



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

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024

**Meeting Time:** 5:00 PM

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

**Attendees:** Sandi Jarvis, Rita Furlong, John Garvey

### **Minutes**

1. The meeting was called to order by chair Sandi Jarvis at 5:07pm.
2. A motion was made by RF, seconded by SJ, to accept the minutes from the December 2023 meeting. Passed unanimously.
3. RF reports a balance of \$1,214.38 in the FY account and \$656.40 in the Gifts/Donations account.
4. Business
  - a. Historic Building Plaques: JG states that the vendor has increased their pricing to \$140 plus \$25 shipping per plaque from \$90 and \$15. Also they will only take orders 4 times per year and ship 2 months after the order. The group felt these changes made the program much less desirable. JG will search for a new vendor.
  - b. SJ has sent out the draft of the annual report due by January 31. No changes were made and the commission members thanked SJ for her work on the report.
  - c. Query: Thomas Merryfield/Merrifield, 1700s, farm Bonny Rigg Road: RF will query the Ellsworth family on Bancroft Road as their farm used to be in the Merryfield family. SJ will ask Gail Kusek whether she knows of a Merryfield farm on Bonny Ring Road.
  - d. Doc Houston, Greenwater Pond: A query from Charlie Flint regarding a Doc Houston on Greenwater Pond. SJ sent previous research done on the Houston family of Greenwater Pond, although no reference has been found to a “Doc” Houston.
  - e. Basket display Town Hall: The possibility of a basket display in the Town Hall was discussed. It was pointed out that there are already a number of baskets already on display at the town hall, and the baskets in the display at the Mullen House are generally too large for any of the display areas at the town hall. It was decided to

continue to pursue a Jacob's Ladder display and table the discussion of a basket display for now.

- f. History of Jacob's Pillow written by Elsie Johnson of the Texas Women's University, 1967 thesis: Owen Norton, archivist of Jacob's Pillow, reported to SJ that he has a copy of this history and will forward it to the commission for their records.
- g. Ephraim Walker papers: These papers are in house and remain to be scanned and transcribed.
- h. Cupola restoration: JG and RF report that we are still waiting for an updated cost estimate from the contractor given design changes and inflation. If any additional CPA monies need to be requested there is a deadline of February 29. JG will send an email to the contractor informing him of this deadline. The town administrator has found a grant for the installation of lightning protection.
- i. Revolutionary War veterans - Crittenden: SJ has come across this name in relation to the Revolutionary War but has not found it in other sources. No report on the larger Revolutionary War documentation project.
- j. Huckleberry Line (Historical Facts)-permission: A query was received from a local author who is planning on writing a history of the Goose Pond area. He was looking for permission to use information on the Huckleberry Line trolley that is on the Historic Commission Historical Facts page. SJ sent him the source of the information, mainly Leonard Spencer's college dissertation.
- k. Ballou Park signage-Native American mill stone: No report.
- l. Massachusetts State Archive maps: No report.
- m. 2027-100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Becket Flood. No report.

## 5. Communications

- a. Town notifications: None
- b. Old Deer Inn property: A potential purchaser of this property was seeking historical information on it. SJ sent information and photos on this property, as well as the Jacob's Well property as some of his references seemed to indicate he was looking at that property.
- c. Bill Stanley donated a 1965 Bicentennial program. JG will acknowledge.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm.

7. Next meeting – Feb 13, 2024 at 5:00 PM, Becket Town Hall

Meeting minutes submitted by John Garvey, clerk