

Becket Historical Commission - April Minutes

April 5th 2016

Present: Jenn, Rita, Sandi, Gail and Katherine

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm.

Minutes from last meeting: The minutes were read from March. One minor edit: Rte. 20 sign should read: Jacob's Ladder Trail instead. Rita moved we approve and Gail seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report: The cost of the archival boxes was \$548.78 plus \$177.90 shipping for a grand total of \$726.65. This leaves us a balance of \$284.29 plus our "gift" account balance is \$656.40. Sandi suggested we take a new vote to approve the expenditure. Sandi moved we approve \$726.65 for archival boxes with shipping and Jenn seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Communication:

Old – Sandi sent us by email a letter from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission regarding an online Survey of Needs for Mass. State Historic Preservation Plan closing March 31.

New

Jacob's Pillow submitted a ZBA request for a new building to be erected near George Carter Rd. No concerns voiced by the commission; however, another Jacob Pillow project raised some concerns. They contacted the building inspector regarding replacement of windows in the Hunter Building. He approved the request and we were not consulted. Rita has asked the building inspector to notify us in advance before approving such projects. The commission hopes that improved communication between us and the building inspector will lead to improving our relationship.

The Berkshire Eagle covered the exhibit on Baseball currently on display at Herman Melville's Arrowhead. Our two Becket uniforms are on loan to the exhibit. We have added this article to the historic archives.

Jim Schulman's 12/24/15 Berkshire Eagle article on Happyland was also added to our historic archives.

Sandi has agreed to update the Town Report file with any missing reports.

Old Business:

The commission wishes to thank Jenn for the donation of a new printer for the Historic Commission. The printer is hooked up and working, but requires new ink cartridges. Rita moved we spend up to \$100 for the purchase of new cartridges at the best price possible and Sandi seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The commission also wishes to thank Rita for her donation of a new scanner for the Historic Commission.

After looking at the existing sign frame in West Becket, the commission will put the 1 remaining directional sign we have in and order two more signs for the Becket Center and West Becket to be installed in the future. Sandi suggested Instaprint may be a great local source to have these printed.

The group discussed how to categorize the Ballou family artifacts donated by the Smith family. Sandi suggested we have a paper file that cross references the digital location of the pictures. Gail has some pictures that may still require identification. She is tagging pictures so that they can be searched by name. Izzy Hubert Salvani may need to come to look at photos with Rita and Gail.

Rita was able to obtain permission from Ken Smith at the Quarry to remove a piece of gray and a piece of pink granite to display at town hall. Thank you Rita for carrying these pieces out!

Katherine continues her excellent work filing and organizing our room. She organized materials and labeled all the archival boxes. Thank you Katherine!

New Business:

Harry Roff, a former Historical Commission member and longtime resident is in the rehabilitation unit in Mt. Greylock in Pittsfield. He is one person in consideration for the post cane, but Rita believes there are others ahead of him. The commission decided to send Rita with a picture in a frame of him at a past event with a heartfelt thank you for all of his years of dedication. She will visit him in the next week or so.

Gail contacted the Becket Police after noticing property damage at the Higley Apothecary. The back door was kicked in and she noticed footprints going in and out of the building.

Jenn moved to close the meeting at 7:55 and Sandi seconded. The next meeting will be on May 3rd at 6 pm.