



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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023

Meeting Time: 5:00 PM

Meeting Place: Becket Town Hall

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

Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:02pm by Sandi Jarvis, Chair.
2. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the July 2023 meeting by ML, seconded by GK. The motion passed unanimously.
3. RF reports that we have the new fiscal year funding of \$2,000, along with \$656.40 in the town Gifts and Donations Account.
4. Communications
 - a. New-
 - i. Town notifications: None
 - ii. SJ reports that she has updated contact information for the commission and will distribute it among members.
 - iii. The commission received a query from Keri Brown, Sentry Equipment in Forest, VA asking for photos of the Golden Fleece mill in Bancroft (former Union Mill) from the 1940's. They are working on a documentary on conveyors. JG will send what we have.
 - iv. Jennifer B. Doherty, MA Historical Commission has asked for an updated membership of the commission, SJ has sent it.
 - v. The town Administrative Assistant informed us that she has received a query from overseas on whether our town history books are available in PDF form. SJ has determined that one is and one isn't but the decision was made not to disseminate the book in PDF form. They may order it and pay shipping if they chose.
 - b. Old

- i. Follow-up Mama Frasca 45 rpm record, Dream Away Berkshire Magazine article: SJ reports she has been in contact with the magazine editor and they will send a digital and a hard-copy of the article. The question of whether they can produce a digital copy of the 45rpm record is still open.
- ii. Follow-up Becket Athenaeum Executive Director, Jodi Shafiroff re: local history programs: This item will be put on hold given the resignation of the library director.

5. New Business

- a. RF questioned why the Boston Post Cane research and presentation has not been done recently. Her understanding was that this was something that the Selectboard had taken on in the past.

6. Old Business

- a. Cupola restoration: JG and RF report that the architect has produced drawings and they will be presented to the SelectBoard at the 8/16 meeting. The engineer is working to complete his structural design and a meeting with the architect and engineer is scheduled for the morning of 8/16. JG and RF also have a meeting scheduled with the town administrator to discuss the open issues of additional roof structural work, lightning protection and two broken truss supports in the roof.
- b. Ballou Park signage-Native American mill stone: GK reports she is working on this research.
- c. Office printer/copier/scanner installation: The new printer is in the process of being installed. Zoom capabilities-microphone: SJ reports we are waiting for the town tech support to look into the microphone and camera issues.
- d. Historic Building Plaques: JG presented a proof from The Painted Lady sign company for a 9" x 15" plaque, but it costs \$110.00 and the previous authorization was for \$75.00. RF made a motion to authorize the purchase of one plaque not to exceed \$120.00, seconded by SJ. The motion passed unanimously. JG will order the plaque.
- e. Massachusetts State Archive maps: JG reports no action.
- f. Revolutionary War veterans: ML and GK report that they are working on updating our documentation of Becket veterans starting with the Revolutionary War and Civil War. ML has used state resources to start compiling a spreadsheet that will eventually be uploaded to the Historic Facts section of the town website and will be searchable by the public.

- g. 2027-100th anniversary of Becket Flood: This item will remain on future agendas for discussion as 2027 approaches.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26pm.

Next meeting – Sep 12 at 5:00 PM, Becket Town Hall

Minutes submitted by John Garvey, clerk