

HISTORICAL COMMISSION Minutes

Town of Becket

557 Main Street, Becket, MA 01223

September 5, 2017

Historical Commission Room, Becket Town Hall

Attendance: Sandi Jarvis, Rita Furlong, Katherine Hoak

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:09 PM.
- II. The minutes from the August meeting were accepted as corrected.
- III. The Treasurer's report indicated there is \$1662 in our account.
- IV. Communications
 - A. Old-none
 - B. New- Jeanne Pryor donated a photo of Harry Roff -2012.
 - Art Center: we discussed the letter we received from Susan Dworkin in re their having a new door with windows for the necessary light for their office which is just inside that entranceway. Although that's different from what has been there historically, we understood the necessity of that for their functioning. We voted to approve a door with windows, one made of whatever materials they deem to be best.
 - We received information from the administrator, Town Administrator, in re the open meeting law which is to be presented in Huntington.
- V. Old Business
 - A. Dewey Portraits
 1. Charles Flint, antiques specialist from Lenox who was instrumental in our being able to acquire the portraits, informed us as to the best place to hang the portraits, how to care for them, their presentation. We decided the possibility of the weekend of September 23-24th or November 4-5th, depending upon when Will Blake (whose portraits they had been) might be able to attend.
 2. Additional steps to be taken: CPC/donor signage
 3. It was decided that Sandi and Rita will be members of the subcommittee to make necessary determinations in regard to the signage and the unveiling ceremony.

B. Ballou quilt donation by Alice Ballou Morse: Rita met with Alice. She and her sister and cousin had owned it. Their great-great-grandmother made it between 1883-1895. The names on the quilt were friends, neighbors, etc. Gail has made a list of the names and tried to identify them. The quilt will be put in the display case under the Dewey portraits. Rita will get the names of the other donors to thank them.

C. Apothecary: Gail wrote a letter to the new owner because of its location in the North Becket Historic District. She gave him much information about the property.

D. Office Organization: the drawers in the file cabinet are being gradually organized by Katherine.

E. Plan of Action: we did not discuss this because Gail was unable to be with us and this is essentially her domain.

F. Rita read a most informative article to us about Hannah Tracy Cutler who was born in Becket and lived in the 1800s. She was an influential force in the work advocating for women and their rights.

VI. New Business

Books were found in the attic of the old parsonage on Maple Street in four boxes. Rita will contact members of the Federated Church to see if they have interest in any of them. There are many old hymnals, etc. in the boxes.

VII. We were not certain when the next meeting will be held because three of us will be out of town the early part of October.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Katherine Hoak, Secretary