

Montague Historical Commission
Meeting summary of 24 February, 2022
Meeting held online and recorded.

Commissioners attending:

David Brule
Chris Clawson
Ed Gregory
Suzanne LoManto
Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno

Summary Proceedings:

1. Minutes of January 27, 2022 voted unanimously
2. Farren discussion:
 - a. CSL: the Farren is now listed on the State Register of Historic Places. National registration cannot go forward now; interior maps, floor plan, photos are needed.
 - b. We have no word from Trinity re. their assessment; unknown if Trinity will allow an independent assessment.
 - c. A motion was made by CSL to send the MHC letter of request and inquiry to Trinity. DB seconds the motion. Discussion:
 - 1) Concerns, reservations expressed by CC re our authority to communicate with Trinity directly.
 - 2) SLM confirms that the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator acknowledge the MHC can communicate independently and directly with Trinity.
 - 3) CSL indicates there has been some interest expressed in the building by the organization Missionaries of the Poor and an unnamed private developer.
 - 4) A demolition delay by-law has been crafted by CSL and Planner Walter Ramsey; being reviewed by town counsel.
 - d. Vote taken: DB, CSL, SLM in favor, CC and EG vote against. (NB: EG, joining late, voted no.)
 - e. Motion carried, letter will be sent.
3. Other topics:
 - a. Master Plan for the Canal District in progress.
 - b. Committee for Comprehensive Development Plan with representatives from all boards will convene in mid-March
 - c. Member of the public Jeff Singleton reminds MHC of need to follow due process concerning historic registration and future plans for historic structures/bridges especially the 6th Street bridge, Montague Center library, et al.

- d. DB updates commission on progress of the NPS Battlefield study and Advisory Board continuing to meet the first Wednesday of every month.

Adjourned at 12 noon.

Submitted by D. Brule, chair.