

Montague Historical Commission  
Minutes/Summary for August 25, 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

Also: Caitlin Kelley, Director of Montague Libraries

**Proceedings:**

1. Meeting is being recorded; minutes from 7/28/25 accepted unanimously
2. Library discussion:
  - a. Library committee agreed upon 8 Avenue A as preferred site of new library.
  - b. Current building: the State Historical Commissioner imposed conditions to any upgrading of the historic library; it is under historical restriction.
  - c. Repairs needed regardless: the roof has leakage issues, and there is basement infiltration among others. Town Meeting will address funding.
  - d. The current building should go to a non-profit.
  - e. JN mentions that the design for 8 Avenue A should keep in mind the agreement between DCR and the Town: ideally the design should fit the configuration of the neighborhood. JN advises to remember past uses of that site including the Grand Trunk. What archaeological record of historical cultural resources is recorded?
  - f. CK notes that the height of the building could reach 36 feet and would conform to architectural style of nearby buildings. There will be a public meeting about the design on September 11; a survey about the project is available.
3. Other issues:
  - a. Turners Falls dam relicensing: JN will draft a letter supporting the efforts of the tribal coalition seeking protection of tribal cultural and historical resources in the area of expected impacts.

b. Montague City rezoning: Rod Shop Road is not currently included in discussions. It is likely too early for the Commission to intervene. JN thinks that the rezoning scope will reach Rod Shop RD.

4. Item not anticipated:

The demolition of the Keith footbridge over the power canal is slated for sometime around Sept 14-29.

Meeting adjourned at 11:32.

Submitted by D. Brule, vice-chair.