

Becket Historical Commission

April 7, 2010 7 P.M.

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

Old Business

Ballou Park/railroad sign-monument: Since Aaron had to leave by 7:30, Rob went immediately into the subject of our planned Becket railroad structure and the problems he and Aaron encountered with the railroad ties, which were donated by CSX. Because the ties were old, warped and lacking straight edges, they did not fit well together so the structure lacked stability, even with rebars as support. Rob was able to rectify that, but the structure leans forward and the danger remains that once the heavy cast-iron sign is affixed to it, the whole structure might topple.

What to do? Dismantle the whole thing and rethink our plan? The majority of the Commission did not wish to give up on it since a lot of labor had already been done. Various ideas were put forth, the most feasible one, which Rita and Aaron suggested, was the use of cross-tie bracing in the back. But that wouldn't necessarily solve the leaning problem.

Final decision was to consult with the building inspector (since our building permit is up for renewal at end of May) and see what he has to suggest. In the end we may have to disassemble the whole structure and try again.

Minutes of February 3 meeting were read and accepted.

Becket directional maps. Since Aaron was still present, we were able to go over the map he had left with us last time. A few corrections were made, omissions pointed out; Rita suggested re-arranging some of the listings and we pinpointed the locations of the Keystone Arch Bridges in Bancroft and edge of Middlefield. So Aaron was able to take the map home, armed with information we provided.

New Business

Correspondance.

- 1) Copy of a letter from Brona Simon, Mass. Historical Commission, to Amber Courelle, EBI Consulting) referring to Becket Historical Commission's assessment that the proposed cell tower on Wade Inn/Cross Roads will have "no adverse effect" on the Becket Centre Historical District, providing only intermittent views from that district.
- 2) Letters from WSP Sells/transportation and infrastructure, concerning proposed repairs and rehabilitation work on several bridges on Jacob's Ladder Trail (Rt 20);
 - a) three bridges over Walker Brook, built 1904, 1906, 1914.
 - b) one bridge over Cushman Brook, erected 1904, rehabilitated 1914.Rob will write them a note of thanks for keeping us informed and reminding them that guardrails and signage should be in keeping with the rural character of the road.

- 3) Notifications from Becket Planning Board for a Special Permit application for a common driveway off Tyringham Road; and from the Zoning Board of Appeals an application for a variance concerning the same driveway. Rob will write them that we have no interest from an historical point of view. A second variance from ZBA dealt with a proposed porch on a house in Sherwood Forest. No historic concerns there.

Adjourned 7:45

Respectfully Submitted
Barbara Hillmann