



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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Meeting Time: 3:00 PM

Meeting Place: Historical Commission Office, Becket Town Hall

Attendees: Sandi Jarvis, Gail Kusek, Rita Furlong, John Garvey, Katherine Hoak

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:02 PM.
2. The February 2020 Minutes were unanimously approved.
3. There is \$4,430. in our treasury.
4. Communications
 - a. Old-
 - i. Eliza R. Snow birth place in Becket was determined to have been in her grandfather's (Oliver Snow) home which is located on Fred Snow Rd. (See the Snow file.)
 - ii. Andrew Jackson, who has purchased the property located at 1054 County Rd., has inquired about the history of the property, including that of the barn foundation. It was learned that Joseph Mecum had owned 120 acres there in the late 1800s, along with several cows and sheep, possible previous tenants of the barn!

- iii. Some photo negatives were donated by a descendent of Martin Glendon, a local newspaper reporter. Rita was able to identify the people and has given them to the granddaughter of C. A. R. Simmons, a Washington resident.
- iv. Query re: Amanda Barnes Smith wanted to learn about the Barnes family for a future choreographic performance. Gail is researching information about the Barnes family and what is learned will be sent to Amanda.

5. New Business

- a. Baseball-a donated Little League photo, circa 1958-1960; Rita will put it in the baseball folder with the names of the identified players.
- b. Powder Post beetles have been found in the posts at the First Congregational Church (with the Paul Revere bell) in Becket Center. The membership wishes to apply for a grant from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in order to be able to address the internal structural damage. The process will begin with an architectural engineer determining the process needed to save the Church. The grant would need to be at least \$15,000 to cover the cost of that evaluation. Church members requested a letter of support from the Historical Commission. John volunteered to write it.
- c. Bev Lambert, editor, has donated a set of five drawings of Becket houses, framed, all of which appear in the book, An Historic Tour of Becket, Massachusetts developed by the Historical Commission as a tour of the town.

6. Old Business

- a. Signage for Ballou Park (2) and Parade Ground (1), replacements:
John has researched the signs which would cost \$500. With pedestals, they would cost \$998. John will scan the maps. Sandi will recreate the Veterans Names sign. We had an animated, lengthy discussion about the signage! We decided we'd do our own installation work because that would be much less expensive. We also discussed usage of a QR Code on the signs, with a URL linking back to the town website; to provide additional information. Rita moved that we order the signs as John had learned about them. The motion was approved. (It would cost about \$1500 for three of them installed.)
- b. Pole flags: We are looking for three single-sided and two double-sided flags. Rita will get new prices for us.
- c. Art Center 50th Anniversary: we are looking for photographs of the Art Center and North Becket. The BAC wants the Historical Commission to make a power-point presentation for the Anniversary celebration.
- d. Portrait of Helen Day Flynn (Age 16) of Becket, MA 1911-1999: we decided to table this to our next meeting, along with sections g-i of the Agenda.
- e. Plan of action: 21 Maple Street plaque by Mr. Atwood and dedication will cost \$1800 to be installed. Rita will contact Mr. Atwood to set up a time for the installation.
- f. Becket Bulletin: we will submit an article, when the plaque and signs are installed, reporting on our actions.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 PM, unanimously decided upon. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on April 14, 2020 at 3 PM.

Submitted by W. Katherine Hoak, Secretary

Sandi Jarvis, Chair