

Historical Commission Meeting : 5/22/13

Present: Harry, Gail, Rita, Rob & Aaron

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

Minutes from the 4/24/13 meeting were read and accepted as read.

TREASURER'S REPORT – we still have a balance of \$288.94

COMMUNICATIONS

- Received notice from MA State Historical Records Advisory Board about a forum on June 17 at Holyoke Community College on using technology for archives preservation
- Received more information on Becket (several news clippings) from the Palmer family (tied to oral history that is going on at library – Rita is a mentor) – there was a Pittsfield Sun paper from 1818 included.

OLD BUSINESS

- We received approval for CPA funding of a Civil War obelisk at the recent Town Meeting – we'd like to have Chester Quarry do the work – Rita will continue to pursue. We will need to build a foundation for the obelisk and may ask the town to help us with this task. The different military engagements (Civil War, etc.) will be etched into the obelisk, while the individual names of those who served will be put on a plaque of some sort to be featured near the obelisk.
- Rob located our records for private cemeteries that had been misplaced during our move. The records contain some names of those who served during the Civil or Revolutionary War. Rob contacted Mr. Mulholland, who will research if there are other names we need to include on the plaques.
- Rita will attempt to figure out the exact text of the etching on John Glede Jr.'s tombstone
- Jenn made a mock up the sign to use near the wagon accident obelisk
- Rita interviewed Leonard Spencer (Becket history buff), who wrote about the Railroads for the Becket Bicentennial History book (when he was 17 years old) – he has a more complete script now and is giving it to the Athenaeum, but letting us borrow it first to make a copy (Rob will copy).
- Jenn mocked up sign directing folks to N. Becket & Center Becket historic district to be placed on Washington Mountain Road.

NEW BUSINESS

- Rob had contact with Rob Kennedy, who grew up in Becket on Captain Whitney Road. He has a lot of information on Becket history and was interested in what information we had. Rob shared our resources and asked him to share any of his resources.
- Rob attended a conference on Historic Preservation hosted by Berkshire Regional Planning. It was kind of a follow up to a meeting they held 2 years prior where we had to provide information on Becket. Now we can approve the info we gave via Amy Kacala (Sr. Planner) – akacala@berkshireplanning.org or view it online at: berkshireplanning.org
- Rob also learned at the conference that Sanborne Fire Insurance Maps can be a good source of historic information.
- The Sheffield Land Trust is cataloging the barns in Sheffield (Kathy Orlando – sheffielddtimes@hotmail.com). It would be nice to do this for Becket – we will think about how to approach this project.
- Rob will give a list to Gail of all Becket houses 100 years old that we need information on and Gail will start to research deeds as she is able. Gail is a member of archive.com and can find information that way.
- Rita moved that we purchase up to 2 new file cabinets to help us organize our files. Aaron seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02