

Becket Historical Commission Meeting Approved minutes

August 4, 2015 6:00 p.m. site visit and 6:45 regular meeting at town hall

Present: Jennifer Beatty, Rita Furlong, Gail Kusek, Sandi Jarvis

Site visit at 69 Brooker Hill Road to view and discuss potential ideas for the future of the two stone pillars there:

It would be great to save the pillars, however the property owners, John and Stephanie Lowell, feel the pillars present a danger for them in that they prohibit easy access to their home by an ambulance, fire trucks, and maintenance equipment. Our suggestions are: 1. Save pillars-perhaps relocate one or 2. Remove only the upper pillar (on right). 3. Rebuild retaining wall after widening entry way.

*Rita will send this information to the Lowells and thank them for asking us our opinion.

Regular meeting 6:45 Historical Commission room.

Present: see above

- I. Read and corrected previous meetings to read "spend up to \$100 for purchase of an external hard drive" . Town Administrator Ed Gibson has purchased said material for \$94.99 (2 tera bytes).
- II. Treasurer's Report: New amount for 2015-16 is \$700.00 minus \$94.99.
- III. Communications: Barbara Crochiere Roberts has donated a Ballou basket to the commission. It will be housed at the Mullen House Education Center with our other baskets.
*Rita will write a thank you to the Crochiere-Roberts family to thank them for their donation.
- IV. Old Business:
 - A. 69 Brooker Hill Site visit- see above
 - B. Athenaeum ad hoc committee: Mr. Gibson contacted the athenaeum and they are happy with the status quo regarding whether or not the town should take over the administration of the library. There may

not be a further need for the Athenaeum Ad Hoc committee depending on the Board of Selectmen decision.

C. Directional signs: *Dave Bacon will construct sign(s) in September.

UPDATE: (Because our last fiscal year balance was carried over, we have over \$1,000.00 and so will have Dave build two signs.)

*Rita will ask Mr. Gibson to carry over our balance to the 2015-16 fiscal year so that we can have two signs built.

D. Computer: *Mr. Gibson said that the commission room will be wired for a computer by September. *We will then receive a computer.

E. External Hard Drive: done

V. New Business:

A. William Bourne status report by Sandi. To address the reason he was not listed on Becket's Civil War listing of names at Ballou Park, Sandi did some research. Becket Cemetery Commissioner Dean Williams had questioned as to why he was not listed on the Civil War list as his name is on a grave stone in Becket Center Cemetery as a Civil War casualty. He died at the Battle of the Wilderness and so is not likely actually buried here but at the site of his death instead. Perhaps his family just listed his death for posterity. He was born in VT but his family lived in Becket in 1860. So he may have lived in Becket but signed up for active duty in the Civil War in Pittsfield. Pittsfield had his name on their Civil War Monument in Park Square. According to two book sources, "The names on the monument are those of citizens of Pittsfield who died in the war, either from wounds, or, before their discharge, from disease contracted in the war; not including citizens of other places, who served on her quota."

*Sandi will include her findings with this report and in our Civil War information.

B. Voted to Spend \$12.00 for Community Calendar Listings.

C. *We decide to update the information cards in the showcases due to their fading.

D. * Jennifer will update the collections of meeting minutes for the September meeting.

E. *Sandi contacted Katherine Hoak to invite her to any meetings that she would like to attend. She will contact her again to give her Barbara Davis' daughter's contact information.

* Indicates action items.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57

Respectfully, Rita Furlong , Sec. Pro-tem