

Montague Historical Commission
Executive Summary/minutes of September 30, 2024
Montague Town Hall
1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

Meeting held via Zoom 11 AM- 12 noon

Commissioners present:

David Brule, vice-chair
Chris Clawson
Ed Gregory
Janel Nockleby, Chair
Jen Viencek

Also members of the public:

Erin-Leigh Hoffman, reporter
Will Ketchen, Building inspector
Tricia Perham, Renaissance Builders
Alison Ryan, homeowner

Proceedings:

1. Minutes of August 26, 2024 accepted by unanimous vote.
2. 11 North Street: will renovations/ partial demolition require invoking the Demolition Delay By-law?
 - a. Research shows the building was moved in the 1840s and additions made.
 - b. Is the building considered “ historically significant?”
 - c. Proposed demolition because of threat to public health: vermin infestation
 - d. Building Inspector notes there is no significance to this structure; it needs a new foundation and reconstruction.
 - e. EG states the building is not historically significant; DB proposes a quick response now.
 - f. WK will invoke an emergency need exists and therefore no need of further MHC action.
 - g. MHC in unanimous vote to support the need for emergency demolition action.
3. Montague Historic Preservation Plan Work In Progress
 - a. Will Town Planner meet with JN and DB to discuss?
 - b. Need to submit a Letter of Interest by November 15; full application due December 11.
 - c. Matching funds are required with State grant: Town Meeting will have to vote to accept.
 - d. Will Mass Historic accept delay due to Town Meeting? MHC will work with FRCOG?
4. Blacksmith Shop
 - a. Tris Metcalfe has reported on structural status of building.
 - b. Parks and Rec will vote on whether to follow up with a full study on the property.
 - c. Need for follow-up with Board of Selectmen: full demolition? Partial? Preservation?
5. FERC: Historic Properties Plan: JN and DB will review once again.
6. St Anne’s steeple: MHC has determined there would be no adverse effect to AT+T plan to install updated signal apparatus. Conditions are that the exterior renovations match current appearance. Will MHC monitor compliance?
7. Item not anticipated: archaeology work by Eversource in Cabot Woods. DB aware; report will follow.

Submitted by D. Brule, Vice-chair

