



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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2023

Meeting Time: 5:00 PM

Meeting Place: Historical Commission Office, Town Hall

Attendees: Sandi Jarvis, Rita Furlong, Gail Kusek, Michael Lavery (Zoom), John Garvey

Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:10pm.
2. SJ moved to approve the minutes from the September 2023 meeting, seconded by GK. The motion passed unanimously (RF abstaining).
3. Treasurer's Report: RF reports no expenditures yet for FY2024 funds so the total is still \$2,000, along with the \$656.40 in the Gifts and Donations Account.
4. Communications
 - a. New-
 - i. Town notifications: None
 - ii. Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) regarding Fiscal Year 2024 Survey and Planning Grant cycle; guidelines and pre-application. No action needed.
 - iii. Cemetery Preservation, Virtual Meeting Tuesday Oct. 17: This is a Zoom session of the sponsored by the coalition of state historical commissions. JG said he is planning on attending.
 - iv. Jacob's Pillow, Norton Owen, artifacts for display: SJ reports that she has been in communication with Norton Owen, archivist for Jacob's Pillow about getting duplicates of historic photos and articles for our files and he has indicated he could help with this. SJ also mentioned to him that we have a display area on the main floor of the town hall and a Jacob's Pillow display there would be well received.
5. New Business:

- a. Donation: Linda Bart donated a sign that was used during the campaign to purchase the Becket Quarry. RF will acknowledge.
- b. Donation: Terry Rinaldi donated Boy Scout of America items from Troop 25. RF will acknowledge.

6. Old Business

- a. Ephraim Walker papers: JG reports that he has left a message with the dealer who is offering these letters and is waiting for a call back.
- b. Cupola restoration: JG and RF report that they, along with the architect and engineer, visited the workshop of the contractor to finalize the design plans. The contractor will now provide updated pricing on the cupola and also an estimate on installing the extra support beams in the attic. The contractor stated that the earliest he could work on this project would be the spring. The town is pursuing estimates for lightning protection and also for repairs to two broken trusses in the attic. These items would not be funded with CPA money so once the estimates are in there will be discussions about the source for these funds. It is possible that a small additional CPA grant request will need to be made at the next ATM to cover inflationary increases and design changes from the initial proposal.
- c. Historic Building Plaques: JG reports that we are ready to order four more plaques. After discussion the following was decided for the wording:

Dr. Brewster House
1786
Becket Historical Commission

First Congregational Church
1850
Becket Historical Commission

Seminary Hall
1855
Becket Historical Commission

North Congregational Church
1850
Becket Historical Commission

It was also decided that the wording for the next two signs will be:

Mullen House
C 1855 (GK will try to get a more accurate date)
Becket Historical Commission

Old Baptist Church
1844
Becket Historical Commission

After a discussion about ordering additional signs, GK made a motion to order signs for the former St. Matthew's Church and the former Fire House, both in North Becket. The motion was seconded by RF and passed unanimously. JG will email wording for those signs to the commission members when it is ready. A discussion was held regarding publicity to open the historic plaque program to residents, including a tax bill stuffer and FaceBook. JG will investigate publicity.

- d. Revolutionary War veterans documentation project: ML reports continued progress in documenting Revolutionary War veterans from Becket, and will move on to the Civil War when he is finished. RF mentioned that it would be nice to pass along the names of any Becket residents who died in battle during the Revolutionary War and Civil War to the organizers of the Memorial Day observance.
- e. Ballou Park signage-Native American mill stone: GK is working on this.
- f. Office technology- speakers: SJ had donated some old speakers and connected them to the computer, they are now working and can be used for Zoom sessions and any other use.
- g. Massachusetts State Archive maps: JG reports no action.
- h. 2027-100th anniversary of Becket Flood: GK continues to scan and load photos into the computer. She reports that the DAR is having a meeting in Becket in October 2023 and is planning on having a presentation on the 1927 flood.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:07pm.

Next meeting – Nov 14 at 5:00 PM, Becket Town Hall

Minutes submitted by John Garvey, clerk.