



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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Meeting Time: 3:00 PM

Meeting Place: Historical Commission Office, Becket Town Hall

Attendees: Sandi Jarvis, Rita Furlong, Gail Kusek, John Garvey,
Katherine Hoak

1. The meeting was called to order at 3 PM.
2. The minutes of the May 2019 meeting were unanimously accepted.
3. The Treasurer, Rita, reported that the balance of our account is \$2,924.07.
At the Town Meeting, \$2,017 was approved for the HC Fiscal Year 2020.
4. Communications
 - a. Old—
 - i. Follow-up, assistance in writing a memoir about childhood camp summers in Becket: Katherine called Eunice O’Lean (528-1512) who resides in Alford in this regard. Eunice has not yet begun her writing, so she was told, that once she has, she should contact Katherine for help with it.
 - ii. Becket Mountain Fire Lookout, 1912-1915: Sandi found additional information for Jack Kelly, who had inquired about it, in newspaper clippings and Facebook page photos. This information will be put in a file in our office.

- iii. 43 Pleasant Street: Signed-off; last meeting we had voted to approve demolition at this residence with the condition that the two sections parallel to Pleasant Street will remain and the exterior will remain as historically accurate as possible.

b. New—

- i. Patrick Browne, coordinator of the “Massachusetts Civil War Monuments Project” which catalogs and photographs Civil War monuments and memorials in each Massachusetts town, was unable to find any reference to a Becket Civil War Memorial. (See macivilwarmonuments.com.) We confirmed that Becket does have a monument, and sent information, along with six photos. Discussion revealed that we do have one obelisk in Ballou Memorial Park. A sign was put there, but has faded and is illegible. It was put there on Memorial Day 2015. It will need to be replaced; all the signs in Ballou Park and the Parade Grounds need to be checked. The obelisk is for the veterans of the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War.
- ii. A letter was sent to Bill Caldwell, Town Administrator, and BOS members, Bill Elovirta and Michael Laverly, requesting permission to share and post PDF’s of historic microfilm. Sandi scanned the microfilm, with the help of the Local History Department at the Berkshire Athenaeum (six rolls from the Historical Commission and eight additional historic films from George Roberts, Town Clerk. These are now being processed into PDF books.)

5. Old Business

- a. 21 Maple Street: the plaque has been ordered. Rich Atwood, of AA Cemetery Services, is ordering it. We voted unanimously to pay up to \$2,000 for it. Rita has been working on the park that is being developed there, including stones removed when that house was razed, to be made into benches. Hopefully, they’ll be

set up near the river. We need to decide where to put the monument with the plaque. The need for parking there is of critical importance.

- b. (Microfilm: see above.)
- c. Office organization: Rita has been making progress with this. She has been speaking with people who might be interested in some of the donated paintings by a local artist.
- d. "Welcome to Becket" pole flags: to be discussed at the next meeting
- e. Gail made a motion to approve up to \$900 for the construction of stone benches at 21 Maple Street, motion seconded, approved.
- f. Plan of action: to be continued
- g. Goals: to be continued

6. New Business

- a. Donation of military items: We received a memorial from the nephew of John Runz, killed in the Battle of the Bulge at 22 years of age. It includes the flag that draped his coffin, which was given to the family. Runz was buried there, but the family later had it brought here and buried in the Becket Center Cemetery.
- b. Local Landmark Ordinance: John brought paperwork on this. We will discuss this next month.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 4:03, which all present voted for.

8. The next meeting has been postponed one week to July 16, at 3:00 PM.

Submitted by:

Katherine Hoak, Secretary