



**TOWN OF BECKET
HISTORICAL COMMISSION**
557 Main Street, Becket, MA 01223
TOWN HALL – (413) 623-8934
FAX – (413) 623-6036

Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Meeting Time: 3:00 PM

Meeting Place: Historical Commission Office, Becket Town Hall

Minutes

1. Call to order - Meeting was opened at 3:08pm. In attendance was Sandi Jarvis, Gail Kusek, Rita Furlong and John Garvey.
2. Approval of Minutes – The minutes from the December 2019 meeting were approved with no changes.
3. Treasurer’s Report – Rita reported that with carry-over money there is \$4,430 in the Commission account. The treasurer’s report was approved.
4. Communications
 - a. Old-
 - i. A copy of the Art Center letter of support written by Katherine has been filed.
 - ii. Eliza R. Snow birth - Gail has researched the question of which Snow house Eliza was born in, and why. It appears that at the time of her birth only Eliza’s grandfather Oliver owned property in Becket so that is the most likely reason for the assertion that she was born in her grandfather’s house. Gail will reply to the requestor with the information that she has found.

- iii. Jonathan Wheeler house – Inventory form. This is a query from a previous month, Sandi will send what information we have.
- iv. Francis (James Francis) Day, Portrait of Helen Day Flynn (Age 16) of Becket, MA 1911-1999. Daughter of the artist, she was the wife of Carl Flynn, no children. 1927. Oil on artist board. Size: 15” x 12” Original gold leaf carved frame. Sandi has contacted the owner to let them know that we are still interested in receiving the portrait.

b. New-

- i. Query re: barn foundation located at 1054 County Rd. Gail began researching deeds to try to determine which owner built the barn. Sandi sent the requestor an additional map to add to his information.
- ii. Photo negatives, donation, Marty Glendon. He was a photographer for the Berkshire Eagle. The name of Simmons is on the envelope. No one knew of the Simmons name in Becket but Rita knows of a Simmons family in Washington. She will try to determine if the photos are from the Washington family and, if so, will coordinate the transfer of the negatives to the appropriate person in Washington.
- iii. Location of Pond View Village Association. Rita believes this was on Shaw Pond but is no longer active. There might still be an old sign there, if someone is in the area they should look for it.
- iv. Query re: Amanda Barnes Smith. A query from Liz Thomas of Utah. Gail has responded with information and has been asked for more information. She will continue to pursue.
- v. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is working on the town CDBG funding request and would like a letter of support from the Commission. The Commission voted to send letter; Sandi will take care of it.

vi. Sarah Clement - DAR communication. The local DAR chapter would like to apply for CPA funds to have the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War veteran names engraved on the existing stone. There was some concern about whether all the names would fit. The Historical Commission has been pursuing a replacement of the existing signage with a more permanent solution. We will pursue estimates for the signage and then communicate with the DAR concerning the engraving.

vii. The Commission was forwarded an application for a cannabis cultivation site. No action taken.

5. New Business

- a. Budget request for FY 2021. Sandi has submitted the budget and included requests for the replacement flags, a new PC, larger monitor and scanner, various supplies, conferences and mailing expenses.
- b. Rita asked whether anyone had any ideas on a memorial for Rob Gordon, a former HC member (18+ years) who recently passed away. No action taken at this time.
- c. Rita reported that the map at the recreation pavilion was damaged during the construction of the broadband hut. Rita suggests replacing it with the spare map located in the office. This was approved, Rita will take care of it.
- d. Sandi reported that she has been able to get the PC desktop cleaned up and has backed up the files to the external drive. If anyone uploads anything to the PC they should put it into the new folder on the desktop so that Sandi will know when new files need to be backed up.

6. Old Business

- a. Municipal Vulnerability Plan, updating Becket Hazard Mitigation Plan, Jan 11 meeting, HC representative Gail. Gail reported on the priority setting meeting

that they had. Grants will be pursued for the highest priorities that resulted from that meeting.

- b. Signage for Ballou Park and Parade Ground, replacements. John reported on the company that was used for the Jacob's Ladder Scenic Byway signs. He will pursue estimates for the three 11x16 signs for the next meeting.
 - c. Annual Town Report article for 2019. Sandi has submitted the article.
 - d. Computer/monitor/scanner replacements. This topic will be re-visited if the budget is approved for next year.
 - e. Pole flags. We continue to wait on this topic until we are sure of our other expenses.
 - f. Art Center 50th Anniversary presentation. Sandi will remain in touch with the Art Center regarding this presentation.
 - g. Office organization. No new action.
 - h. New members. No new action.
 - i. Plan of Action
 - i. Brewster House and The "Nest" Barn, document with photos. No action.
 - ii. Baird Tavern, arrange tour, document with photos. No action.
 - j. Goal - publicize Becket's history and the work of the HC. No action.
7. Next meeting – March 10 at 3:00 PM. Meeting was adjourned at 4:55pm.