



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

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, August 13, 2019

**Meeting Time:** 3:00 PM

**Meeting Place:** Historical Commission Office, Becket own Hall

### **Minutes**

**Attendees:** Sandi Jarvis, Rita Furlong, John Garvey, Katherine Hoak; Guest: Shane Bates  
**Absent:** Gail Kusek

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:06.
2. The minutes of the July 2019 meeting were motioned to be approved by Sandi, seconded by John, voted in favor of the motion unanimously.
3. Treasurer's Report: Rita reported that there is \$2017 in the FY2020 budget. It will be determined by the auditor if the \$2,425.69 in our budget for the past year will be carried over, thus giving us \$4,442.69 in total.
4. Communications
  - a. Old-
    - i. Information for Town Administrator regarding microfilm readers: we want to get rid of one of the two we have.
    - ii. AA Cemetery Services-Dropbox: the picture of the parsonage to be used on the plaque near where the parsonage had been on 21 Maple Street, is still being worked on by the plaque company, trying to get it as sharp as possible.
  - b. New-
    - i. Sandi wrote letter(s) of appreciation to Ann-Marie Harris, at the Berkshire Athenaeum who worked on digitalizing the microfilm (which contains all of Becket's history-at no cost to us!); and Kathleen Reilly, Local History head and Alex Reczkowski, Athenaeum Director.

- ii. We have been contacted by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. John will investigate their grants to provide historical markers.
  - iii. New--Community Calendar We voted to pay the \$12 required to have our meetings listed on the Community Calendar. Rita has a list of dates for 2020 and will submit them.
5. New Business Shane spoke with us about the long search both his mother and he have been undergoing to their family's earliest days in Becket and Middlefield, in the area known as Bancroft Village, a community that existed between them back in the 1800's. He wants to have a copy of the original divisions of Becket. He has also been going back to the original deeds. The Ellsworth family is descended from the Merryfields who were settled here in the 1760's, having come from England. Starting in the late 1800's into the mid-1900's there were two paper mills and an entire community that had existed in the area between Becket and Middlefield. Shane shared his family album with pictures of some of the people involved with the mill (which made a number of paper products.) When Ernie Barber first moved to his property on Bancroft Road in Becket, several small houses still existed near his property, that had housed mill workers.
6. Old Business We voted to bypass the remainder of our agenda because of the involvement we had had with Shane's family investigations. Rita so moved; Katherine seconded; all approved that we pursue the rest of the agenda at the next meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

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W. Katherine Hoak, Clerk

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Sandi Jarvis, Chair