

TOWN of BECKET
HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES

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Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Meeting Time: 6:00 PM

Meeting Place: Historical Commission office, Becket Town Hall

Attendance: Sandi Jarvis, Chair; Gail Kusek, Rita Furlong, Katherine Hoak, guest Will Sikula (Member of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission)

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM.

IV B 1. (We moved this item up to accommodate the presence of Will Sikula.) The Becket Housing Rehabilitation Program (HRP) is taking place currently in Becket and includes about 15-20 houses, those owned by people in the low to medium income bracket. This program is funded by the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), through the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program. It is managed by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

This program is designed to provide home improvement assistance to rehabilitate low/moderate income owner-occupied dwellings. The type of work which can be accomplished under the HRP includes, but is not limited to: roofing, foundation repair, installation of energy efficient windows and doors, insulation, accessibility improvements, plumbing, electrical repair or replacement, septic, water supply, lead paint removal, exterior paint, etc.

The goals of this program are to help in maintaining safe & sanitary dwellings, encourage preservation of existing housing stock, and to prevent neighborhood deterioration.

Gail moved and Rita seconded that we be notified when applications come in to participate in this program. We unanimously agreed that we would automatically approve when houses do not have historical significance.

II. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

III. The Treasurer's report remains the same as the previous report.

IV. Communications

- A. Old: emails sent to Will Blake indicate that he & family members will not be able to attend the ceremony to hang the Dewey portraits.
- B. New:
 - 1.
 - 2. Opening Ceremony for Dewey portraits and Ballou quilt
 - a. Charles Flint prepared the frames, gold on frame, replaced wires behind the frames, screwed the backs, discussed placement of the portraits with Dave.
 - b. CPC/donor signage have been printed, lighting, hooks (to be determined.) Invitations were sent to the Selectmen, Town Administrator-Ed, Bev, CPC, Charlie & Joy Flint, David Weissbrod, Sally Soluri, Susie Dworkin, BAC, Michelle & Sean Raymer, Will Blake & Gretchen Jaeger, Nina Weiler: posted on Town notifications.
 - c. Opening ceremony—Nov. 15 at 6 PM before the Selectmen's meeting.
 - 2. Ballou quilt—presentation with Dewey portraits, Alice Ballou Morse
 - a. Gail did research on the names on the quilt, took photos and made handouts for the Nov. 15th meeting.
 - b. Rita is inviting Ballou descendants.
 - 3. Apothecary Gail will write a proposal for what needs to be done to upgrade it, with hopes it could be made into a museum, given its rich past. The new owner is cooperative with this effort, but the contractors he has hired are not. They were hired to upgrade the Davis house which is next door to the Apothecary.
 - 4. Patrick Tobin query; Sandi is researching and exchanging information through email
 - 5. Ballou Basket Factory query; Rita responded

V. Old Business

(A-C previously covered)

D. Plan of Action

- 1. Gail has cleaned monuments in Ballou Park, much to neighbors' appreciation.
- 2. Gail has been developing an inventory of all Becket properties.

E. Organization of the HC office continues.

F. Maple Street demolition:

1. We have requested that stones from the foundation be set aside to be used for benches.

2. Books that were found upstairs in the former parsonage were found to be of value to both the church, Gail and to Dave, the custodian, who collects old Bibles. Gail has done important work in cleaning these books.

VI. New Business—Postcards

A. Rita donated a duplicate one with road scene

B. Gail donated one with collage of Becket buildings, including Seminary Hall

VII. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2017 at 6 PM.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Submitted by,
Katherine Hoak, secretary