

Becket Historical Commission, August 5, 2014 **Present:** Aaron & Jenn Beatty, Rita Furlong, Sandi Jarvis

Meeting was called to order at 6:37pm

Minutes from July meeting were accepted as submitted - Rita moved to accept the minutes, Sandi seconded

Treasurer's Report – \$6 more in gift account – Rita will follow up with Ed regarding this account. Otherwise, no change

Communications

- Two notices from ZBA – no action taken
- Received letter from the Town Administrator about overages & encumbrances – Aaron emailed Ed and he indicated that would suffice regarding CPA funds for the Civil War obelisk carrying over to this fiscal year.
- Received in the mail an old picture of a Becket person – “W. Edgar Kenyon” written on back – sent from Weeks, 18 Fort Hill, NOHO MA 01060 – we will send a thank you and request more information
- Received a letter from the Federated Church about upcoming community calendar – Rita will take & act on. Aaron moved to spend \$12 for 2015 community calendar – Jenn seconded – the motion passed unanimously
- Received a packet of folders in mailbox from an unknown source – possibly from Rob? Aaron will follow up with him to check.
- Copy of Ellsworth family information on farming in Becket after 200 years – for 250th book – Rita will file under genealogical info here
- Newspaper article from County Journal – Rita will file

Old Business

- Ad hoc Athenaeum Committee – no info to report
- Obelisk – no info to report – need to get base of obelisk in before fall – Rita will follow up
- Directional signs – Aaron contacted Dave, who directed him to contact Ed – Aaron emailed Ed and is waiting to hear back
- Higley apothecary – Jenn reported on Select Board meeting – the Select Board does not have a real interest in the property – no real strong or negative feelings about it. Jenn did have the building inspector did look at property and he said it's not in real bad shape. If the bank were to offer the property to us, it would have to go to a town vote. Jenn is trying to keep in touch with the realtor. Select Board wanted ideas on what to do with building. Jenn will try to get the code on the lock from the realtor so we can go in and take a look around to see if there is anything of historical significance.
- Jenn had conversation with Ed about scanner – he suggested we use the town copier. We need to revisit. Sandi did ask at Berkshire Athenaeum what they use – Microtech is brand of scanner they would recommend, but others would work as well. Jenn will follow up with Ed.

New Business

- Rita brought in an article about Egremont historical commission who are using CPA money to protect and preserve local history by hiring a roving archivist to work in their archives – this project falls under historic preservation and is something that we should pursue – possibly as a collaboration with the Becket Athenaeum? We should contact Egremont historical commission and pick their brains.
- Western MA historical commission coalition – we should contact them to find out schedule (Lauren Gaherty, Senior Planner, BRPC – Lgaherty@berkshireplanning.org – Aaron will follow up and see if we can be notified ahead of time and join their email list.
- MA Historical communication about digital map of Commonwealth's historic resources. We went through a listing of properties in Becket that MA Historical had questions about and resolved most of the questions. There are a few regarding local cemeteries that Aaron will follow up with Rob on.

Aaron made a motion to adjourn – Rita seconded – the motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.