



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

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021

**Meeting Time:** 3:00 PM

**Meeting Place:** Berkshire Room, Becket Town Hall

1. Meeting was called to order by chair Sandi Jarvis.

In Attendance: Sandi Jarvis, Rita Furlong, Gail Kusek, Tim Sullivan, John Garvey

2. RF made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by SJ and passed unanimously (TS and GK abstaining).

3. Treasurer's Report –One transaction for the month, the purchase of John Hanson's book, Reading the Gravestones of Old New England invoice \$39.95. Current balance is \$2,673.09.

4. Communications

- a. New-

- i. No Town notifications.

- ii. 2023 Budget request from Town Administrator: A general discussion was held regarding budget requests for the next fiscal year. TS mentioned the possibility of mapping all the old cellar holes in town using GPS software so that the information is logged and available for researchers. There would be some software purchases that would help, he will look into it and bring suggestions to the January meeting. He reported that the most efficient way to do it would be with a drone with LIDAR. This would be an expensive purchase but the drone could be used by other departments

(police, fire, ambulance, highway, assessors, etc). After discussion it was felt that this would be more appropriate as a town capital expense request, which are already in for the year. No other major items were identified, mostly office supplies (Mylar, highlighters, markers, etc).

iii. 2021 Annual Town Report Article due by January 31, 2022. SJ will write it up and bring a copy to the January meeting.

iv. Cushman/Quarry Road-query from Peter S. Nikitas. SJ answered by email with input from other members.

v. Spring Workshops from Massachusetts Historical Commission. SJ sent out the spring workshop schedule.

b. Old- Norton Owen re: History of Jacob's Pillow by Elsie Johnson. Still have not heard back from Jacob's Pillow, JG will follow-up.

## 5. New Business

a. Town owned historical properties. There was a discussion about whether the town might pursue historic properties, those up for sale or those that might be in danger of loss. It was discussed that the town already owns the Mullen House and Seminary Hall (leased to BAC) and periodically contributes to some upkeep at the Athenaeum so there is likely little enthusiasm for the town to take on other properties.

b. BAC letter of support. The BAC is trying to solve their heating and cooling issues and one possibility they are pursuing would be for the town to include the Seminary Hall building in their Green Communities Grant program. That may open up funding opportunities. At this time the town has said that the Seminary Hall cannot be included in the grant because the utilities are paid by BAC and not the town. The BAC asked the Historical Commission for a letter of support in their efforts to solve their heating and cooling issues. RF made a motion to send

such a letter, seconded by TS and passed unanimously. SJ will send a letter similar to letters sent in the past.

## 6. Old Business

- a. Town Report archives spreadsheet update: SJ has completed her survey of old town reports and has produced a spreadsheet documenting each location that has a collection of town reports, including which years they have and whether they have originals or copies.
- b. Technology requests. All technology requests are in and ordered with the possible exception of a new scanner. SJ will check on the scanner order.
- c. SJ reported that the Helen Day Flynn portrait returned from Becket Arts Center to HC office. A request will be made to have it hung in the Becket Room.
- d. House plaques. JG presented a draft of the program guidelines. During discussion various changes were made to the guidelines and the shape and style of the plaques was decided upon. TS made a motion to accept the guidelines with the discussed changes. The motion was seconded by GK and passed unanimously. A discussion followed on whether the Commission would purchase plaques for town-owned or significant non-residences. Suggestions were the two Congregational churches, the old town hall, Seminary Hall, the Athenaeum, the Mullen House and the Brewster House. RF moved that the Commission purchase these 7 plaques with their funds. The motion was seconded by GK and passed unanimously. JG will gather the information for the 7 plaques and present it to the committee via email before ordering. Publicity about the program will commence after the first 7 plaques have arrived and been installed.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm.

Minutes provided by John Garvey (Clerk Pro Tem)

Next meeting – January 11, at 3:00 PM