

Becket Historical Commission

October 7, 2009

Present: Rob Gorden, Chairman; Barbara Stuhlmann, Secretary; Rita Furlong, Treasurer; Aaron Beatty, Harry Roff.

Minutes of September 2 meeting were reviewed and approved by unanimous vote.

Rob reported that our application to the CPC for funds for the Maps has been completed and forwarded to Boston.

Correspondance.

Rob was contacted by John McDonald on behalf of the Morey family who have descendants buried in North Becket Cemetery. Rob was able to find the family plot numbers and send a map of the cemetery to Mr. McDonald.

Town accountant will transfer our Historical Commission funds back to us.

MHC has responded to our request regarding name change for the Meier house on County Road. Name henceforth will be the Messenger House. The family living there (Hersch) requested it in anticipation of someday getting a plaque.

We received notification from the ZBA regarding house on Jacob's Ladder Road. Some construction pending. No historic concerns.

Ballou Park. Rob reported that the railroad ties erected for the Becket sign are leaning toward the back due to the ties not being perfectly square; in spite of the rebar the structure is unstable. He will try to buttress the structure with two-by-fours (two in front and two in back). If it works he'll clear it with the building inspector. If not, we'll have to rethink our plans.

Plaques. All those contacted, including some who responded favorably, have not followed through. Decided to let the matter rest for a year or two until economy improves.

Rita reported that the Map in West Becket is mostly obscured by trees. She suggests pruning the obstructing branches.

Aaron laid out the sample Map for our perusal; beside the Map are listed all town points of interest. We discussed grouping some of the places by category rather than geographical, i.e. the Camps, the parks. Also discussed adding some historical information for buildings in Historic Districts, i.e. Becket Athenaeum previously First Congregational Church; Federated Church previously Baptist Church. Have added Becket Center Circle to the four original directional circles.

Walking Tour Book. Barbara Moved, Aaron seconded that we sell about 20 book to the Athenaeum for \$1.50 for them to sell for \$3.00, so we all raise a few funds.

Conflict of Interest Law for Municipal Employees. New legislation for the Commonwealth. Rob distributed forms for our signatures that we received the material. Training programs to be offered so that everyone working in Town Hall can be certified.

Adjourned 7:45

Respectfully submitted Barbara Stuhlmann