

Montague Historical Commission
Minutes/Summary of meeting on June 30, 2025

Montague Town Hall
1 avenue A
Turners Falls, MA
Meeting held online.

Commissioners present:

David Brule, Vice-chair
Chris Clawson
Ed Gregory
Janel Nockleby, Chair
Jen Viencek
Also: Maureen Pollock, Walker Powell

Proceedings:

1. Minutes from March 24, voted unanimously to accept. April 28 minutes voted to accept, DB abstaining.
2. Walker Powell, Vice-President of the Lake Pleasant Village Association, discusses strategies to preserve the Spiritual Alliance Church in Lake Pleasant.
 - a. Potential preservation under the Comprehensive Plan and a potential Historic District.
 - b. What process to follow for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places?
 - c. JN: the Church is definitely worthy of preservation. What about other buildings in the village? Noted that there could be resistance in the village to creating an Historic District.
 - d. MP: that pathway would take a long time, but the State has grant programs to assist.
 - e. DB comments on the Millers Falls Historic District established: length of time required, FRCOG support, architectural inventory, etc. Also notes process being followed by the Erving Historic Commission beginning with grant funding/town funding of historic inventory in progress. JN notes a draft nomination for Historic District could take up to 2 years.
 - f. Finding a way to fund restoration in the short term might be the best way.
 - g. MP suggests residents need to be informed and educated about benefits of a District.

- h. WP: perhaps FRCOG has recommendations such as “small projects” grants; Mass Historic Commission could be a source of grants. Will consider going to the Town for assistance, or finding a specific grant.MP: perhaps Mass HC could send a rep for the July 28 meeting?
- 3. Roles on this Commission: open to change? President, VP, Secretary, etc,on hold.
- 4. DB updates Battlefield Advisory Board progress on signage: 3 educational panels a Work In Progress. Location for signage still under discussion.
- 5. Updates on new bridges: White Bridge, and bridge over the canal are in the design stage.
- 6. Trolley Barn: the vote on a plan has been postponed until July, but it’s likely the project will go forward. There will be a change of use, but not a change to the exterior. EG: the owner’s intent is to leave the exterior as is as much as possible, except for a recent addition on the left side.
- 7. Footbridge over the canal: JN inquires about photos of the bridge in the archives? EG; affirmative, photos in Montague Historical Society files.
- 8. Draft Environmental Impact Statement re. dam relicensing: public meetings on July 16.

Adjourned at 12:30. Submitted by D. Brule, Vice-chair