

Town of Becket Historical Commission Meeting (approved)

Tuesday, September 6, 2016 6:00p.m.

Historical Commission Office, Becket Town Hall

Present: Sandi Jarvis, Gail Kusek, Rita Furlong Guest: Susan Dworkin Becket Arts Center President to-be

Reorganization of committee: Sandi Jarvis- Chairman, Rita Furlong-Treasurer, Katherine Hoak-Clerk were elected as officers. We had Katherine's prior approval for her to be elected to this office.

Minutes of June 7, and August 2 meetings were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Same as last month

Our guest, Susan Dworkin, shared with us the good news that the Arts Center has procured enough funding to have an internal chair lift installed in the Center. This will allow full access to the second floor. Funding has been received from the Leonhardt Foundation, the Town of Becket, and a Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Grant, as well as years of saving by the Arts Center Board. It will be bid this fall. We thanked Susan for attending and sharing this wonderful news with us.

Communications:

1. We received the Sherwood Forest Maps from Dave Devane. Rita will write a thank you to him.
2. We received a note from Jennifer Beatty asking us to accept her resignation from this board due to her extremely busy schedule. We regretfully accepted and will let her know that her nine years as a board member serving this town were truly appreciated.
3. We received an email from town administrator Ed Gibson regarding the installation of a chairlift in the Arts Center.
4. A man named Will Blake called and Sandi returned the call. He has the original paintings of Abel and Lydia Dewey, early Becket residents. We have photo copies of them. He offered to sell them to us for \$3,500.00. We of

course are interested, but Sandi explained that we are a small town and our yearly budget is \$700.00. He said we could pay him over an extended length of time. The painter is Williams Jennys, a famous early American portrait painter. The commission discussed this offer and decided we would meet with the select board to see what they think. Years ago we were able to obtain the Dewey Tavern Sign that Mr. Dewey owned. It would be great to own the paintings, but HOW. We will ask to be on the select board agenda on September 21.

5. Sandi also responded to a phone call to Ellen Crane asking for information on her ancestor John Crane (1709-?). Sandi then did hours of research and responded to Ellen. He evidently married Sarah and then her sister Rebecca. A son named Elijah was born in Lebanon, CT.
6. We received an email copy of demolition ideas from Alan Hope. It will be filed in the Demolition By-Law file.

Old Business:

1. We received an invoice from Gaylord Archival for \$156.50 for the polyester sleeves for newspaper preservation. We approved this (Sandi 1, Gail 2, approved) and Rita will submit it for payment.
2. Rita will deliver two of the 4 x 6 maps to Dave Drugmand for him to build the outdoor signs.

New Business:

1. Sandi created an Index Inventory spreadsheet form for us to look at and discuss at the next meeting. She also found a Deeds of Donation to be used when we are given items/artifacts. This would legalize future gifts to the commission.
2. We discussed giving one of the large maps to the school if they are interested. Rita made the motion, Gail 2, passed. Rita will speak with the school principal.
3. Plan of action items yet to be worked on: publicizing Historical Commission, links on town web site and athenaeum's, historical

property survey of town, Inventory work including CPA funding and comparing Becket's Inventory forms with the MA Historical

4. Commission's. We also should update photos included with the inventory forms now that better quality photographs are possible.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 4, 2016 6:00

Meeting adjourned: 8:05p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Furlong, Clerk pro-tem