

Becket 250th Anniversary Committee Minutes

October 7, 2013

I. Call to order

Becket 250th Anniversary Committee (Committee) began the meeting at 4:08 P.M. on October 7, 2013 in the Becket Town Hall.

II. Roll call

The following Committee members were present: Linda Bacon, George Roberts, Ann Spadafora, Bruce Garlow, Michel Richard, Barbara Roberts, and Karen Karlberg.

III. Open issues

- A. Minutes-September September 9, 2013 minutes: A motion was made and seconded to wait until Sandy comes back to approve the Draft Minutes for September 9, 2013. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
- B. Mr. Garlow informed the Committee that Dr. Dana Welts resigned from the committee. Karen Karlberg noted that she is taking a course for web design. Linda Bacon suggested that Karen might be able to do the web page design with Joomla. Karen Karlberg agreed to attempt to get the web page designed by the first of the New Year.
- C. Ecumenical Church Service.
 1. No one present had new information. It was moved to put this issue on hold until the next meeting.
- D. May 25th Memorial Day Update:
 1. No one present had new information. It was moved to put this issue on hold for next meeting.
- E. Jacobs Pillow Update:
 1. Ann Spadafora indicated that she had been in contact with Jacobs Pillow, (Norton Owen and Connie Chin) and sent a little package with cover letter and list of ideas, and suggested dates: Saturday, May 30, Friday, June 5, and Saturday, June 13th. She noted that they are just winding down from this year's season, and that it is 2 years away and that it might be hard for them to commit this early.
 2. Ann also invited the folks at Jacobs Pillow to attend any meetings they might wish to.

3. Linda Bacon noted that she was not doing the Jacobs Pillow contact.

F. Fire Works Presentation:

1. The fireworks vendor was a no-show due to inclement weather.

G. June 5-6 CCC update:

1. Dan Berg was not present at this meeting.
2. Last meeting June 6th, fireworks. June 7th rain date.
3. Other staff support boating, swimming, etc.
4. No alcohol.
5. Move forward to next meeting.

H. History Book Update:

1. Skip over part one of synopsis
2. Part Two
 - a. Roads and Transportation could be lumped together. When the Railroad came through North Becket was made, and all the mills were located there to facilitate transportation. South Becket, more developed when people were travelling on Route 20. Mass Pike put in in 1957. This could be covered in a preface. Also other topics for preface to section: Route 20, Route 8, Proposed Turnpike interchange in Becket. Sturgis lobbied for Turnpike to go through Lee as opposed to Pittsfield.
 - b. Industries: Kushi, Jacobs Pillow, Pallet Shop, Camps (to be treated separately), Small Businesses, Builders, Contractors, Service Industries – to be covered generally. Factories yielded to service industries. Second Homes market driving changes. Sherwood Forest, Becket Woods, Indian Lakes, etc. Pink Quarry?
 - c. Churches: St. Mathews, Barbara Robert; Other churches: Rita Furlong.
 - d. Becket Flood of 1927 – Ice storm of 2008: Destruction of roads in Hurricane Irene, Sherwood Forest Dams in danger. (Not mentioned: Dam break in Beaver Brook Road flooding factory in Lee?) 1970's evacuation plan – Town of Connecticut should move to Becket in case of nuclear disaster.
 - e. School: Karen Karlberg
 - f. Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival: Michel and Ann. Need Norton Owen's email address.
 - g. A few remarkable citizens: Ethel Mecum. Head Mistress of Longwane School for Wayward Girls in Middletown CT. Covered in Library. Artists-Tully Filmus. Town Fathers: Leonard Spencer; Wendell Mouthrop, Paul Pharmed. Integrate people into the sections wherein they contributed, School, Athenaeum, Becket Arts Center, etc. Do away with this section.

Difficult to make choices. George to give Becket Arts Center a heads up that Bruce will be contacting them for information.

h. Mother and Daughter Towns: Do away with this section.

3. Part 3.

- a. 250 Anniversary Schedule of Events to be placed in book.
- b. American Legion: Not active now. It was active post WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Firing range in basement. Was used as a youth center. Now Becket Arts Center.
- c. American Legion Auxiliary. (Seminary Hall? Photo).
- d. Becket Athenaeum. Originally a church, then a Grange Hall. Linda Bacon.
- e. Baskets in Becket. Do away with this section.
- f. Becket Building: Ann – development 1950's on: Sherwood Forest, Becket Woods, etc. Sherwood Forest impetus for Zoning By-Laws 1967 approximately. Ann worked for the developer of Sherwood Forest.
- g. Becket and Boston Albany RR – mention in transportation. Passenger rail stopped in 1940's. J.C. Ballou hit by train. Passenger Service. Bus Service Dalton Hinsdale 2 times a day in 1950's – people commuted to work in Pittsfield. Stopped before 1960.
- h. Memories of Becket Village: Mention of different sections of town? Adrian and Josh's Farm, Town Hall move. Karen West Becket, other people do East Becket, Becket Center, Becket Village, Bancroft. Golden Fleece paper mill.
- i. Cemeteries: George to handle this. Information, history, any cemeteries closed. General synopsis, where are they, superintendents, how long have they been there.
- j. Charcoal in Becket: Do away with this section.
- k. The Becket Charity Fund: Becket Charities: Scholarship Foundation – added to taxes. Food pantry.
- l. The Chester Becket Railroad: Not relevant any longer, do away with this section.
- m. The churches in later years – covered by Barbara and Rita.
- n. East Becket: Some locations to talk about. Christmas tree farm on Mitchell Road. Metcalf Farm.
- o. History of Becket Grange. Did it continue after 1965?
- p. Becket Historical Society. (4 Nov 2013 Rita added: disbanded in 1970, state mandate created Becket Historical Commission)
- q. Indians in Becket.
- r. Jacobs Ladder – covered by Rt. 20 people.
- s. Becket Physicians: Dr. Hirschman, Dr. Bright. Change to a general Discussion of type of careers – professional people.

- t. Post Office and Post Offices and Postmasters: Postmasters: as significant as it once was. Zip Code changes.
 - u. PTO: Not significant. Karen to incorporate into Schools section.
 - v. Early School Districts. All consolidated by 1965.
 - w. The Shakers in Becket. None.
 - x. The Becket Sportsmen's Club. Not in existence yet.
 - y. Veterans of the Wars. Skip Saville and Bill Mulholland.
 - z. Becket Volunteer Fire Dept. Maddie Elovirta.
 - aa. Ambulance Company. Call Jim Kupernic. Volunteer drama. David Furlong contact?
 - bb. Memories of Legends of West Becket – to be covered under the villages.
 - cc. Poem Becket Valley. Young Leonard Spencer wrote a book of poetry. Check to see if any are applicable to Becket.
 - dd. Acknowledgements and index to be present.
4. Other issues: Camp Tomoka, other camps defunct?
- a. Summer Cottages and Seasonal Residents: Ann in developments
5. Master List of Contributors.
- a. Ambulance: Bruce needs to talk to Jim Kupernic, Donna Carnevale, and David Furlong.
 - b. Land Trust: Bruce to contact Ken Smith.
 - c. Arts Center: George to contact Sally Soluri, and Susan.
 - d. Other cultural attraction: Canterbury Farm since 1985. Dream Away Lodge. Potter Studio? Not in Becket anymore?
 - e. General Stores and other businesses. George to interview the owners of the 3 stores: Current owners, who they bought them from, etc.
 - f. Shaw Pond and others: Bulkley Dunton: Mr. Black put up coffer dam. Now considered pristine forest. Carl ? Organized land owner on BD, upset at tree removal. Dennis Guyer came to Canterbury – how to get pristine. Carl ? went around the State Rep. Ann: Ponds and Parks and Recreation section. Could include Appalachian Trail.
 - g. Private Communities: Ann.
 - h. Federal Parks: Just sold some land to Fish and Wildlife.
 - i. Private Charities: ?
 - j. Farms: Sunny Banks, Adrian and Josh: Name of Farm? Assessor: true agriculture designation. Organic farming next to Town Hall.
 - k. Maps: Sandi Jarvis.
 - l. Photos: George, Linda: To take photos.
 - m. Graphics
 - n. Web Master.
 - o. Next Meeting: Think about Format, size of book, method of printing, number of pages, budget, roles of writers and editors.

6. Geo Cache: Barbara to send email summarizing what her friend says.
7. Maps: Reproduction on inside cover of book?

I. **New Business**

J. **Next Meeting**

Monday November 4, 2013

Becket Room, Town Hall 4 P.M.

**Thank you for your continued attendance and support of this Committee!
If you are no longer a member of this Committee please officially notify us
so we can adjust our quorum requirement.**

K. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:36 P.M.

Submitted by: George Roberts

Thank you