



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

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023

**Meeting Time:** 5:00 PM

**Meeting Place:** Becket Town Hall

Attendees: Sandi Jarvis (Chair), Gail Kusek, Michael Lavery, John Garvey

### **Minutes**

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:04pm by Chair SJ.
2. Approval of minutes: ML moved that the minutes from the August 2023 meeting be accepted as presented, seconded by GK. Passed unanimously.
3. Treasurer's Report: There was no treasurer's report due to the absence of the treasurer.
4. Communications
  - a. New-
    - i. Town notifications: None
    - ii. Jennifer B. Doherty posting on behalf of the MA Board of Library Commissioners for development of Emergency Response plans and policies. SJ reports that she forwarded this communication to the town administrator, the Athenaeum and the Becket Arts Center.
    - iii. Updates from the Massachusetts Historical Commission, Fall Virtual Workshop Schedule. No action required but each commission member should review the list to see if there are any workshops they wish to attend.
    - iv. An inquiry regarding openings in the West Becket Cemetery was forwarded to the Cemetery Commissioners.
    - v. A query from the town administrator's office asking whether they should post that there are Historical Commission openings. There are now 5 active members and up to 7 are allowed. The Commission agreed that posting the openings was a good idea.

## 5. New Business

- a. Ephraim Walker papers: A writer for the Becket Beat informed the commission that there are a set of historic Ephraim Walker papers for sale by a Pennsylvania dealer. The commission felt that the papers should be in Becket. JG moved that the Commission purchase the papers for up to \$450 but try to get them at a reduced amount. Seconded by GK and passed unanimously. JG will contact the dealer to see if they will accept less than \$450.

## 6. Old Business

- a. Cupola restoration: JG reports that engineering and architectural planning continue. Unresolved at this point are additional costs not covered by the CPA grant; additional roof truss supports, lightning protection and the discovery of two broken truss members. The lightning protection and two broken truss members would be the responsibility of the town and the town administrator's office is looking into those issues. We will need to wait until we find out the cost of the additional roof truss supports before discussing the source of those funds. At this point the commission has only contracted to have the engineering and architectural costs, no contract will be signed for construction until the above funding issues have been resolved.
- b. Ballou Park signage-Native American mill stone. GK is working on this.
- c. Office technology: The microphone has been hooked up and is working but the speaker is not. The new printer/scanner/copier has been hooked up.
- d. Historic Building Plaques: JG reports that the first plaque has arrived and been installed on the Old Town Hall. The design meets the approval of the commission. He presented the previously approved application form and the commission had no changes. The previous vote to use Historical Commission funds to purchase signs for the two Congregational Churches, Seminary Hall (BAC), Athenaeum, Mullen House and Brewster House was discussed and there were no changes to that vote. JG will order these signs. It was discussed how we inform the town of this program. A tax bill stuffer, a post in the Becket Community Forum Facebook page, and a notice in the Becket Beat were mentioned. JG will pursue these communication methods. It was also mentioned that a number of people have sent queries regarding the program over the last few years, JG will try to track these individuals down.
- e. Massachusetts State Archive maps: JG reports no progress.
- f. Revolutionary War veterans: ML and GK report no action on this item for this month.

- g. 2027-100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Becket Flood: GK has just completed uploading 200+ photos of the flood to the computer and organized them so they can be easily researched.
- 7. A motion was made to adjourn at 6:06pm by GK, seconded by ML. Passed unanimously.
- 8. Next meeting – Oct 10 at 5:00 PM, Becket Town Hall

Minutes submitted by John Garvey, clerk.