

Montague Historical Commission

Meeting minutes/summary of September 30, 2021

Meeting held on-line and recorded

Commissioners attending:

David Brule

Chris Clawson

Ed Gregory

Suzanne LoManto

Linda Hickman, guest

Jeff Singleton, guest

1. Jeff Singleton and others comment on Montague Center Library potential rehab:
 - a. Initial cost estimates including an elevator at \$2 million. Elevator may not be necessary, perhaps a chair lift instead.
 - b. Estimated \$22,000 for moisture remediation.
 - c. Propose mini-splits for the first floor.
 - d. Landscape work needed to pull run-off away from the building.
 - e. Windows need work.
 - f. CC inquires: given this is an historical asset, why is an elevator required?
LH: if work is done in stages, grandfathering can remain in place.
 - g. JS indicates state regs 521 Sect C addresses cost of \$500,000 spread over 3 years allowable to maintain grandfather status. EG asks for specifics on this regulation.
 - h. LH notes that there needs to be more use of the library to begin to qualify for funding. Need to increase library hours and find a use for the second floor. Possible use for Historical Society archives? A Community Center? Parks and Rec use?
 - i. Montague Center residents are pro-active to keep this resource.
 - j. Concerns expressed that “we need to do something soon”.
 - k. JS notes that the second floor was used for basketball, play groups, then suddenly closed.
 - l. LH: priority is to contact a mason to do brick work, to protect the envelope of the building.
 - m. JS: we need to keep this on the radar.
2. **Updates on town buildings and parks:**
 - a. Spinner Park: statue to be put in place on September 30. On Oct 2 statue will be unveiled for the public. Also plaque honoring Frank Abondanzio will be placed. EG will share pics and video.
 - b. Bridge of Names re-opened, EG has photos.
 - c. Millers Falls Historic District will be voted by the state very soon.
 - d. Canal St buildings: no updates.
 - e. Cutlery Block and Crocker rehab: WIP
 - f. General Pierce Bridge: EG will check with the foreman of the works. Leak detected in gas pipe line under the bridge from Greenfield to Montague; will be replaced.

Adjourned at 11:39. Submitted by D. Brule, chair

