

## Town of Becket Historical Commission Meeting

Tuesday, November 1, 2016 6:00p.m.

Historical Commission Room at Town Hall

Present: Sandi Jarvis, Gail Kusek, Rita Furlong

Absent: Katherine Hoak

Minutes of October 4,2016 meeting approved.

Treasurer's Report: No change from previous meeting.

### Communications:

1. Received invoice for community calendar for \$12.00. voted to pay. Rita will do.
2. Harris family research was done by Sandi and it is filed under HARRIS.
3. Sandi received a phone call from John Testa who wondered if we would like a Ballou basket. Sandi knew we would and drove to Peekskill, N.Y. to get it. Gail motioned that we accept the gift. Sandi -2. Unanimous approval. Sandi filled out a Deed of Donation (Gift) form. The town administrator will send a thank you to Mr. Testa and also a tax donation form.
4. Sandi received a phone call from Charles Francis of Becket who read the minutes of a recent meeting and claimed to have more information on the pool halls of Becket. Sandi will ask the original person who inquired about this as to whether he would like to hear from Mr. Francis. If so he would be given Mr. Francis' name and number.
5. Sally Soluri of the Becket Arts Center, questioned us as to whether the center is part of the Historic District as she was filling out forms for the addition of an inside elevator in the Arts Center. Sandi informed her that indeed it is.

### Old Business:

1. CPC needs a member of this commission to be an active member of the CPC. Gail Kusek agreed she would be willing to do that. Katherine Hoak agreed to be the alternative.
2. After discussing the demolition of two very old homes in Becket without us being notified so that we could document their existence, we decided to write a letter to town administrator, Ed Gibson and the Board of Selectmen asking them if it would be possible to have the building inspector notify us so that we could take pictures of such buildings before being demolished. We suggested anything older than fifty years be considered. We reviewed the original request for such a law years ago. It had been voted down. Sandi wrote an example of this letter. We approved it and she will communicate with the administrator and the board.
3. We planned to meet informally on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> to decide on a place for the YMCA Road sign position. We hope they will be in place before snow flies.
4. Katherine has continued to do an excellent job of filing and protecting old news items and pictures.
5. We reviewed forms for donations and indexing artifacts. We approved an index spreadsheet form. They will be stored on the top of our desk.
6. We also approved a Deed to Donation form. We will place all forms in a folder on our desk top. Each year we'll start a new folder.
7. Rita wrote to the CPA coalition and found out that CPA funding can be used to acquire the Dewey portraits. Sandi will follow through on this and fill out the CPC application. Mr. Blake, owner of the portraits, will bring the portraits in the spring to be evaluated.
8. Other Plan of Action items will be addressed at future meetings.  
They include:  
Acquire/update all historic buildings in Becket, plus other worthy pictures.  
Publicizing the commission.  
Links on town website as well as the Athenaeum's.  
Historical Property Survey of town.

Inventory-CPA funding?; compare Becket's Inventory forms with MA Historical Commission Inventory forms; update photos included with our Inventory forms;  
Display plaques for baskets

New Business:

1. We discussed how to display the new basket (see communications #3) and where. A plaque might be appropriate. "Gift of John and Nancy Testa in memory of Joseph L. Testa, Peekskill, N.Y. October, 2016". Sandi invited them to come and view it. We then discussed putting plaques on the other donated baskets being displayed in the Becket Room at town hall and at the Mullen House Education Center at 12 Brooker Hill Road. We thought we might display this basket and perhaps some of the others at the annual town meeting to raise awareness of the commission's work. "Becket is proud of its basket making history" could be included on the plaque(s).
2. The town of Becket administrator has procured a new color printer for our office. We are truly grateful.
3. Rita donated another postcard of Route 20.
4. Bill Cavanaugh, former selectman and present cemetery commissioner, has donated an old ruler found in the deep dark recesses of the record's room here in the town hall. Rita will write a thank you note to him.

Next meeting will be Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00

Meeting adjourned at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Furlong, Sec. Pro-tem