

Meeting held on-line and recorded.

Commissioners attending:

David Brule
Chris Clawson
Ed Gregory
Suzanne Lomanto

Proceedings:

1. Meeting convened at 11:08
2. Minutes of January 28, 2021 accepted unanimously
3. Updates on the Lake Pleasant cell tower:
 - a. Expressed acknowledgement of Walter Ramsey communication including MHC in the information about the cell tower.
 - b. DB communicated with Trileaf Engineers of St. Louis concerning need for site visit and contacting the federally-recognized Aquinnah Wampanog, given both the Indigenous occupation of the area of the Montague Plains as well as the agricultural occupation of the terrain there from colonial times up to the present.
 - c. Future site visit planned as well as public hearing by Planning in early March.
4. Discussion opened on Archaeology Accountability Policy shared by Deerfield Historical Commission.
 - a. DB gives overview of experiences re. AAP in Deerfield, Erving, Northfield.
 - b. Noted that this discussion is in very early stages, but it is important that the MHC be involved in commercial building projects where potential excavation could unearth archaeological resources.
 - c. EG and CC note that the early industrial history of Montague also would be area of concern e.g. placement of factory foundations along the canal, the excavation planned on the knoll of the former Grand Trunk/ Cumberland Farms building site of future construction.
 - d. EG notes that when the original Grand Trunk was demolished, archaeologist David Nasami recorded artifact finds; report is in the Carnegie Public Library. Also in the *History of Montague*, author Edward Pressey noted significant finds at the time of construction of the original Grand Trunk.
5. Conversation with Brian McHenry, Director of Commercial Development for the Franklin County Housing Redevelopment Authority.

- a. Planning renovations for Cutlery Block and the Crocker Building over the next few years.
 - b. First priority will be the pointing-up of the mortar/masonry on the Cutlery building, focusing on the 3rd St. side. Also in scope of work will be roof slate repairs on mansarde roof.
 - c. The overhang entry roof and slates need to be replaced, doors painted, etc.
 - d. The Crocker building requires basic refreshing of the store fronts.
 - e. Commissioners request samples of mortar to examine.
 - f. SLM will be in touch with Chris Sawyer-Lauçano, who will likely be the consultant.
 - g. Timeline: March 5 proposals are due, then contracts, aiming for work to begin in July.
 - h. EG and CC request access to the buildings to conduct before and after visits, photo record, etc.
 - i. Mass Historic has been notified.
6. Discussion re allocation of remaining \$500 in MHC budget from last year.
- a. Possible funds to help spinner Park restoration: refurbish the plaque? Fund a new plaque? Baseball mural in Millers Falls?
 - b. Commission decides to move the funds to Riverculture accounts to be disbursed where and when needed.

Adjourned at 12:15.

Submitted by D. Brule, Chairman