

Becket 250th Anniversary Committee Minutes

April 1, 2013

I. Call to order

Becket 250th Anniversary Committee (Committee) began the meeting at 4:00 P.M. on April 1, 2013 in Becket Town Hall.

II. Roll call

The following Committee members were present: Linda Bacon, Rita Furlong, Bruce Garlow, Sandi Jarvis, Michel Richard, Barbara Roberts, George Roberts, and Ann Spadafora

Also present at the meeting was: Dan Berg

III. Open issues

A. Minutes

1. Discussed corrections
2. Motion to approve minutes of 4 Mar 2013, seconded, approved unanimously

B. Book-Memoir of a Revolutionary Soldier shared by Barbara;

1. Sandi, George and Ann have copies
2. Rita returned her copy

C. 250th book update-should be ready early 2015 for printing, have requested town funds; in addition could release as PDF file on website

1. High Hopes 4th grade student interviewer has completed 3 interviews; could use additional questions/stories; will have disk loop available for private viewing on request
2. Norton Owen will write summary for Jacob's Pillow; Ann
3. Bill Hoch will write summary for Camp Watitoh, Bruce
4. St. Mathew's Church, Barbara
5. Kushi Institute Barbara in contact with Alex Jack
 - a. When did the Kushis buy Boulder Grange from the Franciscan Fathers? What was/is the goal of Kushi Institute? Brief history, other
 - b. Why did they locate in Becket, other locations, business-number of employees, residents/patrons, connections?
6. Need list of fire chiefs, road superintendents, ministers, etc.
7. Other camps: Tomoka, Tamarack; no longer in existence but were after 1965
8. Summer cottages-Ballyhooly on Carter Rd.
9. Athenaeum is covered
10. Military history, Skip Saville and Bill Mulholland; looking for names of all veterans and enlisted military from Becket; Sandi found information

on Civil War soldiers from Becket on Ancestry.com; check with neighboring Town Clerk's for enlistment names; publicize "Journal", "Eagle", WAMC; contact Veteran's Affairs Office, VFW, American Legion

11. Cemetery changes, fire houses, dates for town acquisitions; George will check Town Meeting minutes
 12. Y Camps-verified dates with Dan Berg for 6-7 June, 2015; Bill Connor gave us nice history on Camp Becket's first 100 years
 13. Fire-Maddie Elovirta, Police-Bill Elovirta, Ambulance-need contact
 14. Schools
 15. Government
 16. Land Trust
 17. Art Center
 18. House tours-Brewster House
 19. Building booms
 20. Dream Away-gardens, history
 21. Shaw Pond-Karen
 22. Government
- D. Becket Neighbor letter **Motion:** To move on the letter and send it out.
Seconded, approval by unanimous vote:

Dear Neighbors:

Becket will celebrate its 250th Anniversary in 2015. At this time we are in the early planning stages of preparing to commemorate this momentous occasion.

Currently, we are conducting research to supplement the Becket history published in 1965 (A Bicentennial History of Becket). We plan to bring our history up to date on developments in Becket over the last 50 years.

We are encouraging all Becket residents, businesses and organizations, past and present, to let the Committee know of anything you believe should be included in this history. Please contact us with your suggestions and memories. It has been a busy 50 years for the Town and we need your help!

We are considering a variety of events to celebrate this milestone anniversary. Suggestions include parades, a town picnic and theatrical events. We would like to hear from individuals, businesses and organizations who might be interested in hosting or participating in events.

Donations of historic photographs, artifacts, history, ideas, time, and financial assistance would be greatly appreciated.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Becket 250th Anniversary Committee

Please contact:

Becket 250th Anniversary Committee members (listed below)

OR

Email to: becket250@townofbecket.org

Website coming soon at: becket250.org

Please forward this letter to anyone you know who cares about Becket-its history and its future!

Becket 250th Anniversary Committee members

Linda Bacon lindaleebacon@verizon.net

Barbara Roberts barb36@verizon.net

Rita Furlong blueberryledge@gmail.com

George Roberts

Bruce Garlow brucegarlow@yahoo.com

townclerk@townofbecket.org

Sandi Jarvis Sjarvis26@gmail.com

Ann Spadafora england@bcn.net

Karen Karlberg karenkarlberg@msn.com

Beth Van Ness beth@gilerealestate.com

Michel Paul Richard

michelpaulrichard@gmail.com

- E. Discussed, seconded and unanimously approved the following **Motion**: To authorize Linda to do www.Becket250 (if that is available as a domain name), BecketMA250 or BecketMass250, or some reasonable permutation of www.Becket250 which will just prevent her from having to come back to the committee if it is not available.
- F. Discussed dates for events to be held at YMCA camp
 - 1. Available dates 23-25 May 2015, 6-7 June 2015
 - 2. Pros and cons of each weekend
 - 3. **Motion**: To graciously accept the 6th and 7th of June 2015 that the camps have extended to us. Seconded, passed unanimously
- G. Suggested outdoor ecumenical service in camp chapel
- H. Discussed holding more solemn events during the Memorial Day Weekend; Celebration Proclamation
- I. Social media
 - 1. Facebook page for Becket 250th Anniversary-Karen
 - 2. Town e-mail account, is becket250@townofbecket
 - 3. Becket 250th Anniversary website domain name is becket250.org

4. Camp attendees, can we link from camps, Becket businesses sites?
5. "Remembering the Berkshires"; Becket Washington School already exist

IV. New business

- A. Discussed Woodstock NH 250th website
- B. Williamstown has already celebrated their 250th according to their town clerk but need to double check; town website lists 1765 as their incorporation year

List of ideas to celebrate Becket's 250th

As of April 1, 2013

1. Camps-YMCA have offered their facilities, parking, fireworks, picnic-offered hot dogs in kind; staff assistance with parking, cooking; Sandi will write a thank you/confirmation note; outdoor service in chapel
2. Fireworks/Bonfire/Luminaries at YMCA camp, weekend of 6-7 June 2015; Dan and George will research firework arrangements
3. Historical-Maps; Town History-Update, businesses, schools, farms, people, period costumes, buildings, tours; Photos; Written histories-published; Oral/video histories-in progress with High Hopes student
4. Historic Commission/Becket Athenaeum treasures exhibits
5. Previous town anniversary celebrations-successes; presentation on Parade Grounds for 200th Celebration, Berkshire Art Center commissioned play in 1980s-can these be reenacted for the 250th?
6. Art Show-Becket Art Center, photo gallery
7. Car Show-old cars (Memorial Day), new cars, farm machinery, ATVs
8. Concert-local talent: Praise Team, Bobby Sweet, Guthries; Karaoke, Music through the years; Town Pavilion
9. Play/theater - Berkshire Playwright, production by school children/town residents; resource Paul Campbell
10. Dance-Square (YMCA callers or school kids), line, Gala Ball, Jacob's Pillow-dance piece, June community day "Becket Go Free", Linda will explore
11. Parade-combine with present Memorial Day parade; Drum corp. floats, bands, State/County/Local officials; neighboring towns, fellow 1765 incorporated towns; Celebration Proclamation
12. Honorees-Veterans, town employees, volunteers, oldest citizen; Revolutionary War and Civil War monuments
13. Children activities-decorated bikes, baby strollers, field day-check with BWS for equipment, face painting, homemade instruments
14. Picnic/BBQ/Pancake Breakfast/Spaghetti Supper, clambake/lobster; birthday cake
15. School connections-ALL grade levels, student projects: writing, stories, art, music; presently Grades 3-5 at BWS study Becket Quarry/tour; field day

16. Souvenirs-tee shirts, sweatshirts, town flags, post cards, bumper stickers, mugs, water bottles, Frisbee, stationary ,commemorative plates, wooden nickel
17. Cookbook-bake off; Farmer's Market
18. Churches, special services, social societies; ecumenical program at camp chapel
19. Becket Quarry, parks, cemeteries, summer camps, Dream Away, Jacob's Pillow, town businesses; tours
20. Home/Farm/Garden tour
21. Hikes/bike race/road race-Appalachian Trail
22. Exhibits-chainsaw, wood/log cutting safety, wood carving, home building; Colonial/Civil War Encampments
23. Contests-photo, beard growing, Town song/Rap, pie eating contest
24. Tree planting(s) on Parade Grounds-American Elm; which trees were native to Becket that may have been lost presently? Chestnut?
25. Facebook – social media

J. Next Meeting

Monday May 6, 2013

Becket Room, Town Hall 4 P.M.

There must be a quorum of committee members for official business to be conducted, please make every attempt to attend the monthly meetings.

Thank you for your continued attendance and support of this Committee!

K. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at **5:08 P.M.**

Submitted by: Sandi Jarvis

Special Request:

We are looking for copies of old Becket Town Reports for the years: 1866, 1871, and 1973 (there are no archival copies available that we have found for these years). We also need additional copies of 1970, 1978, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993 thru 1995, 1990, 1999, 2002, and 2004 thru 2010 to complete our collection.

Thank you