

## Montague Historical Commission

Minutes/Summary of meeting of February 24, 2025 11-11-50 AM

Montague Town Hall

1 Avenue A

Turners Falls, MA

Meeting held online.

### **Commissioners present:**

David Brule, Vice-chair

Ed Gregory

Janel Nockleby, Chair

Jen Viencek

### **Proceedings:**

1. Minutes from January 29, 2024 tabled.
2. JV reports that website revisions a work in progress. More research required concerning term limits and length of service of commissioners. Guidelines will be developed over the next meetings.
3. Community Preservation Act progress:
  - a. Multiple steps needed.
  - b. Need to organize interested residents and build a core.
  - c. The Board of Selectmen not encouraging this at this time.
  - d. Will FRCOG be involved?
  - e. The CPA initiative needs to be citizen-led; Town Planner steps back.
  - f. The possibility of a new CPA tax is perceived as not ideal at this time.. too much coming at residents at this juncture. Hard to predict federal resources, inflation, etc.
  - g. JV and all feel this project will need months of preparation and

education of residents. Consensus is to table this until the timing is better.

4. Blacksmith Shop: the Selectmen have voted funding for a new study. According to Jon Dobosz, the architect is just beginning his study and analysis. Options continue to be preservation, partial demolition, full demolition.
5. Topics not anticipated: notification from Maureen Pollock that an Amherst College student has inquired about prospecting and removing “fossils” from the riverbed below the dam. Maureen has contacted the Massachusetts Historic Commissioner seeking guidance. MontagueHC Commissioners note that all of the area concerned is under the jurisdiction of First Light, and/or the Montague Historical Commission, as well as the State. The MHC is solidly against the mining of fossils or dinosaur prints. The student may be invited to the next meeting.

Next meeting is March 24.

Adjourned at 11:50.

Submitted by D. Brule, Vice-chair