

Montague Historical Commission meeting minutes 10-30-2023

Tour of Strathmore Mill Building 11

Commissioners in attendance: Ed Gregory, Chris Clawson, Janel Nockleby

Absent: David Brule, Chris Sawyer-Laucanno

Additional attendees: Maureen Pollack, Walter Ramsey, Todd Brunelle, Kyle Kogswell, Bill Ketchum, Tom Bergeron, Will Stratford

Observations: We toured most all of the floors of building 11. A significant leak from the roof was evident, as the rain was leaking through nearly all of the floors of the building. The floors in these areas were significantly damaged and not safe to walk on. The floors were buckled and wet. The stairwell seemed in good shape and was safe to walk up and down the floors all the way to the top skylight. Near windows with missing panes water damage to floors was significant on several floors. Water damage was evident in the basement also. An attached outbuilding's roof had collapsed.

Town staff conversations: A fire department staff person said that the repairs needed are very substantial, such that it could no longer be grandfathered in and any renovations would have to meet current codes. He said that the fire access with such a narrow road is a big concern, implying that it is prohibitive for future housing, industrial, office, or indoor public space use. He says he doesn't support any inhabited buildings at that site. Additional staff comments: Lack of parking was mentioned. The lack of power, sewer, water were mentioned also. The road is apparently owned by First Light and not the town. Someone said there is a weight limit for that road, making construction challenging.

Submitted by: Janel Nockleby