

# TOWN OF BECKET

## *Massachusetts*



2022 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT  
*of the Town Officials*

## About The Cover

**The Select Board thanks all who submitted entries to the Annual Town Report Photo Contest.**

*Front Cover Photographer and Caption*

**Robert Watroba:** Great Blue Heron in Flight. Buckley Dunton Lake

*Back Cover Photographers and Captions*

**Tony Wisniewski:** Winter scene. Becket Woods

**Robert Watroba:** Canoe with sunset. Buckley Dunton Lake

# ***IN MEMORIAM***

During the year, we were saddened by the passing of the listed individuals who enhanced the lives of those in our community. We dedicate this Annual Report to their memory:

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**GUY A. MCKAY**

Agricultural Commission

*September 1, 2022*



**ESTELLA M. CONNER**

Board of Assessors

*November 30, 2022*



**KAREN M. AVALLE**

Board of Assessors

Town Clerk

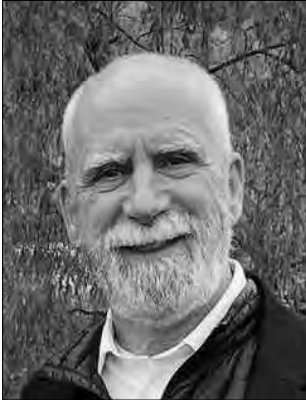
*December 8, 2022*



# ***WITH APPRECIATION AND BEST WISHES TO BILL, BERT AND DAVE WHO HAVE RETIRED***

## **William “Bill” E. Girard Building Inspector / Zoning Enforcement Officer**

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Bill Girard's career as Becket's Building Inspector / Zoning Enforcement spanned from July 1, 2005 through March 22, 2022. Bill became familiar with all of Becket. We are certain he can drive to any of the homes in his sleep. Although it can be challenging to manage various building related matters which involve forever changing regulations and bylaws, we admire Bill's relaxed, knowledgeable and practical approach to dealing with the Massachusetts Building Code. Bill was a wonderful resource to various town departments, the community, as well as town boards and committees. He was one to embrace celebrations. Bill originally planned to retire during 2020. In light of the additional burdens and complexities brought on by COVID-19, we are so very grateful he waited until the pandemic's scope subsided. We thank Bill for all of his hard work, expertise and dedication. We will miss him. He is always welcome to return for cake.

## **Albert “Bert” Goodermote Truck Driver – Highway Department**

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Bert Goodermote was hired on February 11, 1993 as a Custodian and a Transfer Station Attendant and then became a full-time Truck Driver in the Highway Department where worked his way up to becoming the Foreman. Bert took pride in performing all of his responsibilities while serving in the Highway Department. We will miss Bert's humor as it lightened the day. Bert delighted us with tidbits of his local area knowledge. He retired on July 8, 2022. During his twenty-nine year career, he had a propensity for referring to places, primarily those including buildings no longer in existence and roads since re-named, by their former labels. The Town would like to thank Bert for his many years of dedicated service.

## **David “Dave” O. Shorey Building & Grounds Technician, Highway Department Deputy Tax Collector**

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Dave Shorey commenced employment with the Becket Highway Department on July 6, 2004. He eventually became the full-time Equipment Operator. He was an excellent Grader Operator maintaining our thirty miles of gravel roads. After several years, Dave transitioned to the Building and the Grounds Maintenance Technician position. He also assisted the Highway Department with winter plowing and snow removal, and beginning May 2014, he served as the Deputy Tax Collector. Although Dave retired on October 21, 2022, for many years to come, we will enjoy the fruits of his talents, and creativity he devoted on a variety of renovations. Dave was a tremendous help to the town employees, boards and committees, and our community. We express our deep appreciation to Dave for all he accomplished while working for the town for eighteen years.

# ***Town of Becket, Massachusetts***

## ***ANNUAL REPORT***

*of the*

***Town Officials***

♦ **2022** ♦



**William H. Elovirta**

*Select Board Member*

**Christopher E. Swindlehurst**

*Select Board Member*

**Michael S. Lavery**

*Select Board Member*

**Katherine A. Warden**

*Town Administrator*

***For the year ending December 31, 2022***

## ◆ Town Officers ◆

### Elected Officials

Select Board	Term Expiring
William H. Elovirta, <i>Chair</i>	2024
Christopher Swindlehurst, <i>Vice Chair</i>	2025
Michael S. Lavery, <i>Clerk</i>	2023

Board of Health	
Gale LaBelle, <i>Chair</i>	2025
Robert Ronzio, <i>Vice Chair</i>	2023
Laurel Burgwardt, <i>Clerk</i>	2024

Cemetery Commissioners	
William Cavanaugh, <i>North Becket Cemetery</i>	2025
Michelle Smith, <i>West Becket Cemetery</i>	2024
Dean Williams, <i>Center Cemetery</i>	2023

Constables	
William H. Elovirta	2024
Robert Ronzio	2024

Finance Committee	
Dan Parnell, <i>Chair</i>	2025
Ann Spadafora, <i>Vice Chair &amp; Scheduler</i>	2024
Ronald DeFoe, <i>Clerk</i>	2025
Mark Karlberg	2023
Charles Garman	2024

Planning Board	
Robert Ronzio, <i>Chair</i>	2025
James Levy, <i>Vice Chair</i>	2026
Alvin Blake, <i>Clerk Pro Tem</i>	2027
Ann Krawet, <i>Clerk</i>	2023
Howard Lerner	2024
Gale LaBelle, <i>Associate Member -</i>	2023
<i>appointed by the Select Board</i>	

Moderator	
Ethan Klepetar	2023
Steve Rosenthal, <i>Deputy Moderator -</i>	2023
<i>appointed by the Moderator</i>	

School Committee (Becket Representatives)	
Barbara Craft-Reiss	2026
Art Alpert	2024

Town Clerk	
George Roberts <i>resigned March 13th</i>	2023

#### **Interim Town Clerks appointed by the Select Board**

Robin Mathiesen, 6/1/22 through 5/20/23  
Allison Mikaniewicz, 3/13/22 through 5/31/22

### Select Board Appointments

Agricultural Commission	Term Expiring
Neil Toomey, <i>Chair</i>	2023
Kristopher Massini	2023

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission	
<i>appointed by the Planning Board</i>	
Robert Ronzio, <i>Delegate</i>	2023
Ann Krawet, <i>Alternate Delegate</i>	2023
<i>appointed by the Select Board</i>	

Berkshire Public Health Alliance	
<i>appointed by the Board of Health</i>	
Gale Labelle, <i>Voting Member</i>	
Laurel Burgwardt, <i>Alternate Representative</i>	

Berkshire Transportation Advisory Committee	
William H. Elovirta, <i>Representative</i> (no expiration date)	

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board	
William H. Elovirta, <i>Designee</i>	2023

Board of Assessors	
Geraldine Walter, <i>Chair</i>	2024
Jessica Perotti, <i>Vice Chair</i>	2023
Beverly Gilbert, <i>Clerk</i>	2024

Board of Survey	
Paul Mikaniewicz, <i>Fire Chief</i>	
David O. Shorey, <i>Building &amp; Grounds Technician</i>	
<i>retired Oct. 21st</i>	

Bylaw Review Committee	
Madelaine Elovirta	2025
Maria Wallington	2023
Town Clerk, <i>ex officio, non-voting member</i>	
Moderator, <i>ex officio, non-voting member</i>	

Chief Procurement Officer	
William Caldwell <i>resigned April 15th</i>	2025
Katherine A. Warden	2025

Citizen's Advisory Committee	
Alvin Blake	2022
George Roberts	2022
Christopher Swindlehurst	2022



## ◆ Town Officers ◆

### Community Preservation Committee

Douglas Bessone, <i>Conservation Com. Designee</i>	2023
Rita Furlong, <i>Parks &amp; Recreation Designee</i>	2023
John Garvey, <i>Historical Com. Designee</i>	2024
James P. Levy, <i>Planning Board Designee</i>	2023
Cindy Delpapa, <i>at Large member</i>	2023
Larisa Shpitalnik, <i>at Large member</i>	2025
Vacancy: <i>at Large member</i>	

### Conservation Commission

David Johnson, <i>Chairperson</i>	2024
Douglas Bessone	2023
Christopher Clapper	2025
Henry Hagenah	2023
George Roberts <i>resigned March 13th</i>	2022
James Schaefer	2025
Henry Scarpo	2024
John Verity	2025
Andrew Jackson, <i>Associate Member</i>	2024

### Council on Aging

Paula Bergeron, <i>Co-Director / Treasurer</i>	2025
Lorraine Dean	2023
Celine Godbout	2025
Linda Shaw, <i>Co-Director</i>	2024
Flora Whiffen	2024

### Cultural Council

Cathy Terwedow, <i>Chair</i>	2023
Shelley Chanler, <i>Secretary</i>	2023
Andrea Pecor, <i>Treasurer</i>	2025
Linda Bacon	2022
Mary Manning Cohen	2022
Andrea Nix	2022
Jane Markham	2025
Sally Baumer	2022
Roberta Goldman	2023
Sarah Reedy	2025
Carole Rivel	2024
Lisa Rosier	2025
Tracy Wilson, <i>Publicity</i>	2023

### Election Workers

Alvin Blake (U)	2023
Tommie Hutto Blake (D)	2023
Victoria Bleier (U)	2023
Susan Crossley (D)	2023
Charles Garman (U)	2023
Julia Kay Grace (D)	2023

Lawrence Goetz (U)	2023
Gale LaBelle (R)	2023
Priscilla McEwen (U)	2023
Adrienne Metcalf (U)	2023
Dan Parnell (U)	2023
Susan Purser (D)	2023
Steven Reiss (D)	2023
Ruth Rosenthal (U)	2023
Jerome Schwartzbach (U)	2023
David Weiler	2023
Flora Whiffen (U)	2023

### Energy Committee

Garth Klimchuk, <i>Chair</i>	2024
Catherine DeFoe, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	2023
Susan Purser, <i>Secretary</i>	2024
Alvin Blake	2025
Robert Gross	2025
Katherine Hoak, <i>Alt. Member; (resigned Dec. 20th)</i>	2023
Ex-Officio Members: Edward Pickert, Katherine A. Warden, Paul Greene, Dan Parnell	

### Harbor Master

Steve Rosenthal	2022
Tim Fogarty	2023

### Historical Commission

Sandra Jarvis, <i>Chair</i>	2024
Rita Furlong	2025
John Garvey	2024
Gail Kusek	2024
James Sullivan	2024

### Jacobs Ladder Trail Advisory Committee

*Vacancy*

### Municipal Light Plant Manager

Robert Gross	2023
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### Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee

Meredyth Babcock, Al Blake, Cindy Delpapa,  
Michael Lavery (*resigned May 18th*),  
Karen Karlberg, Larisa Shpitalnik,  
Kenneth Smith (*Chairperson*), Jeff Wilkinson

*The Open Space and Recreation Plan  
Advisory Committee will be disbanded when  
the Plan has been completed and approved.*

## ◆ Town Officers ◆

### Parks & Recreation Committee

Rita Furlong, Chair	2023
Madeline Elovirta, Clerk	2023
Tina LeVasseur	2022
Eila May Bell	2023
Shirley Vachula	2025
David Weiler	2025

### Public Relations Liaison/Officer

William H. Elovirta

**Records Access Officers** (term effective 1/1/2017  
per Chapter 121 of the Acts of 2016)  
Town Clerk (for Town Clerk Records)  
Administrative Asst. (for other than Town Clerk Records)

### Registrar of Voters

Colleen Cox (D)	2024
Robin Greenspan (R)	2025
Michelle Smith (D)	2023
Town Clerk, George Roberts (U) <i>resigned March 13th</i>	
Interim Town Clerks:	
Robin Mathiesen, 6/1/22 through 5/20/23	
Allison Mikaniewicz, 3/13/22 through 5/31/22	

### Tax Collector

Kenneth Bilodeau	2023
Nina Weiler, <i>Assistant Collector</i>	2023
David Shorey, <i>Deputy Collector</i> Retired Oct. 21st	2023
Brian Bean, <i>Deputy Collector</i>	2023
<i>The Assistant and Deputy Collectors are appointed by the Tax Collector with the Select Board's approval.</i>	

### Town Administrator

William Caldwell <i>resigned April 15th</i>	2025
Katherine A. Warden began Aug. 8th	2025

### Interim Town Administrator

Mark Webber March 31st through Aug. 8, 2022

### Town Administrator Screening Committee

David Johnson, (*Chair*), Jeff Wilkinson (*Vice Chair*),  
Beverly Gilbert (*Clerk*), Robert Gross, Mark Karlberg,  
Ex officio: Mark Webber  
*The Select Board disbanded this Committee August 17th.*

### Treasurer

Christine Bleau	2025
Kenneth Bilodeau, <i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	2023

*The Assistant Treasurer is appointed by the  
Treasurer with Select Board's approval*

### Westfield River Wild & Scenic Advisory Committee

Cindy Delpapa, <i>Representative</i>	2025
Mary Latham, <i>Alternate Representative</i>	2024

### WiredWest

Jeffrey Piemont, <i>Delegate</i>	2024
Robert Gross, <i>Alternate Delegate</i>	2024

### Zoning Board of Appeals

Victoria Bleier, <i>Chair</i>	2024
Sarah Hoecker, <i>Vice Chair</i>	2023
Robin Mathiesen, <i>Clerk</i>	2024
Mary Canty	2023
Jeff Wilkinson	2025
Alvin Blake, <i>Assoc. Member</i>	2023
Christopher Milenkevich, <i>Assoc. Member</i>	2023

### Zoning Enforcement Officer

William Girard <i>retired March 31st</i>	2024
Paul Greene	2023

## Town Administrator's Appointments

Accountant	Term Expiring
Margaret McClellan	2023

### Ambulance Director

Raymond Ferrin	2023
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### Animal Control Officer

Nicole Miller	2023
Tania Jakubiec, <i>Assistant</i> – Agreement with The Town of Otis	

### Animal Inspector

Madeline Elovirta	2023
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### Inspector of Buildings/Trench Inspector

William Girard <i>retired March 31st</i>	2024
Paul Greene	2023
Gary Danko, <i>Asst. Building Inspector</i>	2023

### Emergency Management Director

Kristopher McDonough <i>resigned March 19th</i>	2023
Raymond Ferrin	2023



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## ◆ *Town Officers and Town Employees* ◆

### **Fire Chief/Fire Warden**

Paul Mikaniewicz 2023

### **Highway Superintendent/Pest Control/Tree Warden**

Edward Pickert 2023

### **Plumbing/Gas Inspector**

Mark Levernoch 2023

Brian Middleton, *Assistant Plumbing/Gas Inspector* 2023

### **Police Department Full-Time**

Kristopher McDonough, *Chief* 2023

Matthew Virginia, *Sergeant* 2023

Charlene Auger 2023

Kurtis Eckman *retired Jan. 26th* 2023

Michael Hunt 2023

Nicole Miller 2023

Daniel McClellan 2023

### **Police Department Part-Time**

Nicolas Beauchemin 2023

Frank Murphy *resigned Dec. 17th* 2023

Kenneth Pettibone *resigned May 31st* 2023

### **Veterans' Agent**

Doug Mann 2023

### **Veterans' Grave Officer**

William Mulholland 2023

### **Wiring Inspector**

Dana Spring 2023

Jim LaPier, *Assistant Wiring Inspector* 2023

Trevor Clement, *Assistant Wiring Inspector* 2023

## **Town Employees**

### **Administrative Assistant**

Beverly Gilbert

### **Ambulance Department**

Morgan McDonough *resigned July 2nd*

Lisa Michaud

Mark Brouillette

### **Assessors' Clerk/Planning Board's Admin. Asst.**

Jessica Perotti

### **Board of Health/ZBA Clerk**

Terese Lundberg

### **Building and Grounds Technician**

David Shorey *retired October 21st*

### **Custodian**

Albert Goodermote

### **Conservation Agent**

Nicolas Pietroniro

### **Highway Department**

Tyler Chrystal *resigned May 20th*

Tyler Cormier *resigned Oct. 6th*

Thomas Dean

Albert Goodermote *retired July 8th*

Christopher Isner

Matthew Larson

Nathan Morawiec *resigned April 6th*

Donald Murray

Troy Phelps

### **Transfer Station**

George Crochiere

Robert Will

Maurice Vandesteene

### **Volunteer Fire Department**

Paul Mikaniewicz, *Chief*

Kris Massini, *Deputy Chief*

Bob Healey Sr., *Captain*

Chris Isner, *Lieutenant*

David Furlong, *Lieutenant*

Craig Calantoni, *Firefighter*

Derek Daudelin, *Firefighter/Support Staff*

Jan Elovirta, *Firefighter*

Jessica Giarolo, *Firefighter/EMT*

Gene Goebel, *Firefighter*

Mark Hanford, *Retired Fire Chief/Support Staff*

Bob Healey Jr., *Firefighter*

Darien Houlihan, *Firefighter*

Jason Maronde, *Firefighter*

Travis Miller, *Firefighter*

Tara Nutting, *Probationary Firefighter*

Troy Phelps, *Firefighter*

Chris Swindlehurst, *Firefighter*

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*Town of Becket, Massachusetts*  
**2022 Annual Report**  
of the  
**Town Officials**  
January 1 through December 31  
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*\*Town of Becket Appointment Application – At end of report*

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◆ **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR USE** ◆

***Governor***

Maura Healey

Mass. State House, 24 Beacon St., Room 280 Boston, MA 02133 TEL: 617-725-4005	Western Mass. Office, State Office Building 436 Dwight St, Ste. 300 Springfield, MA 01103 TEL: 413-784-1200
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***United States Senators***

Elizabeth Warren

309 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

TEL: 202-224-4543, 617-565-3170 (Boston), 413-788-2690 (Springfield)

[www.warren.senate.gov](http://www.warren.senate.gov)

Edward J. Markey

255 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

TEL: 202-224-2742, 617-565-8519 (Boston), 413-785-4610 (Springfield)

[www.markey.senate.gov](http://www.markey.senate.gov)

***Congressman***

Richard E. Neal

Federal Building, 78 Center Street

Pittsfield, MA 01201

TEL: 413-442-0946 (Pittsfield), 413-785-0325 (Springfield), 202-225-5601 (Washington)

[www.neal.house.gov](http://www.neal.house.gov)

***State Senator***

Paul Mark

Mass. State House, 24 Beacon St., Room 70 Boston, MA 02133 TEL: 617-722-1625	District Office 773 Tyler St. Pittsfield, MA 01201 TEL: 413-464-5635
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[paul.mark@masenate.gov](mailto:paul.mark@masenate.gov)

***State Representative***

William “Smitty” Pignatelli

Lenox Town Hall

PO Box 2228 • Lenox, MA 01240

TEL: 413-637-0631

[Rep.Smitty@mahouse.gov](mailto:Rep.Smitty@mahouse.gov)

***Annual Town Meeting***

Second Saturday of May

***Annual Town Election***

Third Saturday of May

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## ◆ **FACTS ABOUT BECKET** ◆

<b>Incorporated</b>	June 21, 1765
<b>Location</b>	Western Massachusetts
<b>Population</b>	1,822 (as of 12/31/2022)
<b>Registered Voters</b>	1,678 (as of 12/31/2022)
<b>Form of Government</b>	Select Board/Town Administrator Open Town Meeting
<b>Tax Rate</b>	\$10.80 per 1,000 - Fiscal Year 2022
<b>Public Schools</b>	Central Berkshire Regional School District
<b>Police Department</b>	Full-Time Chief, Full-Time Sergeant, Four Full-Time Police Officers, and One Part-Time Officer Non-Emergency Telephone: 413-623-6010
<b>Fire Department</b>	Fire Chief Non-Emergency Telephone: 413-207-1602 Fire Station #1, 108 Washington St. Fire Station #2, 629 Jacobs Ladder Rd. Burning Permits 413-623-2185 (January 15 – May 1 weather permitting) <i>To apply for a burn permit online please go to the following link:</i> <a href="http://www.bcburnpermits.com/">http://www.bcburnpermits.com/</a>
<b>Ambulance Department</b>	Fire Station #2, 629 Jacobs Ladder Road, Becket Non-Emergency Telephone: 413-623-5027
<b>Public Library</b>	Becket Athenaeum 3367 Main Street, P.O. Box 9, Becket Telephone: 413-623-5483
<b>Arts Center</b>	Becket Arts Center 7 Brooker Hill Road, Becket Telephone: 413-623-6635
<b>Post Office</b>	Becket Post Office 623 Main Street, Becket Telephone: 413-623-8845
<b>Elevation</b>	1,200 Feet
<b>Area</b>	48.04 Square Miles
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.townofbecket.org">www.townofbecket.org</a> and <a href="http://www.becketbroadband.org">www.becketbroadband.org</a>

If you would like to receive public meeting agendas and/or public notices please subscribe on the town's website at the following link: <https://www.townofbecket.org/subscribe> and to receive updates on the Town-owned broadband project, you may subscribe to [www.becketbroadband.org](http://www.becketbroadband.org)

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◆ **TELEPHONE DIRECTORY OF TOWN SERVICES** ◆

**All Emergencies, Call 911**  
***Local Public Safety (non-emergency)***

<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>	413-207-1602
<b>AMBULANCE</b>	413-623-5027
<b>POLICE</b>	413-623-6010
<b>STATE POLICE</b>	413-243-0600

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT 413-623-8988**

***Becket Town Offices 413-623-8934 (see extension)***

<b><u>Department</u></b>	<b><u>Extensions for 413-623-8934</u></b>
Selectmen's Office/Administrative Assistant	#100
Town Clerk	#111
Treasurer	#112
Town Administrator	#113
Building Inspector	#114
Tax Collector	#116
Assessors	#118
Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals	#120
Board of Health	#122
Council on Aging	#127
Conservation Commission	#129
Harbor Master	#140
Animal Control Officer	#156

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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR* ◆

As the new Town Administrator since August, I have been busy getting myself up to date with the current projects, committees, and departments as well as handling the day to day operations of the town. Becket is such a great place to work and live in. I would like to share with you what has happened since August.

We have received a \$40,000 grant to update the Town Hall server, computers, and software. We are working on getting our tax titles up to date to enable us to collect the money owed or sell the properties and put them back on the tax roll.

We are waiting on a new EMS Utility Vehicle for the Ambulance Dept (purchased through a United States Department of Agricultural Grant) which will enable a paramedic to respond to calls when the ambulance is out on another call. We have on order another police cruiser to keep our fleet up to date. All the town's Police Officers are now academy certified to meet the requirements of the Massachusetts Police Reform Bill. We did not receive the USDA grant for a new fire truck but we hope in the next year to reapply for it. Becket is fortunate to have fulltime Police and Ambulance Departments, as well as a strong Volunteer Fire Dept.

We are looking to have the McNerney Road project completed by the end of 2023 as well as the replacement of the Werden Road Bridge. Carter Road and Brooker Hill Road were resurfaced so that those roads could handle the extra traffic while the McNerney Rd project is being done. Due to the limited funding from Chapter 90 (\$236,000 for FY23) it takes much time to repair all the town roads. We are looking into grants as they are launched to see what may be beneficial for Becket. Highway Superintendent Ed Pickert and his crew

have worked hard to keep the roads in the best possible condition with limited resources.

Broadband is just about complete, which makes Becket more appealing. High speed internet will facilitate working from home.

The Parks and Recreation Committee continues to maintain and improve our parks, make our Town Beach a welcoming place for all residents, and operate a summer camp for the Becket-Washington children. This past summer twenty-eight children participated in the program. The Becket Arts Center continues to create programs for all ages along with the Becket Washington Athenaeum.

Becket's Council on Aging is active and in light of that forty-five percent of Becket's population are over 60 years old, I highly recommend getting involved.

In closing, I have to thank everyone for making Becket what it is. We are blessed to have the Town Hall Staff; Highway, Police, Ambulance and Fire Departments, and all the committees. All contribute to enhancing the quality of life in our community. There are many opportunities: If you would like to consider getting involved, please feel free to contact me. "Many hands make light work."

*Respectfully submitted,*

Katherine A. Warden,  
***Town Administrator***



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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE SELECT BOARD* ◆

The year 2022 is behind us, the pandemic has waned, which provides us with an opportunity to examine and reset the “normal” button. Although we are impacted by global problems (inflation, supply shortages, etc.), we hope to see improvements throughout our town, country and world during 2023, we remain grateful for the quality of life within the Becket Community.

The hottest topic in town the past few years is, “when will we have operational broadband?” About all of Becket is now connected to broadband, with the exception of problem areas in Becket Woods which are expected to be corrected after spring mud season. Because of additional funding by the Commonwealth, the project is expected to come in well below what Becket appropriated. We want to thank the Broadband Ad Hoc Group, headed by Municipal Light Plant Manager Bob Gross, for all the many hours they have spent as unpaid volunteers to see this project through the many phases required.

In January, at the request of the Town of Otis, discussions were held on sharing the Becket Police Chief with Otis. After negotiations between Becket and Otis and with approval of town counsels, a contract was signed to share the Becket Police Chief two and a half days per week in each town. The Police Chief remains a Becket employee and Otis pays half the wage and compensation and half the expenses of a cruiser. The agreement took effect March 7th and was renewed on July 1st. Otis and Becket remain separate departments. The arrangement has worked well to date.

Because of police reforms voted into law by the state legislature, all police officers in the Commonwealth must now become full-time certified officers. Part time officers could either take a “bridge program” to augment their part-time training certificate or attend a full-time academy. All officers on the Becket Police Department are now full-time certified.

Town Clerk George Roberts submitted his resignation effective March 13th. Allison Mikaniewicz, Washington Town Clerk, agreed to serve as Interim Town Clerk until we could find another individual to cover the remainder of George Roberts’ unexpired term. The Select Board appointed Robin Mathiesen Interim Town Clerk until the Annual Town Election in May 2023.

Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer Bill Girard tendered his retirement effective March 31st. On March 16th Paul Greene was appointed, Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer.

The Select Board had negotiated a new three-year contract with Town Administrator Bill Caldwell. On March 16th Mr. Caldwell submitted his resignation to accept the Town Administrator’s position with the Town of Sterling, MA. The Select Board advertised the town administrator position, and appointed a Town Administrator Screening Committee. Mark Webber was appointed Interim Town Administrator effective March 31st.

In March, Ambulance Director Ray Ferrin was appointed Emergency Management Director (EMD) to replace Police Chief Kris McDonough who stepped down due to his additional responsibilities with the Town of Otis.

The Select Board along with the Finance Committee and the Interim Town Administrator worked on the budget and Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The Select Board approved the Annual Town Meeting Warrant on April 6th. The Annual Town Meeting was held on Saturday, May 14th at the Becket-Washington School. The meeting was moderately attended. The operating budget was passed with little discussion. As usual some of the articles can create a lot of discussion. Please read the warrant and explanations before arriving at the meeting to help minimize lengthy discussions.

The Annual Town Election was held on May 21st. Christopher Swindlehurst was re-elected to serve a second three-year term on the Select Board. The Select Board reorganized as is customary at the first meeting after the election: William Elovirta, Chairperson; Christopher Swindlehurst, Vice-Chairperson and Michael Lavery, Clerk.

On June 18th a dedication ceremony was held to officially open the recently completed Esau’s Heel Trail. Select Board member Michael Lavery spearheaded the proposed trail and saw it to completion. It was funded through a grant from the Community Preservation Act.

The North Becket Park on Maple Street was rededicated after installation of a new pavilion, stone



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◆ **REPORT OF THE SELECT BOARD** ◆  
(Continued)

seating and plaque in remembrance of the Baptist Parsonage Building that previously sat on the site.

On June 16th, the Select Board interviewed two individuals that the Town Administrator Screening Committee had forwarded from an applicant pool of eight. Katherine “Kathe” Warden was selected to be our next Town Administrator and signed a three-year contract on June 28th. She started on August 8th. Kathe lives in Becket with her husband. We like the fact that Kathe not only works for the town but has an interest because it is also her home.

Longtime town employee David Shorey, who started with the Highway Department and became the Building Maintenance and Grounds Technician, retired to work in the private sector. We wish Dave well. Retired Highway Department employee Bert Goodermote returned to the town’s employ to step-in as part-time Custodian.

On October 1st, a Special Town Meeting was held to vote on authorizing the Central Berkshire Regional School District to appropriate \$900,000.00 for repair or replacement of the Wahconah Regional High School Track. All seven regional school district towns approved this appropriation.

The town has been burdened with a loss of several Highway and Police Department personnel who resigned to accept positions with the MassDOT or other towns offering higher salaries. Maintenance staffing levels is a

serious problem many other Berkshire County towns and cities are facing. We must adjust salaries to maintain qualified personnel.

Our yearly tax classification hearing was held in December and we voted to stay with our traditional single tax rate. The new FY2023 tax rate of \$10.76 was adopted.

We want to thank our Administrative Assistant, Beverly Gilbert, who went above and beyond during the administrator transition for keeping the Select Board and Interim Town Administrator up to date with all correspondence, agendas, etc. To all the elected officials, volunteer firemen, and volunteers who serve on town committees and boards, thank you for your service.

We thank the taxpayers, and voters, for putting your trust in us to administer the town for you. We urge all registered voters in Becket to attend the Annual Town Meeting and vote in the Annual Town Election in May. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the town office, town administrator or any Select Board member.

*Respectfully submitted,*

**Select Board**

William H. Elovirta, ***Chairperson***

Christopher Swindlehurst, ***Vice-Chairperson***

Michael S. Lavery, ***Clerk***



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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT* ◆

The Becket Fire Department responded to 159 calls during the 2022 calendar year.

- 40 EMS. These calls include lifting assistance, CPR, first aid and ambulance assist. Included in this number were 11 responses to the Town of Washington.
- 39 Fire/smoke alarm activations. These calls include false alarms due to detector malfunction/faulty detector, smoke from cooking or other non-fire issue. Included in this number were 3 responses to the Town of Washington.
- 10 CO (carbon monoxide) alarm activations. Most of these calls are false due to sensor issues. Included in this number was 1 response to the Town of Washington.
- 4 Structure fires. All in Becket.
- 3 of these were reported and had a full Fire Department response. 1 was unreported and only required the response of the Fire Chief, a Lieutenant, and a Firefighter.
- 1 Chimney fire in Becket.
- 4 Brush fires. 2 in Becket and 2 in Washington.
- 23 MVAs (motor vehicle accident). These calls include patient extrication, standby while vehicle is being loaded by the towing company (for fire safety and scene/personnel safety). Included in this number was 1 response to the Town of Washington.
- 38 Miscellaneous/service. These calls include: odor of gas, pellet stove fire, shed fire, missing person(s), standby in station as requested by other towns while out on structure fire, mutual aid, unattended outdoor fires, odor of smoke/smoke condition(outside), gas stove that had door blown open and is emitting gas odor, and setup LZ (landing zone) for medical transport helicopter. This number included responses to the Town of Washington.

The Fire Department issued 409 permits.

- 68 Smoke/CO permits.
- 35 Propane tank installation permits.
- 4 Oil (new tank, old tank removal, oil burner/furnace repair and/or replacement).
- 302 outdoor/open burn permits.

### **Miscellaneous:**

- The Chief attended County Chiefs meetings when available, performed follow-up inspections, consultations on fire related projects, and answered fire related inquiries.
- The Chief inspected the Becket Washington Elementary School and the Fire Department conducted a fire drill.
- Fire Department members completed an emergency medical responder recertification and CPR course.
- Firefighters participated in weekly training/drills.
- The Fire Department also hosted the Becket Washington Elementary School kindergarten class at Station 1 for fire safety, and to meet and have lunch with a firefighter.
- Members took vehicles and participated in the Becket Memorial Day parade and ceremony.
- Members took a vehicle to participate in Wahconah Regional High School lacrosse victory parade in Dalton.
- Fire Department took an engine and participated in the South County First Responder Parade of Lights.
- Members took an engine and Rescue 6 to the Washington Town Park for Annual Pumpkin Walk; providing coverage during the bonfire, handing out candy and providing photo opportunities.

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◆ **REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT** ◆

*~ Continued ~*

- Becket Volunteer Firefighters Association, along with a grant from DCR, purchased wildland fire fighting boots for all firefighters. for the opportunity to lead the department. It is an honor to serve our residents and those passing through our communities.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Becket Volunteer Firefighters Association fund drive.

I would like to thank all Fire Department personnel for their dedication to the department and our towns. Thank you

*Respectfully submitted,*

Paul Mikaniewicz,  
***Fire Chief***



## ◆ **REPORT OF THE BECKET AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT** ◆



2022 by far was a busy year for the Ambulance Department. We completed our first full year providing paramedic level service, and while doing so, responded to 395 calls for service (Up from 291 in 2020, and 316 in 2021). A breakdown of those responses can be found below. The Ambulance Department was also awarded funding through the United States Department of Agriculture's Emergency Rural Health Care grant, which will cover the cost of a new cardiac monitor, as well as an EMS utility vehicle.

As always, I wish to thank my staff for their continued dedication to providing the town with the best emergency care possible. Even through an industrywide staffing crisis, the Town of Becket currently has 27 EMS personnel, who stand ready to keep the ambulance in service and respond on a 24/7/365 basis. They give up holidays and time with their families to be there for the town. I extend that thank you to our partners, the Fire Department, Highway Department, Police Department, and our Buildings and Grounds Technician whose effort and time help make this line of work safer and more effective. We also praise the Friends of Becket Ambulance, who provide financial support for equipment, training, and uniforms. I also need to thank the town as a whole for its continued support and funding.

*In 2022, the Ambulance Department responded to 395 calls for service. Below is a breakdown of calls by town, and by type.*

Scene Incident City Name	Number of Runs	Percent of Total Runs
Town of Becket	217	54.93%
Town of Otis	91	23.04%
Town of Lee	44	11.14%
Town of Washington	13	3.29%
Town of Hinsdale	6	1.52%
Town of Blandford	5	1.27%
Town of Chester	5	1.27%
Town of Tyngham	3	0.76%
Town of Huntington	2	0.51%
Town of Monterey	2	0.51%
Town of Sandisfield	2	0.51%
Town of Granville	1	0.25%
Town of Lenox	1	0.25%
Town of Middlefield	1	0.25%
Town of Russell	1	0.25%
Town of Stockbridge	1	0.25%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

As a reminder, my door is always open, and coffee is always on for anyone wishing to stop and chat, offer suggestions, or to learn more about the department. Regular office hours are Monday-Friday, 8am-1pm.

*Respectfully submitted,*

**Ray Ferrin, Ambulance Director**

Dispatch Incident	# of Runs	% of Runs
Sick Person	72	18.23%
Traffic/Transportation Incident	51	12.91%
Falls	43	10.89%
No Other Appropriate Choice	40	10.13%
Breathing Problem	32	8.10%
Chest Pain (Non-Traumatic)	29	7.34%
Abdominal Pain/Problems	16	4.05%
Traumatic Injury	15	3.80%
Unconscious/Fainting/Near-Fainting	15	3.80%
Psychiatric Problem/Abnormal Behavior/ Suicide Attempt	13	3.29%
Unknown Problem/Person Down	9	2.28%
Cardiac Arrest/Death	7	1.77%
Diabetic Problem	7	1.77%
Overdose/Poisoning/Ingestion	6	1.52%
Back Pain (Non-Traumatic)	5	1.27%
Convulsions/Seizure	5	1.27%
Hemorrhage/Laceration	5	1.27%
Allergic Reaction/Stings	4	1.01%
Fire	4	1.01%
Well Person Check	3	0.76%
Assault	2	0.51%
Choking	2	0.51%
Headache	2	0.51%
Medical Alarm	2	0.51%
Standby	2	0.51%
Stroke/CVA	2	0.51%
Eye Problem/Injury	1	0.25%
Heat/Cold Exposure	1	0.25%

**Total: 395    Total: 100.00%**

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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT* ◆



The 2022 yearly breakdown of the Police Department includes sixty one criminal offenses and twenty six arrests. These offenses have either been cleared by arrest, a criminal application, or the case remains open and under investigation. Officers also responded to fifty one motor vehicle accidents. In addition to the activity breakdown, officers issued 129 citations for civil motor vehicle violations, criminal motor vehicle violations, arrest motor vehicle violations, and written warnings.

All of the officers in the department continue to be proactive and responsive while serving the Town. Each individual officer carries unique skills and qualities that help the department provide the highest level of service to the Town.

I want to reiterate that I have an open door policy for anyone wishing to speak to me in regards to any issue. This year license to carry or firearms identification card renewal applicants can stop in the station at any time to begin the process of renewing/applying for their LTC/FID. If an Officer is not at the station please call our business line 413-623-6010 and the officer on duty will meet you at the station to assist

you. The department can also be reached by emailing [police@townofbecket.org](mailto:police@townofbecket.org).

Finally, I would like to thank all the officers for their continued dedication in providing quality policing to the residents of Becket while maintaining the highest level of professionalism and integrity. I would like to thank the Town Administrator, Buildings and Grounds Technician, and the Fire, Ambulance, and Highway Departments for their dedication and partnership in working together with the Police Department. Furthermore, I would like to thank the residents of Becket for their continued support of the Police Department. It is only through a strong partnership between the general public and the Police Department that a safe community can be established.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Kristopher G. McDonough  
*Chief of Police*



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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD* ◆

The Planning Board consists of five elected members with five-year terms and one Associate Member who is jointly appointed annually by the Planning Board and the Select Board. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Becket Town Hall. Additional meetings are scheduled on an as-needed basis.

The Planning Board would like to acknowledge Mr. Alvin V. Blake for his re-election to the Board in June of 2022. Mr. Blake, first elected to the Planning Board in 2018, also serves as an appointed official on the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Energy Committee and the Open Space and Recreation Plan Advisory Committee. Additionally, as the Planning Board's Clerk Pro Tem, he has in the absence of the board's clerk, performed those official duties.

Ms. Jessica Perotti, after serving as the board's Administrative Assistant until April, finally completed her transfer to the Assessor's Office. She deserves special recognition for her invaluable assistance during the transition and training of Mrs. Susan Crossley, the board's new Administrative Assistant. Mrs. Crossley has adapted well to the complexity of the tasks at hand, adeptly dealt with individuals who needed assistance, direction and guidance in zoning matters and relevant application requirements for special permits. Moreover, her office management skills and computer mastery has helped alleviate a growing backlog of work. The entire board wishes her well in her new position.

I would like to recognize the following members in their respective positions on the board and the additional time and energy it takes of them: Ms. Ann Krawet, the Clerk; and Dr. Howard G. Lerner. Additionally, Ms. Gale LaBelle was reappointed as the board's Associate Member. The Associate Member attends all board meetings and if designated by the Chair, may assume the duties of a regular member, who is absent, has a conflict of interest or recuses themselves.

I would like to thank Ms. Krawet who served as the Board's alternative representative to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and Mr. Levy who continued serving as the board's designee on the Community Preservation Committee.

The Planning Board is responsible for the review of land divisions, either via the approval of a subdivision or where sufficient frontage exists, through the submission of an Approval Not Required (ANR) plan under the Subdivision Control Law statute. The board also undertakes long-range planning activities including the development of proposed amendments to the Zoning Bylaws and other land-use regulations and Becket's Master Plan.

In 2022, the Becket Planning Board was scheduled to convene fifteen times for regularly scheduled meetings and additional public hearings. This included one meeting in October that was cancelled. In response to, and in compliance with, the Governor's rules and requirements relating to COVID-19, and the Open Meeting law, meetings continued to be held remotely. Conducting meetings using the Zoom platform took considerable time for the board as there were sign in/log on issues and technical problems given the large number of public participants. This technology did not always perform as anticipated. Technical challenges aside, remote participation did eventually perform better toward the end of the year. Some applicants have expressed a desire to return to in-person meetings, but others hope that video conferencing will still be an option.

Only (1) Approval Not Required (ANR) Form A plan for 74 & 78 Washington Street was discussed informally. The applicant was informed that plans of this nature did not constitute a subdivision within the meaning of the Subdivision Control Law but must be endorsed by the Planning Board for filing at the Registry of Deeds. ANRs generally enable applicants to create new conforming building lots or redraw existing boundary lines that do not affect frontage or existing acreage requirements. Since the owner wished to combine smaller adjacent parcels into a larger lot with no new building lots being created, he was informed to have a registered land surveyor prepare a plan and formally submit it to the board.

Several Special Permit applications were presented for review and approval. Interested parties including abutters, and members of the public remotely attended the hearings. In some cases, abutters informally inquired about Special Permit requirements, formally voiced concerns, gave testimony and provided endorsements for projects under consideration. Some informal discussions about Special Permit procedures eventually resulted in formal applications being submitted but others were never acted upon.

A Special Permit application was presented for 102 Wells Road map/lot 217/147 seeking relief from sections 3.4.3 and 3.4.4 of the Zoning Bylaws to reconstitute a formally grandfathered lot and build a small affordable (2) two-bedroom house. The Planning Board unanimously voted to approve the Special Permit provided specific conditions were met, given there was no opposition to the project from any abutters, and it was consistent with the aesthetics of the surrounding structures.

A Special Permit application was presented for 32 Williams Road map/lot 211/55 seeking relief from sections 3.4.3 and 3.4.4 of the Zoning Bylaws to build a small 396

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**◆ REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD ◆**  
*~ Continued ~*

square foot extension on an existing structure. A site visit revealed that the new addition did not encroach on the sideline setbacks, nor did it add any new rooms. The Special Permit was granted by unanimous vote, provided specific conditions were met: no opposition to the project from any abutters, and that it was consistent aesthetically with the surrounding neighborhood structures.

Tetrahydra Agtek LLC, represented by Brian Vincent, initially presented its application to operate a Tier 11 recreational marijuana cultivation facility at 509 Quarry Road on a 5.6-acre parcel of land in 2021 and beginning in January 2022 formally continued its presentation with much time spent on the specifics regarding issues raised by abutters. The Planning Board, in May, voted by a 4/5 decision to approve the Special Permit. On the last day of the appeal process, a formal complaint was filed with Superior Court. The court has not yet rendered a decision.

In May, Mr. Jeffrey Lynch, on behalf of Hit the Road RV, LLC sought relief from section 3.1.3 of the Becket Zoning Bylaws to re-establish the Dreamaway Restaurant and establish a glamping facility at 1342 County Road, map/lots: 401/3 & 4 on approximately fifty-three (53) acres. After the applicant presented his client's proposal, the public was afforded the opportunity to voice their concerns/opinions. Much time was spent on items such as traffic, safety, impact on the neighborhood, quality of life etc. In July, the Hit the Road RV, LLC application was formally withdrawn and accepted with prejudice, meaning that the applicant was prohibited from resubmitting a new or similar plan for two (2) years.

A Special Permit application was presented for 30 Washington Street to reopen the old Becket General Store under a new name, Neon Newt. The applicants sought relief from Section 3.4.6 to re-establish it as a general store and restaurant. The premises lost its grandfathered building status when the previous owner closed the business. Special Permits expire after two (2) year of non-use. The board unanimously approved this special permit as was in keeping with the characteristics of the surrounding neighborhood and beneficial to the residents of North Becket.

A Special Permit application was presented for 609 Main Street to reopen the old Becket Country Store under the same name. The applicants sought relief from Section 3.4.6 to re-establish the business as a general store and restaurant. The premises lost its grandfathered building status when the previous owner closed the business. The board advised the applicant that although the Board of Health approved a new tight-tank septic system, there were Special Permit requirements that needed to be addressed since the lot was a

non-confirming parcel and had lost its grandfathered status having been closed for more than two (2) years. The application was continued to a date time certain by mutual agreement in 2023.

An informal discussion was held with a prospective owner regarding the purchase of two (2) adjacent nonconforming parcels, one of which had been previously separated from another non-conforming lot. The Planning Board stated that under the Zoning Bylaws if the two (2) non-conforming parcels were now joined together legally by deed or an acceptable filing with the Registry of Deeds no action would be needed by the Planning Board. The Planning Board advised the applicant that the Board of Health, Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission, and Building Inspector all potentially had jurisdictional authority regarding construction of a structure on the site.

Another informal discussion was held with the owner of 327 Chester Road, a 237.5-acre parcel. The owner stated he wished to hold private events (such as weddings) for approximately 100 or more guests in an old barn shuttling them to and from the property. The board member indicated that it was possible to issue a Special Permit, but the permitting would involve a fair amount of supporting documentation. He was referred to Section 9.3 and 9.4 for the specific requirements. No formal application was submitted in 2022.

Additional Actions:

The Planning Board continued its review of the town's Master Plan. Discussions centered on first digitizing the current plan to make it more accessible but given the amount of time spent on the Tetrahydra Agtek LLC and Hit-the Road Special Permits, along with the loss of the Planning Board's Administrative Assistant, this project was put on hold. At present the plan is to coordinate with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to obtain funding through the District Local Training Assistance program. Thus, it was decided that this project would be deferred until funding could be obtained.

The Planning Board reviewed and approved Foresight Land Services' final update Construction Plan Set for the Himalayan High project at 2727 Jacobs Ladder Road. The engineering plans as prepared comply with the specifications described in the conditions of the approved Special Permit regarding lighting, parking, and safety. The driveway entering from the MassDOT approved commercial curb cut was redesigned for enhanced vehicular accessibility and safety.



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## ◆ **REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD** ◆

*~ Continued ~*

Residents continue to engage, and have informal discussions, with the Planning Board regarding locating solar photovoltaic arrays on small residential lots. Others wanted information on indoor and outdoor cannabis cultivation on private property; and the property requirements/restrictions regarding tiny homes, modular homes manufactured homes and mobile homes. A complaint was lodged regarding a camping trailer on Bonny Rigg Hill Road map/lot 416/29. The matter was referred to the Zoning Enforcement Officer. Some others were interested in the establishment of separate zoning districts within the town where commercial and industrial sites could be located.

Still others sought guidance on setting up their own guest lodging style sites on private property akin to the Hit the Road's (HTR) Glamping model, but on a much smaller scale. The Bonny Rigg Campground commended the Planning Board for its guidance on this issue and was especially pleased with the support the board had given the co-owners and their management team regarding the town's Zoning Bylaws even though its own internal bylaws are more restrictive.

The Planning Board continued discussions pertinent to Short Term Rentals (STR) because individuals throughout the town continued to question the lack of regulations for this

growing business model or industry. Several vocal residents noted that they desired to promote the health, safety and well-being of town residents and visitors. Furthermore, these individuals felt that something needs to be done to ensure that the primary use of residential properties remains residential not commercial.

Lastly, they presented many news articles that clearly indicate that the issue is being actively discussed almost weekly throughout Berkshire County.

The Board appreciates and encourages public attendance at its meetings and welcomes citizens to offer their constructive comments. Planning Board meetings are posted in Town Hall, and for informational purposes, on the town website, [www.townofbecket.org](http://www.townofbecket.org).

In closing, the Board wishes to thank those town officials and members of the various boards, commissions, and departments, who provided technical assistance and expertise throughout the year, for their cooperation. This year we wish to especially recognize the town's Administrative Assistant, Beverly Gilbert. Please feel free to call the Planning Board Office at 413-623-8934 ext.120, send correspondence via USPS or email [planning@townofbecket.org](mailto:planning@townofbecket.org) with any questions, concerns, thoughts, or ideas.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Robert T. Ronzio  
***Chair***



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## ◆ **REPORT OF THE OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE** ◆

The Open Space & Recreation Plan Advisory Committee has been working since spring of 2022 to develop an updated version of Becket's Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP). The Committee is comprised of volunteers who were appointed by the Select Board. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission facilitates and provides support.

The purpose of the OSRP is to develop important actions in order to maintain Becket's scenic beauty and protect the Town's treasured natural resources and parks. The OSRP notes existing resources, and describes key trends and issues regarding open space conservation and outdoor recreation. Becket can use this document to guide growth in a manner consistent with open space preservation tenets while addressing the Town's interest in increasing the tax base.

During 2022, we accomplished these main tasks:

- Conducted a public survey to gather data about the community's opinions and vision for open space and recreation. The survey received 309 responses, of which 93% identified as full or part time Becket residents.
- Met with members of the Planning Board, Parks and Recreation Committee and Conservation Commission to draw upon their experiences and understand their needs regarding open space conservation and outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Held two interactive public forums where we explored the concepts of conservation and outdoor recreation and asked attendees for their input. At the second public forum we presented the major findings of the planning process and asked attendees to provide input on the recommendations that we had drafted.
- In December 2022, we posted the draft Becket OSRP and asked for public feedback, additional information on the plan and its recommendations.

The revised OSRP, reflecting residents' comments and input, is being submitted to the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services for formal approval. Once approved, the Town of Becket will be able to apply for funding from a series of grant programs that are only open to those towns that have approved plans.

We thank all our fellow residents and neighbors who gave their time, completed the survey and offered input during the planning process. Without you we would not have been able to develop a plan that reflects the townspeople's goals and needs with thoughtful planning. We invite you to read the OSRP either online by visiting the Town of Becket's website [www.townofbecket.org](http://www.townofbecket.org), or in paper form at the Becket Athenaeum.

*Respectfully submitted,*

***Open Space & Recreation Plan Advisory Committee Members:***

***Ken Smith, Chair, & Rep. of the Becket Land Trust***

***Al Blake, Co-chair, and member of Planning Board***

***Meredyth Babcock, Municipal Vulnerable Preparedness Committee Rep.***

***Cindy Delpapa, Member of the Community Preservation, & Westfield River Wild & Scenic Committees***

***Karen Karlberg, Former Member of the Conservation Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals***

***Larisa Shpitalnik, Member of the Community Preservation Committee***

***Jeffrey Wilkinson, Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals***



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## ◆ **REPORT OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR** ◆

**Activity January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022:**

Number of Building Permits: **167**

Fees Collected: **\$22,439.99**

**Here are the statistics for the year 2022:**

Type	Number
New Homes	6
Additions	15
Renovations	14
Wood Stoves	14
Solar	14
Accessory Buildings	20

Type	Number
Tents	15
Decks / Porches	14
Siding / Windows / Doors	22
Roofs	18
Other Insulation / Ductwork	15

*Respectfully Submitted,*

Paul Greene, *Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer*

## ◆ **REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT** ◆

This year has been full of normal maintenance snow and ice control, line painting, brush cutting, grading of gravel roads, drainage repair and cleaning, asphalt patching, street sweeping, and catch basin cleaning.

The spring season had some challenges. The early thaw caused some mud on the gravel roads. Due to the thaw, we were able to start earlier than usual on spring grading. Our springtime activities included: hot patching asphalt roads, ditch cleaning, roadside mowing, brush chipping, and clearing roadside tree/brush debris.

The summer months were dry with little rainfall which made it ideal for us to do a great deal of drainage work. The town completed a paving project which entailed shim & overlay and raising the catch basins on Carter and Brooker Hill Roads. We extend our special thanks to Palmer Paving for doing a great job.

Our winter season started off normally with a few small weather events. We had slightly less than average snowfall. The Highway Department cleared fallen trees and brush from the roads following several significant ice storms. This

winter's unseasonal fluctuations in temperatures have made it extremely challenging to maintain our gravel roads.

I would like to take this time to thank our Highway Crew members Albert Goodermote, Tom Dean, Don Murray, Troy Phelps, Chris Isner, Matt Larson and our part-time summer helper Bob Cooper for their hard work and dedication to the Town of Becket.

I would also like to thank the Town Administrator, Buildings and Grounds Technician, Select Board, and Ambulance, Fire, and Police Departments for all their help and support.

Residents with any questions or concerns are welcome to call the Highway Department office Monday through Friday 6:00am to 2:30pm at 413-623-8988.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Edward Pickert,  
*Highway Superintendent*

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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE BECKET LAND TRUST* ◆

The Becket Land Trust owns and protects two properties in the Town of Becket, and we will continue to work with landowners who share the interests of land conservation and protection of our natural resources.

The Land Trust Board of Directors is grateful for the tremendous community support we receive from Becket residents and visitors. We depend on your generous donations to continue doing the conservation work we have been doing for the past thirty years.

We are pleased with improvements made by the Trustees of Reservations (“TTOR”) on our former property, the Becket Historic Quarry and Forest. They have upgraded trails and signage. They have seen a steady stream of visitors.

The Becket Land Trust was founded in 1990 by several Becket families. Ten years later, Becket Land Trust purchased the Becket Historic Quarry and Forest property when the town’s Board of Selectmen exercised the Town of Becket’s right of first refusal, under Chapter 61. For those who were in town then, it was an exciting time for a major land conservation effort. Back in 1999, if not for the Becket Land Trust, the quarry would have been acquired by a company planning to excavate millions of cubic yards of granite for the Big Dig in Boston. This would have been a massive disruption for the sleepy town of Becket.

The Trust was successful in raising over \$300,000 to purchase the 320 acre quarry property. The funding came from a community deeply concerned about having a major industrial operation in town with an estimated 20 loaded tractor trailers an hour rumbling down its rural roads.

The Land Trust opened the quarry property to the public and built miles of hiking trails and established a wildlife habitat reserve and an oak regeneration forestry area.

In the spring of 2020, the BLT Board of Directors determined that management of the property would be better with a larger, more experienced organization. After discussions between the Becket Land Trust and TTOR, and a successful joint fundraising campaign that created a \$270,000 stewardship fund, TTOR acquired the Historic Quarry and Forest in October 2021, along with responsibility for managing and maintaining it as a public recreational and protected area.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Kenneth Smith  
*President*



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## ◆ **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS** ◆

The Board of Assessors is responsible for administering the taxes levied by the Town. These taxes include real estate, personal property, and various excise taxes including the annual tax on motor vehicles. In keeping with the office's statutory mandates it is the Assessors' goal to equitably assess taxable properties in conformance with Massachusetts Department of Revenue guidelines.

Secondary responsibilities include maintaining the Town's property database including ownership and billing information, property descriptions, and taxable valuations. The office also maintains tax maps and the Town's Geographic Information System.

### **Sources of the Town's Revenue to Fund the FY2022 Budget**

Property tax levy (real and personal property) .....	6,381,956.00
State aid (cherry sheet revenues) .....	253,801.00
Local receipts (estimated) .....	499,300.00
Enterprise revenues (ambulance/ems) .....	203,940.00
Community preservation funds .....	203,222.67
Free cash and other available funds .....	194,913.78
Stabilization fund .....	45,406.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUES .....</b>	<b>7,782,539.45</b>

### **Aggregate Valuations by Major Property Class (FY2022)**

CLASS	LEVY %	VALUATION	PARCEL COUNT
Residential	90.4050	534,222,575	3,705
Commercial	3.0654	18,114,270	76
Industrial	0.3145	1,858,455	5
Personal Property	6.2151	36,726,552	856
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>590,921,852</b>	<b>4,642</b>

**Tax Rate.....\$10.80**

**Tax Relief:** In Massachusetts, there are several exemptions available to full-time residents. Becket offers the following:

- Elderly 70+
- Veteran
- Blind

The Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-off Program is available for persons 60+.

### **The Board of Assessors processed:**

Elderly Exemptions	17
Veteran Exemptions	15
Blind Exemptions	1
Hardship	1
Senior Work-off Abatements	1
Personal Property / Real Estate abatements	95

*Respectfully submitted,*

Geraldine L. Walter, **Chairperson**  
Jessica M. Perotti, **Vice Chairperson**  
Beverly A. Gilbert, **Clerk**

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## ◆ **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH** ◆

The Board of Health welcomes back our two country stores to the Town of Becket in the Spring of 2023. The new owners are remodeling, and a renewed country spirit will enhance our community once again. One will be a bakery and food establishment, and the other will be a country store and deli.

We have had 6 COVID & Flu vaccine clinics this year. Berkshire County Boards of Health Nurses and the Community Health Programs Mobile Health Unit have assisted our residents to stay healthy and active. The Board of Health thanks the residents of Becket for attending the clinics.

The Becket Board of Health employs two Health Inspectors (Berkshire County Boards of Health) to assist with the many responsibilities. Ed Fahey, together with our board, has been instrumental and an asset in guiding thirteen new homes to be built in Becket. His expertise and guidance assisted in percolation testing, wells, fifty seven Title V inspections, and thirty new septic plan designs in the Town of Becket. Ned Saviski, another inspector, has been busy enforcing policies in home and housing inspections and has taken at least twelve property owners to court. Homeowners have cleaned up many properties to avoid fines. He also has been instrumental in the inspection of all our restaurants and food establishments. Ned is available to assist in the

documentation and permitting procedures for our food establishments.

The Board of Health recognizes:

- Tess Lundberg, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Health for her dedication and service to us. Her response to many phone calls, hours of minute taking, and the daily update in our computerized permitting system are a great asset to us.
- Robert Ronzio for his knowledge of topographical and expertise in Becket's many properties which is a great asset in our septic design and decision making.
- Laurel Burgwardt for her Title 5 inspection witnessing.

Life is short. Enjoy the fresh air in Becket, the quality of our aquifers, and the town we all call home.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Gale LaBelle, ***Chairperson***  
Robert Ronzio, ***Vice Chairperson***  
Laurel Burgwardt, ***Clerk***



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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE* ◆

In this year's report I would like to acknowledge the volunteers who donate their time and energy to this town. This includes new committee members Shirley Vachula and Dave Weiler as well as experienced members Eila Bell, Rita Furlong and Maddy Elovirta. Tina LaVasseur declined reappointment. She had served for twenty seven years on this committee. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to her for so many years of service to the town's children.

Volunteer beach lovers Deb Toomey and Coleen Cox have designed and published a flyer for distribution to folks who purchase their beach pass. It includes rules and objectives for safety and cleanliness as well as colorful photos of the beach. Please read it and help everyone to enjoy this treasure of Becket.

The beach lifeguards, Sheffield Drewry and Jillian Cote did a wonderful job. We purchased a wagon to help bring supplies to the beach from the shed: life jackets for young swimmers, kick boards, First Aid kit and other life guard equipment.

Volunteers Bill Elovirta, Dan Lilly, Don Munger, and Ed Rossini set up and removed the ropes and docks at the beach. We replaced a torn rug on the floating dock, purchased a new Life Guard sign to inform everyone whether the guard is on or off duty, and purchased new buoys corner markers for the roped-in swimming area.

Gate attendants Mo VanDesteene, Evan Strout, Dave Weiler, and Abigail Cobb helped to identify legal beach attendees. Please drive slowly and stop when approaching them on Mecum Way.

This is an opportunity to remind all beach goers that the rule is to bring in and take out your garbage to discourage raccoons and other animals from "littering the beach".

The Summer Parks and Recreation Camp had an outstanding six weeks of free camp for twenty-eight Becket and Washington children. Their counselors were MacKenzie La Bier, Adelyn Furlong, and DaJuan Merenda. The theme for the season was "Outer Space". Campers created the planets and built spaceships to hang from the rafters in the Becket Center Park Pavilion shed. To keep everyone as cool as possible during the unusually hot weather, we purchased a few large fans for the pavilion.

The camp broadened its horizons by meeting at the Becket Athenaeum and Becket Arts Center each Tuesday. The two organization's leaders provided activities for the campers. From Noon till 1pm, we held lunch and field activities at the North Becket Village Park. This cooperative venture was well received by the children and their counselors. On the last day of camp, we ended the season with a pizza party at the beach.

We arrange to set-up porta-potties at both parks and the beach. Due to year-round activity at the beach, including ice-fishing,

the beach outhouse remains in place. We are considering leaving a porta-potty at both parks year-round.

New fence top protectors replacement were installed at the Becket Center Park. The Parks & Recreation Committee, and Town Maintenance expenditure accounts shared the cost.

In order to facilitate tracking expenses relating to maintaining the Town Beach, the Parks and Recreation Committee expenditure account, rather than the Board of Health expenditure account, will pay for the weekly water testing at the Center Pond Beach. During the 2023 beach season, the town will display the testing results at the beach.

The track at the North Becket Village Park was resurfaced and hopefully more of you will go there to enjoy walking or running, or sitting and watch the trains go by. We held a dedication of the area on Flag Day last June. The Historic Commission's chairman, Sandra Jarvis, spoke about the removed building's importance and noted the plaque that the commission had mounted on a stone by the river to commemorate the building. Stones from that building's cellar were used to create stone benches along the river. Bill Cummings built the benches. The program of dedication also included Bill Elovirta, Chairman of the Select Board, who spoke of the history of the area. Rita Furlong, chairman of the Parks and Recreation Committee, spoke about all the activities available at this park. The Historical Commission purchased and distributed small flags to the Becket Washington students who attended the dedication. The new pavilion may be used by all.

We continue to have a Hatha Yoga class at the Town Hall Community room every Wednesday, 9am till 10am, for everyone at a cost of only \$3.00 per session. John Wall is the instructor.

Town gardens have been maintained by Maddy Elovirta, Shirley Vachula, and Dave Weiler. Mulch is purchased yearly to add a finished look to the gardens and to prevent weeds.

The Parks & Recreation Committee discussed recommending a 2023 Annual Town Meeting Article to repair the surface of the tennis court on Prentice Place across from the Athenaeum and repaint the lines for tennis and pickleball. Many have requested these improvements and it has been nearly twenty years since the court was maintained.

The above mentioned volunteers have together put in hundreds of hours of their free time to help keep Becket beautiful. Please thank them when you see them. We are grateful to all who help.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Furlong, *Chair*.  
Eila Bell, Maddy Elovirta, Shirley Vachula, Dave Weiler



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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE HARBOR MASTER* ◆

The 2022 boating season was busy with many great weather days. I hope we will have more of the same during 2023.

Rafts or mooring anchored in our Great Ponds must be permitted annually by the Harbor Master. Please have them attached to the float or mooring. Renewals are scheduled to be mailed in the spring. All docks attached to the shore are required to have approval from the Becket Conservation Commission and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection, and the issuance of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 91 License.

Let us have a fun and safe summer. It is so important that you boat responsibly and respect other boaters, swimmers and landowners. We are all neighbors.

Please check your safety equipment on board, use those life jackets, they save lives!

This is also a reminder for boaters to have your boats registered with the state. Questions related to boating or permitting of rafts can be addressed to me at Town Hall or by leaving a message at 413-623-8934, extension 140.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Tim Fogarty  
***Harbor Master***



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## ◆ **REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION** ◆

It is the mission of the Becket Conservation Commission to protect, promote and enhance the quality and quantity of natural resources, wetlands, wildlife, and water resources. We do this through planning, acquisition, land management, regulations, research, and public education for the maximum benefit of all residents. Becket has a wealth of wetlands, streams, forests, and 21 lakes and ponds. All these water resources provide important habitat, recreation, and a significant financial contribution to the Town of Becket. We are fortunate to have these wonderful resources, which makes Becket one of the great gems of the Berkshires.

The Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, section 40, and its regulations 310 CMR specifies the Conservation Commission's authority, jurisdiction, and responsibility for administering the following eight interests of the Act:

1. protection of public and private water supply;
2. protection of groundwater supply;
3. flood control protection;
4. storm damage prevention;
5. prevention of pollution;
6. protection of land containing shellfish;
7. protection of fisheries;
8. protection of wildlife habitat.

Over the last three years the Commission has committed to being approachable and helpful to people submitting applications and appearing before us. Our intention is to create an extraordinary working relationship with all applicants, consultants, and contractors. In 2022 we received a lot of positive feedback from the Department of Environmental Protection and applicants about our professionalism and helpfulness in reviewing applications, and clarity of our deliberation process.

In October of 2021, we hired Nic Pietroniro as our new agent. He is a graduate of Westfield State where he earned a B.S. in Environmental Sciences. Over the last year Nic has provided outstanding service in working with applicants, answering their questions, and helping them through the application process.

The Commission is scanning all paper applications and other related documents into an electronic filing system. In 2022, we completed about half of the documents. We had paper files dating back to the mid-1980s. The paper copies

were discarded in accordance with the Massachusetts Municipal Retention Schedule. Electronic storage will provide easy access to a permanent history of work done on any parcel of land. The Commission expects to complete this project by the end of 2023. Some complex applications and documents we may retain in hard copy for some period.

The Commission is working on three projects for the 2023 year:

- Complete the digitalization of our document storage
- Make our website user-friendly and to provide useful information about the Wetlands Protection Act, including ways to help mitigate the impact of climate change on our precious environment
- Host a one-day public workshop on May 24, 2023 to discuss the long-term sustainability and vulnerability of the water resources in Becket

The following individuals serve as Commissioners: David Johnson (Chair), Henry Hagenah (Vice Chair), Henry Scarpo, Jim Schaefer, Doug Bessone, Chris Clapper, John Verity, Nic Pietroniro (Conservation Agent), and Andrew Jackson (Associate Commissioner)

### **Our activities for 2022:**

- 19 Commission Posted Meetings
- 27 Requests for Determination of Applicability
- 5 Notices of Intent
- 10 Notices of Intent extensions
- 5 Notice of Intent amended
- 7 Emergency Certifications issued
- 7 Enforcement Orders issued
- 3 Certificates of Compliance
- 74 Site visits

If you have any questions about the Wetlands Protection Act and how it may relate to your property, call Dave Johnson at 978-424-5752 or Nic Pietroniro at 413-623-8934 Ext 129.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
David Johnson  
**Conservation Commission Chairperson**

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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE BECKET ARTS CENTER OF THE HILLTOWNS* ◆

The BAC aims to continue to build on its more than fifty-year legacy of providing a unique and valuable asset to the local community and its visitors. Memberships, donations, and grants make it possible for the BAC to operate. Please join us as we connect our community through arts and cultural experiences by making a contribution to the BAC.

We are grateful to our grantors: Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Feigenbaum Foundation, and the cultural councils of Becket, Blandford, Chester, Hinsdale-Peru, Lee, Middlefield, Otis, and Washington funded by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. We also received support from local business sponsors through advertising and donations for our annual silent auction.

### **Highlights of 2022 included:**

**Open Mics via Zoom:** Starting in January, we hosted three online Open Mic sessions. Musicians were invited to play virtually for an audience of fellow musicians and music enthusiasts.

**BAC Gift Shop:** Local artists and crafters from Becket and the surrounding areas are invited to place items in the gift shop by visiting [becketartscenter.org/giftshop](http://becketartscenter.org/giftshop).

**Art Exhibits:** We hosted six group shows in the upstairs gallery of Seminary Hall (5 juried shows and 1 member show) and one solo show downstairs in the McEwen room. Each art opening was well attended and the BAC reported record sales of artwork for the season.

- Exhibit 1 - Cindy Chandler-Guy, Ingrid Raab, Karen Khan, Glenn Yarnell, Ivor Parry
- Special Exhibit - Bill Wurtzel, Funny Food Art
- Exhibit 2 - Carolyn Abrams, Theiry Borcy, Ruth Rinard, Joan Dix Blair
- Exhibit 3 - Ilene Richard, Yellowdog, Susan Miller, Shany Porras, Tara Bronner
- Exhibit 4 - Michael Lampro, Madge Evers, Kristine Vileneuve-Topor, Sue Fontaine, Lou Wallach
- Exhibit 5 - Wit McKay, Valerie McQuillan, Joan Rooks, Polly Kurasch, Lydia M. Kinney
- Member show including works from 30 artist members

**Partnership with Parks and Recreation Summer Program:** New this year was a partnership with the Town of Becket Parks & Recreation Committee that runs a free summer camp for Becket and Washington children ages 6-12. These children spent one day a week in North Becket and the Becket Arts

Center provided afternoon art enrichment.

**Explorations:** Funded by the Feigenbaum Foundation, the BAC Explorations program offered the community a diverse exploration of topics in 2022 including:

- “Planning for Land Conservation and Outdoor Recreation” presented in collaboration with The Becket Athenaeum in person and via Zoom presented by Becket Committee Members of the Open Space & Recreation Plan
- Betty Farbman, League of Women Voters of Central Berkshire County, and Allison Mikaniewicz, Interim Becket Town Clerk, presented “The Impact of Voting Especially in Local Elections” in person and via Zoom.
- Gabriela Sheehan from Jewish Family Service (JFS) of Western Massachusetts “Afghan Evacuees in the Berkshires” via Zoom.
- Bill & Claire Wurtzel shared how Bill began making his “Funny Food Art” for his wife, Claire, in person at the BAC.
- Ralph Pearson presented a captivating audio/visual lecture on Canada’s “Group of Seven” in person.
- Berkshire County’s favorite storyteller, Kevin O’Hara, Author of “Ins and Outs of a Locked Ward” read from his most recent book and told several favorite stories from his previous tour around Ireland.
- Michael Hamburg returned to share his vast knowledge on a tour “Across The Universe - A Tour of the Cosmos”.
- Bob Reiss, “Borders Between Fact and Fiction, What Really Happened?” journalist and author of 23 books of thriller/suspense fiction and environmental non-fiction, presented and read briefly from his work to be published next year.

**Music Brings Communities Together:** Funded by the cultural councils of Becket, Blandford, Chester, Hinsdale-Peru, Lee, Middlefield, Otis, and Washington. The Becket Arts Center offered free outdoor music on select Saturday evenings throughout the summer:

- Local Roots
- Bobby Sweet with Abe Guthrie, Pete Adams, and Lara Tupper
- Cliff Eberhardt
- Brian Conway with Conor Hearn
- Chantelle McFarland and Tom Shread
- Latinas 413 - music and dance
- Louise Mosrie and Simon Ruiz Guthrie

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## ◆ **REPORT OF THE BECKET ARTS CENTER OF THE HILLTOWNS** ◆

~ Continued ~

**BAC Gala:** Hosted at Camp Watitoh, this sold-out event closed-out the summer season. The crowd participated in our amazing raffle, and danced the night away to the music of The Whiskey Treaty Roadshow.

**Yoga, Dance, and Tai Chi:** Rima Sala returned for another season of yoga at the BAC on Friday mornings. Returning for 2022, we offered two sessions of “Dance With Us” hosted by Fran Hamburg and Louise Heit. Open to all abilities, this movement class incorporated movement and music in a fun, and welcoming environment. New for 2022, we offered 8 weeks of Tai Chi taught by Doreen Black.

**Garden Tour:** New in 2022, four Becket Arts Center members opened their home gardens for a one-day event. Garden-lovers wandered the beautiful grounds while the caretakers of these artful gardens shared their passion. The weather was sunny and mild and the gardens did not disappoint!

**Open Studio DriveAbout:** 2022 marked the third consecutive year the BAC hosted an open studio tour of artist studios in Becket and surrounding towns. It is a unique and immersive way for artists and art-lovers of all kinds to experience and explore the vast talent living and working in our local communities. Artists may showcase their studios, present their work, and sell their creations as art-lovers drive from location to location.

**Community Storytelling / Potlucks:** In 2022, we hosted two community storytelling potluck events. In July, the teens who attended the teen workshops assisted in leading a group of community members through some warm-up exercises and some collaborative work in storytelling. Following this event, in August, a group of participants worked on a “Story Exchange” which brought together two strangers who learned each other’s stories and presented a collaborative merged story as if they all knew each other for years. It was so touching to see two strangers telling “their” story and holding hands like long-time friends.

**Collaboration with First Congregational Church of Becket:** As much as the Becket Arts Center adores the space we occupy, there are times that we need a larger capacity. We collaborated with the church to host two amazing musical events in 2022. Berkshire High Peaks Festival in July brought together an international group of young musicians from around the world and their instructors as they performed several solo and group pieces. Similar events were held in other parts of Berkshire County and we were so thrilled to bring them to Becket. In October, Dirty Cello came to Becket with a fantastic concert of originals and well-known favorites by Janis Joplin, Jimmy Hendricks, Guns ‘N Roses, and more.

**Open Rehearsals:** On stage in the upstairs gallery, two amazing performances were held in 2022. The Fremonts performed their

hilarious and touching “Failure Cabaret” in September to a full house and hosted a post-performance Q&A. In December, Ken Cheeseman gave a dramatic reading of Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol” accompanied by Amy Attias. Both these performances served as a learning experience for the performers as they perfected their art before performing in larger venues.

**Oysters, Wine & Good Times:** The BAC held a fundraiser on September 25, outside at Canterbury Farm in Becket. East Dennis Oyster Farm provided oysters, while friends and neighbors enjoyed the music by Lady Di & The Dukes.

In early 2022, we were awarded a \$40,000 grant from MA Cultural Facilities Fund for installation of a heating and cooling system, electrical upgrades, and additional insulation for Seminary Hall, the town-owned building leased to the Becket Arts Center. To access this grant, we had to raise \$40,000. We are grateful for the contribution towards this project by the Town of Becket, approved by the voters at the 2022 Annual Town Meeting. We raised the remaining funds through our fundraising events in 2021 and 2022, and through a special campaign to raise donations from individuals and small foundations. We met this goal at the end of 2022. The addition of a heating system means the BAC can offer classes, workshops, lectures, performances and exhibits in the winter months, thus providing Becket and the surrounding hilltowns’ community with opportunities to participate year-round.

To build on the 2022 progress (increased membership, expanded program offerings, extended gallery exhibits, additional staff, an artist-in-residence, and the installation of a heating system in Seminary Hall), the Board of Trustees will work with a consultant to develop a strategic plan to guide us through the next five to ten years.

BAC has provided the community with unique arts offerings and plans to continue to grow in 2023 and beyond. We wish to emphasize that memberships, donations, and grants are what make all of what the BAC does possible. Please consider becoming a member by making a contribution to the BAC to keep this valuable community asset alive and thriving.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Jennifer Beatty, *Executive Director*



### **Board of Trustees:**

Mary Manning Cohen, *President*

Jim Petosa, *Vice-President*

Ray Ellsworth, *Treasurer*

Ann Morrison, *Secretary*

Alison Atlas, Amy Attias, Rose Borgnis,

Ken Cheeseman, Fran Hamburg,

Ema Johnson, Paula Langton

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## ◆ **REPORT OF THE MULLEN HOUSE EDUCATION CENTER** ◆

The town-owned building at 12 Brooker Hill Road continues to serve small businesses in town under the jurisdiction of the MHEC Board of Directors. Two writers, a business development consultant, the Becket Historical Commission, and the Becket Land Trust occupy the facilities. In return for renting spaces, tenants are obligated to offer some service to the town. There is another room available for rent. Broadband internet service is available.

The former home of the Mullen family was donated to the town years ago. After the VFW used the MHEC, the town leased the building to Becket Land Trust which needed a space for a quarry museum. The town Historical Commission also uses the sheds of the building for a Becket Basket Museum.

Summer visitor hours are Saturdays from 12pm until 3pm. A docent oversees the facility and offers help and information to visitors. If you have never visited our town history museums, you are welcome to do so this summer.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Rita Furlong,  
**Director**

### **Board Members:**

Ken Smith, Ann Smith, Dave Wiley, Cathy Halliday

## ◆ **REPORT OF THE BECKET AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION** ◆

The Becket Agricultural Commission (BAC) is a standing committee of town government, created through a vote at town meeting and appointed by a vote of the Select Board. BAC represents the farming community, encourages the pursuit of agriculture, promotes agricultural economic development, protects farmlands and farm operations and preserves, revitalizes and sustains agricultural businesses and land.

The intent of BAC is simple: protect agricultural lands, preserve rural character, provide a voice for farmers, and encourage agricultural based enterprises.

Anyone who is a resident of Becket is eligible to serve on a town board or commission. However, the bylaw created and passed by the town determines the number of members and composition of the commission. Anyone interested in serving on the BAC should review the appropriate bylaws and contact the BAC.

Towns provide support for all committees. Each town should decide what an appropriate budget is for the BAC. Existing budgets range from \$0-\$1000.

Unlike other town committees, AG Coms do not operate under any regulatory authority from the Commonwealth. While town conservation committees implement the state wetlands protection act and planning boards enforce the local zoning

codes, AG Coms are created at town meeting to represent farming interests in the town, but do not have any legal mandate or enforcement authority.

In Massachusetts, AG Coms are involved with adopting local “right to farm” bylaws (Becket has one); raising money for farmland protection and economic development; starting local farmers markets; providing mediation and conflict resolution on farm related disputes within town; collaborating with other town boards on development proposals; educating town residents about the value of agriculture in the community; holding educational workshops on intergenerational transfer of property, Chapter 61 lands, farm viability, and agricultural preservation restrictions; and obtaining technical assistance on nonpoint source pollution, conservation farm planning, manure management, and environmental stewardship.

Anyone seeking information and educational resources relevant to farming in Becket should contact the BAC for help and guidance.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Neil F. Toomey,  
**Chairperson**  
Becket Agricultural Commission

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## ◆ **REPORT OF THE ENERGY COMMITTEE** ◆

For 2022, the Becket Energy Committee consisted of the following members:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Term</b>
Garth Klimchuk	Chair	2024
Cathy DeFoe	Vice Chair	2023
Susan Purser	Secretary	2024
Robert Gross	Member	2023
Alvin Blake	Member	2025
Paul Green	Ex-Officio	
Katherine Warden	Ex-Officio	
Edward Pickert	Ex-Officio	
Dan Parnell	Ex-Officio	

We wish to acknowledge W. Katherine Hoak, who resigned effective Dec. 20th. She devoted herself to the Energy Committee since its inception in 2013.

### **Mission**

The committee's charge is to advise the Becket Select Board and make recommendations about energy efficiency in town buildings and operations, ensure compliance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Green Communities Program, investigate and recommend renewable and alternate energy opportunities for Becket's municipal government, advise and assist the town and community to identify and apply for energy and conservation related grants and funding opportunities, educate residents about ways that they can save energy and reduce energy payments, advise them on energy-related issues and recommend specific initiatives.

The BEC met on or about every third Tuesday of each month throughout 2022 at 4:00pm in-person and via zoom. Meeting minutes and agendas were posted on the Town of Becket website.

### **Notable Accomplishments**

- Continued assessment of town properties and rooftops for possible solar arrays in order to reduce the Town's energy bill and carbon footprint.
- Initiated review of the Town's involvement as an anchor participant in possible community solar projects.
- Initiated review of installation of a commercial-scale wind turbine on Town Hall property in order to reduce power purchases from Eversource.

- Assisted Select Board in the assessment of Town's participation in a power aggregation program.
- Submitted a Municipal Energy Technology Assistance (META) grant application to secure funding for wind and solar site assessment engagements.
- Initiated a street lighting replacement program to reduce Town power costs.
- Worked with the Becket Arts Center to reduce their heating costs.
- Endorsed MA Power Forward initiative and other state organizations promoting renewable energy and state renewable energy legislation.
- Initiated discussions with other towns adjacent to Becket regarding possible collaboration on community solar and energy aggregation programs.

### **Current Priorities**

#### Short Term

1. Complete installation of wind or solar project facility on Town Hall property.
2. Continue to explore anchor participant role in community solar array.
3. Continue to identify community solar and other renewable energy projects for the Town and Town residents.
4. Organize seventh annual BEC Information Session to be held sometime in the summer of 2023.
5. Continue to assist Town Administrator with ongoing Green Community opportunities.

#### Long Term

1. Continue to implement Town sustainability and renewable energy objectives and reduce Town's dependency on fossil fuels.
2. Continue to determine viability of creating Town of Becket municipal power company/microgrid to control costs, implement Town sustainability and renewable energy objectives and reduce dependency on Eversource.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

**Energy Committee**

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## ◆ **REPORT OF THE BROADBAND AD HOC GROUP** ◆

2022 saw the construction of our town's broadband fiber network approach completion. After years of waiting, most of our town is finally able to enjoy a proper 21st century high-speed Internet connection.

Unfortunately, some unforeseen construction complications in a small section of town arose. Nine of the town's ten Fiber Service Areas (FSAs) were completed. Most home connections for those nine, as well as those for customers on the east side of FSA10, were realized by year's end. At the time of this writing, the remaining network construction in FSA10 and its associated home connections were expected to be complete in late spring or early summer of 2023, depending on how our "mud season" shakes out.

A reminder: if you are unsure of your address' service-ready status, you can still check that on the Becket Broadband website's FSA Map & Status page.

The town-offered subsidy toward fiber connections to homes and businesses was slated to end at the completion of network construction. Be sure to check the current status of this free credit toward your installation if you have not yet taken advantage of it; it could save you hundreds or even thousands of dollars.

Two more broadband information sessions were conducted in July. Interested folks joined us at Town Hall and online via Zoom to learn all they could about what services are offered and how it all works. These sessions, as well as the session from late 2021, were recorded and are available for your review at our website, [becketbroadband.org](http://becketbroadband.org) under the Events heading.

In fact many, if not most—if not all—of your questions (if you still have any) can be answered by visiting our website, where you will also find information on federal and local subsidies, service options and pricing, a comprehensive FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) section, and more. You can also send a note to us, ask questions, and sign up for our e-mailing list.

If you want high-speed Internet and/or digital telephone service but have not yet signed up, you can do it online at [whipcityfiber.com/becket](http://whipcityfiber.com/becket). Call 1-833-991-9378 if you have questions or need assistance.

We offer a heartfelt thank you to our community for your patience and support. We still think (and hope you agree) that it has been well worth the wait.

*Respectfully submitted,*

***Broadband Ad Hoc Group***

Bob Gross, ***MLP Manager and WiredWest Alternate Delegate***

Cathy Defoe

Vickie DeLorenzo

Jeremy Dunn

Chuck Garman

Dave Labrecque

Dan Parnell

Jeff Piemont, ***WiredWest Delegate***





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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE BECKET CULTURAL COUNCIL* ◆

You might not know who we are but if you are a Becket resident or a second homeowner with an interest in the arts, humanities, or sciences, you have probably attended an event funded, in part, by the Becket Cultural Council.

As an all-volunteer organization, we use money allocated by the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) to support local projects and programs related to the arts, sciences, humanities, and the environment. Volunteers are our life blood so, first, I would like to thank the wonderful council members who cycled off in the first half of 2022: Linda Bacon, Andrea Pecor, Mary Manning Cohen, Andrea Nix, and Sally Baumer.

Second, I want to welcome and thank the new members who joined the council this fall: Jane Markham, Sarah Reedy, and Lisa Rosier. Members who continue to serve are Drea Pecor (treasurer), Shelley Chanler (secretary), Tracy Wilson (publicity), at-large members Roberta Goldman and Carole Rivele, and Cathy Terwedow (chair). If YOU are interested

in joining the council, please email us at [becketculturalcouncil@townofbecket.org](mailto:becketculturalcouncil@townofbecket.org). The time commitment and duties are light.

Funding priority is given to organizations, projects, events, and programs that support local youth and senior programs, emphasize cultural diversity, and offer experiences for Becket residents to enjoy.

Our program year typically begins in September when officers are elected, and applications begin to come in. New members serve a three-year term and can be appointed and sworn in at any time. Council members may serve two terms consecutively and may be reappointed for an additional term(s) after one year's absence.

For 2022, we received \$5,000 to allocate to grant applicants, the most Becket has ever received! Of the twenty-nine applications that came in, the following fourteen were accepted.

<b><u>Applicant</u></b>	<b><u>Project Title</u></b>	<b><u>Awarded</u></b>
Greenagers, Inc.	Environmental Education & Stewardship	\$125
Jodi Hostetter	Music in the Park	\$525
Becket Washington Elem. PTO	School Art Show	\$300
IS183, Inc.	ARTcentric: Berkshires at B-W Elementary School	\$250
Becket Athenaeum, Inc.	Storytelling Series 2022	\$300
Becket Athenaeum, Inc.	Museum Passes	\$900
Becket Arts Center	Music Brings Communities Together	\$750
Becket Arts Center	Community Arts Workshop (camp connection)	\$700
Music in Common, Inc.	The Black Legacy Project	\$100
The Stockbridge Sinfonia	Celebration of 50 Years of Community Music	\$250
Hilltown Families, Inc.	Hilltown Families Suggests	\$50
Berkshire Music School, Inc.	All that Jazz: A Musical Enrichment Program	\$500
Becket Washington Elem. PTO	Becket Washington Carnival	\$250

For 2023, we have approved even more projects so get out and take advantage of all that Becket has to offer.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
Cathy Terwedow, *Chair*

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## ◆ **REPORT OF THE VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICER** ◆

The Veterans' Services office serves the Veterans of Becket and their families. We assist veterans in processing requests for Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) Chapter 115 benefits. Chapter 115 benefits are needs based, and include temporary financial assistance, medical reimbursement, and assistance in applying for aid from other state and federal agencies. Veterans with a dishonorable discharge are not eligible. Spouses and dependent children may also be eligible, if the veteran was eligible.

During 2022, the Town of Becket assisted veterans this year with Chapter 115 benefits totaling \$26,649.34. Of the total benefits, 75%, or \$19,987.01, will be reimbursed by the state for an actual cost to the Town of \$6,662.34. This included regular benefits, heating assistance, and medical reimbursements.

The actual cost included paying for the funeral of a veteran who did not have the means to pay in the amount of \$3,650. If a veteran does not have sufficient funds, or insurance, to pay for their funeral, Veterans' Services is able to pay up to \$4,000.00, as long as the total cost of the funeral does not exceed \$5,000.00.

The Veterans' Service Officer (VSO) also assists veterans and their spouses with federal Veterans' Administration requests. We advise veterans on what is available, and can assist in filling out and submitting the necessary paperwork. Veterans' Services does not have any input in the approval process. This year we helped a few widows to file for a survivor's pension, also known as the death benefit.

The case load of Becket Veterans' Services has remained fairly constant. The greatest need continues to be for senior veterans and their spouses, or their widows, who have very little income and are unable to work. As noted in previous reports, one of the most underused programs available to veterans is a program that allows a Veteran to receive Medical Only benefits, even if their income is too high for regular benefits. Chapter 115 is a needs-based program, with a limit on income and assets. This program reimburses co-pays, other medical costs, and can even reimburse the cost of Medicare Part B and some supplemental insurances. Veteran Services does not pay the bills, but reimburses medical bills paid for by the veteran. Becket Veterans' Services has several on this Medical Only program.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

Doug Mann  
***Becket Veterans' Service Officer (Veterans' Agent)***



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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE BECKET ATHENAEUM* ◆

At the Becket Athenaeum, our commitment to serving the communities of Becket and Washington remains strong and focused. During 2022, we continued to provide outstanding library services as a result of appropriations received from the towns of Becket and Washington toward operating and capital expenses. The Fairfield County's Community Trust, the Feigenbaum Foundation, Neenah Charitable Giving, and the Central Berkshire Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, all continued to support our after-school and internship programs, as well as our community enrichment programs for all ages. Our LCCs (Local Cultural Council) from Becket and Washington provided support for the passes to local museums we provide to our patrons all year long. In addition, the Becket LCC provided grant funds again in 2022 to help the Athenaeum hire several family-friendly performers for the library's outdoor event days throughout the summer.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic lessened enormously in 2022. The library remained open for walk-in browsing and computer usage for patrons since June 2021, prior to which we had operated by appointment. Staff continued to offer entryway pickup for those patrons who were not yet ready to enter the library due to the pandemic. The Athenaeum successfully ran virtual and outdoor programming throughout 2022, with a full expansion to indoor programming for all registrants, regardless of masking or vaccination status. During the summer 2022, Athenaeum staff ran our Summer Reading Program, as well as a weekly outdoor Story & Craft Time for families. We expanded our youth programming to include a co-sponsored program with the Town of Becket Summer Camp and the Becket Arts Center. We hosted multiple in-person, outdoor, family events; three well-attended storytelling and puppetry programs, plus a community drumming workshop. Our Summer Reading and Storytime & Craft programs have remained so successful that Athenaeum staff continues to hold them year-round.

Our teen internship program for high school students increased in size and scope in 2022. We have been able to shift these internships to year-round with additional funding. The interns are now paid wages, versus the original stipend-based position. Internships are nearly always a teen's first paid job and the mentoring and new job skills are invaluable to them and are vital piece of our community outreach. Beginning in 2022, we helped them with job

applications, W4 completion, obtaining working papers through their school, and setting up their direct deposit. These are direct life skills that they would not have had previously. The students work in our community programs and as librarian assistants, helping with various library tasks. Our Head Librarian, Ellen Manley, took over the Internship Supervisor role, and has worked intensively with all the interns to guide them in job skills, and more importantly, in work ethic and organizational skills. Athenaeum staff continues to write recommendations as needed for interns as they begin applying to colleges, new jobs, and college housing. This program will continue strongly in 2023, and will accept applications on a rolling basis.

The Athenaeum continued our partnership with the Dalton CRA as well as the Becket Washington School in 2022, yet this collaboration was limited by the COVID-19 restrictions on afterschool programming held at the school. Kids Club relaunched fully in fall 2022, as a traditional afterschool care program with the option for families to also register for extra tutoring held in the Kids Club program. These changes allowed families to have afterschool care AND the option for tutoring for their child(ren) through 5:30pm Monday through Friday.

Our Friday Enrichment (FE) program was redesigned for 2022 into a program that had 2-3 sessions monthly, with a different educational focus each month. Families registered their children for the month, for specific educational topics, without having to commit to the program for the entire school year. Topics varied from maple syrup projects/field trips to the science of anatomy and health, along with field trips to Canterbury Farm for ice skating, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Dr. Sarah Reedy was the lead teacher for these programs, assisted by Ellen Manley, the Athenaeum's Head Librarian.

Our STEAM program for the pre-school age group continued in fall 2022. We are looking to increase registrations of families with preschool-aged children for this program, as many of our previous attendees are now enrolled at Becket Washington School. This program meets on Tuesdays for hands-on STEAM (Science, Technology, Environment, Arts, and Math) projects led by Wendy Provencher, the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement coordinator for the Central Berkshire Regional School District. Wendy's projects teach not only basic

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## ***REPORT OF THE BECKET ATHENAEUM***

*(Continued)*

science knowledge, but also social skills of working alongside other children in a structured setting. Wendy's position is funded through a grant by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

The Athenaeum staff enjoys hosting Becket Washington School class field trips to help foster a love of reading, a familiarity with the library as a source of community (as well as books) and to support the BWS teachers in their needs for their classrooms and students. These walking field trips continued in 2022, as well as expanding to include hands-on gardening and social studies projects for the Kindergarten and 1st grade classes. It is our aim that these continue as an ongoing community outreach and educational supplement for local students.

In the Federal FY22 (October 1, 2021-September 30, 2022), the Becket Athenaeum received a federal grant for \$10,000. Funding for this grant came from federal LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) funds provided by the Institute of Museum of Library Services (IMLS) and overseen by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. The grant was titled "Dig in! Growing Libraries with Gardens and Nature-based Learning Spaces" and provided the Athenaeum the funding to install a community educational garden on the library grounds. This project took a year of planning, forging community partnerships, finding staff hours and volunteers, and then a second year to install in-ground and raised garden beds, build, and install an elevated wheelchair-accessible bed, and then run the programming and volunteer effort to plant native pollinator perennials and direct seed vegetable and herb gardens.

The Athenaeum acknowledges the guidance, enthusiasm, and dedication shown by our community partners and would like to recognize all who worked hard in this 2-year project:

Pat Parkins, Brehan Bruce-Cole, and staff of Gardens of the Goddess, Becket Washington teachers and students, Girl Scout Troop #40367 and their leader Allison Mikaniewicz, Cathy & Ron DeFoe, Sam Harding, Dave & Linda Bacon of Canterbury Farms, Meredyth Babcock of Wild & Scenic Westfield River Project, Amy Pulley and Alice Cozzolino of Wing & a Prayer Nursery in Cummington, Jane Markham,

Purr McEwen, Emily Robinson, Andrea Pecor, as well as the Trustees and Staff of the Becket Athenaeum for the months and multitude of hours spent in bringing this educational garden and environmental programming into existence.

In 2022, with a new partnership built with the Town of Becket Summer Day Camp and the Becket Arts Center, the Athenaeum hosted the 28 campers and their 4 counselors each Tuesday morning for five weeks. Our weekly projects focused on environmental and garden themes, making use of the Athenaeum's newly installed "Purr McEwen Community Educational Garden". Lessons ranged from local pollinators, the plants they need, and building bee houses; weeding and harvesting garden vegetables and herbs to make flavored vinegars; studying the animals and insects that are vital for pollinating and seed-dispersal, which included working with Meredyth Babcock, Emerson Wolski, and the interns from the Wild & Scenic Westfield River Project to design wildlife shadow puppets, and then write and perform an educational puppet show held at the Athenaeum on the final day of camp.

We have a dynamic Book Club that meets on the first Tuesday of each month. This group is open to all interested in discussing fiction and non-fiction. We are pleased that the group was flexible during the pandemic, with some of its members meeting virtually, while the remainder chose to meet in person back at the Athenaeum by fall 2022. Begun in July 2021, our Cookbook Club has continued to grow and share our enjoyment of cooking and food. Participants each check out a copy of the same cookbook and select which recipe they will make for the meeting. On the second Monday of the month, the group gathers to share the dishes and talk about their experience with the cookbook (clear instructions, difficulty finding ingredients, etc.). The group enjoys both the feast as well as making new community connections and friendships.

The Athenaeum receives funding from both Becket Cultural Council and Washington Council to help fund our museum passes program, as well to fund our Summer Community Performances. This program is free to all attendees, and focuses on family-friendly performer educators, such as storyteller Eshu Bumpus (folktales and games from Africa), Otha Day, community drumming educator (drumming rhythms and song from around the world), as well as Brad Shur of Paper Heart Puppets.

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## ***REPORT OF THE BECKET ATHENAEUM***

*(Continued)*

The Athenaeum continues to receive grant funds from the Central Berkshire Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Foundation, Berkshire Bank, the Feigenbaum Foundation, and the Fairfield County's Community Foundation for programs held throughout the year. In 2022, these workshops/presentations were held both virtually, outdoors when the weather allowed, as well as programming in the library or at Becket Federated Church's Fellowship Hall. Workshops, presentations, and performances included a variety of topics and skills, such as: knitting, storytelling, community drumming, cookbook club, author readings, mushroom growing, pollinator gardens, wild edibles, and so much more. These workshops were well-attended and provided information on a wide range of interesting topics for our community. Feedback surveys are sent to all registrants asking for their evaluation of both staff organization and presenter merit, as well as suggestions for future programming. We are always open to suggestions for group activities of interest to our patrons.

In 2022, we were able to complete some needed repairs and updates at the Athenaeum, to include: installation of new

outdoor water spigots to help with the educational garden beds; a new perennial garden bed along the north wall of the building, as well around the septic head; and an evaluation of the attic to prevent pest infestations. In 2023, we expect our long-awaited well project to be completed by late summer. Becket and Washington voted to approve funding these projects at their Town Meetings.

As an independent non-profit organization, we rely on and so appreciate the many supportive individuals and groups who help us deliver the services and programs our community deserves from its library. Without town funding approved by Becket and Washington voters, plus the individual donors in our community, we could not serve as effectively as the community hub for our two towns.

Our patrons, volunteers, donors, grantors, and the Towns of Becket and Washington all come together as our partners to make the organization a success and we sincerely thank you.

We look forward to seeing you at the Athenaeum!

### 2022 Staff

Jodi Shafiroff, ***Executive Director and Programming Director***

Ellen Manley, ***Head Librarian***

Dawn Greene, ***Catalog Specialist***

Emily Robinson, ***Library Assistant***

Faith Bailey, ***Library Assistant***

Drea Pecor, ***Bookkeeper***

Colin Rosier, ***Intern***

Sara-Louise Oakes, ***Intern***

El Walker, ***Intern***

Everett Massini, ***Intern***

Madeline Beatty, ***Intern***

### 2022 Becket Athenaeum Board of Trustees

Cathy DeFoe, ***Chair*** (Becket Resident)

Lee Watroba, ***Vice-Chair*** (Becket Resident)

Robert Gross, ***Treasurer*** (Becket Resident)

Jane Markham (Becket Resident)

Cheryl Cucinello (Becket Resident)

Lei-Anne Ellis (Becket Resident)

Sharon Davis (Washington Resident)

Denise Johns, until 03/2022 (Washington Resident)

Allison Mikaniewicz, until 03/2022 (Washington Resident)

Katherine Hoak, until 12/2022 (Becket Resident)

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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE* ◆

The Becket Finance Committee is a five member unpaid elected body, with each member serving a three-year term. We work with the Select Board and Town Administrator to make sound financial decisions for the Town of Becket. This includes developing the annual operating and capital budgets, as well as evaluating and dealing with needed adjustments and exceptions throughout the year. We strive to keep our tax rate as low as possible while providing the multitude of services we all expect and enjoy.

Becket is somewhat unique and fortunate in that, although we are a relatively small town, we provide 24 hour police, ambulance and fire coverage along with a robust highway department. We also have a town beach, youth programs and a town-owned world class high speed internet system. State support and a high signup rate have made the cost of our broadband internet system very reasonable. We are very fortunate to have all these services and more, but they are costly. They often require substantial investment in large, expensive equipment and gear, and the qualified staff needs and deserves to be paid competitive wages and benefits. Some town employee pay rates have or are likely to increase substantially as the labor market is tight and we must increase wages (and department budgets) to remain competitive and keep our valued employees. Our switch to an EMT based Ambulance model and state required changes in police training requirements are also factors.

Due to our healthy real estate tax base and number of second homes, we are able to do all this and still have a respectably low tax rate relative to most communities. Even so, we try and scrutinize all expenses to get this rate as low as possible to keep living in Becket affordable. We also hope to see additional sources of revenue for our town as this will stabilize the tax rate and thus the annual bill that we all pay. The most likely sources of this would be commercial development and room and meal taxes. We are all leery of changing the character of our town, but we must be mindful that commercial projects should benefit the town and us financially. The same can be said for room and meal taxes (an extremely common town practice in Massachusetts). This is something to think about as we debate and decide on these issues through our town government process. The Finance Committee believes 2023 may be the year to consider a room tax. This would put us on par with almost all other

Massachusetts municipalities and bring in about \$100,000.00 annually from visitors who use our roads, ambulance/police/fire coverage, etc.

While we feel we do a good job planning and reacting to unforeseen events such as storms and equipment breakdowns (and our strong cash reserves help), the school budget is about 40% of our total budget and we have no control on what our Central Berkshire Operating Budget contribution will be each year and it can change substantially from year to year. Major factors are Commonwealth taxation formulas that change unexpectedly (and unexplainably) from year to year, vocational transportation and the overall number of students we have in the education system. We hope to see more regionalization of vocational schools (and other public services such as ambulance and fire) as time goes on to improve efficiency, share services and lower costs to our taxpayers.

Becket has historically relied on Chapter 90 state funds for major repairs to our paved roads. This funding has long been recognized statewide as woefully inadequate. While there is pressure to increase these funds at the state level, we believe Becket will need to go above and beyond Chapter 90 funding in the future to maintain and improve our paved roads. Another challenge is that with climate change our extensive network of dirt roads need maintenance and improvements to handle the increase in intensive weather patterns. We are experiencing more severe storms that bring large amounts of intense precipitation that result in washouts and road damage. We are working on building the town's financial reserves to help in this area.

In summary, Becket enjoys a competitive tax rate despite providing a broad array of quality services to our residents and our growth in residential housing (and the tax base) is strong. Our cash reserves are healthy and although we have challenges in front of us, we are well poised financially to meet them.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Dan Parnell, ***Chair***  
Ann Spadafora, ***Vice Chair***  
Ron Defoe, ***Secretary***  
Chuck Garman  
Mark Karlberg

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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK - 2022* ◆

This was a year of transition in the Town Clerk's Office. I wish to thank Allison Mikaniewicz, Washington Town Clerk, for serving as Interim Town Clerk, and providing assistance after George Roberts resigned. I began working for the beautiful hilltown of Becket on June 3, 2022. The people of Becket, and all my co-workers at Town Hall have been more than welcoming as I am learning while simultaneously operating this office. There is a great deal of camaraderie amongst the Town Clerks throughout the Commonwealth. I have been able to tap into their tremendous bank of knowledge. We are always willing to help each other. This varied and most challenging municipal position is gratifying. I look forward to continuing on this municipal journey with the goal of being part of enhancing the quality of lives in our community. I encourage anyone and everyone to come in and meet me anytime so that I can match a name to a face.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Robin C. Mathiesen, *Town Clerk*

### **Board of Registrars:** Colleen Cox, Michelle Smith, and Robin Mathiesen (TC)

Voter Registration Sessions	0
Candidate Voter Lists prepared	0
Sherwood Forest Road District — Voter Lists prepared	0

### **Census Results**

Residents over age 16	1,968
All Residents	2,164

### **Vital Records** (Recorded in Becket)

Births	4
Deaths	26
Marriages	14

### **Fees**

Marriage Intentions filed: (14)	\$350.00
Certified copies prepared:	
Birth certificates (28)	\$140.00
Death certificates (97)	\$485.00
Marriage certificates (14)	\$70.00
Burial Permits issued: (0)	\$ -----
Cemetery Deeds Recorded: (5)	\$2,255.00
Genealogy requests: (0)	\$ -----
<b>Total Vitals Fees Collected</b>	<b><u>\$3,300.00</u></b>

### **Other Licenses, Permits, Recordings**

<u>Issued</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>
241	Dog Licenses (Neut & Non-Neut)	\$1369.00
0	Kennel licenses	\$ -----
0	Dog License Late Fees	\$ -----
0	Utility Pole Recording	\$ -----
1	Business Certificate applications:	\$25.00

### **Business Certificates recorded:**

George Roberts Woodworking

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***Report of the Town Clerk***  
***(Continued)***

**ANNUAL TOWN CAUCUS, APRIL 6, 2022**

Pursuant to the foregoing notice, a Town Caucus was held in the Becket Town Hall on April 6, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 11:45 AM by Interim Town Clerk, Allison Mikaniewicz and the following Caucus Officers were elected: Jodie Hostetter, Chair (Presiding Officer). The polls opened promptly at 12:00 PM and 21 voters (1.2% of the 1,694 registered voters) of the Town participated and cast ballots for the nomination of candidates. The results are listed; the names of the candidates nominated appear in bold.

The polls closed promptly at 7:00 PM. The Election Workers were: Jodie Hostetter, Steven Reiss, Susan Crossley, Adrienne Metcalf, Jerome Schwartzbach, David Weiler, and Susan Purser. The Constable was William Elovirta. The Police Officer was Nicole Miller.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Mikaniewicz, ***Interim Town Clerk***

**Votes**

**Member, Select Board (3-year term)**

Vote For One

<b>Christopher Swindlehurst</b>	<b>19</b>
All Others (write-ins)	0
Blanks	2
Total Votes Cast	21

**Member, Board of Health (3-year term)**

Vote For One

Blanks	16
<b>All Others (write-ins):</b>	
<b>Gale Labelle</b>	<b>5</b>
Other	0
Total Votes Cast	21

**Member, Cemetery Commissioner (3-year term)**

Vote For One

Blanks	19
<b>All Others (write-ins):</b>	
Damian Rogers	1
Other	1
Total Votes Cast	21

**Member, Finance Committee (3-year term)**

Vote For Two

<b>Ronald Defoe</b>	<b>21</b>
Blanks	0
Write-Ins	0
Other	0
Total Votes Cast	21

**Member, Planning Board (5-year term)**

Vote For One

<b>Alvin Blake</b>	<b>16</b>
Blanks	5
Write-Ins	0
Other	21



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## *Report of the Town Clerk*

### **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, MAY 14, 2022**

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the Annual Town Meeting was called on Saturday, May 14, 2022 at the Becket Washington School, 12 Maple Street, Becket, MA 01223. There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by the Moderator. There were 72 registered voters present (4.2% of the 1715 registered voters) and a total of 96 people attended the meeting. Town Officials present: Ethan Klepetar, Moderator; William Elovirta, Christopher Swindlehurst, and Michael Lavery, Select Board Members; Dan Parnell and Ronald Defoe, Finance Committee Members; Allison Mikaniewicz, Interim Town Clerk; Mark Weber, Interim Town Administrator; Joel Bard, Esq., Town Counsel.

After the Moderator opened the meeting, Adele Levine gave an update on the new monthly newsletter, Becket Beat and how to contribute, volunteer and where it will be available to pick- up. Kathy Rodhouse spoke about the preservation grant that the First Congregational Church received for the Paul Revere bell and thanked the Town and the Community Preservation Committee.

#### **ARTICLE 1 COMPENSATION**

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Chapter 41, section 108 of the General Laws, to fix the compensation of the Select Board at \$2,274 each and pursuant to Chapter 41, section 4A of the General Laws, to allow the following boards to employ their members at the listed hourly rates.

Board of Health at the rate of \$16.55 per hour for the performance of their duties as Board of Health members that is in excess of their meeting time.

Cemetery Commission at the rate of \$16.55 per hour for the performance of their duties as Cemetery Commission members in maintaining the cemeteries that is in excess of their meeting time; or take any other action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town set wage and salary rates for municipal boards and commissions as presented in Article 1 of the Warrant for the May 14, 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

**Select Board: Recommended**

**Majority Vote Required**

**Finance Committee: Recommended**

**ARTICLE 1** was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 1, and the motion on **Article 1 passed unanimously.**

#### **ARTICLE 2 FY 2023 OPERATING BUDGET**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be needed to defray the expense of the Town for the 2023 Fiscal Year; or take any other action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town raise and appropriate \$7,418,441 for the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023).

**Majority Vote Required**

**Finance Committee: Recommended; Select Board: Recommended**

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	FY21 Actuals	FY 22 Approved	FY23 Rec.	\$ Change	%Diff.
1 ADVERTISING	907	4,000	4,000	-	0.0%
2 SELECTMEN'S SALARIES	6,525	6,656	6,822	166	2.4%
3 SELECTMEN'S EXPENSES	627	2,200	2,200	-	0.0%
4 TOWN MEETING EXPENSES	1,625	6,000	6,000	-	0.0%
5 TOWN ADMIN. SALARY	80,000	81,600	84,888	3,288	3.9%
6 TOWN ADMIN. EXPENSES	1,164	2,200	2,200	-	0.0%
7 STAFF COVERAGE	1,248	3,500	3,500	-	0.0%
8 CLERK OF COMMITTEES	12,121	20,000	20,400	400	2.0%
9 FINANCE COMMITTEE	135	600	600	-	0.0%

**Report of the Town Clerk**  
(Continued)

10	TOWN ACCOUNTANT SALARIES	25,478	25,988	26,638	650	2.4%
11	OUTSIDE PAYROLL SERVICES	11,365	7,000	8,000	1,000	12.5%
12	TOWN ACCOUNTANT EXPENSES	-	400	400	-	0.0%
13	ASSESSORS SALARIES	44,002	65,000	65,000	-	0.0%
14	ASSESSORS EXPENSE	71,291	70,000	72,000	2,000	2.8%
15	TOWN TREASURER SALARY	47,384	48,335	49,543	1,208	2.4%
16	TOWN TREASURER EXP.	2,549	5,000	5,000	-	0.0%
17	TAX COLLECTOR SALARY	59,070	60,251	61,757	1,506	2.4%
18	ASSIST. TAX COLLECTOR	49,152	50,144	51,398	1,254	2.4%
19	TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE	5,507	8,280	8,280	-	0.0%
20	TAX TITLE EXPENSES	20,679	30,000	30,000	-	0.0%
21	TOWN ADMIN ASST	47,502	48,452	49,663	1,211	2.4%
22	TOWN COUNSEL	20,663	20,000	20,000	-	0.0%
23	AUDIT EXPENSES	15,500	23,000	23,000	-	0.0%
24	POSTAGE	7,570	12,000	12,000	-	0.0%
25	TOWN REPORTS	3,074	3,500	3,500	-	0.0%
26	TOWN CLERK SALARY	29,918	30,516	31,279	763	2.4%
27	TOWN CLERK EXPENSE	1,492	2,145	2,245	100	4.5%
28	ELECTION-REGISTRATION	17,554	15,000	16,543	1,543	9.3%
29	CONSERVATION COMM.	14,161	20,000	20,000	-	0.0%
30	PLANNING BOARD EXPENSES	2,143	2,500	2,500	-	0.0%
31	ZONING BOARD of APPEALS	1,540	1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
32	BRPC	1,417	1,900	1,900	-	0.0%
33	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS LABOR	50,958	51,294	52,576	1,282	2.4%
34	MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	42,270	55,000	55,000	-	0.0%
35	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS EXPENSES	22,102	31,975	31,975	-	0.0%
36	BROADBAND	210	2,000	2,000	-	0.0%
37	BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS	24,189	35,000	35,000	-	0.0%
38	TECHNOLOGY	27,611	35,000	45,000	10,000	22.2%
39	RESERVE FUND		50,000	50,000	-	0.0%
<b>40</b>	<b>General Government Total</b>	<b>770,702</b>	<b>937,936</b>	<b>964,308</b>	<b>26,372</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
<b>41</b>	<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>					
42	POLICE DEPT. SALARIES	369,226	405,007	457,837	52,830	11.5%
43	POLICE DEPT. EXPENSE	18,241	21,000	24,954	3,954	15.8%
44	EM. MGMT EXP.	-	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
45	EM. MGMT. TRAINING	-	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
46	CONSTABLE EXPENSE	-	300	300	-	0.0%
47	FIRE DEPT. SALARIES/ CHIEF	7,483	7,633	7,824	191	2.4%
48	FIREFIGHTER STIPENDS	9,700	14,000	14,000	-	0.0%
49	FIRE DEPT. EXPENSES	19,278	37,000	38,000	1,000	2.6%
50	E911 COMMUNICATION	13,063	13,456	13,860	404	2.9%
51	BUILDING INSP. SALARY	48,172	55,000	55,000	-	0.0%
52	BUILDING & CODE INSP. EXP	775	2,350	2,350	-	0.0%
53	ANIMAL CONTROL SALARIES	5,638	5,751	5,895	144	2.4%
54	ANIMAL CONTROL EXPENSES	2,119	2,500	2,500	-	0.0%
55	HARBOR MASTER	953	1,474	1,511	37	2.4%
56	DEMOLITION FUND	18,850	25,000	25,000	-	0.0%
<b>57</b>	<b>Public Safety</b>	<b>513,500</b>	<b>592,471</b>	<b>651,030</b>	<b>58,559</b>	<b>9.0%</b>

**Report of the Town Clerk**  
(Continued)

**58 EDUCATION**

59 CBRSD OPERATING ASSESSMENT	2,318,893	2,392,842	2,520,651	127,809	5.1%
60 VOCATIONAL TUITION	201,776	190,000	190,000	-	0.0%
61 VOCATIONAL TRANSPORT.	29,552	75,000	75,000	-	0.0%
<b>62 Education Total</b>	<b>2,550,221</b>	<b>2,657,842</b>	<b>2,785,651</b>	<b>127,809</b>	<b>4.6%</b>

**FORESTRY**

63 TREE ACCOUNT	4,720	15,000	15,000	-	0.0%
64 FORESTRY	-	500	500	-	0.0%
<b>65 Forestry Total</b>		<b>15,500</b>	<b>15,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

**HIGHWAY**

<b>66 SALARIES &amp; WAGES</b>	210,540	245,820	251,966	6,145	2.4%
<b>67 SUMMER LABOR</b>	-	16,800	17,225	425	
<b>68 Salaries and Wages Subtotal</b>	<b>210,540</b>	<b>262,620</b>	<b>269,191</b>	6,571	2.4%
<b>69 GENERAL MAINTENANCE</b>					
<b>70 General Maintenance Subtotal</b>	<b>158,922</b>	<b>176,000</b>	<b>183,150</b>	7,150	3.9%

**MACHINERY**

<b>71 Machinery Subtotal</b>	<b>75,353</b>	<b>71,950</b>	<b>85,000</b>	<b>13,050</b>	<b>15.4%</b>
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**72 FUEL**

<b>73 Fuel Subtotal</b>	<b>65,515</b>	<b>91,750</b>	<b>92,250</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
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**74 HIGHWAY GARAGE**

<b>75 Highway Garage Subtotal</b>	<b>16,230</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>16,500</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
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**WINTER ROADS**

<b>76 Winter Roads Total</b>	<b>274,468</b>	<b>246,662</b>	<b>259,763</b>	<b>13,101</b>	<b>5.0%</b>
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77

<b>78 HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TOTAL</b>	<b>801,028</b>	<b>864,982</b>	<b>905,854</b>	<b>40,872</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
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**79 STREET LIGHTS**

<b>80 Street Lights Total</b>	<b>10,061</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
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**TRANSFER STATION**

81 Transfer Station Labor	38,233	38,657	43,845	5,188	11.8%
82 Rental Compactor		13,200	13,200	-	0.0%
83 Rental Open Container (2)		4,500	4,500	-	0.0%
84 Trucking Compactor		11,375	12,250	875	7.1%
85 Trucking Open Container		9,000	9,750	750	7.7%
86 Trucking Cans & Bottles		6,825	7,350	525	7.1%
87 Trucking Scrap Metal		4,550	4,900	350	7.1%
88 Trucking Paper Cardboard		4,875	5,250	375	7.1%
89 Trucking Rigid Plastics		3,600	3,600	-	0.0%
90 Trucking Fuel Surcharge		1,400	1,400	-	0.0%
91 Disposal Solid Waste		30,000	32,400	2,400	7.4%
92 Disposal Bulky Waste		18,000	18,620	620	3.3%
93 Recycling Cans, Bottles, Paper		9,500	11,500	2,000	17.4%
94 Disposal Haz Mat		10,000	10,500	500	4.8%
95 Chemicals		300	300	-	0.0%
96 Permits		1,850	1,850	-	0.0%
97 MRF education		100	100	-	0.0%

## Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

98 Maintenance		1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
99 Inspections/Testing		2,500	2,500	-	0.0%
100 Total Expenses	126,071	133,075	141,470	8,395	5.9%
<b>101 Transfer Station Total</b>	<b>164,304</b>	<b>171,732</b>	<b>185,315</b>	<b>13,583</b>	<b>7.3%</b>
 <b>102 S. BERKSHIRE SOLID WASTE</b>	 <b>1,865</b>	 <b>3,260</b>	 <b>3,260</b>	 <b>-</b>	 <b>0.0%</b>
<b>CEMETERIES</b>					
103 BECKET CENTER CEMETERY	4,910	5,000	5,000	-	0.0%
104 NORTH CEMETERY	13,321	16,500	16,500	-	0.0%
105 WEST CEMETERY	1,030	800	800	-	0.0%
<b>106 Cemeteries Total</b>	<b>19,261</b>	<b>22,300</b>	<b>22,300</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>HEALTH &amp; COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>					
107 BOARD of HEALTH SALARIES	1,932	9,500	9,500	-	0.0%
108 BOARD of HEALTH EXPENSES	33,110	33,500	33,500	-	0.0%
109 INSPECTOR of ANIMALS	357	364	373	9	2.4%
110 NURSING SERVICES	-	5,200	5,200	-	0.0%
111 COUNCIL on AGING	1,904	3,500	3,500	-	0.0%
112 OUTREACH		500	500	-	0.0%
113 VETERANS AGENT SALARY	2,193	2,194	2,249	55	2.4%
114 VETERANS BENEFITS	21,359	35,000	35,000	-	0.0%
115 VETERANS AGENT EXPENSE		100	100	-	0.0%
<b>116 Health &amp; Community Services Total</b>	<b>70,856</b>	<b>99,858</b>	<b>89,922</b>	<b>(10,000)</b>	
<b>LIBRARY</b>					
117 LIBRARY	51,549	52,581	54,160	1,579	2.9%
118 CHILDRENS HOLIDAY PARTY	500	500	500	-	0.0%
<b>119 Library Total</b>	<b>52,049</b>	<b>53,081</b>	<b>54,660</b>	<b>2,106</b>	<b>3.8%</b>
<b>PARKS AND RECREATION</b>					
120 WEED CENTER POND	3,000	3,000	4,500	1,500	33.3%
121 PARKS & RECREATION	19,949	30,610	32,768	2,158	6.6%
<b>122 Parks &amp; Recreation Total</b>	<b>22,949</b>	<b>33,610</b>	<b>37,268</b>	<b>3,658</b>	<b>9.8%</b>
<b>HISTORICAL COMMISSION</b>					
123 HISTORICAL COMMISSION	1,287	2,000	2,000	-	0.0%
<b>124 Historical Commission Total</b>	<b>1,287</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>					
125 MEMORIAL/VETERANS DAY	1,512	1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
<b>Memorial/Veterans Day Total</b>	<b>1,512</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>BENEFITS</b>					
126 HEALTH/LIFE INSURANCE	372,678	457,213	468,643	11,430	2.4%
127 COUNTY RETIREMENT	237,932	253,604	288,704	35,100	12.2%
128 PAYROLL TAX ACCOUNT	23,440	28,254	28,819	565	2.0%
129 UNEMPLOYMENT EXPENSE	426	5,000	5,000	-	0.0%
130 GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE	110,948	125,460	127,969	2,509	2.0%

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**Report of the Town Clerk**  
(Continued)

131 OPEB LIABILITY	-	15,000	15,000	-	0.0%
<b>132 Benefits Total</b>	<b>745,423</b>	<b>884,531</b>	<b>934,136</b>	<b>49,605</b>	<b>5.3%</b>
<b>133 TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>5,193,288</b>	<b>6,349,603</b>	<b>6,661,703</b>	312,627	4.7%
<b>134 FUNDED THROUGH WARRANT ARTICLES</b>					
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>					
<b>135 Town &amp; School Debt Service</b>		<b>384,812</b>	<b>418,738</b>	33,926	8.1%
<b>AMBULANCE</b>					
<b>136 From the General Fund</b>		<b>305,000</b>	<b>338,000</b>	33,000	9.8%
<b>137 TOTAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET</b>					
<b>INCLUDING WARRANT ARTICLES</b>		<b>7,039,415</b>	<b>7,418,441</b>	<b>379,553</b>	<b>5.1%</b>

**ARTICLE 2** was moved and seconded from the floor. The Fiscal Year listed in the motion was corrected to 2023 (from 2022). After brief discussion on line items 34, 38, 42, 73, 81 and 126, a vote was taken on the motion on Article 2, and the motion on **Article 2 passed by a majority vote.**

**ARTICLE 3 DEBT SERVICE**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$418,738 to fund debt service due in Fiscal Year 2023 for the following previously approved borrowings:

<b>Debt</b>	<b>FY2023 Amount</b>	<b>Maturity Date</b>
Becket Washington School	\$95,063	FY2025
Wahconah RHS Doors	\$7,063	FY2029
Craneville Roof	\$141	FY2023
Wahconah RHS New Construction	\$140,343	FY2047
Highway Truck #2	\$63,780	FY2025
Highway Truck #5	\$45,848	FY2024
Broadband	\$65,000	-
Interest on Short Term Debt	\$1,500	-

**MOTION:** Move that the Town raise and appropriate \$418,738 to pay principal and interest on School and Town debt for Fiscal 2023.

**Select Board: Recommended**

**Majority Vote Required**

**Finance Committee Recommended**

**ARTICLE 3** was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 3, and the motion on **Article 3 passed unanimously.**

**ARTICE 4 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds including free cash (FC) or borrow the sum of up to \$1,045,000, or any other sum, to be used to fund the Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Plan for the Town of Becket. This plan consists of the following items:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Police Department – Police Cruiser	\$60,000 (FC)
Town Hall Renovation/Furniture	\$12,500 (FC)
Town Backup Generators	\$50,000 (FC)
DER Grant Match – Benton Hill Culvert	\$21,814 (FC)
Town Hall Pavilion Expansion	\$15,000 (FC)
Becket Arts Center – Heating System	\$18,500 (FC)

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## ***Report of the Town Clerk***

***(Continued)***

Fire Department Grant Match - Engine	\$38,000 (FC)* grant contingent
Fire Department Engine	\$750,000 (Borrow) *grant contingent
Becket Athenaeum – Maintenance	\$10,000 (FC)
Highway Department – Truck Replacement	\$295,000 (Borrow)

**MOTION:** Move that the Town transfer \$225,814 from Free Cash and authorize the Treasurer to borrow up to \$1,045,000 for a total of \$1,270,814 to be used in the Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Plan.

**Select Board: Recommended**

**2/3 Vote Required**

**Finance Committee Recommended**

**ARTICLE 4** was moved and seconded from the floor. After brief discussion on the Becket Arts Center Heating System and the Fire Department Engine and Grant Match, a vote was taken on the motion on Article 4, and the motion on **Article 4 passed by a majority vote: 71 Yes; 1 No.**

### **ARTICLE 5 TRANSFER TO THE STABILIZATION FUND**

To see if the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$282,989 to be deposited into the Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town transfer \$282,989 from certified Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund.

**Select Board: Recommended**

**Majority Vote Required**

**Finance Committee: Recommended**

**ARTICLE 5** was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 5, and the motion on **Article 5 passed unanimously.**

### **ARTICLE 6 ACCEPTANCE OF CHAPTER 90 FUNDS**

To see if the Town will accept any monies appropriated by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for Chapter 90 use; these funds to be used for maintenance and reconstruction of Town roads and to fund the appropriation by transferring said amounts from available funds with any unspent funds to carry over from year to year until spent by the Town; these sums to be reimbursed to the Town by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in accordance with Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws; or take any other action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town accept the grant of Chapter 90 funds for Fiscal Year 2023 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**Select Board: Recommended**

**Majority Vote Required**

**Finance Committee: Recommended**

**ARTICLE 6** was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 6, and the motion on **Article 6 passed unanimously.**

### **ARTICLE 7 AMBULANCE BUDGET**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$488,000 for the salaries and expenses of the Ambulance Enterprise; and to fund said appropriation, to raise and appropriate \$338,000, use \$10,000 from Ambulance Stabilization, and to transfer \$140,000 from Fiscal Year 2022 Ambulance Receipts; or take any other action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town raise and appropriate \$338,000, transfer \$10,000 from Ambulance Stabilization, and transfer \$140,000 from Ambulance Receipts to fund operations of the Ambulance Enterprise in Fiscal Year 2022.

**Select Board: Recommended**

**2/3 Vote Required**

**Finance Committee: Recommended**

**ARTICLE 7** was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 7, and the motion on **Article 7 passed unanimously.**

### **ARTICLE 8 AMBULANCE CAPITAL**

To see if the Town will transfer from the Ambulance Stabilization account a sum of \$23,214.57 for a USDA grant match for

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## ***Report of the Town Clerk***

***(Continued)***

equipment; or take any other action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town transfer from the Ambulance Stabilization account the sum of \$23,214.57 for a USDA grant match.

**Select Board: Recommended**

**2/3 Vote Required**

**Finance Committee: Recommended**

**ARTICLE 8** was moved and seconded from the floor. After brief discussion on this article, a vote was taken on the motion on Article 8, and the motion on **Article 8 passed unanimously.**

### **ARTICLE 9 AMBULANCE STABILIZATION**

To see if the Town will transfer the ambulance retained earnings funds sum of \$16,726, to the ambulance stabilization account; or take any other action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town transfer the ambulance retained earnings funds in the sum of \$16,726 to the ambulance stabilization account.

**Select Board: Recommended**

**Majority Vote Required**

**Finance Committee: Recommended**

**ARTICLE 9** was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 9, and the motion on **Article 9 passed unanimously.**

### **ARTICLE 10 REVOLVING FUNDS**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the use of the following revolving funds for departmental operations which shall not exceed the noted sums for each fund, which shall be under the control of the Town Treasurer, which shall be accounted for separately, and to which shall be credited only the receipts received in connection with the departmental operations supported by the revolving fund; further to authorize the Town Treasurer to expend from such funds in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 of the General Laws, provided however that said expenditures for the revolving funds shall not exceed the receipts for said fund or take any other action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town authorize the use of the following revolving funds for departmental operations which shall not exceed the noted sums for each fund, which shall be under the control of the Town Treasurer, which shall be accounted for separately, and to which shall be credited only the receipts received in connection with the departmental operations supported by the revolving fund; further to authorize the Town Treasurer to expend from such funds in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 of the General Laws, provided however that said expenditures for the revolving funds shall not exceed the receipts for said fund:

<b>Program or Purpose</b>	<b>FY 2023 Spending Limit</b>
Ambulance Training	\$10,000
Ambulance Details	\$15,000
Plumbing Inspector	\$10,000
Wiring Inspector	\$15,000
Gas Inspector	\$10,000
Police Details	\$20,000

**Select Board: Recommended**

**Majority Vote Required**

**Finance Committee: Recommended**

**ARTICLE 10** was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 10, and the motion on Article 10 passed unanimously.

### **ARTICLE 11 RESCIND AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURE AND REISSUE**

To see if the Town will vote to rescind that portion of the vote under Article 5 of the 2021 Annual Town Meeting providing an authorization to expend certain bond proceeds from FY 2021 Broadband borrowing and to authorize the \$10,406 in Broadband borrowing premiums to be used to pay current Broadband debt; or otherwise act thereon.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town rescind the authorization for bond proceeds from FY2021 Broadband borrowing and to

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***Report of the Town Clerk***  
***(Continued)***

authorize the \$10,406 in Broadband borrowing premiums to be used to pay current Broadband debt.

**Select Board: Recommended**

**Majority Vote Required**

**Finance Committee: Recommended**

**ARTICLE 11** was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 11, and the motion on Article 11 passed unanimously.

***ARTICLE 12 FY 2022 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION AUTHORIZATION***

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from Community Preservation Fiscal Year 2022 estimated annual revenues the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for Committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other expenses in Fiscal Year 2022, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation, all as set forth below:

**Reserves:**

Historical Resources Reserve	\$2,875.00
Community Housing Reserve	\$2,875.00
Open Space Reserve	\$2,875.00

**MOTION:** Move that the Town appropriate or reserve from Fiscal Year 2022 Community Preservation estimated annual revenues the amounts set forth in Article 12 of the Warrant for the May 14, 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

**Select Board: Recommended**

**Majority Vote Required**

**CPA Committee: Recommended**

**Finance Committee: Recommended**

**ARTICLE 12** was moved and seconded from the floor. A correction was made in the motion to state Article 12 (not Article 11). There was no discussion. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 12, and the motion on **Article 12 passed unanimously.**

***ARTICLE 13 FY 2023 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION AUTHORIZATION***

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from Community Preservation Fiscal Year 2023 estimated annual revenues the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for Committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other expenses in Fiscal Year 2023, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation, all as set forth below:

**Appropriations:**

Committee Administrative Expenses  
\$500

**Reserves:**

Historical Resources Reserve	\$7,133.57
Community Housing Reserve	\$7,133.57
Open Space Reserve	\$7,133.57

Undesignated Reserve \$49,934.96

**Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee**

**MOTION:** Move that the Town appropriate or reserve from Fiscal Year 2023 Community Preservation estimated annual revenues the amounts set forth in Article 13 of the Warrant for the May 14, 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

**Select Board: Recommended**

**Majority Vote Required**

**CPA Committee: Recommended**

**Finance Committee: Recommended**

**ARTICLE 13** was moved and seconded from the floor. A correction was made in the motion to state Article 132 (not Article 11). There was no discussion. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 13, and the motion on **Article 13 passed unanimously.**



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## *Report of the Town Clerk*

*(Continued)*

### **ARTICLE 14 CANCEL TOWN CAUCUS**

To see if the Town will vote to eliminate the municipal caucus for the nomination of candidates for town offices, and to the extent necessary, to authorize the Select Board to file a home rule petition with the General Court for such purposes, as follows; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and provided further that the Select Board is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition, or take any action in relation thereto:

#### **AN ACT REGULATING ELECTIONS IN THE TOWN OF BECKET**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding chapter 53 of the general laws, or any other general or special law or by-law of the town of Becket to the contrary, the caucus for the nomination of town officers shall be eliminated in the town of Becket, and the nomination of eligible candidates for town offices shall be made by the filing of nomination papers in accordance with sections 7 and 10 of chapter 53 of the general laws.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town authorize the Select Board to seek special legislation to eliminate the municipal caucus for the nomination of candidates for local office.

**Select Board: Recommended**

**Majority Vote Required**

**ARTICLE 14** was moved and seconded from the floor. After brief discussion, a vote was taken on the motion on Article 14, and the motion on **Article 14 passed by a majority vote: 67 Yes; 5 No.**

### **ARTICLE 15 TOWN CLERK**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to seek special legislation to amend the Town of Becket special act Town Charter, Chapter 662 of the Acts of 1989, as most recently amended, to change the position of Town Clerk from elected to appointed by the Select Board, or to take any other action related thereto.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town authorize the Select Board to seek special legislation to amend the Town of Becket special act Town Charter, Chapter 662 of the Acts of 1989, as most recently amended, to change the position of Town Clerk from elected to appointed by the Select Board.

**Select Board: Recommended**

**Majority Vote Required**

**ARTICLE 15** was moved and seconded from the floor. After much discussion, a motion to move the Motion on Article 15 to a vote was called; which was moved and seconded from the floor and passed by majority vote. The vote on the Motion on Article 15 did not pass by majority vote; 25 Yes; 30 No. The motion on **Article 15 FAILED.**

### **ARTICLE 16 CITIZENS PETITION – FAIR SHARE AMENDMENT**

WHEREAS, In June of 2021, with a vote of 159 in favor and 41 opposed, the Massachusetts Legislature's Constitutional Convention voted to place the Fair Share Amendment on the November, 2022 state wide ballot; and

WHEREAS, To help all families and build a stronger economy for everyone, we must have quality public education, including our public colleges and universities; and safe and reliable public transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, We must make long term investments in public education to help students academically, socially, and emotionally, especially in light of the Covid-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, We must reduce tuition and fees charged in our public education institutions in order to make higher education affordable and reduce student debt; and

WHEREAS, We have a backlog of neglected and substantially impaired public transportation infrastructure in need of repair and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, We must have safe, modern, and reliable public transportation infrastructure including roads, bridges, trains, buses, and trail ways for biking and walking; and

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***Report of the Town Clerk***  
***(Continued)***

WHEREAS, Additional state revenue is needed to improve public schools, Pre-K through 12, and make higher public education more affordable, and reinvest in our public transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Even before the Covid-19 pandemic, Massachusetts needed additional investment in public education and transportation infrastructure to ensure a more equitable and long lasting economy for everyone; and

WHEREAS, Our highest income residents pay a lower share of their income in state and local taxes than the majority of taxpayers;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That during the 2022 Becket Annual Town Meeting residents of Becket discuss and show support for the adoption of the proposed Fair Share Amendment that would create an additional tax of four percentage points on annual income above one million dollars and dedicate these funds raised by this tax for quality public education and affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of public roads, bridges and public transportation.

**MOTION:** Move that Town support the Fair Share Amendment Citizens Petition as presented in the Warrant.

**ARTICLE 16** was moved and seconded from the floor. After much discussion and a brief presentation by Cheryl Rose, a motion to move the Motion on Article 16 to a vote was called; which was moved and seconded from the floor and passed unanimously. The vote on the Motion on **Article 16 passed by a majority vote; 66 Yes; 6 No.**

***ARTICLE 17 ANNUAL ELECTION***

You are also required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Becket who are qualified to vote in Town elections, to meet at Precinct 1 in Becket Town Hall at 557 Main Street, Becket on Saturday, May 21, 2022 then and there to bring in their votes for the election of the following Town Officers:

**To cast their votes in the ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION for the election of candidates for the following offices on May 21, 2022 from 10:00am to 7:00pm:**

<b>1 MEMBER, SELECT BOARD (3-year term)</b>	<b>Vote for One</b>
<b>1 MEMBER, BOARD OF HEALTH (3-year term)</b>	<b>Vote for One</b>
<b>1 CEMETERY COMMISSIONER (3-year term)</b>	<b>Vote for One</b>
<b>2 MEMBERS, FINANCE COMMITTEE (3-year term)</b>	<b>Vote for Two</b>
<b>1 MEMBER, PLANNING BOARD (5-year term)</b>	<b>Vote for One</b>

**Ballot Question:** Shall the town vote to have its elected Town Clerk become an appointed Town Clerk of the town? Yes \_\_\_ No\_\_\_

The Moderator notified and warned the Meeting of the Annual Town Election for the Offices and Ballot Question set forth above.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn to the Annual Town Election which will be held one week from today on May 22, 2022, starting at 10:00 am. A vote was taken and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

The following Election Officers were tellers at the Annual Town Meeting: Alvin Blake, Amy Alpert, Robin Mathiesen, Susan Purser.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Mikaniewicz Interim Town Clerk

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***Report of the Town Clerk***  
***(Continued)***

**ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION, MAY 21, 2022**

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the Annual Town Election was held in the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street, on May 21, 2022. The polling hours were 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Prior to the polls opening, the Ballot Box was publicly opened, examined, and found to be empty; the register was set at zero. A total of 79 voters participated and cast ballots for the election of candidates. The results of the election are as follows:

	<u><b>Votes</b></u>	<u><b>%</b></u>
<b>For Member, Board of Selectmen (3-year term)</b>		
<b>Vote for One</b>		
Christopher Swindlehurst	61	77.22%
<b>Write-ins:</b>		
William Rodgers	5	6.33%
Robert Ronzio	2	2.53%
Gabriel Greenspan	1	1.27%
Ann Krawet	1	1.27%
All Others		
Blanks	9	11.39%
Total Votes Cast	79	

<b>For Member, Board of Health (3-year term)</b>		
<b>Vote for One</b>		
Gale Labelle	71	89.87%
<b>Write-ins:</b>		
All Others	0	0.00%
Blanks	8	10.13%
Total Votes Cast	79	

<b>For Cemetery Commissioner (3-year term)</b>		
<b>Vote for One</b>		
<b>Write-ins:</b>		
William Cavanaugh	10	12.66%
Damien Rogers	3	3.80%
Dean Williams	2	2.53%
Hollis Giles	2	2.53%
All Others	2	2.53%
Blanks	60	75.95%
Total Votes Cast	79	

<b>For Member, Finance Committee (3-year term)</b>		
<b>Vote for Two</b>		
Ronald J. DeFoe	65	41.14%
Daniel Parnell	66	41.77%
<b>Write-ins:</b>		
All Others	0	0.00%
Blanks	27	17.09%
Total Votes Cast	158	

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## ***Report of the Town Clerk***

***(Continued)***

	<b><u>Votes</u></b>	<b>%</b>
<b>For Member, Planning Board (5-year term)</b>		
<b>Vote for One</b>		
Alvin Blake	61	77.22%
Write-ins:		
Karen Karlberg	1	1.27%
Gale Labelle	1	1.27%
William Rodgers	1	1.27%
Gabriel Greenspoon	1	1.27%
All Others		
Blanks	14	17.72%
Total Votes Cast	79	

### **Ballot Question**

Shall the town vote to have its elected Town Clerk position become an appointed Town Clerk of the town?

Yes	34	1.98%
No	37	46.84%
Blanks	8	10.13%
Total Votes Cast	79	

**Registered voters: 1715**

**Ballots cast: 79**

**Percent voting: 4.61%**

A total of 79 ballots were cast. There were eight (8) absentee ballots. There were no spoiled ballots or provisional ballots. Five (5) test ballots were successfully run on the ImageCast at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 15, 2022. The Auto-MARK voter assist terminal was also tested at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday May 15, 2022 and the machine failed to recognize the ballot. Election Officials were Tommie Hutto-Blake (Warden 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.), Julia Kay Grace (Warden 2 p.m. – 7 p.m.), Charles Francis, Susan Crossley, Susan Purser, David Weiler, Tommie Hutto-Blake, and Ann Krawet (Clerks). The Constable was Robert Ronzio. The polls closed at 7:00 p.m., and the unofficial results were printed and posted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Mikaniewicz, ***Interim Town Clerk***

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***Report of the Town Clerk***  
***(Continued)***

**STATE PRIMARY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2022**

The State Primary was held in the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main St. on September 6, 2022. The polling hours were 7:00am to 8:00pm. Before the polls were opened, the ballot box was publicly opened, examined and found to be empty. There were problems with the primary ballot machine so the back-up ballot box was put in place and the register was set to zero. The results of the election are as follows.

**GOVERNOR:**

**DEMOCRAT:**

Sonia Rosa Chang-Diaz	52
Maura Healey	216
All Others	4
Blank	17
Total Votes Cast	289

**REPUBLICAN:**

Geoff Diehl	49
Chris Doughty	22
All Others	0
Blanks	0
Total Votes Cast	71

**LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR:**

**DEMOCRAT:**

Kimberly Driscoll	69
Tami Gouveia	52
Eric P. Lessor	137
All Others	1
Blanks	30
Total Votes Cast	289

**REPUBLICAN:**

Leah V. Allen	36
Kate Campanale	30
All Others	0
Blanks	5
Total Votes Cast	71

**ATTORNEY GENERAL:**

**DEMOCRAT:**

Andrea Joy Campbell	124
Shannon Erika Liss-Riordan	69
Quentin Palfrey	62
All Others	0
Blanks	34
Total Votes Cast	289

**REPUBLICAN:**

James R. McMahon III	58
All Others	0
Blanks	13
Total Votes Cast	71

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***Report of the Town Clerk***  
***(Continued)***

**SECRETARY OF STATE:**

**DEMOCRAT:**

William Francis Galvin	181
Tanisha M. Sullivan	85
All Others	0
Blanks	23
Total Votes Cast	289

**REPUBLICAN:**

Rayla Campbell	53
All Other	2
Blanks	16
Total Votes Cast	71

**TREASURER:**

**DEMOCRAT:**

Deborah B. Goldberg	239
All Others	0
Blanks	50
Total Votes Cast	289

**REPUBLICAN:**

No nomination	0
All Others	5
Blanks	66
Total Votes Cast	71

**AUDITOR:**

**DEMOCRAT:**

Christopher S. Dempsey	80
Diana DiZoglio	152
All Others	0
Blanks	57
Total Votes Cast	289

**REPUBLICAN:**

Anthony Amore	50
All Others	2
Blanks	19
Total Votes Cast	71

**REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FIRST DISTRICT:**

**DEMOCRAT:**

Richard E. Neal	238
All Others	4
Blanks	47
Total Votes Cast	289

**REPUBLICAN:**

Dean James Martilli	55
All Others	2
Blanks	14
Total Votes Cast	71

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***Report of the Town Clerk***  
***(Continued)***

**COUNCILOR EIGHTH DISTRICT:**

<b>DEMOCRAT:</b>	Shawn P. Allyn	33
	Michael Anthony Fenton	33
	Tara J. Jacobs	139
	Jeffrey S. Morneau	20
	All Others	0
	Blanks	64
	Total Votes Cast	289

**REPUBLICAN:**

John Comerford	50
All Others	1
Blanks	20
Total Votes Cast	71

**REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT**

**THIRD BERKSHIRE DISTRICT:**

<b>DEMOCRAT:</b>	William“Smitty”Pignatelli	260
	All Others	0
	Blanks	29
	Total Votes Cast	289

**REPUBLICAN:**

No nomination	0
All Others	6
Blanks	65
Total Votes Cast	71

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY BERKSHIRE COUNTY:**

<b>DEMOCRAT:</b>	Andrea Harrington	128
	Timothy J. Shugrue	157
	All Others	2
	Blanks	2
	Total Votes Cast	289

**REPUBLICAN:**

Timothy J. Shugrue	0
All Others	16
Blanks	55
Total Votes Cast	71

**SHERIFF BERKSHIRE COUNTY:**

<b>DEMOCRAT:</b>	Thomas N. Bowler	203
	Alf Barbalunga	80
	All Others	0
	Blanks	6
	Total Votes Cast	289

**REPUBLICAN:**

Thomas N. Bowler	0
All Others	16
Blanks	55
Total Votes Cast	71

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***Report of the Town Clerk***  
***(Continued)***

**SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT BERKSHIRE,  
HAMPDEN, FRANKLIN AND HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT:**

<b>DEMOCRAT:</b>	Paul W. Mark	233
	Huff Tyler Templeton III	24
	All Others	0
	Blanks	32
	Total Votes Cast	289

<b>REPUBLICAN:</b>	No nomination	0
	All Others	5
	Blanks	66
	Total Votes Cast	71

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, OCTOBER 1, 2022**

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, a Special Town Meeting was called on Saturday, October 1st, 2022 at the Becket Washington School, 12 Maple Street, Becket, MA 01223. There being a quorum of 20 present, the meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by the Moderator. There were 31 registered voters present (1.7% of the 1792 registered voters) and a total of 37 people attended the meeting. Town Officials present: Steve Rosenthal, Deputy Moderator; William “Bill” Elovirta, Christopher Swindlehurst, and Michael Lavery, Select Board Members; Robin Mathiesen, Town Clerk; Kathe Warden, Town Administrator; Beverly Gilbert, Administrative Assistant; Art Alpert, School Committee Member (Becket Representative); and David Shorey, Building Maintenance and Grounds Technician.

The Moderator indicated that prior to the start of business, Select Board Chairperson Bill Elovirta wished to comment. Bill Elovirta pointed to Dave Shorey (Building Maintenance & Grounds Technician), the gentleman sitting in the corner on the bleachers. Bill Elovirta indicated that Dave Shorey was responsible for town meeting room setups for the past eighteen years and is leaving (retiring) to accept another opportunity: tonight is his last day working for the town. Bill Elovirta wanted to acknowledge and thank Dave Shorey for his service to the town for the past eighteen years.

The Moderator read aloud the wording of Warrant Article 1:

To see if the Town will vote to approve that the Central Berkshire Regional School District appropriates nine hundred thousand dollars (\$900,000), for the purpose of repair and or replacement of the Wahconah Regional High School Track, located at 150 Old Windsor Road, Dalton MA, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, said sum to be expended at the direction of the Wahconah School Building Committee. To meet this appropriation the District is authorized to borrow said amount, under and pursuant to Chapter 71, Section 16(d), of the General Laws and the District Agreement as amended, or take any other action thereto.

The Moderator indicated that the Finance Committee recommends and the Select Board has a comment. Bill Elovirta indicated that although the Warrant lists that the Select Board recommends, the Select Board did not take a position to recommend or not recommend. The Moderator indicated that a majority vote is required to approve this article. The Moderator asked for someone to move Article 1. Town Clerk Robin Mathiesen moved Article 1, Maria Wallington 2nd Article 1. The Moderator asked if there was any discussion.

The Moderator recognized Art Alpert, a School Committee Member (Becket Representative), who spoke about the track being used by the Sport Teams, the Unified Sports Team, students and other community members. Rita Furlong then stood up and spoke about the Berkshire Eagle article regarding the young girl who is on the undefeated soccer team and how the track would be good for supporting young people who are engaged in sports activities. The next speaker was Tommie Hutto-Blake who was in favor of the track but questioned why it had not been part of the initial build of the new school. She also felt that the track being renovated was also an issue of safety. Jeremy Dunn had three queries: 1) If the school building project was coming in under 2M dollars why was there a request for more in the amount of 900K? 2) Clarification regarding Becket’s financial responsibility (one portion of the handout lists Becket’s portion in the amount of \$39,000 and another section says \$5,274), and 3) Why was



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## ***Report of the Town Clerk***

***(Continued)***

this (capital expenditure) not postponed until the Annual Town Meeting in 2023 which, based on tradition, will have greater attendance. The School Superintendent, Leslie Blake Davis, went to the microphone to answer these questions. She indicated that a vote is required due to the fact that the track was not part of the original scope of services within the high school building project that had been approved by the district towns. She further explained that she was not the superintendent of the school district at that time but she speculates that at the time when the proposal was created, there was concern about running into unknown factors: We were looking at fiscal responsibility and prioritized the building itself, not the track even though the track is important. She explained that \$5,274 would be the yearly cost as opposed to the long-term \$39,000 cost. As to the third question, Ms. Blake Davis explained that if repair is delayed, the coaches and track officials might not want to continue sports activities there due to safety issues coupled with the fact that the resources were already in line.

Chris Swindlehurst then stated that he had gone and walked the track and did not find it to be in as much disrepair as he had been led to believe. He also questioned who determined how to rebuild the track – was it a suggestion from a contractor. Leslie Blake Davis then responded saying it is a thirty year old track and they do have a shelf life. They went to a well-recognized firm Berkshire Design who did not want to cut corners and just resurface and so obtained core samples to get an idea of the track below the surface. Chris Swindlehurst then said he was against the project and thinks it is only fair to wait until the Annual Town Meeting to discuss and vote on it as the cost is astronomical. Bill Elovirta asked why was there no maintenance done on it for the last twenty years and why the High School even had to be built adding that he, too, thought the price tag was astronomical. A non-voting resident of Becket, Phillip Geer, got up and wondered what the guaranty on the track would be and how they intended to maintain it. Superintendent Davis responded saying the maintenance plan would be built into the yearly school budget. Bob Gross stated that he wondered what was the down-side to not voting now and waiting until the next Annual Town Meeting. Michael Lavery, from the Select Board, explained that if we had not held a town meeting to discuss the project and vote on it then it would have been an automatic approval from the Town of Becket. Chris Swindlehurst said he thought the vote should be delayed by another six to eight months. Nancy Chassman spoke and wanted to understand if this was the Select Board's opinions or their personal opinions – she wanted to understand the process. Bill Elovirta replied that Chris Swindlehurst's opinion was his own personal opinion. Next up was Art Alpert who said the cost to the Town per year is \$5,274/year which the town can well afford and we should accept what the experts have told us. Dave Johnson asked how many towns have to vote for this project for it to proceed. It was explained that all seven towns involved have to accept it and that no action from a town would be considered a positive response. He also wanted to know if there were any competitive bids for the renovation of the track. Superintendent Davis said that they cannot consider any bids until all the towns approve the project. Dave Johnson then said due to liability, it would be prudent and money saving if we were to go ahead and approve the project now. He stated that the school will spend more than \$5,000 per year if it ends up bussing students to sporting events. Jon Verity got up to say that he has built and done bids on tracks and it is not possible to resurface the track materials because they will continue to break up and we will end up wasting money, and that the biggest expense are the maintenance costs. Madelaine Elovirta asked why the track was not maintained in the first place and why seven towns had to be involved. Superintendent Blake said that, according to Mass Laws, the school committee determines whether it has to be approved by towns or popular vote and they voted to put it to the towns. Michael Lavery wants the project to happen as he has, full disclosure, two children in the school and a wife on a School Sub Committee. Michael Lavery clarified that it is his understanding that the money allocated for the building project included a ten percent contingency and any funding not needed would be returned to the town. Barbara Wacholder wanted to know if there was an annual maintenance cost and if it would be included in the next year's school budget. Superintendent Blake said it would be built into the yearly school budget.

Al Blake made a motion to vote on the Article and it was seconded by Art Alpert. The motion to call the vote passed by a majority. The vote counted was 23 yeas and 4 nays resulting in passage of the article.

Michael Lavery motioned to dissolve the meeting and Art Alpert seconded. The motion passed by a majority. The Moderator adjourned the meeting at 7:58pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Mathiesen, ***Town Clerk***

Document discussed at Meeting: Wahconah Track Reconstruction Proposal

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*Report of the Town Clerk*  
(Continued)

**STATE ELECTION, NOVEMBER 8, 2022**

The State Election was held in the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main St. on November 8, 2022. The polling hours were 7:00am to 8:00pm. Prior to the polls opening the Ballot Boxes were publicly opened, examined and found to be empty. The count was set to zero. The following are the results of the election.

**GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR:**

<b>DEMOCRAT:</b>	Healey and Driscoll	503
<b>REPUBLICAN:</b>	Diehl and Allen	288
<b>LIBERTARIAN:</b>	Reed and Everett	13
	All Others	1
	Blanks	10
	Total Votes Cast	815

**ATTORNEY GENERAL:**

<b>DEMOCRAT:</b>	Andrea Joy Campbell	514
<b>REPUBLICAN:</b>	James R. McMahon III	288
	All Others	0
	Blank	13
	Total Votes Cast	815

**SECRETARY OF STATE:**

<b>DEMOCRAT:</b>	William Francis Galvin	517
<b>REPUBLICAN:</b>	Rayla Campbell	256
<b>GREEN-RAINBOW:</b>	Juan Sanchez	29
	All Others	0
	Blanks	13
	Total Votes Cast	815

**TREASURER:**

<b>DEMOCRAT:</b>	Deborah B. Goldberg	543
<b>LIBERTARIAN:</b>	Christina Crawford	198
	All Others	5
	Blanks	69
	Total Votes Cast	815

**AUDITOR:**

<b>DEMOCRAT:</b>	Diana DiZoglio	428
<b>REPUBLICAN:</b>	Anthony Amore	301
<b>GREEN-RAINBOW:</b>	Gloria A. Caballero-Roca	37
<b>WORKERS PARTY:</b>	Dominic Giannone III	10
<b>LIBERTARIAN:</b>	Daniel Werner Riek	9
	All Others	0
	Blanks	30
	Total Votes	815

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***Report of the Town Clerk***  
***(Continued)***

**REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FIRST DISTRICT:**

<b>DEMOCRAT:</b>	Richard E. Neal	510
<b>REPUBLICAN:</b>	Dean James Martilli	271
	All Others	0
	Blanks	34
	Total Votes Cast	815

**COUNCILOR EIGHTH DISTRICT:**

<b>DEMOCRAT:</b>	Tara J. Jacobs	510
<b>REPUBLICAN:</b>	John Comerford	274
	All Others	0
	Blanks	31
	Total Votes Cast	815

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY BERKSHIRE COUNTY:**

<b>DEMOCRAT:</b>	Timothy J. Shugrue	623
	All Others	14
	Blanks	178
	Total Votes Cast	815

**SHERIFF BERKSHIRE COUNTY:**

<b>DEMOCRAT:</b>	Thomas N. Bowler	639
	All Others	10
	Blanks	166
	Total Votes Cast	815

**SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT BERKSHIRE,  
HAMPDEN, FRANKLIN AND HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT:**

<b>DEMOCRAT:</b>	Paul W. Mark	559
<b>UNENROLLED:</b>	Brendan M. Phair	184
	All Others	2
	Blanks	70
	Total Votes Cast	815

**REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT THIRD  
BERKSHIRE DISTRICT:**

Democrat:	William "Smitty" Pignatelli	578
Green-Rainbow:	Michael Silvio Lavery	139
	All Others	8
	Blanks	90
	Total Votes Cast	815

**REPRESENTATIVE FOR REGIONAL SCHOOL  
COMMITTEE CENTRAL  
BERKSHIRE BECKET:**

	Barbara Craft-Reiss	590
	All Others	10
	Blanks	215
	Total Votes Cast	815

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***Report of the Town Clerk***  
***(Continued)***

**Question 1: Additional tax on Income over 1 Million Dollars**

Yes	461
No	317
Blanks	37
Total	<hr/> 815

**Question 2: Dental Benefits (Law)**

Yes	567
No	201
Blanks	47
Total	<hr/> 815

**Question 3: Alcohol Retail Reform (Law)**

Yes	342
No	418
Blanks	55
Total	<hr/> 815

**Question 4: Repeal Driver's License Law**

Yes	420
No	357
Blanks	38
Total	<hr/> 815



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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE* ◆

The Community Preservation Act is a state law that allows cities and towns to create a dedicated fund for open space, historic preservation, senior housing and recreation. The decision to adopt the CPA is made by each community in the Commonwealth. Any town can enact a surcharge of 1.5%-3% on property tax bills to create the Community Preservation Fund. The money raised locally is matched by the state and the combined fund is spent in three core areas: open space preservation, affordable housing, and historic preservation. Each of these areas must receive a minimum of 10% of the total fund each year, but the remaining 70% can be spent or reserved for future spending in any of the three core areas as well as an additional area of public recreation.

In 2008, the voters of Becket passed the CPA proposal for 1.5% of the annual real estate levy against real property, and the town voted to accept the following exemptions to the CPA: property owned as a domicile by any person who qualifies for low income housing, or low and moderate income senior housing; class 3 commercial, class 4 industrial, and \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential real property.

The CPA provides a dedicated funding source for desirable and innovative projects that the community wants but otherwise cannot afford. The CPA also brings state matching funds to local projects. The state funds are raised through fee surcharges at the registry of deeds in every county in the Commonwealth. The CPA brings these much needed funds into the community. The CPA is a very flexible funding mechanism. The types of projects it can be used for are very broad, and can include many projects that are hard to fund through other means. CPA funds can be used to: purchase open space or conservation restrictions; broaden housing

opportunities for residents; help senior citizens repair their homes; build playgrounds, athletic fields, trails, or restore historic buildings and landscapes. The CPA funds can also be used as local leverage for state and federal grants. Communities can issue bonds in anticipation of future CPA proceeds. Each community has control over how the money is spent, since disbursement of CPA funds needs to be approved by town meeting.

In 2022 the Community Preservation Committee received no requests for funding. The previous year's projects are substantially completed. One project, the town's newest recreational trail, Esau's Heel, will complete their funded work soon with the installation of a sign.

Good news from the Commonwealth: In addition to the yearly match of state funds to all Community Preservation communities the Department of Revenue is providing a supplemental \$20 million. This will provide Becket with an additional \$4,501 to put toward projects. Applications for project must be received by the end of February each year. Guidelines and the application form may be found on the Town of Becket website.

I would like to thank the townspeople and the administrative staff at the Town Hall for their support of the CPA. The CPC looks forward to future project proposals.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Cindy Delpapa ***Chair***



**◆ COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT ◆**  
**FY 2022 REPORT**

<b>FY 2022 Appropriated by Category</b>	<b>Community Housing</b>	<b>Historical</b>	<b>Open Space</b>	<b>Recreation</b>	<b>Budget Reserves</b>	<b>Committee Admin Expenses</b>	<b>Total Appropriation</b>
<b>Project:</b>							
Committee Administrative Expenses Article 15						\$500.00	
<b>Total Appropriated for Projects for FY 2022</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>FY 2022 Expenses against approved Projects: No projects</b>							
<b>Total Expended during FY 2022 against approved projects</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>FY 2022 Est. Revenues Appropriated to Reserves</b>	<b>Community Housing Reserves</b>	<b>Historical Preservation Reserves</b>	<b>Open Space Reserves</b>	<b>Recreation Reserves</b>	<b>Undesignated Budget Reserves</b>		<b>Total Budgeted Reserves</b>
Estimated Revenues to Reserves	\$4,259.00	\$4,259.00	\$4,259.00	\$0.00	\$29,316.00		<b>\$42,093.00</b>
<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>Estimated</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual vs. Budget</b>				
FY 2022 Local Revenue CPA 1.5%	\$51,804.67	\$54,912.92	\$3,108.25				
FY 2022 State Percentage Match of Local Revenue	\$19,531.00	\$21,748.00	\$2,217.00				
<b>Totals by Fiscal Year</b>	<b>\$71,335.67</b>	<b>\$76,660.92</b>	<b>\$5,325.25</b>				

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## ◆ **REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING** ◆

Hello from the Becket Seniors! Due to concerns about COVID, we limited our trips. A group of us went to Foxwoods for the day. A few times, we enjoyed lunch at the Russell Inn. Another time, I picked up a pizza for everyone from the Blue Note Cafe.

Mary Beth McDonough, Council on Aging Liaison from Elder Services of Berkshire County, Inc., met with us to discuss resources for individuals over 60 years old. To get the word out, we scheduled an information session for early 2023. We would like to bring members of our community together on a regular basis. We have posted links to Elder Services on the Council on Aging page of the town website [www.townofbecket.org](http://www.townofbecket.org).

We wish to acknowledge Dave Shorey, Building & Grounds Technician, who retired from the Town of Becket. We attended his wonderful retirement party and will miss him a great deal.

Once again, we held our Christmas Party at Papa Bob's. The food was great. Everyone had a lovely time.

We attended a beautiful Celebration of Life Ceremony

for John Fitzgerald, our dear friend from Otis. We fondly remember John who regularly attended our luncheons.

**Please join us for lunch at the Becket Town Hall, Tuesdays & Thursdays from 11AM till 2PM:** Lunch is served at 11AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Becket Town Hall's Community Room on the lower level. We play Bingo following lunch. Reservations are required so that enough meals are ordered. You may sign-up to attend lunch by calling (413) 623-8934 extension 127 or you may call my mobile cell phone at (413) 281-4697. The deadline to sign-up for our Tuesday luncheon is on Friday. The deadline to sign-up for our Thursday lunch is on Monday. The cost for lunch is \$3.00 payable at the door.

During 2022, two new individuals have become part of our friendship group. Newcomers are welcome. We hope you can come out and join us during 2023.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Paula Bergeron,  
***On Site Director & Treasurer***



TOTAL VOTES

## ◆ **REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS** ◆

West Becket Cemetery remains in good shape with ongoing maintenance to the grounds. There are a few stones in need of repair which will be addressed in the upcoming season.

North Becket Cemetery: This season was one of change. The Town contracted the maintenance (mowing, weed whacking etc.) to D's Hauling. The transition went well.

Center Becket Cemetery remains in good condition with ongoing maintenance to the grounds.

*Respectfully submitted,*

**Cemetery Commissioners:**  
William Cavanaugh, ***North Becket Cemetery***  
Michelle Smith, ***West Becket Cemetery***  
Dean Williams, ***Center Becket Cemetery***

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## ◆ **REPORT OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER** ◆

The Animal Control Officer (ACO) is responsible for responding to complaints about, or problems with, all nuisance dogs and cats, including the investigation of animal complaints, dog bite investigations and vicious animal complaints.

This is a reminder that in accordance with the provisions of Section 137 of Chapter 140 of the Massachusetts General Laws, all dogs housed within the Town of Becket must be licensed through the Town Clerk's Office. This also helps with identifying and reuniting owners with their animals, if they become lost.

Many complaints have come into the office in regards to unrestrained dogs. Under Town By-Laws Article 20 – Dog Control By-Law Section 2: No owner or keeper shall permit a dog to run at large within the Town of Becket. Unrestrained

dogs are subject to a \$25.00 fine for each offense as well as impound fees.

The Massachusetts Animal Fund dedicates a significant portion of its funds to help low-income residents who receive assistance through state or federal programs (TAFDC, SSI, VS, SNAP, WIC etc.)

Obtain spay/neuter surgery for companion animals free of charge through the spay/neuter voucher program. Those wishing to participate must submit proof of eligibility.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Nicole Miller, *Animal Control Officer*

	<b>Dogs</b>	<b>Cats</b>	<b>Wildlife</b>	<b>Misc</b>
<b>Calls Received:</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>
Transferred Calls	2		11	1
Assisted Calls	42		7	4
Surrender	2			
Lost/ Found	53	1		1
Cruelty/Neglect Inv.	1			

## ◆ **REPORT OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS** ◆

In 2022, the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) continued to hold hybrid, virtual and in-person, meetings. The ZBA met in January, May, twice in June, July, August, September, November, and December. The board received two requests for dimensional special permits. Both applications were ultimately withdrawn. We had numerous informal discussions that addressed a variety of questions from the public. We also received one request to amend a previously issued dimensional special permit. The request was approved. The ZBA wants to thank Town Counsel, Attorney Joel Bard, and former Building Inspector, William Girard, for their guidance this year.

The public is invited to review the Becket Zoning By-Laws, guidelines, applications, agendas, and meeting minutes at the Town of Becket website, [www.townofbecket.org](http://www.townofbecket.org). Applications to the Zoning Board of Appeals should be submitted to the Town Clerk. Please

contact the board at [zba@townofbecket.org](mailto:zba@townofbecket.org) for additional information. Meetings are held as needed on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Sarah Hoecker, *Chairperson*

### **Board Members:**

Sarah Hoecker, *Chairperson*

Victoria Bleier, *Vice Chairperson*

Mary Canty, *Clerk*

Robin Mathiesen

Jeffrey Wilkinson

Alvin Blake, *Associate Member*

Chris Milenkevich, *Associate Member*

Tess Lundberg, *Administrative Assistant to the ZBA*



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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE TRANSFER STATION* ◆

The Transfer Station hours of operation are Tuesday and Saturday from 9am to 5pm. A vehicle permit is required for entry to the Transfer Station. Vehicle permits may be purchased at the Town Hall or the town website [www.townofbecket.org](http://www.townofbecket.org). A bag sticker must be affixed to each bag of household trash prior to disposal into the compactor. Bag stickers (\$2 each) may be purchased at the Town Hall, through the town's website, or through businesses listed on the town's website. Bag stickers may also be purchased in \$20 increments by check only at the Transfer Station. Cash is not accepted at the Transfer Station.

Disposing of recyclables (paper, cardboard, cans and bottles, plastic containers, and scrap metals) is free of charge. Tires, CRTs, stuffed chairs, couches, bulky waste and appliances containing Freon require a separate disposal fee. **That is payable by check only because the transfer station does not accept cash.** Please check with the attendant about items and their fees before unloading your vehicle. All scrap metal must be free of wood, plastic, tires, gas, and oils.

Due to the Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental's new regulation that bans the disposal of mattresses and box springs (effect November 1, 2022), the Becket Transfer Station is currently not accepting mattresses and box springs. They may be brought for recycling at the Lenox Transfer Station Facility.

The Town of Becket is a member of the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District (SBSWMD), which assists with recycling, waste reduction and household hazardous waste collection programs. We work with the Tri-Town Board of Health to arrange for our residents to participate in two hazardous waste collections per year.

This year the town has recycled, collected, and processed 55.87 tons of paper, 63.96 tons of cans and bottles, 27.90 tons of scrap metals, 176.06 tons of bulky waste, 393.14 tons of solid waste, 669 fluorescent light bulbs, 180 mattresses, and 115 car and truck tires.

I would like to thank Transfer Station Attendants Bob Will, George Crochiere, and Maurice Vandesteene for all their hard work and dedication to the Town of Becket.

The Becket Highway Department operates the Transfer Station which is under the authority of the Becket Board of Health. If residents have questions or concerns, please call the Town Hall (Monday through Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm) at 413-623-8934 or the Highway Department (Monday through Friday 7am to 3:30pm) at 413-623-8988.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Edward Pickert  
*Highway Superintendent*



## ◆ *REPORT OF THE BECKET SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION* ◆

The Becket Scholarship Foundation was pleased to award scholarships to two Becket students, Carolina Chassi and Donnalee D'Ambrosi. We continue to partner with Berkshire Taconic to expand the scholarship awards to Becket students. As part of this coordination, Carolina Chassi was recommended by the Foundation to also receive the Berkshire Taconic scholarship. The total amount of the awards was \$4,500.00 inclusive of the award from Berkshire

Taconic. Becket Scholarship Foundation accepts scholarship applications for post-secondary training in addition to the college applicants. These scholarships are made possible through the generous donations of Becket residents.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Kathleen Rodhouse, *Secretary*

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## **REPORT OF THE**

### **◆ WESTFIELD RIVER WILD & SCENIC COMMITTEE ◆**

Over seventy miles of the Westfield River and tributary streams received the federal designation of Wild & Scenic in recognition of the river's outstanding natural resources, history and free flowing waters. The Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee was convened to celebrate and advance activities to preserve, protect, and enhance those special qualities and outstanding natural resources. The Committee has appointed representatives and alternates from the ten Wild & Scenic communities of Becket, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Huntington, Middlefield, Savoy, Washington, Windsor and Worthington plus partners including the National Park Service, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Westfield River Watershed Association and Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. Project funding is provided through the National Park Service's Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers Program.

A recent updating of the River's Stewardship and Conservation Plan refined the Committee's four priority work areas. Activities and projects focus on the following desired outcomes:

- protecting and enhancing cold water habitat- the most extensive in the state,
- improving free flowing characteristics impacted by dams and inadequate stream-road crossings,
- managing invasive species to protect high-quality riparian habitat and
- continuing to engage, educate and assist citizens and towns to be river stewards.

In 2022 the Committee focused heavily on invasive species and stream connectivity. The Committee conducted a pilot a few years ago to help three Wild & Scenic towns upgrade five undersized and failing stream-road crossings to: allow the river to flow freely, allow fish to pass easily upstream and down, to facilitate safe passage for animals along river banks, and have a properly sized crossing to accommodate floods. The pilot was a success with three of the crossing constructed with grant funding, one will be installed next summer and the fifth crossing is in final design and permitting. The second phase of this initiative started this year. Nine of our ten Wild & Scenic communities signed on to participate in this project to upgrade inadequate road crossings. The towns selected their priority road crossings from a list provided by the Committee and entered into a memorandum of agreement. Under the agreement, the Committee funds and manages all

the work and the towns will be provided plans of existing site conditions, a concept design for an upgraded culvert with appropriate green infrastructure and a technical report with supporting data. The Committee and consultant are also working to prepare a grant application for each of the nine crossings that will allow the towns to pursue additional grant money to fund the next phase of the project. The town of Becket opted not to participate in this year but was a participant in the pilot program for the Benton Hill Road crossing which received additional grant money to finalize the replacement design and work on permitting.

Stream connectivity activities also included liaising with the Army Corps of Engineers to inspect newly upgraded crossings and the culverts now under study. The Town of Washington requested and was awarded a Wild & Scenic Community Grant to allow the completion of the final design and permitting for a failing culvert. The grant allowed the town to avoid forfeiting time constrained construction funding from the state. The Committee also provided Community Grants to the Westfield River Watershed Association to support their Wild Water Race this spring, the town of Middlefield to address invasive knotweed, Highland Foot Path for legal research to secure a right-of-way for the trail and the Hilltown Land Trust to cover the costs of a two-day Vernal Pool Certification Workshop.

The Committee's invasive plant management efforts are expanding. We continued to tackle select infestations, map locations and types of invasive plants along priority streams and began a research initiative to determine the effectiveness of management methods. Invasive species are introduced plants and animals causing disruption to natural communities. Some plants can even clog streams causing localized flooding. Much of the invasive work was accomplished by our three paid summer interns. Under the direction of our Outreach Coordinator, the students enjoyed extensive training before establishing several test plots to systematically test the effectiveness of different knotweed removal techniques. Each student had a special project to map invasives at the nine road-stream upgrade sites. The interns also continued tracking native bees as part of a long term pollinator project and helped with community events including assisting children to make their own fish prints at Chester-on-Track.

Our Outreach Coordinator continues a range of activities to assist Wild & Scenic towns, watershed residents and partners. Education is a big part of the job and

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◆ **WESTFIELD RIVER WILD & SCENIC COMMITTEE** ◆

*(Continued)*

includes visits to the river to introduce children to river insects, producing informative and entertaining videos (available on the Wild & Scenic website) and helping partner organizations with their programs. Work days to clean-up and repair trails and scenic vistas have resumed after a two year pandemic hiatus. Our Coordinator also helped with the Vernal Pool Workshop, the Wild Water Race and the Highlands Foot Path initiative.

The Committee is in the process of updating its website to offer visitors more resources in a user friendly format. Look for its official launch this summer. The Committee was honored to award the Robert Thompson Stewardship Award to our long time web master Steve Hamlin. Steve has been a great friend to the Westfield River and the Committee. The Committee also celebrated the work of the interns at the Remarkable River Potluck in October. Two of

the interns presented on their work through the summer to a receptive and appreciative audience.

Our committee meets monthly and all meetings are open to the public. We encourage you to find out more about the Westfield River and the Committee. To learn more about what is happening in the watershed, visit our website at [www.wildscenicwestfieldriver.org](http://www.wildscenicwestfieldriver.org) or contact your town's representative. If you would be interested in serving on the Committee please contact [westfieldrivercommittee@gmail.com](mailto:westfieldrivercommittee@gmail.com)

*Respectfully submitted,*

Cindy Delpapa, ***Becket Representative***  
Mary Latham, ***Becket Alternative Representative***



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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION* ◆

The Historical Commission (HC) meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 5 P.M. in its office in the basement of Town Hall. The commissioners are: Sandra Jarvis (2024)-Chair, Rita Furlong (2025)-Treasurer, John Garvey (2024)-Clerk, Gail Kusek (2024)- CPC representative, and Tim Sullivan (2024).

### Donations

The HC extends a very special thank you to the **Harris Family**, Thomas B. Harris Trustee, for donating the portraits of Nathan Wait Harris (1811-1900) and his wife Charity Emeline Wadsworth (1816-1897), life-long residents



of Becket. Her great-grandfather, Wait, was among the first to settle in Becket. Nathan was a civil-minded farmer who served as Becket's treasurer and selectman. After moving "into



town," North Becket from East Becket, Nathan became a shoemaker. Charity and Nathan were the parents of four children including Norman Wait Harris (1846-1916), a wealthy Chicago banker and philanthropist. Norman remembered his native Becket by establishing a scholarship fund for Becket boys and girls interested in furthering their education. He also created trust funds for the First Congregational and Baptist Churches. Ralph Elmer Clarkson painted the oil-on-canvas portraits in Chicago between 1897 and 1899, from photographs. The portraits had been on display there for years before being donated to the people of Becket. They are now on display in the Community Room with the Dewey, Brewster, and Flynn portraits.

### Queries and Communications

- The HC answered numerous queries from the public, real estate agents and prospective buyers, supplying them with information, including Becket history, Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) records, photos, maps, and Becket's Demolition By-Law.

- Historic **Joseph Higley House**, one of Becket's oldest colonial houses built circa 1775 at 1658 Main Street, Becket Center. Joseph and his wife Azubah Gillette came to Becket after their 1772 Connecticut marriage. She was paid by Becket for "keeping school" at the house.



- The historic **Jarvis Norcott House**, a New England Greek Revival built circa 1855 at 3425 Main Street, North

Becket. Jarvis had first been a farmer, then in the village was a hardware store dealer for 27 years, a postmaster for 14 years, a representative to the legislature, and a deacon in the church for 50 years.

- **62 Washington Street**, query about the historical use of the building as a feed store by a prospective buyer. No historically significant information was found. Childhood memories were solicited from longtime residents Barbara Crochiere Roberts and Rita Frisbie Furlong. Barbara grew up in the house across from St. Matthew's church. Her father and before that her grandfather had a feed store in the collapsed building next to their house, and coal supply and cement supply buildings. Both Barbara and Rita remember the house at 62 Washington Street not as a feed store but as a family home.

- Numerous real estate queries about the historic "**Stonybrooks**" or **Seth Snow House at 2588 Main Street**. The 12-foot center chimney foundation saved the main section of the house, a pre-1798 Colonial, from the 1927 Flood. A 6-room ell, sheds and barn were destroyed by the water. Legend says the house was part of the Underground Railroad. The Snows were some of Becket's early settlers. HC shared historic information with Olivia Kryvucki including some of the other houses believed to have been built by the Snows, including the Fred Snow House on Fred Snow Road formerly a twin to her Seth Snow House built in the late 1700s, and later, circa 1860s the H. Cerelia Snow House on Pleasant Street.

- **Summit House**, (Deer Inn), corner of Rt. 20 and Fred Snow Road, West Becket was built in the 1920s as a combination house, gas station, souvenir store, resort, and tourist attraction with a large observation tower by the Phelps family. Charlie Flint requested information for an article he was writing about his childhood connection with the Anderson family owner/operators in the 1950s and Tom Two Arrows. "He was born as Thomas Dorsey, was known by his



Indian name **Tom Two Arrows**, an Iroquois or the correct name, Haudenosaunee, (Keepers of the Long House) the artist was born and lived in Albany, NY. At age 21 Tom was an artist, (painter and carver) teacher, designer, dancer, lecturer, muralist, and Iroquois historian." "He sold Native Indian objects that he made all winter to sell to the tourists." According to John Anderson his parents owned the property from 1946-1968, adding the deer park in the 1950s and in the 1960s had the observation tower removed. A deer sculpture still stands on the corner today. The arrival of the

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## *Report of the Historical Commission*

(Continued)

Turnpike cut the traffic 40-50% along Rt. 20 causing several businesses to close.

- **Yorke Villa**, built in 1881 at Wade Inn Road and Hopkins



Lane. Early on the building served as the Berkshire County Truant School where truant boys of Berkshire and Hampshire Counties were confined. Bill Hoch, from Camp Watitoh, shared his information and the HC also

provided photos, postcard images and a brief history written by Gail Andrade. The first building, a popular summer resort with 23 rooms on 50 acres near Center Lake, was lost in a fire in 1911. The second, a bungalow style villa, was built in 1912; the large living and music room, the fireplaces and the field stone porches and the artistic architecture were the main features. The fireplace in the dining room is of field stone. The living room is finished in Arkansas gum and several of the other rooms are enameled white. In 1929, the founders of Camp Greylock purchased 236 acres of land bordering the camp property, which included the Yorke Villa property.



- Bruce Lederer of Captain Whitney Road provided a short history of Captain Whitney's bell, now on display at Town Hall along with other Whitney memorabilia. **Captain Whitney** was a merchant marine who had one of his ship's bells out front of his "Showcase" house in East Becket. He and his wife would ring the bell for the neighbors at sunrise, when the mail arrived and for special occasions. He also had one of the first automobiles in Becket, a Stanley Steamer.

- Sara Beckett Leikin asked about the origin of **Becket's** town name. According to the 1965 bicentennial history book, the General Court passed a bill signed on June 21, 1765 to erect a town named Becket from the original Plantation #4. Sir Francis Bernard is believed to have selected the name. His family estates were in Beckett or Bewcott, Berkshire County, England.

- Dan Stephens inquired about the name of the Catholic seminary on Leland Road in the late 1950s. The former summer cottage originally called the "Grange" was known as the **St. Lawrence Friary for the Franciscan Fathers**. It was a residence, a seminary, and a rest home.

- **Baird** family church or burial records for Thomas II & III and Aaron were requested by M. D. Richardson. The Baird family first moved to Becket in 1775. All three were listed as heads of households in Plantation #4 and both Thomases as

members of the church. None were buried in Becket according to Town Clerk records; however, Aaron is listed on FindAGrave as buried in Becket Center Cemetery.

- Query about Becket painter A. M. Jackson from Jake Brillhart, owner of two oil paintings. This is likely retired **Col. Albert M. Jackson**, a co-founder of the Becket Arts Center. He and his wife owned the historic Wheeler House on Main Street where he enjoyed painting in a studio he added on to the back of the house.

- Query from Alex Covill regarding his family property just north of the town line at 1616 South Washington State Road, **Washington, MA**. The HC found a map and information about the Hylawn Winter Sports Grounds, formerly known as Hays Farm Slopes described as being west of RT. 8, north of Becket in the book, *The Berkshire Hills* published in 1939. It had several trails for skiing and snow shoeing, a toboggan slide and the Wigwam, a warm house, where refreshments were sold.

- Query from Kate Sullivan, regarding her family's **Ballou Basket**. HC provided information about the important Becket basket making industry from the mid-1800s into the mid-1900s.

- Query from Alysia Austin, regarding donation of her family's Bible. The HC has not yet been able to prove that an **Austin** was a pastor at the Becket First Congregational Church in the early 1800s.

- Robert Stewart is looking for his Becket Ancestors **Alexander and Amy [Ame] Stewart** and their two sons. The Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850 listed the births of sons George and Matthew, with Alexander and Ame as their parents; no other records were found for these particular people.

- Jody Gelb asked for help to find the exact location of her ancestral **Harris Burial Ground**. Thomas Harris, who donated the Harris portraits, had provided the HC with information, photos, and GPS coordinates. Also offered was an invitation to have a HC member guide her to the cemetery.

- Query and information from Bob Gale regarding the Gleed/Glede family of West Becket. The **Glede Monument** made of white marble is located near Andrew's Corner, at the intersection of Rt. 20 and Rt. 8 south; it marks the site of a fatal accident in 1847 when young Johnny Glede and his father were racing their ox teams while working on an adjacent farm. The wheel of the boy's cart hit a stone and tipped over, killing him instantly. His father and neighbors erected the monument to mark the accident.

- Shared articles, photos, and maps about the 3 different

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## Report of the Historical Commission

(Continued)

historical locations of the **Becket Athenaeum** with Athenaeum Director Jodi Shafiroff.

### Actions

- The **Dewey, Flynn, Brewster, and Harris Portraits** are now on display in the Community Room. **The Ballou quilt** is hanging on the Main Floor where the Dewey and Brewster portraits had been. Information about the portraits is posted near the portraits and available online on the HC's Historical Facts page under "Town Hall" at: <https://www.townofbecket.org/historical-commission/pages/historical-facts>

- Discussed an estimate from Bancroft Custom Woodworks, Inc. for the restoration and reinstallation of the former schoolhouse **cupola** on the Town Hall roof. Seeking additional estimates to apply for a CPA grant



- Wrote a letter to support the First Congregational Church of Becket's application for Preservation Project Funds for the continued restoration of the historic First Church.

- Attended the Massachusetts Historical Commission presentation on **Demolition Delay Bylaws**. The HC may discuss and possibly recommend changes to the Becket Demolition Bylaw: The state recommends against having geographic boundaries and the state recommends defining the word "demolition".

- Met with Gladys "Sue" Conner Szenda, a descendant of the **Conner and Fuller** families, to hear about her recollections of growing up in Becket.

- The **21 Maple Street** plaque dedication was held on Flag Day, June 14 at the North Becket Park. The Becket-Washington School students attended, each with a small American flag, a gift from the HC. HC representative Sandi Jarvis gave a brief history of the Baptist Parsonage and North Becket Rural Historic District. Rita Furlong, the Parks and Recreation representative, described the changes to North Becket Park including the newly built pavilion. Bill Elovirta spoke about town government on behalf of the Selectboard.



- Met with owners of the house at **3307 Main Street** and their architect to discuss their renovation plans. The house is not in the North Becket Rural Historic District: HC approval was not necessary.

- Working on attaining the following **highway signs**: Purple Heart to show a Becket U.S. military member has been wounded or killed as the result of enemy action, Right to Farm Community to encourage agriculture by allowing agricultural uses and related activities with minimal conflict with abutters and Town agencies, and a Heart Healthy sign to inform people that Becket has defibrillator machines available.

- Held **drawings** for the Dewey Tavern sign stand and shipping crates from the Harris portraits, no longer needed by the HC.

- The HC **meeting time** was changed to 5:00 PM on the second Tuesday of the month.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Sandra L. Jarvis, *Chair*



◆ **TOWN OF BECKET TAX COLLECTOR - SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS** ◆

*July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022*

<u>Fiscal Year/Tax</u>	<u>Balance 07/01/2021</u>	<u>Commitments</u>	<u>Collected</u>	<u>Refunds</u>	<u>Abatements</u>	<u>Tax Title Transfers</u>	<u>Balance 06/30/2021</u>
<b>2022</b>							
Real Estate		\$5,985,309.24	\$5,676,400.80		\$20,547.50		\$288,360.94
Personal Property		\$400,479.42	\$397,669.07		\$298.70		\$2,511.65
Motor Vehicle		\$278,664.03	\$255,241.20	\$2,348.72	\$2,449.37		\$23,322.18
Fees			\$6,118.84				
Interest			\$15,812.79				
<b>2021</b>							
Real Estate	\$283,956.09		\$99,140.84	\$5,394.01	\$5,547.01	\$74,110.26	\$110,551.99
Personal Property	\$3,955.23		\$937.41		\$22.10		\$2,995.72
Motor Vehicle	\$25,042.77	\$37,553.88	\$57,038.33	\$4,070.72	\$4,114.50		\$5,514.54
Fees			\$10,357.95				
Interest			\$12,534.02				
<b>2020</b>							
Real Estate	\$106,155.50		\$28,354.93	\$2,829.83	\$3,239.58	\$6,405.61	\$70,985.21
Personal Property	\$2,953.27		\$349.15		\$30.60		\$2,573.52
Motor Vehicle	\$5,665.01		\$4,653.62	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$1,011.39
Fees			\$3,451.32				
Interest			\$8,312.14				
<b>2019</b>							
Real Estate	\$55,654.04		\$23,753.48	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,436.82	\$26,463.74
Personal Property	\$2,009.42		\$368.56		\$19.44		\$1,621.42
Motor Vehicle	\$1,957.02		\$429.31	\$228.12	\$228.12		\$1,527.71
Fees			\$1,262.00				
Interest			\$9,712.79				
<b>Pre 2019 Years</b>							
Real Estate	\$29,977.40		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$29,977.40
Personal Property	\$9,216.81		\$138.76	\$0.00	\$150.98	\$0.00	\$8,927.07
Motor Vehicle	\$11,825.95		\$576.79	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,249.16
Fees			\$1,380.00				
Interest			\$5,527.19				

# ◆ **TOWN OF BECKET FINANCIAL REPORT** ◆

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

## GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD.</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
01-118-5500 ADVERTISING		\$4,000.00		\$1,902.83	\$2,097.17	47.57 %
<b>118 - Total</b>		<b>\$4,000.00</b>		<b>\$1,902.83</b>	<b>\$2,097.17</b>	<b>47.57 %</b>
01-122-5100 SELECTMEN SALARIES		\$6,656.00		\$6,644.88	\$11.12	99.83 %
01-122-5500 SELECTMEN EXPENSES		\$2,200.00		\$1,535.32	\$664.68	69.78 %
01-122-5500-5845 TOWN MEETING EXPENSE		\$6,000.00		\$1,930.00	\$4,070.00	32.16 %
PRINT AND BIND BYLAWS	\$5,000.00				\$5,000.00	0.00%
<b>122 - SELECTMEN Total</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>	<b>\$14,856.00</b>		<b>\$10,110.20</b>	<b>\$9,745.80</b>	<b>50.91 %</b>
01-129-5100 TOWN ADMINISTRATOR SALARIES		\$81,600.00	\$1,591.43	\$82,881.43	\$310.00	99.62 %
01-129-5500 TOWN ADMINISTRATOR EXPENSES		\$2,200.00		\$1,032.40	\$1,167.60	46.92 %
01-129-5100-5110 STAFF COVERAGE		\$3,500.00		\$86.74	\$3,413.26	2.47 %
01-129-5100-5111 CLERK OF COMMITTEES		\$20,000.00		\$12,657.93	\$7,342.07	63.28 %
01-129-5500-5555 250TH ANNIVERSARY	\$784.20				\$784.20	0.00%
<b>129 - TOWN ADMINISTRATOR Total</b>	<b>\$784.20</b>	<b>\$107,300.00</b>	<b>\$1,591.43</b>	<b>\$96,658.50</b>	<b>\$13,017.13</b>	<b>88.13 %</b>
01-131-5500 FINANCE COMM. EXPENSES		\$600.00		\$135.00	\$465.00	22.50 %
<b>131 - FINANCE COMMITTEE Total</b>		<b>\$600.00</b>		<b>\$135.00</b>	<b>\$465.00</b>	<b>22.50 %</b>
01-135-5100 TOWN ACCOUNTANT SALARIES		\$25,988.00		\$25,988.00		100.00 %
01-135-5500 OUTSIDE PAYROLL EXPENSES		\$7,000.00	\$2,245.78	\$10,418.02	\$-1,172.24	112.67 %
01-135-5500-5400 TOWN ACCOUNTANT EXPENSE		\$400.00			\$400.00	0.00%
<b>135 - TOWN ACCOUNTANT Total</b>		<b>\$33,388.00</b>	<b>\$2,245.78</b>	<b>\$36,406.02</b>	<b>\$-772.24</b>	<b>102.16 %</b>
01-141-5100 ASSESSOR SALARIES		\$65,000.00		\$40,728.82	\$24,271.18	62.65 %
01-141-5500 ASSESSOR EXPENSES		\$70,000.00		\$57,226.76	\$12,773.24	81.75 %
<b>141 - ASSESSORS Total</b>		<b>\$135,000.00</b>		<b>\$97,955.58</b>	<b>\$37,044.42</b>	<b>72.55 %</b>
01-145-5100 TREASURER SALARIES		\$48,335.00		\$48,337.54	\$-2.54	100.00 %
01-145-5500 TREASURER EXPENSES		\$5,000.00		\$2,654.92	\$2,345.08	53.09 %
<b>145 - TREASURER Total</b>		<b>\$53,335.00</b>		<b>\$50,992.46</b>	<b>\$2,342.54</b>	<b>95.60 %</b>
01-146-5100 TAX COLLECTOR SALARIES		\$60,251.00		\$60,259.68	\$-8.68	100.01 %
01-146-5110 ASST TAX COLLECTOR SALARIES		\$50,144.00		\$50,132.91	\$11.09	99.97 %
01-146-5500 TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSES	\$1,287.16	\$8,280.00	\$250.00	\$9,794.12	\$23.04	99.76 %
01-146-5800-5819 KVS SOFTWARE UPGRADE	\$4,045.00				\$4,045.00	0.00%
<b>146 - TAX COLLECTOR Total</b>	<b>\$5,332.16</b>	<b>\$118,675.00</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>	<b>\$120,186.71</b>	<b>\$4,070.45</b>	<b>96.72 %</b>
01-147-5500 TAX TITLE EXPENSES		\$30,000.00		\$27,814.62	\$2,185.38	92.71 %
01-147-5800 TAX TITLE EXPENSES		\$30,000.00		\$27,814.62	\$2,185.38	92.71 %
<b>147 - TAX TITLE Total</b>		<b>\$60,000.00</b>		<b>\$55,629.24</b>	<b>\$4,370.76</b>	<b>92.71 %</b>
01-150-5100 TOWN SECRETARY SALARIES		\$48,452.00		\$48,462.50	\$-10.50	100.02 %
<b>150 - TOWN SECRETARY Total</b>		<b>\$48,452.00</b>		<b>\$48,462.50</b>	<b>\$-10.50</b>	<b>100.02 %</b>
01-151-5500 TOWN COUNSEL EXPENSES		\$20,000.00		\$11,915.27	\$8,084.73	59.57 %
<b>151 - TOWN COUNSEL Total</b>		<b>\$20,000.00</b>		<b>\$11,915.27</b>	<b>\$8,084.73</b>	<b>59.57 %</b>
01-155-5500 AUDIT EXPENSES	\$18,000.00	\$23,000.00		\$5,000.00	\$36,000.00	12.19 %
<b>155 - AUDIT Total</b>	<b>\$18,000.00</b>	<b>\$23,000.00</b>		<b>\$5,000.00</b>	<b>\$36,000.00</b>	<b>12.19 %</b>
01-156-5500 POSTAGE EXPENSES	\$1,752.62	\$12,000.00		\$12,860.55	\$892.07	93.51 %
<b>156-POSTAGE Total</b>		<b>\$1,752.62</b>	<b>\$12,000.00</b>	<b>\$12,860.55</b>	<b>\$892.07</b>	<b>93.51 %</b>
01-157-5500 TOWN REPORT EXPENSES		\$3,500.00		\$2,920.00	\$580.00	83.42 %
<b>157 - TOWN REPORT Total</b>		<b>\$3,500.00</b>		<b>\$2,920.00</b>	<b>\$580.00</b>	<b>83.42 %</b>



<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD.</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
01-161-5100 TOWN CLERK SALARIES		\$30,516.00		\$25,900.20	\$4,615.80	84.87 %
01-161-5500 TOWN CLERK EXPENSES		\$2,145.00		\$2,097.24	\$47.76	97.77 %
<b>161 - TOWN CLERK Total</b>		<b>\$32,661.00</b>		<b>\$27,997.44</b>	<b>\$4,663.56</b>	<b>85.72 %</b>
01-162-5500 ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION EXPENSES		\$15,000.00		\$4,254.15	\$10,745.85	28.36 %
<b>162 - ELECTIONS &amp; REGISTRATION Total</b>		<b>\$15,000.00</b>		<b>\$4,254.15</b>	<b>\$10,745.85</b>	<b>28.36 %</b>
01-171-5500 CON COMM EXPENSES		\$20,000.00		\$16,790.90	\$3,209.10	83.95 %
<b>171 - CONS COMM Total</b>		<b>\$20,000.00</b>		<b>\$16,790.90</b>	<b>\$3,209.10</b>	<b>83.95 %</b>
01-175-5500 PLANNING BOARD EXPENSES		\$2,500.00		\$2,788.24	\$-288.24	111.52 %
<b>175 - PLANNING BOARD Total</b>		<b>\$2,500.00</b>		<b>\$2,788.24</b>	<b>\$-288.24</b>	<b>111.52 %</b>
01-176-5500 BOARD OF APPEALS EXPENSES		\$1,500.00		\$1,055.70	\$444.30	70.38 %
<b>176-ZONING BOARD Total</b>		<b>\$1,500.00</b>		<b>\$1,055.70</b>	<b>\$444.30</b>	<b>70.38 %</b>
01-179-5500 BERK REGIONAL PLANNING COMM		\$1,900.00		\$1,417.45	\$482.55	74.60 %
<b>179 - BRPC Total</b>		<b>\$1,900.00</b>		<b>\$1,417.45</b>	<b>\$482.55</b>	<b>74.60 %</b>
01-192-5100 MUNICIPAL BLDG LABOR		\$51,294.00		\$51,762.57	\$-468.57	100.91 %
01-192-5200 MUNICIPAL BLDG UTILITIES		\$55,000.00		\$43,286.91	\$11,713.09	78.70 %
01-192-5500 MUNICIPAL BLDG EXPENSES	\$159.20	\$31,975.00		\$18,933.28	\$13,200.92	58.91 %
01-192-5502 WIRED WEST MEMBERSHIP		\$2,000.00			\$2,000.00	0.00 %
01-192-5800 MUNICIPAL BLDG REPAIRS		\$35,000.00		\$34,837.47	\$162.53	99.53 %
01-192-5800-5018 TOWN HALL PARKING LOT	\$2,742.64				\$2,742.64	0.00 %
01-192-5800-5020 DRAINAGE-AMBULANCE DEPT.	\$38,822.12				\$38,822.12	0.00 %
01-192-5800-5021 WELL AND SEPTIC	\$10,685.30				\$10,685.30	0.00 %
01-192-5800-5022 TOWN HALL RENO & HVAC	\$8,450.70				\$12,791.48	45.45 %
01-192-5800-5869 PAVILION - MAPLE STREET		\$5,000.00			\$5,000.00	0.00 %
01-192-5800-5870 TOWN HALL PAVILION EXTENSION		\$9,594.00			\$9,594.00	0.00 %
01-192-5800-5872 TOWN HALL EMER GENERATOR FY22		\$35,000.00		\$33,805.00	\$1,195.00	96.58 %
<b>192 - MUNICIPAL BLDG Total</b>	<b>\$60,859.96</b>	<b>\$239,863.00</b>		<b>\$193,284.45</b>	<b>\$107,438.51</b>	<b>64.27 %</b>
01-193-5800 COMPHARDWARE/SOFTWARE UPGRADES				\$26.99	\$-26.99	100.00 %
01-193-5800-5557 MUNI BLDG TOWN HALL CNTRL AIR	\$10,387.03			\$10,387.03		100.00 %
01-193-5800-580 TECHNOLOGY		\$35,000.00		\$31,918.91	\$3,081.09	91.19 %
<b>193 - MUNICIPAL BLDG ARTICLES Total</b>	<b>\$10,387.03</b>	<b>\$35,000.00</b>		<b>\$42,332.93</b>	<b>\$3,054.10</b>	<b>93.27 %</b>
01-941-5500 RESERVE FUND		\$50,000.00	\$-2,000.00		\$48,000.00	0.00 %
<b>941-RESERVE FUND Total</b>		<b>\$50,000.00</b>	<b>\$-2,000.00</b>		<b>\$48,000.00</b>	<b>0.00 %</b>
01-210-5100 POLICE DEPT SALARIES		\$405,007.00		\$400,064.20	\$4,942.80	98.77 %
01-210-5500 POLICE DEPT EXPENSES		\$21,000.00		\$20,886.64	\$113.36	99.46 %
<b>210 - POLICE DEPT Total</b>		<b>\$426,007.00</b>		<b>\$420,950.84</b>	<b>\$5,056.16</b>	<b>98.81 %</b>
01-211-5500 EMERG MANAGEMENT EXPENSES		\$1,000.00			\$1,000.00	0.00 %
01-211-5500-5401 EMERGENCY MGT TRAINING		\$2,000.00			\$1,000.00	0.00 %
<b>211 - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT Total</b>		<b>\$2,000.00</b>			<b>\$2,000.00</b>	<b>0.00 %</b>
01-212-5500 CONSTABLE EXPENSES		\$300.00		\$241.00	\$59.00	80.33 %
<b>212- CONSTABLE EXPENSES Total</b>		<b>\$300.00</b>		<b>\$241.00</b>	<b>\$59.00</b>	<b>80.33 %</b>
01-220-5100 FIRE DEPARTMENT SALARIES		\$7,633.00		\$7,632.60	\$0.40	99.99 %
01-220-5111 FIREFIGHTER STIPENDS	\$14,700.00	\$14,000.00		\$10,500.00	\$18,200.00	36.58 %
01-220-5500 FIRE DEPARTMENT EXPENSES		\$37,000.00		\$10,461.08	\$26,538.92	28.27 %
<b>220- FIRE DEPARTMENT Total</b>	<b>\$14,700.00</b>	<b>\$58,633.00</b>		<b>\$28,593.68</b>	<b>\$44,739.32</b>	<b>38.99 %</b>
01-221-5800-5802 DRY HYDRANT PARTS	\$7,000.00				\$7,000.00	0.00 %
01-221-5800-5860 FY19 TURNOUT GEAR	\$10,067.64			\$468.00	\$9,599.64	4.64 %
01-221-5800-5871 FIRE DEPT HOSE & SCBA EQUIPMENT		\$20,000.00			\$20,000.00	0.00 %

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD.</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
<b>221 - FIRE</b>		<b>\$20,000.00</b>		<b>\$468.00</b>	<b>\$36,599.64</b>	<b>1.26 %</b>
01-230-5500 E911 COMMUNICATIONS	\$17,067.64	\$13,456.00		\$13,455.25	\$0.75	99.99 %
<b>230 - E911 COMMUNICATIONS Total</b>		<b>\$13,456.00</b>		<b>\$13,455.25</b>	<b>\$0.75</b>	<b>99.99 %</b>
01-241-5100 BUILDING DEPARTMENT SALARIES		\$55,000.00	\$1,547.81	\$56,759.35	\$-211.54	100.37 %
01-241-5500 BUILDING DEPARTMENT EXPENSES		\$2,350.00		\$145.00	\$2,205.00	6.17 %
<b>241 - BUILDING DEPARTMENT Total</b>		<b>\$57,350.00</b>	<b>\$1,547.81</b>	<b>\$56,904.35</b>	<b>\$1,993.46</b>	<b>96.61 %</b>
01-292-5100 ANIMAL CONTROL SALARIES		\$5,751.00		\$5,609.81	\$141.19	97.54 %
01-292-5500 ANIMAL CONTROL EXPENSES		\$2,500.00		\$2,482.79	\$17.21	99.31 %
<b>292 - ANIMAL CONTROL Total</b>		<b>\$8,251.00</b>		<b>\$8,092.60</b>	<b>\$158.40</b>	<b>98.08 %</b>
01-295-5500 HARBOR MASTER EXPENSES		\$1,474.00		\$976.84	\$497.16	66.27 %
<b>295 - HARBOR MASTER Total</b>		<b>\$1,474.00</b>		<b>\$976.84</b>	<b>\$497.16</b>	<b>66.27 %</b>
01-931-5500 DEMOLITION FUND		\$25,000.00		\$105.00	\$24,895.00	0.42 %
<b>931 - DEMOLITION Total</b>		<b>\$25,000.00</b>		<b>\$105.00</b>	<b>\$24,895.00</b>	<b>0.42 %</b>
01-300-5500-5501 SCHOOL OPERATING BUDGET		\$2,392,842.00		\$2,392,842.00		100.00 %
01-300-5500-5503 VOCATIONAL TUITION		\$190,000.00	\$15,469.00	\$205,469.00		100.00 %
01-300-5500-5504 VOCATIONAL TRANSPORTATION		\$75,000.00		\$53,726.70	\$21,273.30	71.63 %
<b>300- EDUCATION Total</b>		<b>\$2,657,842.00</b>	<b>\$15,469.00</b>	<b>\$2,652,037.70</b>	<b>\$21,273.30</b>	<b>99.20 %</b>
01-406-5500 TREE ACCOUNT EXPENSES		\$15,000.00		\$11,210.00	\$3,790.00	74.73 %
<b>406 - TREE ACCOUNT Total</b>		<b>\$15,000.00</b>		<b>\$11,210.00</b>	<b>\$3,790.00</b>	<b>74.73 %</b>
01-407-5500 FORESTRY		\$500.00			\$500.00	0.00 %
<b>407 - FORESTRY Total</b>		<b>\$500.00</b>			<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>0.00 %</b>
01-421-5100 HIGHWAY DEPT SALARIES		\$245,820.00		\$206,164.67	\$39,655.33	83.86 %
01-421-5102 SUMMER LABOR		\$16,800.00			\$16,800.00	0.00 %
01-421-5500-5505 GENERAL MAINTENANCE		\$176,000.00		\$131,956.48	\$44,043.52	74.97 %
01-421-5500-5506 MACHINERY ACCOUNT		\$71,950.00		\$64,304.20	\$7,645.80	89.37 %
01-421-5500-5508 FUEL ACCOUNT	\$450.00	\$91,750.00		\$91,797.29	\$402.71	99.56 %
01-421-5500-5559 HIGHWAY GARAGE		\$16,000.00		\$15,944.15	\$55.85	99.65 %
<b>421- HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Total</b>	<b>\$450.00</b>	<b>\$618,320.00</b>		<b>\$510,166.79</b>	<b>\$108,603.21</b>	<b>82.44 %</b>
01-422-5800-5873 LEONHART ROAD REPAIRS FY22		\$165,900.00		\$165,900.00		100.00 %
01-422-5800-5874 FY22 F550 HIGHWAY TRUCK		\$132,000.00		\$132,540.00	\$-540.00	100.40 %
<b>422 - HIGHWAY ARTICLES Total</b>		<b>\$297,900.00</b>		<b>\$298,440.00</b>	<b>\$-540.00</b>	<b>100.18 %</b>
01-423-5100 WINTER ROADS SALARIES		\$160,837.00	\$39,137.98	\$199,974.98		100.00 %
01-423-5500-5509 WINTER ROADS		\$85,825.00	\$2,572.00	\$88,397.00		100.00 %
<b>423 - WINTER ROADS Total</b>		<b>\$246,662.00</b>	<b>\$41,709.98</b>	<b>\$288,371.98</b>		<b>100.00 %</b>
01-424-5500 STREET LIGHTING		\$9,000.00		\$9,686.20	\$-686.20	107.62 %
<b>424 - STREET LIGHTS Total</b>		<b>\$9,000.00</b>		<b>\$9,686.20</b>	<b>\$-686.20</b>	<b>107.62 %</b>
01-431-5100 TRANSFER STATION SALARIES		\$38,657.00	\$971.04	\$39,472.28	\$155.76	99.60 %
01-431-5500 TRANSFER STATION EXPENSES		\$133,075.00		\$120,748.67	\$12,326.33	90.73 %
<b>431-TRANSFER STATION Total</b>		<b>\$171,732.00</b>	<b>\$971.04</b>	<b>\$160,220.95</b>	<b>\$12,482.09</b>	<b>92.77 %</b>
01-491-5500-5510 BECKET CENTER CEMETERY		\$5,000.00	\$300.48	\$5,413.60	\$-113.12	102.13 %
01-491-5500-5511 NORTH BECKET CEMETERY		\$16,500.00		\$12,669.44	\$3,830.56	76.78 %
01-491-5500-5512 WEST BECKET CEMETERY		\$800.00	\$48.40	\$848.40		100.00 %
<b>491 - CEMETERY Total</b>		<b>\$22,300.00</b>	<b>\$348.88</b>	<b>\$18,931.44</b>	<b>\$3,717.44</b>	<b>83.58 %</b>
01-431-5500-5454 SO BERK SOLID WASTE		\$3,260.00		\$2,052.00	\$1,208.00	62.94 %
<b>431-TRANSFER STATION Total</b>		<b>\$3,260.00</b>		<b>\$2,052.00</b>	<b>\$1,208.00</b>	<b>62.94 %</b>
01-510-5100 BOARD OF HEALTH SALARIES		\$9,500.00		\$1,171.60	\$8,328.40	12.33 %
01-510-5500 BOARD OF HEALTH EXPENSES		\$33,500.00	\$2,000.00	\$35,391.50	\$108.50	99.69 %

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD.</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUML. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
<b>510 - BOARD OF HEALTH Total</b>		<b>\$43,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>	<b>\$36,563.10</b>	<b>\$8,436.90</b>	<b>81.25 %</b>
01-519-5500 INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS		\$364.00			\$364.00	0.00 %
<b>519 - INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS Total</b>		<b>\$364.00</b>			<b>\$364.00</b>	<b>0.00 %</b>
01-520-5500 NURSING SERVICES		\$5,200.00			\$5,200.00	0.00 %
<b>520- VISITING NURSE Total</b>		<b>\$5,200.00</b>			<b>\$5,200.00</b>	<b>0.00 %</b>
01-541-5500 COUNCIL ON AGING EXPENSES		\$3,500.00	\$65.94	\$3,565.94		100.00 %
01-541-5500-5400 OUTREACH PROGRAMS		\$500.00			\$500.00	0.00 %
<b>541 - COUNCIL ON AGING Total</b>		<b>\$4,000.00</b>	<b>\$65.94</b>	<b>\$3,565.94</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>87.70 %</b>
01-543-5100 VETERANS AGENT SALARIES		\$2,194.00	\$43.40	\$2,237.40		100.00 %
01-543-5500 VETERANS BENEFITS		\$35,000.00		\$21,379.31	\$13,620.69	61.08 %
01-543-5500-5400 VETERAN'S AGENT EXPENSE		\$100.00			\$100.00	0.00 %
<b>543 - VETERANS Total</b>		<b>\$37,294.00</b>	<b>\$43.40</b>	<b>\$23,616.71</b>	<b>\$13,720.69</b>	<b>63.25 %</b>
01-601-5500-5850 UPGRADE & IMPROVE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM	\$200.00				\$200.00	0.00 %
<b>601 - ARTS CENTER Total</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>				<b>\$200.00</b>	<b>0.00 %</b>
01-603-5800 WOMEN'S AUX CHILDREN'S PARTY	\$500.00				\$500.00	0.00 %
<b>603 - WOMEN'S AUXILIARY Total</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>				<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>0.00 %</b>
01-610-5500 LIBRARY EXPENSES		\$52,581.00	\$257.00	\$52,838.00		100.00 %
01-610-5500-5817 BECKET ARTS CENTER		\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00		100.00 %
<b>610 - LIBRARY Total</b>		<b>\$62,581.00</b>	<b>\$257.00</b>	<b>\$62,838.00</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
01-611-5800-5826 LIBRARY CAPITAL	\$10,000.00		\$195.00	\$10,195.00	\$0.01	0.00 %
01-611-5800-5863 BECKET ARTS CENTER CAPITAL	\$0.01			\$0.01		99.99 %
<b>611 - LIBRARY CAPITAL Total</b>	<b>\$10,000.01</b>	<b>\$195.00</b>		<b>\$10,195.00</b>	<b>\$0.01</b>	<b>99.99 %</b>
01-634-5500-5447 WEED TREATMENT CENTER POND		\$3,000.00		\$3,000.00		100.00 %
<b>634 - CENTER POND Total</b>		<b>\$3,000.00</b>		<b>\$3,000.00</b>	<b>\$100.00 %</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
01-640-5500 PARKS AND REC COMM EXPENSES	\$20,660.83	\$30,610.00		\$49,402.29	\$1,868.54	96.35 %
01-640-5500-5856 EROSION CONTROL/DRAINAGE	\$3,399.99				\$3,399.99	0.00 %
<b>640-PARKS COMM Total</b>	<b>\$24,060.82</b>	<b>\$30,610.00</b>		<b>\$49,402.29</b>	<b>\$5,268.53</b>	<b>90.36 %</b>
01-691-5500 HISTORICAL COMM EXPENSES	\$713.04	\$2,000.00		\$1,077.76	\$1,635.28	39.72 %
<b>691 - HISTORICAL COMM Total</b>	<b>\$713.04</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>		<b>\$1,077.76</b>	<b>\$1,635.28</b>	<b>39.72 %</b>
01-692-5500 MEMORIAL VETERAN'S DAY EXPENSES		\$1,500.00		\$157.65	\$1,342.35	10.51 %
<b>692 - MEMORIAL VETERAN'S DAY Total</b>		<b>\$1,500.00</b>		<b>\$157.65</b>	<b>\$1,342.35</b>	<b>10.51 %</b>
01-710-5500-5450 WAHCONAH RHS NEW CONSTRUCTION		\$126,981.00		\$126,981.00		100.00 %
01-710-5500-5513 BECKET WASHINGTON SCHOOL		\$95,863.00		\$95,863.00		100.00 %
01-710-5500-5536 CRANEVILLE ROOF		\$310.00		\$310.00		100.00 %
01-710-5500-5538 BROADBAND		\$86,674.00		\$73,654.00	\$13,020.00	84.97 %
01-710-5500-5541 HIGHWAY TRUCK AND PLOW FY22		\$65,000.00	\$40.00	\$65,040.00		100.00 %
01-710-5500-5545 INTEREST ON SHORT TERM DEBT		\$1,500.00			\$1,500.00	0.00 %
01-710-5500-5560 KITTREDGE MSBA WINDOWS		\$125.00		\$125.00		100.00 %
01-710-5500-5561 FY14 CRANEVILLE AIR HANDLER		\$78.00		\$78.00		100.00 %
01-710-5500-5562 FY14 DISTRICT SECURITY		\$916.00		\$916.00		100.00 %
01-710-5500-5563 WAHCONAH REGIONAL HS SIDEWALKS		\$760.00		\$760.00		100.00 %
01-710-5500-5566 WAHCONAH RHS DOORS		\$6,605.00		\$6,605.00		100.00 %
01-710-5500-5616 RESCUE PUMPER						100.00 %
01-710-5500-5618 HIGHWAY TRUCK #5 FY22		\$44,858.00		\$44,528.00	\$330.00	99.26 %
<b>710- DEBT Total</b>		<b>\$429,670.00</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>	<b>\$414,860.00</b>	<b>\$14,850.00</b>	<b>96.54 %</b>
01-820-5500-5515 RMV SURCHARGES				\$1,620.00	\$-1,620.00	100.00 %
01-820-5500-5517 AIR POLLUTION				\$795.00	\$-795.00	100.00 %

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD.</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
01-820-5500-5518 REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY					\$-86.00	100.00 %
<b>820- Total</b>				\$86.00	\$-86.00	100.00 %
01-914-5175 HEALTH/LIFE INSURANCE					\$2,501.00	100.00 %
01-914-5500-5521 RETIREMENT	\$15,000.00	\$457,213.00	\$-64,735.26	\$356,057.63	\$51,420.11	87.38 %
01-914-5500-5522 PAYROLL TAXES		\$253,604.00		\$253,604.00		100.00 %
01-914-5500-5535 UNEMPLOYMENT		\$28,254.00		\$27,269.41	\$984.59	96.51 %
01-914-5500-5540 OPEB		\$5,000.00		\$3,464.46	\$1,535.54	69.28 %
<b>914 - EMPLOYEE BENEFITS Total</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>	<b>\$759,071.00</b>	<b>\$-64,735.26</b>	<b>\$640,395.50</b>	<b>\$68,940.24</b>	<b>90.28 %</b>
01-945-5500 LIABILITY INSURANCE		\$125,460.00		\$114,798.16	\$10,661.84	91.50 %
<b>945 - LIABILITY INSURANCE Total</b>		<b>\$125,460.00</b>		<b>\$114,798.16</b>	<b>\$10,661.84</b>	<b>91.50 %</b>
<b>01 - GENERAL FUND Total</b>	<b>\$184,307.48</b>	<b>\$7,161,767.00</b>		<b>\$6,657,117.23</b>	<b>\$688,957.25</b>	<b>90.62 %</b>
18-220-5500 FIRE DEPT DONATIONS EXPENSE				\$28,284.19	\$-28,284.19	100.00 %
<b>220- FIRE DEPARTMENT Total</b>				<b>\$28,284.19</b>	<b>\$-28,284.19</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
18-300-5554 EDUCATION EXPENSES				\$1,308.00	\$-1,308.00	100.00 %
<b>300 - EDUCATION Total</b>				<b>\$1,308.00</b>	<b>\$-1,308.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
18-231-5500 AMBULANCE GIFTS EXPENSE				\$1,224.41	\$-1,224.41	100.00 %
<b>231-AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT Total</b>				<b>\$1,224.41</b>	<b>\$-1,224.41</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
18-300-5500 SCHOLARSHIP EXPENSE				\$2,854.46	\$-2,854.46	100.00 %
<b>300 - EDUCATION Total</b>				<b>\$2,854.46</b>	<b>\$-2,854.46</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>18 - GIFTS AND DONATIONS Total</b>				<b>\$33,671.06</b>	<b>\$-33,671.06</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
20-491-5500 SALE OF LOTS EXPENSE				\$900.00	\$-900.00	100.00 %
<b>491 - CEMETERY Total</b>				<b>\$900.00</b>	<b>\$-900.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>20 - SALE OF LOTS Total</b>				<b>\$900.00</b>	<b>\$-900.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
22-210-5500 K9 PROGRAM EXPENSE				\$1,981.06	\$-1,981.06	100.00 %
<b>210 - POLICE DEPT Total</b>				<b>\$1,981.06</b>	<b>\$-1,981.06</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>22 - PRIVATE GRANTS Total</b>				<b>\$1,981.06</b>	<b>\$-1,981.06</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
24-122-5500-2737 ARPA EXPENSE				\$219,970.74	\$-219,970.74	100.00 %
<b>122 - SELECTMEN Total</b>				<b>\$219,970.74</b>	<b>\$-219,970.74</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
24-171-5500-3773 OPEN SPACE GRANT EXPENSE				\$14,338.49	\$-14,338.49	100.00 %
<b>171 - CONS COMM Total</b>				<b>\$14,338.49</b>	<b>\$-14,338.49</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
24-421-5500-4035 BRI GRANT EXPENSE				\$33,464.25	\$-33,464.25	100.00 %
<b>421- HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Total</b>				<b>\$33,464.25</b>	<b>\$-33,464.25</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
24-510-5500 COVID RELIEF EXPENSE				\$5,860.52	\$-5,860.52	100.00 %
<b>510 - BOARD OF HEALTH Total</b>				<b>\$5,860.52</b>	<b>\$-5,860.52</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
24-210-5500-3218 EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR EQUIP				\$2,497.10	\$-2,497.10	100.00 %
24-210-5500-3219 MUNI REGIONAL GRANT EXP				\$43,805.37	\$-43,805.37	100.00 %
<b>210 - POLICE DEPT Total</b>				<b>\$46,302.47</b>	<b>\$-46,302.47</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
24-211-5500 EMERG MANAGE GRANT EXPENSE				\$1,700.00	\$-1,700.00	100.00 %
<b>211 - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT Total</b>				<b>\$1,700.00</b>	<b>\$-1,700.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
24-421-5500-4249 BENTON HILL RD				\$69,399.75	\$-69,399.75	100.00 %
24-421-5500-5567 COMPLETE STREETS				\$17,098.43	\$-17,098.43	100.00 %
<b>421- HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Total</b>				<b>\$86,498.18</b>	<b>\$-86,498.18</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
24-541-5500-5525 COA GRANT EXPENSES				\$6,738.27	\$-6,738.27	100.00 %
<b>541 - COUNCIL ON AGING Total</b>				<b>\$6,738.27</b>	<b>\$-6,738.27</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
24-610-5500-5524 LIBRARY GRANT EXPENSES				\$10,000.00	\$-10,000.00	100.00 %
<b>610 - LIBRARY Total</b>				<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$-10,000.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
24-699-5500 CULTURAL COUNCIL EXPENSE				\$5,125.00	\$-5,125.00	100.00 %

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD.</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
<b>699-CULTURAL COUNCIL Total</b>				<b>\$5,125.00</b>	<b>\$-5,125.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>24-STATE GRANTS Total</b>				<b>\$429,997.92</b>	<b>\$-429,997.92</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
25-172-5500 CPA ADMIN EXPENSES	\$500.00			\$324.95	\$175.05	64.99 %
25-172-5800-5539 CREATION OF ESAU'S HEEL				\$8,155.90	\$-8,155.90	100.00 %
25-172-5800-5542 INSTALL INSULATION AND WINDOW				\$21,266.50	\$-21,266.50	100.00 %
25-172-5800-5568 BELFRY				\$100,000.00	\$-100,000.00	100.00 %
25-172-5800-5866 RESTORATION/STAB HISTORIC FIRST CON				\$15,000.00	\$-15,000.00	100.00 %
<b>172-CPA COMMITTEE Total</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>			<b>\$144,747.35</b>	<b>\$-144,247.35</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>25- CPA FUND Total</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>			<b>\$144,747.35</b>	<b>\$-144,247.35</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
26-100-5500 INS REIMB <20K				\$5,014.39	\$-5,014.39	100.00 %
<b>100 - GENERAL GOVERNMENT Total</b>				<b>\$5,014.39</b>	<b>\$-5,014.39</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
26-171-5500 CONSERVATION WETLANDS EXPENSES				\$9,676.66	\$-9,676.66	100.00 %
<b>171 - CONS COMM Total</b>				<b>\$9,676.66</b>	<b>\$-9,676.66</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
26-177-5500 PLUMBING INSPECTOR EXPENSES				\$975.00	\$-975.00	100.00 %
<b>177 - PLUMBING INSPECTOR Total</b>				<b>\$975.00</b>	<b>\$-975.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
26-178-5500 GAS INSPECTOR EXPENSES				\$7,085.00	\$-7,085.00	100.00 %
<b>178 - GAS INSPECTOR Total</b>				<b>\$7,085.00</b>	<b>\$-7,085.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
26-180-5500 WIRING INSPECTOR EXPENSES				\$5,135.00	\$-5,135.00	100.00 %
<b>180 - WIRING INSPECTOR Total</b>				<b>\$5,135.00</b>	<b>\$-5,135.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
26-210-5500 POLICE OUTSIDE DETAIL				\$95,546.50	\$-95,546.50	100.00 %
<b>210 - POLICE DEPT Total</b>				<b>\$95,546.50</b>	<b>\$-95,546.50</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
26-231-5500 AMBULANCE OUTSIDE DETAIL				\$8,198.26	\$-8,198.26	100.00 %
26-231-5500-5401 AMBULANCE TRAINING EXPENSE				\$251.38	\$-251.38	100.00 %
<b>231 - AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT Total</b>				<b>\$8,449.64</b>	<b>\$-8,449.64</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>26 - REVOLVING FUNDS Total</b>				<b>\$131,882.19</b>	<b>\$-131,882.19</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
40-122-5500 BROADBAND EXPENSE				\$1,768,067.69	\$-1,768,067.69	100.00 %
<b>122 - SELECTMEN Total</b>				<b>\$1,768,067.69</b>	<b>\$-1,768,067.69</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>40 - BROADBAND Total</b>				<b>\$1,768,067.69</b>	<b>\$-1,768,067.69</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
60-231-5100 AMBULANCE SALARIES		\$400,423.00		\$418,407.73	\$-17,984.73	104.49 %
60-231-5500 AMBULANCE EXPENSES	\$550.00	\$44,577.00		\$50,930.67	\$-5,803.67	112.86 %
<b>231-AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT Total</b>	<b>\$550.00</b>	<b>\$445,000.00</b>		<b>\$469,338.40</b>	<b>\$-23,788.40</b>	<b>105.33 %</b>
<b>60 - AMBULANCE ENTERPRISE Total</b>	<b>\$550.00</b>	<b>\$445,000.00</b>		<b>\$469,338.40</b>	<b>\$-23,788.40</b>	<b>105.33 %</b>
81-491-5500-5544 CEM PERP CARE EXPENSES				\$492.60	\$-492.60	100.00 %
<b>491 - CEMETERY Total</b>				<b>\$492.60</b>	<b>\$-492.60</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>81 - NON EXPENDABLE TRUST Total</b>				<b>\$492.60</b>	<b>\$-492.60</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
82-491-5500-5532 CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE INT EX				\$348.09	\$-348.09	100.00 %
<b>491 - CEMETERY Total</b>				<b>\$348.09</b>	<b>\$-348.09</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>82 - EXPENDABLE TRUST Total</b>				<b>\$348.09</b>	<b>\$-348.09</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
83-199-5780-5529 SHERWOOD FOREST PAYMENTS				\$10,388.18	\$-10,388.18	100.00 %
83-199-5780-5531 SHERWOOD GREENS PAYMENTS				\$4,691.82	\$-4,691.82	100.00 %
83-199-5780-5549 SHERWOOD FOREST LAKE PAYMENTS				\$8,463.83	\$-8,463.83	100.00 %
<b>199- Total</b>				<b>\$23,543.83</b>	<b>\$-23,543.83</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>83 - ROAD DISTRICT AGENCY Total</b>				<b>\$23,543.83</b>	<b>\$-23,543.83</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
88-100-5325 RETIREE INSUR AND WITHOLDINGS				\$32,880.17	\$-32,880.17	100.00 %
<b>100 - GENERAL GOVERNMENT Total</b>				<b>\$32,880.17</b>	<b>\$-32,880.17</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
88-122-5500 BROADBAND CONSTRUCT EXPENSE				\$13,912.79	\$-13,912.79	100.00 %
<b>122 - SELECTMEN Total</b>				<b>\$13,912.79</b>	<b>\$-13,912.79</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD.</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
88-148-5500 DEPUTY COLLECTOR EXPENSE				\$2,720.00	\$-2,720.00	100.00 %
<b>148 - DEPUTY COLLECTOR Total</b>				<b>\$2,720.00</b>	<b>\$-2,720.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
88-161-5100 TOWN CLERK FEES SALARIES				\$765.83	\$-765.83	100.00 %
<b>161 - TOWN CLERK Total</b>				<b>\$765.83</b>	<b>\$-765.83</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
88-210-5500 PISTOL PERMIT EXPENSES				\$2,787.50	\$-2,787.50	100.00 %
<b>210 - POLICE DEPT Total</b>				<b>\$2,787.50</b>	<b>\$-2,787.50</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>88 - AGENCY FUND Total</b>				<b>\$53,066.29</b>	<b>\$-53,066.29</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$7,607,267.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$9,715,153.71</b>	<b>\$-1,923,029.23</b>	<b>124.67 %</b>

◆ **TOWN OF BECKET - COMBINED BALANCE SHEET** ◆

*July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022*

**ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUP**

	General Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Govern Grant Funds	Capital Project Funds	Ambul Fund	Trust Fund	Agency Fund	Long Term Debt Group	Memo Only
<b>ASSETS</b>									
Cash	2,115,524.05	559,623.75	721,567.01	854,604.73	71,800.62	1,035,459.59	373,249.55	0.00	5,731,829.30
Property Taxes	564,372.87	4,168.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	568,541.07
Allowance for Abate & Exempt	-273,124.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-273,124.59
Tax Liens	1,432,521.39	-45.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	950,678.20	0.00	2,383,153.87
Motor Vehicle Excise	50,875.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50,875.85
User Charges/Liens	-14,758.14	15,435.10	0.00	0.00	162,991.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	163,668.06
Amts Prov for Pay of Bonds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,468,000.00	2,468,000.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>3,875,411.43</b>	<b>579,181.33</b>	<b>721,567.01</b>	<b>854,604.73</b>	<b>234,791.72</b>	<b>1,035,459.59</b>	<b>1,323,927.75</b>	<b>2,468,000.00</b>	<b>11,092,943.56</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>									
Other Liabilities	4,861.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,861.67
Def Rev Prop Tax	291,248.28	4,203.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	295,451.70
Def Rev Tax Liens	1,432,521.39	-80.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	950,678.20	0.00	2,383,118.65
Def Rev MV Excise	50,875.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50,875.85
Borrowing Authorized and Unissued	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1,730,000.00	-1,730,000.00
Def Rev User Charges/Liens	-14,758.14	15,435.10	0.00	0.00	162,991.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	163,668.06
Borrowing Authorized	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,730,000.00	1,730,000.00
Bonds Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,468,000.00	2,468,000.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,764,749.05</b>	<b>19,557.58</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>162,991.10</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>950,678.20</b>	<b>2,468,000.00</b>	<b>5,365,975.93</b>
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>									
Reserved for Encumbrances	302,774.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	302,774.57
Reserved for Expenditures	508,803.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	508,803.00
Reserved for Appropriation Deficits	-3,528.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-3,528.62
Designated	0.00	68,523.10	0.00	0.00	71,800.62	1,007,323.18	0.00	0.00	1,147,646.90
Undesignated	1,302,613.43	491,100.65	721,567.01	854,604.73	0.00	28,136.41	373,249.55	0.00	3,771,271.78
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>2,110,662.38</b>	<b>559,623.75</b>	<b>721,567.01</b>	<b>854,604.73</b>	<b>71,800.62</b>	<b>1,035,459.59</b>	<b>373,249.55</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>5,726,967.63</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>3,875,411.43</b>	<b>579,181.33</b>	<b>721,567.01</b>	<b>854,604.73</b>	<b>234,791.72</b>	<b>1,035,459.59</b>	<b>1,323,927.75</b>	<b>2,468,000.00</b>	<b>11,092,943.56</b>



◆ **WAGES PAID IN CALENDAR YEAR 2022** ◆

**Select Board**

Elovirta, William H.	\$ 2,244.48
Lavery, Michael S.	2,244.48
Swindlehurst, Christopher E.	2,244.48

**Town Administrator**

Caldwell, William J.	\$ 34,656.15
Warden, Katherine A.	30,651.00
Webber, Mark	11,010.00

**Board of Assessors**

Walter, Geraldine L.	\$ 4,602.92
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**Clerk of Assessing Dept.**

Perotti, Jessica M.	\$ 38,712.54
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**Treasurer**

Bleau, Christine D.	\$ 48,887.66
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**Tax Collector**

Bilodeau Jr., Kenneth R.	\$ 60,724.32
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**Assistant Tax Collector**

Weiler, Nina M.	\$ 50,525.46
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**Deputy Collector**

Shorey, David O.	\$ 1,581.00
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**Accountant**

McClellan, Margaret A.	\$ 26,202.17
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**Administrative Assistant**

Gilbert, Beverly A.	\$ 48,841.29
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**Constables**

Elovirta, William H.	\$ 413.38
Ronzio, Robert T.	513.00

**Town Clerk/Elections**

Roberts, George E.	\$ 7,030.45
Mathiesen, Robin C.	19,030.39
Mikaniewicz, Allison	3,142.50
Alpert, Amy	42.75
Blake, Alvin V.	306.38
Bleier, Victoria T.	149.63
Crossley, Susan A.	2,543.64
Francis, Charles I	334.88
Garman, Charles A.	99.75
Goetz, Lawrence J.	103.31
Hostetter, Jodie L.	128.25

Hutto-Blake, Tommie L.	131.81
Kay-Grace, Julia W.	431.07
Krawet, Ann L.	220.88
Labelle, Gale	427.51
McEwen, Priscilla J.	99.75
Metcalf, Adrienne K.	114.00
Purser, Susan M.	263.63
Reiss, Steven B.	306.38
Rosenthal, Ruth	99.75
Schwartzbach, Jerome H.	114.00
Weiler, David P.	99.75
Whiffen, Flora	49.88

**Police Department**

Auger, Charlene F.	\$ 43,974.14
Beauchemin, Nicholas R.	25,387.77
Eckman, Kurtis L.	5,002.96
Hunt, Michael	65,421.92
McClellan, Daniel J.	54,514.30
McDonough, Kristopher G.*	99,810.96
* Otis pays ½ salary and ½ benefits	
Miller, Nicole M.	64,663.71
Murphy, Francis J.	18,014.26
Pettibone, Kenneth E.	5,971.26
Virginia, Matthew	57,918.60

**Conservation Commission**

Pietroniro, Nicolas J.	17,843.00
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**Ambulance Department**

Brooks, Logan V.	4,453.37
Brouillette, Mark S.	20,571.26
Cawthron, Danny R.	1,753.73
Chipman, Matthew R.	4,996.64
Cobb, Abigail M.	1,125.00
Cooper, Meredydd	486.96
Drenen, Matthew L.	134.82
Ferrin, Raymond E.	71,769.15
Forsaith, Sarah R.	11,764.59
Giarolo, Jessica	659.55
Hebert Jr., John	5,118.08
Hodgkins, Melinda S.	898.02
Hoppe Jr., Dean H.	4,997.35
Kibbe, Frances J.	24,672.56
Koivisto, Max W.	24,774.84
Lacas, Roseanna K.	1,291.22
Lucas, Christopher S.	37,681.63
Marino, Matthew J.	20,598.36
McDonough, Morgan L.	29,292.83
Michaud, Lisa J.	74,288.30



◆ **WAGES PAID IN CALENDAR YEAR 2022** ◆

~ Continued ~

Mullany, Donna J.	2,046.06	<b>Veterans' Agent</b>	
Mullany, Michael J.	48,064.76	Mann, Lloyd D.	\$ 2,264.22
Norcross, David	172.00		
Roberge, Michael G.	381.99	<b>Cemetery</b>	
Robillard Jr., Leo O.	29,483.51	Cavanaugh, William F.	\$ 9,480.44
Stockley, Haylie R.	5,549.74	Smith, Michelle S.	799.30
Willey, Peter H.	19,570.95	Williams, Dean R.	4,948.96
<b>Building Inspectors</b>		<b>Transfer Station</b>	
Danko, Gary	\$ 882.56	Crochiere, George A.	\$ 13,362.12
Girard, William E.	22,783.60	Will, Robert R.	14,445.56
Greene, Paul S.	28,461.40	Vandesteene, Maurice O.	15,156.23
<b>Public Safety Inspectors</b>		<b>Clerk of Planning Board</b>	
Clement, Trevor E.	\$ 3,640.00	Crossley, Susan A.	1,260.00
Levernoch, Mark A.	7,215.00		
Middleton, Brian	1,235.00	<b>Clerk of the Board of Health, ZBA</b>	
Spring, Dana	3,510.00	Lundberg, Terese	\$ 12,366.39
<b>Harbor Master</b>		<b>Recreation Program &amp; Lifeguards</b>	
Rosenthal, Steven	\$ 600.00	Bell, Eila M.	\$ 183.00
<b>Highway Superintendent</b>		Cobb, Abigail	1,125.00
Pickert, Edward C.	\$ 80,828.68	Cote, Jillian R.	3,737.51
<b>Highway Department</b>		Merenda, DaJuan	1,710.00
Chrystal, Tyler J.	\$ 30,533.44	Drewry, Sheffield M.	4,135.63
Cooper, Robert R.	12,042.24	Furlong, Adelyn B.	1,868.13
Cormier, Tyler J.	16,812.30	LaBier, McKenzie L.	1,545.00
Dean, Thomas J.	14,188.38	Strout, Evan M.	2,676.38
Goodermote, Albert R.	55,073.25	Weiler, David P.	180.00
Isner, Christopher A.	64,257.78	<b>Fire Chief/Chief Stipend &amp; Fees</b>	
Larson, Matthew R.	26,633.44	Mikaniewicz, Paul A.	\$ 7,728.30
Morawiec, Nathan E.	22,017.12	<b>Fire Department Stipend</b>	
Murray, Donald L.	62,929.18	Colantoni, Craig S.	700.00
Phelps, Troy A.	30,396.57	Elovirta, Jan R.	700.00
Shorey, David O.	198.80	Furlong Jr., David F.	700.00
<b>Building &amp; Grounds Technician</b>		Giarolo, Jessica	700.00
Shorey, David O.	\$ 42,825.20	Goebel, Gene R.	700.00
<b>Custodian</b>		Hanford, Mark A.	700.00
Goodermote, Albert	\$4,640.00	Healey, Robert	700.00
<b>Board of Health</b>		Healey Jr., Robert	700.00
Burgwardt, Laurel L.	\$ 848.40	Houlihan, Darien D.	700.00
<b>Animal Control Officer</b>		Isner, Christopher A.	700.00
Miller, Nicole M.	\$ 5,454.23	Massini, Kristopher M.	700.00
		Phelps, Troy A.	700.00
		Swindlehurst, Christopher E.	700.00

## NOTES

# TOWN OF BECKET

557 Main St.

Becket, MA 01223

(413) 623-8934 ext. 100

## **Appointment Application**

TO: Select Board:

Please accept this application for ☐ **1. Appointment** or ☐ **2. Reappointment** to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Committee/Board/Commission)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Residential Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No.: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Current employment: \_\_\_\_\_

***1. If you are requesting Appointment, please complete the following questions:***

- Have you ever attended a meeting of the committee/board/commission?

\_\_\_\_\_

- Why are you interested in this committee/board/commission?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- What experience, skills or insight would you bring to the committee/board/commission?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Are you prepared to commit to the meeting schedule of the committee/board/commission?

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- What would you hope to accomplish on the committee/board/commission?

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**All original applicants or those seeking re-appointment: Please sign at the bottom of this page.**

***2. If you are requesting Re-appointment, please complete the following questions:***

- What has been your level of attendance at committee/board/commission meetings?

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- What have you brought to the committee/board/commission in terms of experience, skills, ideas, insight?

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- How do you feel you have helped the committee/board/commission in its goal(s)/mission?

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- Why do you want to continue serving on the committee/board/commission?

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Signature

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Date

