Strathmore Mill Cleanup Project Update

Montague Historical Commission
February 2026
Town of Montague

Project Overview

- Former Strathmore Mill complex – long-term structural and environmental hazards
- Town pursuing phased demolition and site stabilization
- Funded primarily through state earmark and EPA Brownfields Cleanup grant
- Multi-year design, permitting, and demolition effort

Demolition Delay Bylaw Context

- Town Demo Delay Bylaw outlines steps for Historical Commission participation in the demolition of structures deemed to hold historical value
- Commission conducted site tour and review in 2023
- Commission provided positive assessment of proposed demolition approach
- Town views this as satisfying Demo Delay bylaw requirements

Key Milestones to Date

- 2023: Historical Commission site tour and project discussion
- 2024–2025: Engineering and environmental assessments, combined $10M in state and federal grant funding awarded
- Sept 2025: Removal of pedestrian footbridge to Canal Street
- Nov 2025: Selectboard approved updated engineering agreement with Tighe & Bond ($1.09M)

Recent Technical Progress

- Design refinement and demolition alternatives developed
- Regulatory coordination with MassDEP (air, waste, wetlands, asbestos)
- January 2026: Site surveys, building inspections, and hazardous materials surveys
- Structural team reviewed Building conditions

Current Site Conditions

- Severe deterioration across multiple buildings
- Water infiltration and roof failures documented in Building 11
- Hazardous materials surveys ongoing (asbestos, other contaminants)
- Conditions worsening compared to earlier inspections

Regulatory & Stakeholder Coordination

- Coordination with MassDEP and federal EPA
- Engagement with abutting property owners and hydroelectric operators
- Ongoing communication with Historical Commission
- Public updates via Town website and reports

Next Steps

- Finalize demolition and stabilization design
- Permitting with MassDEP, Mass Historical Commission, and other agencies
- Preparation of construction documents and bidding
- Continued Historic Commission coordination as needed

Key Takeaways

- Town is actively advancing cleanup and demolition planning
- Historic review occurred and informed project approach
- Current work is preparatory to ensure safe and compliant demolition
- Town committed to transparency and preservation where feasible

Questions & Discussion

- Historical Commission feedback and questions welcome
- Town seeks continued coordination and engagement