.”
4. Other business:
 - a. Ed Gregory and David Brule will attend site visit for Lake Pleasant cell tower project.
 - b. Update report on progress at Spinner Park
 - c. Lake Pleasant Bridge of Names committee gratefully acknowledges MHC donation to restoration of the bridge.

Adjourned at 12:00

Submitted by D. Brule, Chair