

Historical Commission Meeting 11/4/14

Present: Aaron Beatty, Jenn Beatty, Rita Furlong, Sandi Jarvis, Gail Kusek

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm. Rita moved to accept minutes from the Oct. meeting and the motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT – no expenditures since last meeting

COMMUNICATIONS

- We received two notices from the ZBA and one from the planning board; there were no historical concerns and so no action was taken.
- We received a cassette tape of what appears to be an interview with Francis Snow from Rob Gordon.
- We received a communication from MA Historical regarding the FY 2015 Survey and Planning Grant cycle
- We received an updated history book related to the Federated Church in Becket

OLD BUSINESS

- Athenaeum ad hoc committee – no new to report

Obelisk

- Rita has been coordinating this effort; she spoke with Chester Quarry about building a base for the 6-foot obelisk. The base will be 20" (l) x 20" (w) x 10" (h). Chester Quarry will also be doing the lettering on the stone.
- We need to determine exactly what the lettering on the stone will be. There was a discussion about including "American Revolutionary War 1775-1783" "Civil War 1861-1865" "War of 1812 1812-1815". Gail will research if there were any Becket residents who served in the War of 1812.
- Rita updated Ed Gibson about the need to remove a shrub near the proposed location of the obelisk. Ed is filing a notice of intent with the Conservation Commission and has stated that the foundation and base of the obelisk will have to wait until the spring.

Directional Signs

- Rita spoke with Dave Bacon about re-constructing the directional sign in Becket Center. He is proposing using 6x6 lumber with a plywood back and a small metal roof. Aaron moved to appropriate up to \$400 for the construction of the directional sign in Becket Center. Rita seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

MA Historical – digital map of Commonwealth's historic resources

- Aaron will contact Rob regarding the few outstanding items on this request from MA Historical

NEW BUSINESS

- Archive discussion – there was a discussion about the state of the material in the Historical Commission room along with the artifacts in the safe in the basement of Town Hall. We agreed to pursue options for archiving and digitizing materials later next year, once the 250th celebration is complete and the obelisk has been installed.
- There was a discussion about Becket's demolition by-law and what role the Commission can play in helping to save historic structures. Gail will review the existing by-law and investigate additional options available for the protection of historic structures.
- John Lowell, owner of East Dennis Oyster Farm contacted us regarding property he and his wife plan to purchase on Brooker Hill (former Dreamland property). He met with Rita at the property to discuss taking down one of the stone pillars in an effort to make the driveway entrance safer and accessible to emergency vehicles. We have not been asked to act on any issue regarding the pillar yet and no decision regarding removal was addressed. Mr. Lowell just wanted us to know what he anticipates doing. We will endeavor to take pictures of the stone pillar prior to its removal. This property is not located in an historic district.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.