

Montague Historical Commission
Minutes/Summary for October 27, 2025 11AM-12 Noon
Montague Town Hall
Meeting held online.

Commissioners present:

David Brule, Vice-chair
Chris Clawson
Ed Gregory
Janel Nockleby, Chair
Jen Viencek
Also: Judith Lorei, Cemetery Commission
Chris Wise

Proceedings:

1. Discussion concerning Montague cemeteries:
 - a. Vegetation removal by Eversource at Dry Hill cemetery. Not an issue.
 - b. This and other cemeteries not listed in the State data base. Need to address this issue.
 - c. There is no preservation plan covering the 8 cemeteries in town. Maintenance is provided by volunteers. Dry Hill cemetery only accessible by 4-Wheel vehicle. Headstones: CC mentions range of dates from 1809-1970s.
 - d. The Town has recently acquired the Highland Cemetery.
 - e. CC suggests that DB look into how Erving maintains its cemeteries; they are in excellent shape.
2. JL mentions workshop will be held on Nov 19 re. training for developing an inventory of historic places. She may attend.
3. Lake Pleasant initiatives: nothing yet.
4. Carnegie Public Library:
 - a. EG and DB suggest that the Carnegie could become a historical resource center: both Montague Historical Society and the Nolumbeka Project Inc are interested in the reuse of this building. The artifacts and archives from the NPS Battlefield study could also be housed there.
 - b. CC supports this concept; consider what else could be done? There are not a lot of commercial options for this building. A non-revenue repurposing could benefit the town.
5. Other topics not anticipated:

- a. VHS tapes placed in our mailbox: 1996 storm in Leverett, residents' list from 1969
- b. Surveys on land use and TF downtown revitalization from Maureen Pollock
- c. 10th St proposal for housing in the Patch. Not likely any archaeological/historical concerns for the Commission.
- d. Blacksmith shop evaluation just in.
- e. Montague Center Town Hall to be rendered ADA compliant. CW note that a ramp will be installed and efforts will be made to improve drainage away from building. Letter of Support for this project is requested of the MCH.

Adjourned at 12:00