

Town of Becket Historical Commission Minutes

Tuesday, January 3 2017 6:30 p.m.

Historical Commission Office, Town Hall

Present: Sandi Jarvis, Gail Kusek, Rita Furlong Absent: Katherine Hoak

- I. Called to order: 6:30
- II. Minutes of February 2, 2016 were approved. Minutes of December 6 were approved.
- III. Treasurer's Report: Balance same at last month.
- IV. Communications: Rec'd notice of MHC Preservation Award
Rec'd notice of town's purchase of the property at 21 Maple Street. We discussed the amount the town voted at the 2015 ATM
- V. Old business:
 - A. Posts for the 4 x 6 directional signs are up at Becket Center and in West Becket. .Good weather should eventually allow their completion.
 - B. Filing, organizing, and categorizing Historical Commission record and artifacts will be on going. Sandi and Rita donated loose leaf file folders for organizing.
 - C. Plan of Action:
 1. Sandi and Gail are in the process of creating spreadsheets on the computer of the Historical Property Survey of the town. Dates, street numbers, updating photos, and other available information are being added to the spreadsheets.
 2. Gail is comparing and adjusting Becket's Inventory forms with Massachusetts Inventory forms.
 - D. The letter we wrote concerning a demolition by-law policy in Becket was given to the town administrator and Board of Selectmen. We wrote that we would be appreciative of being notified when a building demolition application is filed, regardless of age, so that we could photograph it for posterity. Sandi spoke with Ed Gibson, town administrator but we have not heard officially from them. We will ask to be put on their agenda on the January 18th meeting for a progress update. (Rita will do)
 - E. We will create list of items that we want to place a plaque on to indicate who donated item and date of donation if known. This will be discussed at the next meeting. Examples of this need are the recently acquired basket, other donated baskets, and the school chairs in the COA room.
 - F. No further positive action on the Smith/Ballou family items.
 - G. Discussion was held on what we do next to appraise the Dewey portraits. They are in Bath, ME. We need to know the valued amount so that we might apply for Community Preservation funding which is due by February 28. Owner of the portraits, Will Blake, has said he'll sell them to the town for \$3,500.00. We will discuss this at the next meeting.

- H. Rita will continue to try to speak with Irene Coakley of Becket to see if we could borrow a scrap book of the Bancroft Paper Mill that she has so that we might scan it for our records.
- VI. New Business:
- A. Annual Report has been written by Sandi. We will read and edit if necessary before she turns it in.
 - B. Rita will contact Leslie Blake-Davis, Principal of Becket Washington School, to see if we might place the extra 4 x 6 map of Becket at the school.
 - C. We need another member on this board.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Next meeting will be on February 7, 2017 at 6:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Furlong, Sec. Pro-tem