

Becket Historical Commission

December 2, 2009 7 PM

Present: Rob Gorden, Chairman; Barbara Stuhlmann, Secretary; Aaron Beatty, Rita Furlong, Harry Roff; special guest Patricia Mullins, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

Community Development Block Grant: Ms Mullins updated us on work-in-progress on this grant application which BRPC and a task force of Becket citizens have been working on since summer. (It is a competitive grant with funds coming from the Federal government, channeled through the State.) The focus of their work originally dealt with North Becket Village's infrastructure but based on input at the Public Hearing, gradually expanded to include affordable housing for the general population, senior housing in addition to upgrading and repairing crosswalks and sidewalks, within North Becket. Town Administrator Tony Blair has discussed with Elton Ogden of Berkshire Housing Development the feasibility of our working with them since Berkshire Housing does many of the same things we wish to do for less money.

At our meeting Ms Mullins displayed an overview map of North Becket, pinpointing where new crosswalks to and from the traffic island would be installed, a new sidewalk along the Mullen House side of Rt. 8 and repairs of existing sidewalks. A discussion ensued concerning materials to be used, perhaps referring to the town of Lee for ideas. Also discussed different types of lighting, if period lighting, which period? The application is due February 12. The project will be considered phase one of an eventual riverwalk.

Minutes of November 4 meeting were reviewed and approved as read.

Ballous Park: railroad ties. Rob met with the Building Inspector who recommended that we wait until spring before attempting anything. Rob spoke with Sean Mulholland, of L & B Corp. in Lee who had some thoughts, and David Willey, who agreed to think about the problem of instability. David Bacon has also agreed to consider possibilities.

Budget It looks like our funds will be withheld awhile longer while the accountant gets settled in.

Correspondance: Notification from Becket Planning Board concerning a new cell tower application to come before the P.B. on December 9. Rob responded with thanks and that Becket Historical Commission would be represented at the hearing. Also, from Mariner Tower 11 LLC came a truncated version of the cell tower application with a map and pages of technical specs. Rob wrote back with thanks and said that we "reserve comment until the Public Hearing."

A letter from a woman in Great Barrington who has put together a book "Summering in Becket as a Young Girl", asking if we are interested. Rob responded that we are happy to see whatever she has.

Keystone Arch Bridges - Bancroft, Middlefield. Mass. Dept of Transportation

through Purcell Engineering sent us a statement of intent to repair and/or reconstruct two historic Keystone Arch Bridges which are listed on "National Register of Historic Places". Included a map showing locations and general description of intended work. Rob will ~~seek their~~ reassurance that they use materials, stones, etc. in keeping with the original character of the Arches.

Jacob's Ladder Trail Scenic Byway Centennial Celebration in 2010.

Bill Robinson (on the JLT Board) dropped in to ask if we would be able to contribute some historic material on the Cairn and Byway to be part of an exhibit planned for the Centennial at the Summit next September. Rita told him we would put something together.

Rita reported that Chester has come out with a Chester history; the signing of the book will be held Sunday, December 6 - noon to two at Chester Town Hall.

Adjourned 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Barbara Stuhlmann