



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

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023

**Meeting Time:** 5:00 PM

**Meeting Place:** Historical Commission Office, Becket Town Hall

**Minutes**

Attendees: Sandi Jarvis, Rita Furlong, Gail Kusek, John Garvey, Christopher Felker (Becket resident)

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair Sandi Jarvis at 5:06pm
2. An informal discussion was held with Christopher Felker concerning ways to list his Main Street house on the State Historic Registry.

The first way would be to list the house separately on the National Register, JG reported that he had contacted the state coordinator for the National Register and they said that unfortunately the house would not be eligible for individual listing because of interior renovations.

Second would be to expand an existing National Historic District. The Main Street house is only a few houses outside of the North Becket National Historic District but to expand the district would mean that the Historical Commission would need to upgrade the documentation of the district to meet new standards. The state coordinator advised that the new standards are generally beyond the capabilities of local Historical Commission volunteers and usually requires the hiring of a consultant. Furthermore, he reviewed the North Becket National Historic District and the Main Street house and questioned whether it fits in with the focus of the district. He felt it more matched the

focus of the Becket Center National Historic District but it would be impossible to expand that district to include the Main Street house due to the distance involved. The Historic Commission recommended that Mr. Felker provide his research on his home to the commission who will submit a MACRIS application to the state for the house. While this won't list the house on the state registry it will document its historic significance. Mr. Felker was also advised to apply for a historic plaque once the commission gets that program up and running.

3. A motion was made to approve the December minutes by SJ, seconded by JG. Passed unanimously.
4. Treasurer RF reports a balance of \$3,573.59 in the Historical Commission account.
5. Communications
  - a. New-
    - i. Town notifications: None
    - ii. Query from Harold Stein re: Yokum Pond name: SJ has researched and responded to Mr. Stein.
    - iii. Query regarding the Becket quarry especially the Chester and Becket Railroad. SJ will send him the contact information for Dave Pierce of the Chester Railroad Museum.
  - b. Old-
    - i. Query on the Becket Athenaeum buildings, Jodi Shafiroff: SJ researched and responded.
    - ii. William Hoch reported that he is still doing research on Camp Watitoh and will share a copy of his research with the commission when complete.

## 6. Old Business

- a. CPA grant for Town Hall cupola restoration: JG moved that the Historical Commission send an application to the CPC Committee for the restoration of the old schoolhouse cupola to the town hall roof, using the estimates it has in hand. Seconded by GK. Passed unanimously.
- b. Museum labels/captions for portraits in Community Room; Harris oil paintings; Dewey oil paintings; Helen Day Flynn painting and Brewster photocopies were presented by SJ. They will be reviewed by commission members before the next meeting.
- c. Historical Facts update with portrait information was presented by SJ. They will be reviewed by commission members before the next meeting.
- d. Purple Heart Sign, Right to Farm Community Sign, and Heart Healthy Sign: RF reports that these signs have been ordered.
- e. Historic Building Plaques: No report
- f. GPS Software: No report
- g. Silk Mill property and Ballou Park retaining wall repairs: GK reports that she has not had the opportunity to discuss these projects with the Selectboard.

## 7. New Business

- a. 2022 Annual Town Report article: SJ has created the Historical Commission entry for the town annual report.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:21pm.

9. Next meeting – Feb. 14 at 5:00 PM, Becket Town Hall

Minutes submitted by John Garvey, clerk