

Montague Historical Commission
Minutes/Summary of meeting on March 24, 2025

Montague Town Hall
1 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA

Meeting held on-line

Commissioners present:

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

Proceedings:

1. Minutes of November 2024 voted. Minutes of February 2025 voted with amendments. No meeting was held in January 2025
2. Minutes of 2024 archiving project: JV reports it is a WIP. Should be completed by April meeting.
3. Discussion on determining the optimal number of historical commissioners:
 - a. MGL Chapter 40 section 8d states that we can have up to 7 members on the Commission. Our webpage says we have 6 Commissioner positions, although we currently have 5 members.
 - b. Process: EG suggests the candidate should visit a HC meeting before appointment.
 - c. CC: yes, and then the consensus opinion of MHC should be sent to the BoS.
 - d. JN: opinion in writing to the Chair then recommendations sent to BoS.
 - e. Optimum number: odd number, either 5 or 7. That way, we will need 3 for a quorum of 5 members or 4 if there are 7 members.
 - f. The Montague HC consensus is to leave the potential number of Commissioners at 6, just in case another resident would like to join the Commission.
4. Annual Town Report: deadline may have passed, but DB recommends template from other years:
 - a. Cite MGL that establish the Historical Commission

- b. Cite MGL re. responsibilities.
 - c. List names of current Commissioners
 - d. Mention memorium/ term of service for Chris Sawyer Lauçanno
 - e. List by name the projects reviewed and decisions made.
5. Next meeting will be April 28. Proposal to skip the May and December meetings.
6. Discussion of the Paleontology research request made Amherst College student.
- a. DB, JN,EG,CC share opinions.
 - b. Multiple inquiries made to state officials, Mass Historical, Rich Little, Indigenous tribes, First Light, et al. MHC will await further communications from interested and responsible parties.
7. Signage for the National Park Service Battlefield study:
- a. Three signs are being drafted describing archaeology, Indigenous perspectives, etc
 - b. WR is pursuing funding options for signage construction.
 - c. Location of signs not yet determined
 - d. Goal of installing signs by October.
8. Keith footbridge: will be demolished at some point. Should MHC be involved in interpretive signs concerning the bridge?

Adjourned at 12 noon

Submitted by D. Brule, Vice-chair