



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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020

Meeting Time: 3:00 PM

Meeting Place: Becket Center Park Pavilion, next to Becket Town Hall; due to COVID-19 the Town Hall remains closed.

Minutes

1. Call to order - The meeting was opened at 3:00pm. In attendance: Sandi Jarvis, Rita Furlong, John Garvey. John Garvey was appointed recording secretary for this meeting.
2. Approval of Minutes – The June 2020 minutes were amended with the following changes: “follow up” was changed to “follow-up”. “assessors” changed to “assessor’s”. In Part 6;a;i, change “three signs for Ballou Park” to “two signs for Ballou Park and one sign for Becket Center”. Minutes were approved with the above changes.
3. Treasurer’s Report – Expenses since the last meeting were \$1,800.00 for the 21 Maple plaque, \$780.00 for Becket flags and hardware, and \$12.00 for the community calendar. Balance for the new fiscal year is \$2,000.00. Rita reported that the prior year balance was not carried over. Treasurer’s report was approved.
4. Communications
 - a. Old-
 - i. John Hanson, researcher, literary origins of the epitaph verses at Becket Center Cemetery: We discussed a possible presentation by Mr. Hanson, who would do an indoor presentation followed by a tour of the cemetery. We decided that we would rather wait until 2021 or such time

that a vaccine is available. Sandi will inform him that we would like to wait. Rita said that the church should be available for the presentation when we decide to do it.

- ii. Query re: Amanda Barnes Smith: Gail is handling this research, no report.
- iii. Helen Lyons, researching her Lydia Baird/Stedman families, looking for proof that Martha Amelia Stedman is Lydia's daughter: Gail is handling this research, no report.
- iv. Yokum Burial Ground/Yokum Cemetery location: Peter Nikitas of Foresight Land Services is inquiring as to the ownership of Yokum Cemetery. Sandi informed him last month that according to the assessor's office it is on town land. This month she sent him copies of town records from our microfilm collection detailing multiple times through the years when the town allocated town funds for maintenance on the cemetery.

b. New-

- i. Query: Geoff Lincoln regarding Silas Lincoln and Hannah (Luce)Lincoln who lived in Becket MA in the 1700s: Sandi sent him information on the Luce family but was not able to get into the office to look for information on the Lincoln family.
- ii. Denny Fincke requests photos and birthdates for tannery businessmen: Wheeler, Barnes, Claflin and Bidwell. No action.
- iii. Town notifications: Notice of a Public Hearing on 9/8/2020 for a special permit at 19 Switter Lane: Encroachment on the property line setback. No action taken.

5. New Business

6. Old Business

- a. Signage for Ballou Park and Parade Ground,
 - i. Replacements-John reported that the signs have been paid for by him personally and he was informed by the Town Administrator that he can be reimbursed with Historical Commission funds when the signs arrive. The company is sending a “sample” to the town hall for our approval. John will review the sample and will approve production if it looks good, otherwise he will ask other members to view the sample.
 - ii. “Historical Facts” link on the Historical Commission’s page on the town webpage-No report.
- b. Pole flags-Rita reported that the signs have been paid for and delivered. The Highway Department is too busy to put them up right now but she will stay in contact with them.
- c. Art Center 50th Anniversary presentation-posted on Becket Arts Center site. Sandi reported that the presentation on the Becket Arts Center website has been converted to a video.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01pm, the next meeting is scheduled for September 8 at 3:00pm. It will continue to be held at the Becket Center Park Pavilion.

Submitted by,
John Garvey,
Secretary Pro Tem