



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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020

Meeting Time: 3:00 PM

Meeting Place: Berkshire Room, Becket Town Hall

Attendance: Sandi Jarvis, Rita Furlong, John Garvey, Katherine Hoak (by conference call) Gail Kusek, John Davis (guest, by conference call)

Minutes

I. Call to order: 3:07 PM

II. Approval of Minutes: October, 2020 The Minutes were unanimously approved; with Gail abstaining due to absence at Oct. meeting.

III. Treasurer's Report: There were no changes made to our treasury.

IV. Communications

A. Old-

1. Query re: Amanda Barnes Smith—Gail will follow-up
2. Query re: Yokum Pond Cemetery---Is the Yokum Pond Cemetery considered to be the "Town Cemetery?" Is it a town owned cemetery? Where is it located on Tyne Road?
 - a). Town Assessor's map 203 shows "Yokum Burial Grounds;" Gail reports this as an Indian burial site, one of four in Becket.
 - b). Guest John Davis, a direct descendant of many buried in the Yokum Pond Cemetery, has researched the cemetery for years. He is very knowledgeable; John and the Historical Commission have exchanged facts, documents, maps and photos.
 - c). There was much discussion about the headstones of veterans from the Revolutionary War and Yokum Pond Cemetery.

d). Becket Cemetery Commissioner, Dean Williams, and Peter Nikitas, Foresight Land Services are also collaborating with us.

e). Esther Moulthrop, 12 April 1977, on behalf of the Becket Historical Commission completed the official Burial Grounds form for the Massachusetts Historical Commission. She states "However, this is a town cemetery, not a family cemetery as is the Harris [East Becket] Cemetery." <http://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?MhcId=BEC.805> [NOTE: Location Key should be Nathan Snow on Tyne Road not Fred Snow cemetery for additional sheets added in 2007.]

f). Yokum Pond Cemetery will be included in the "Historical Facts" page on the Historical Commission's website page on the Becket Town website under "Other/Cemeteries".

B. New-

1. Town notifications discussed, no action taken
2. Email query about Becket baskets, Sandi has replied with info
3. Agreed to sign-off on Requests for demolition at 308 Old Pond Road and 550 Loose Tooth Road
4. Capitol and Budget requests for next year, created lists, Sandi will submit
5. Annual Town Report article, Sandi will write draft, due by 31 Jan 2021

VI. New Business

A. Thank-you letters- It was noted that Beverly Gilbert has been providing significant help and expertise to the Historical Commission in the creation of the "Historical Facts" webpage. Sandi will send Thank you/acknowledgement letters to Beverly, the Town Administrator and the Board of Selectmen.

B. An Historic Tour of Becket, Massachusetts books-Beverly requested additional copies, she now has 23, HC has 50 more in file cabinet

VII. Old Business

A. Installation of three new signs for Ballou Park and the Parade Ground, waiting until Spring

B. Recognition of past members. John is compiling list of members.

C. "Historical Facts" link on the Historical Commission's page on the town's webpage, major progress has been made, next articles: Parks, Beach (Rita), Youth Camps, Town

Hall 557 Main St. (Rita/Sandi), Jacob's Ladder Scenic Highway (John), Historic Districts (Sandi)

D. Portrait of Helen Day Flynn (Age 16) of Becket, MA 1911-1999, on hold

E. Office organization, on hold

F. New members, always welcome

G. Goal—Preserve and publicize Becket's historical structures

1. Becket history awareness—New signs; Historical Facts link
2. Becket Historical Commission actions
3. Becket Center Cemetery lecture postponed to Spring, co-sponsors

H. Plan of Action

1. 21 Maple Street plaque dedication, on hold until Spring
2. Dedication of new signs at Ballou Memorial Park and the Parade Grounds, on hold until Spring
3. Photo Documentation historic buildings, on hold until safe
4. Becket Bulletin—Historical Facts link

7. Next meeting—December 8, 2020 at 3 PM

8. Meeting ended: 4:34 PM

Respectfully submitted by:

Katherine Hoak, Secretary

Sandi Jarvis, Chair