



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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, Apr 11, 2023

Meeting Time: 5:00 PM

Meeting Place: Berkshire Room, Becket Town Hall

Attendees: Sandi Jarvis, Rita Furlong, John Garvey

1. The meeting was called to order by Sandi Jarvis, Chair
2. Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by RF to approve the January 2023 minutes, seconded by SJ and passed unanimously. A motion was made by RF to approve the February 2023 minutes, seconded by SJ and passed unanimously.
3. Treasurer's Report: RF reports that after expenditures of \$2,000 for office flooring and \$469.00 on office shelving the commission balance is \$1,059.46.
4. Communications
 - a. New-
 - i. Town notifications: Public hearing on May 2, 2023 concerning 177 East Shore Road (demolition of cottage and construction of new house). No action taken.
 - ii. Western Massachusetts Historical Commission Coalition Topic: We are a Historical Commission: Now What? Zoom meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.. JG reports that he will be attending this session.

- iii. Public Records and Open Meeting Law Zoom Webinar April 25, 12:00-1:15 PM. Notice has been received of this training.
- iv. Select Board letter of support for CPA cupola grant. SJ reports that the letter has been sent to the CPA chair. RF will obtain a copy for the application folder.
- v. HC postcard collection re: Greenwater Pond postcards in Becket Room from Jay and Yuliya Baver. SJ reports that this couple is building a house on Greenwater Pond and would like scans of the postcards of that pond that are on display in the Becket Room. SJ has scanned the cards and sent digital files to the Bavers.
- vi. Query from Marty Drennan, Ohio, re: grave sites for ancestors Horatio and Lucretia Stevens, Orrin and Orilla Meach and surname Jarvis, Becket residents early 1800s. SJ has been in contact with this individual but has been unable to find these graves in Becket.
- vii. Query from Matt Adams re: Rt 20 ruins and Town Pound. This individual has a Youtube channel about stone ruin investigations and recently posted a video of the remains of a fulling mill off Route 20. He sent queries regarding the town pound, SJ sent him the information we have. He told SJ that he does a talk on the use and history of town pounds so this might be something we should arrange in the future.
- viii. Becket Baseball display: RF reports that she met with Larry Moore to show him the space available in the town hall for a display. He will come up with a display on Becket Baseball for the town hall display space in June.
- ix. RF reports that the old treasurer records indicate that years ago the town was holding \$656.40 in funds donated by individuals for the use of the

Historical Commission. She isn't sure what happened to these funds and she will look into it.

b. Old-

- i. Query from Bill McAvoy, Leonhardt Rd. This query came in last month regarding a date etching he found on an old stone hearth on his property. No further information was found.
- ii. A few months ago Kathy Sandford donated Becket Flood photos 1927-1928, at the time we were not sure of the history of the photos. Since then she has responded that they were owned by her grandfather Arthur Harvey who was probably in Becket as a railroad repairman.
- iii. Query from Anastasia Stanmeyer, editor in chief, Dan McCarthy, reporter, Berkshire Magazine. They are working on an article about the Dream Away Lodge for their May issue and were asking for what information we had. SJ sent them copies of our information, including past owners of the property. SJ also mentioned that we have a Mama Frasca 45rpm record. Berkshire Magazine asked if they could digitally copy the 45rpm record at their recording studio. Permission was received to do that. SJ reported that she may ask them to digitize some other recordings we have in various formats, in exchange for allowing them to digitize the 45rpm record.

5. Old Business

- a. The CPA grant for Town Hall cupola restoration has been approved by the CPA committee and will be voted on at the annual town meeting. The commission will set up an information table with some of the photos that were in the CPA grant application.

- b. RF reported that the chairs and tables have been moved in the Community Room and now the portraits can be moved and information sheets hung. RF and JG will coordinate a time to work on that.
 - c. SJ will update the Historical Facts webpage with the information that was gathered for the portrait information sheets.
 - d. Historic Building Plaques: Tim Sullivan has provided a potential contact for the signs, JG reports that he has left a phone message with that person.
 - e. Office color printer/copier/scanner: A motion was made by RF to use up to \$500 of commission budget money to purchase a color printer/scanner/copier for office use. Seconded by SJ, passed unanimously.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 6:33pm.
7. Next meeting – May 9 at 5:00 PM, Becket Town Hall

Notes submitted by John Garvey, clerk