

Montague Historical Commission  
Meeting minutes/summary of December 2, 2021 11AM.  
Meeting held on-line and recorded.

**Commissioners attending:**

David Brule  
Chris Clawson  
Ed Gregory  
Suzanne LoManto

**Observers:**

Walter Ramsey  
Lilith Wolinsky

**Agenda: Focus on the Farren**

Comments and observations:

1. The first building dates from 1900.
2. SL: not on the historical registry, nor part of a designated historic district.
3. CC: Historic preservation comes at a cost. Farren is private property.
4. Trinity willing to gift the lot to the town, once the building is razed.
5. The 1900 exterior is generic, not unique; it is part of the community however.
6. If the town takes the building, would be liable for maintenance, preservation, insurance, etc.
7. There are lots of old buildings in town. Question of tax rolls.
8. The site is important and the potential is important.
9. Trinity has not shown us their plan.
10. WR: towns officials' understanding is that Trinity will work on a plan for demolition vs. preservation/re-use. Cabot Station, CR bridge, other bridges are listed as historic properties, the Farren is not.
11. JS: Trinity promised a redevelopment study in partnership with Montague, as part of the public record. The promise was part of the plan to mollify the citizens of Montague City. They haven't worked with us: no shared paperwork, no numbers, unsubstantiated information. They "explicitly said" the BoS can say no to demolish.
12. LW: Seems like 2 commissioners are in favor of demolition. What reasons are there that it should be knocked down? Officials are not paying attention to Montague City. Hospital, Library, Rod Shop gone. Are there any possibilities for re-use?
13. SL: problem is we don't know what Trinity is considering: they could sell it, they could knock it down.
14. CC: the offer to gift it to the town could be withdrawn.
15. JS and LW: there is not enough transparency. Has the outcome already been determined? Town should request following through with the study, citizens need to know.
16. EG: Trinity needs to be more transparent. Can town officials procure the assessment report for town citizens and help with the decision-making process?
17. Motion made and seconded to support the town administrators in their efforts to strongly request that Trinity provide the information concerning preservation vs.

demolition of the Farren building. Words to that effect. (Copy of the motion and MHC position will be addressed to town officials and attached to this December 2 summary.)

18. WR: We have recently written to Trinity to this effect and they are in receipt of our request. They have said they will respond in a few weeks.

19.LW: Steve Ellis has reached out . The BoS should follow through on the previous request for sharing information. Trinity has benefited from the building and should honor their commitment.

20. JS: it should be noted that Trinity received funds from Medicare, etc, to build the addition; they should have requirements to be transparent with the public.

Adjourned at 11:55.