

Montague Historical Commission
Executive summary/Minutes of meeting on June 11, 2024
Montague Town Hall
1 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA

Meeting held online via Zoom 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Commissioners present:

David Brule, Vice-chair
Chris Clawson
Ed Gregory
Janel Nockleby, Chair
Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno
Jen Viencek, not attending

Proceedings:

1. Minutes of April 29, 2024 voted and accepted.
2. Blacksmith shop updates:
 - a. Tris Metcalfe completed Phase I evaluation: building in excellent shape.
 - b. The original building (c. 1890) underwent haphazard repair, but no demolition recommended for larger building(c.1920). Could be used for indoor parking.
 - c. 10-year old roof in good shape.
 - d. No emergency existent.
3. Millers Falls mural update
 - a. MHC cannot transfer \$500 to this project.
 - b. Discussion ensued re how to use the annual funds budgeted; most suggestions not possible because of transfer limitations and deadline of June 30 for spending the funds.
4. Shea Mural deliberations
 - a. Community session scheduled for June 13.
 - b. Muralist has been selected.
 - c. Commissioners recommend the stated position on the content of the mural be again forwarded to Suzanne LoMonto.
5. Montague Comprehensive Plan and Montague Historic Preservation Plan: comments due by June 14.
6. Montague City working group
 - a. Town planner expects that the Planning Board will have a central role.
 - b. MHC likely will have no role in participating in what the future buildings there might look like.
 - c. EG : has made multiple visits to the site. Concerns about the plaque relating to Joyce Kilmer and his poem reputedly inspired by the maple at the Farren. The plaque should be removed to safe storage.

- d. CC: based on Bernard Farren's 1912 will, property should revert to the Town. MHC should recommend appropriate signage memorializing Mr. Farren, and the Farren Hospital.
- 7. FERC re-licensing comments: MHC shared intervener status with the Town. JN will share comments at the next meeting.
- 8. Archaeology discussion: MHC has some jurisdiction over artifacts uncovered. Should develop an archaeology accountability policy. All information re artifacts should remain confidential.
- 9. 19 Rod Shop Road: the current owner would like to make improvements. Project involves rehabilitation of exterior, renovate walls, windows, roof, etc. MHC feels that Montague City should be part of an Historic District.
- 10. 73 Fifth St.
 - a. ZBA has approved demolition of the back portion.
 - b. The building is listed in the Historic district data base.
 - c. Demolition request goes to the Building Inspector, then the request is directed to the MHC.
 - d. Given our Demolition Delay By-law, we will need to hold a public hearing.
- 11. Canal District bridges: the White Bridge, and the bridge into the Patch will be replaced. There will be an impact on at least on historic building. MHC will remain involved.

Meeting adjourned at 112:35.

Submitted by D. Brule, Vice-chair