

TOWN OF BECKET
HISTORICAL COMMISSION Minutes

557 Main Street, Becket, MA 01223

TOWN HALL – (413) 623-8934

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Meeting Date: February 19, 2019

Meeting Time: 3:30 PM

Meeting Place: Historical Commission Office, Becket Town Hall

Attendance: Sandi Jarvis, Rita Furlong, Gail Kusek, Katherine Hoak, Maria Wallington (Guest,) John Garvey (Guest)

Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:40 PM.
2. The minutes of the December meeting as corrected were accepted unanimously.
3. The Treasurer's Report, including the invoice for the Community Calendar of \$12, indicated a balance of \$3,211.02.
4. Communications
 - a. Old—an inquiry was made about the Hayes Farm Slope on Benton Hill Road, but no relevant information was found.
 - b. New—
 - i. the Building Inspector, Bill Girard, has written to the owners of the Jennings-Tobin-Davis House and Higley Apothecary on Pleasant Street (historic properties) to find out what their present plans are for the property.
 - ii. William Sabanosh, who lives on County Road, owns two properties. He inquired about the cellar holes, foundations of former houses and a possible school which are there. We provided a map and information on the former Chaffee school closed in 1911 located on the south side of County Road near Stanley Road. Mr. Sabanosh was also provided with numerous newspaper clippings about the former Whitney Mansion near County Road in Washington.
 - iii. Evan Collins, a realtor with Stone House Properties, wanted to know if there are any restrictions on 160 Y.M.C.A. Road. Sandi confirmed it is an historic property in the Becket Center Historic District. She also told him about the state MACRIS site where he could get more information.
5. New Business

- a. We discussed restoration of the historic Town Pound. Many tall, old trees that had grown around it have been removed or trimmed. We decided it was not necessary to do anything in addition to it at this time.
- 6. Old Business
 - a. Display cases: we're in the process of deciding what artifacts we'll place in them.
 - b. "Visitor Center" property at RT20 & RT8 North: we have visited this site. Its owner, Ofer, is investigating its possibilities. He would like the town to be involved with it, but because it's private property, that's not a possibility. Bill Girard has examined its septic system, could tell Ofer what he would need to do, to provide to get the building up to code.
 - c. 21 Maple Street property research is ongoing. We want to have a bench and a sign there indicating the importance of the property to the town.
 - d. Office organization is ongoing.
 - e. New members: we anticipate their participation and input!
 - f. The plan of action is ongoing, to be continued.
 - g. Goals are also in the process of being developed.
 - h. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM.
- 7. The next meeting will be held on March 12th at 3:00 PM.

_____W.Katherine Hoak, Clerk

_____Sandi Jarvis, Chair