



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

Meeting Date: July 16, 2019

Meeting Time: 3:00 PM

Meeting Place: Historical Commission Office, Becket Town Hall

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

Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM.
2. Minutes of the June, 2019 meeting: Rita moved to accept, Katherine seconded, unanimously accepted as edited
3. Treasurer's report: Bill Cummings built three well-done benches and a platform for the stone which will have a plaque on it indicating to passersby the importance of the structure that stood at 21 Maple Street. The plaque is not yet complete. Mr. Cummings will be paid \$498.38 for his work, coming from our Treasury; an invoice has been sent to Town Hall for this payment. We had a FY 2019 balance of \$2,425.69, as of June 30th; starting July 1 (FY 2020), we have an additional \$2017. We're not certain if both amounts give us a balance now of \$4,442.69.
4. Communications
 - a. Old—
 - i. Sandi resent an e-mail to the Town Administer requesting permission to share and post PDF's of historical microfilm. (There are 14 microfilm rolls of historic records which have been processed into PDF books, thanks to the Ann-Marie Harris, Pittsfield Athenaeum Local History Department. We next need to make a finding aid or table of contents for each roll.) Mr. Caldwell said he will bring this up at the next Selectmen meeting on July 24th. However, George Roberts, Town Clerk, informed us that the microfilm are public documents and could, therefore, be made available to the public. Sandi said she will send thank you notes to the Athenaeum for their most helpful work.
 - ii. AA Cemetery Services—Rich Atwood has concerns about the photo resolution for the plaque for 21 Maple St.; part of the house may be blurry. After discussion, we wondered if there was someone who could make a

pencil drawing of the photo on Photoshop. Sandi will continue to pursue this. Once the plaque is completed we'll vote on the final cost and pay for it.

- b. New—Lowell property: trees are beginning to be cleared that lean over the back of the Becket Art Center. There is concern that any might fall onto the Center because they are old.

5. Old Business

- a. 21 Maple Street (see above)
- b. Microfilm (see above)
- c. Office organization: Rita has been distributing several pieces of art done by long-time Becket resident, Bernadette Van Wert. Some have been hung in building bathrooms and others will be given to interested Senior Citizens. Come the fall, Rita and Katherine will continue their work on organizing the room.
- d. "Welcome to Becket" pole flags: the cost of two 2-sided flags and four 1-sided flags would be \$755. (Roads from Washington, Chester, Lee & Otis have single-sided flags. The two double-sided flags we're interested in would be placed at Town Hall and at the triangle in North Becket.)
- e. Plan of Action: tabled
- f. Goals: tabled

6. New Business

- a. Showcases, from the Berkshire Baseball display at the Berkshire Mall, were offered to us by Lorence Moore, retired Becket gym teacher. Because of their dimensions and set-ups, though, we realize that we cannot use them. Rita, a long-term friend of Lorence, will get back to him about this decision and indicate our appreciation of his offer.
- b. Local Landmark Ordinance: The landmark could be a place, structure, feature, or object which is historically or architecturally significant by itself or because it is associated with events, persons, or trends significant in the history of Becket. Designation as a landmark would be an honor that recognizes the importance of its design or its unique place in the town's history. We discussed the ramifications of this possible ordinance and wondered if such an ordinance would be applicable in Becket.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.

_____W. Katherine Hoak, Clerk

_____Sandi Jarvis, Chair