



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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Meeting Time: 3:00 PM

Meeting Place: Berkshire Room, Becket Town Hall

Attendees: Sandi Jarvis, Rita Furlong, Tim Sullivan, John Garvey, John Putnam (visitor)

1. Meeting was called to order at 3:04pm by SJ.
2. A motion was made by RF to approve the minutes from the September 2021 meeting, seconded by TS. Passed unanimously.
3. RF reported FY2022 funds of \$2,000.00. Leftover FY2021 funds total \$713.04 and should be certified sometime this month.
4. Communications
 - a. New-
 - i. Town notifications:
 1. 104 Alan A Dale Road
 2. 23 Nottingham Circle
 3. Planning Board notice to look at Section 6.2 Mobile Home bylaws.
 4. RF moved that the commission take no action on these notices, seconded by JG. Passed unanimously.

- ii. The Historical Commission received a request to sign off on the First Congregational Church permit for structural work to address the Powderpost beetle damage. JG moved that the commission sign off on the permit, seconded by TS. Passed unanimously (RF abstains).
- iii. Michael Lavery called the commissions attention to the recent Berkshire Eagle's historical article from 1967 about a history of Jacob's Pillow written as a college dissertation by Elsie Johnson of Texas Women's University. He suggests getting a copy of the dissertation. JG will pursue getting a copy either from the Jacob's Pillow archives or from Texas Women's University.

b. Old-

- i. Dan Alden, re: Who was Captain Whitney Road named for? Will continue to research Captain Whitney resources.
- ii. Jeannette Thomas, re: Jarvis Norcott, state representative and year his house at 3425 Main St. was built. SJ has gathered some information and will send it out.

5. New Business

- a. Town Report archives. RF reports that currently the Commission maintains one master set of town reports, plus between 0 and 3 duplicates for each report. In addition to these reports directly controlled by the commission there are sets in the Becket Room, the Becket Athenaeum and Berkshire Athenaeum. SJ has created a spreadsheet detailing all of these sets and which report is original and which are photocopies. RF suggests deaccessioning 1 copy for years that we have 3 copies to create some needed space in the commission office. SJ suggested that if we have 3 copies of a report that is a photocopy in any of the other sets described above that the commissions third copy go to that set. JG suggested finding a two-drawer file cabinet and placing it on top of the existing file cabinets

to hold the duplicates and free up space. Options will be researched and discussed at the November meeting.

- b. Office equipment, carpet. SJ reported that the request for a new computer, scanner and related hardware has been submitted to the town administrator. RF reports that the carpet will be pulled up in the commission office and either another carpet or vinyl flooring will be installed. Mold continues to be a problem. Various solutions were discussed; a fan, a dehumidifier, installing slats on the door, DampRid type products. These will be discussed with the Buildings and Grounds supervisor.

6. Old Business

- a. John Hanson's Cemetery presentation October 2, 2021 follow-up
 - i. SJ suggested that we send a signed copy of A Bicentennial History of Becket to John Hanson. The book was signed and SJ will send it.
 - ii. Thank you notes: SJ read thank you notes that she has written to John Hanson, Rita Furlong, Beverly Gilbert, Dean Williams, the Becket Arts Center and Becket Athenaeum among others. The commission thanked her for her efforts in writing the notes and asked that they be sent.
 - iii. Order John's upcoming book, Reading the Gravestones of Old New England; <https://mcfarlandbooks.com/product/reading-the-gravestones-of-old-new-england/> \$39.95. The commission voted at the September meeting to purchase the book, SJ or RF will pursue with the assistant town administrator on how best to do this.
- b. House plaques. JG reports no action.
- c. Office organization- RF continues to work on office organization and cleaning with former member Katherine Hoak.

- d. Technology requests. SJ has sent the technology requests for computer, scanner and related hardware to the town administrator.
 - e. 21 Maple Street plaque dedication. Waiting for final grading and landscaping.
 - f. List of past commissioners; recognition. JG reports no action.
7. During the meeting the assistant town administrator brought John Putnam into the meeting. He is researching his Robbins ancestors who lived near the Becket and Chester Railroad and whose property may have been involved in a fire on the railroad. The commission was able to give him some guidance and suggested that he also contact the Chester Railroad Museum for more information about the Becket and Chester Railroad.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:41pm.

Next meeting – November 9 at 3:00 PM