



April 2019
Volume 1, Issue 7

THE BECKET BULLETIN

INFORMATION ON TOWN GOVERNMENT ISSUES
AND ACTIVITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF BECKET

Local Updates

According to the calendar, we have made it to spring, but we will see what the spring actually brings us in terms of weather, mud and temperatures. The Town continues to make progress on the budget we are looking forward to the Town Meeting.

Obviously it is mud season. Please limit use on the dirt roads as much as possible and please be aware that the Town's Highway Department is working diligently to keep the roads in passable condition. Between the excessive rain last summer and fall, the freezing and thawing temperatures, snow melt and the overuse of the dirt roads, mud is a problem. Please be careful. The Police, Fire and Ambulance Departments are in regular contact with the Highway Department to deal with any local emergencies.

The Route 20 Spring will be made inaccessible in the next week or two pending the weather and work on the roads. The Spring will be made inaccessible, and be deemed inactive. It is a crime to tamper with a public water source, so please do not try to gain access. Also be aware that there are folks looking to reestablish the spring separate from the Town.

The Town Caucus and Wahconah Regional High School Building project vote are April 6th. Polls are open from 10am-4pm. The voting location is the Becket Town Hall Community Room located on the lower level.

Download the complete newsletter from the Town website:

http://www.townofbecket.org/Public_Documents/index

—William J. Caldwell, Town Administrator

To subscribe to the Town of Becket meeting agendas and public notices, please visit: <http://townofbecket.org/subscriber>

Inside this issue

- Selectmen's Column
- Becket Athenaeum Events
- Green Communities Update
- Community Reminders and Opportunities
- Volunteer and employment opportunities
- Parks & Recreation re: Summer
- Caucus and School Vote
- Hilltown Brouhaha

April Meetings (subject to change)

- 1st** Broadband Ad Hoc Group
- 2nd** Zoning Board of Appeals
- 3rd** Board of Health
Board of Selectmen
- 6th** Sherwood Greens
Road District
- 9th** Historical Commission
- 10th** Planning Board
Joint Board of Selectmen
& Finance Committee
- 11th** Finance Committee
- 13th** Sherwood Forest
Road District, Sherwood
Forest Lake District
- 16th** Energy Committee
- 17th** Board of Selectmen
- 23rd** Conservation Com.
- 29th** Broadband Ad Hoc Group

THE SELECTMEN'S COLUMN

Spring has Sprung! Despite a last infusion of the "white stuff" last week, the first full day of Spring was March 21st. The roads are turning to mud and our DPW has been busy putting down gravel and grading the roads. Please keep in mind that Becket has over 30 miles of gravel roads maintained by the town DPW, and our crew is only so big, and there are only so many hours in a day. So slow down if you have to use gravel roads or go the other way if you can avoid them. Thanks!

In other news there will be a town caucus on April 6th as well as a vote on the Central Berkshire School District Wahconah High School rebuild project, details available here http://cbrsd.ss10.sharpschool.com/m_s_b_a_building_project. Please remember to exercise your right to vote from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday April 6th, 2019. There is a vacant seat for Board of Selectman and the other seats have an incumbent candidate. The two constable positions are not up for re-election, the initial listing had a typo and the article in the Country Journal last Thursday was also incorrect. The constables in their current roles will serve for another two years.

Be on the look-out for a "Baby Town Meeting" in order to learn more about the upcoming town election and possible discussion of town meeting warrant items. There are three official candidates listed for Board of Selectmen and this will be a time to meet the candidates and ask them questions. Also something to look forward to will be a re-vamp of the Town of Becket website www.townofbecket.org. We were waiting until the new Town Administrator was appointed until finalizing the changes and we have approved the look-and-feel of the new site. There will be a beta-test of the site and then we will roll it out for everyone. The new site will be much more mobile-friendly since we know many have internet enabled devices in the palm of their hands. So be on the lookout for that to be released.

That's all for now, until next month!

Michael Lavery, Vice-Chair, Board of Selectmen.

Green Communities Update

The 2018 Green Communities Designation Grant is complete and has been officially closed-out by DOER. The Town recently submitted the 2019 Green Communities Competitive Grant to DOER for a new HVAC system at Town Hall. This project will greatly improve efficiency, reduce consumption and be cleaner.

Additionally, the Town will be working to replace the current fluorescent lights at Town Hall, the Highway Garage and Ambulance Department/Station #2 with LED lights which will bring savings to the Town.

Calling all

**CRAFTERS,
ARTISANS
& VENDORS**

Join us @ Washington Town Park
Saturday, July 13th

for the 4th Annual

**hilltown
brouhaha**

Becket Washington Community Fair

To register visit: www.HilltownBrouhaha.org

Reserve space by June 1st
Treasure in the Trunk \$10
OR
Table \$20

brought to you by
BWCP
Becket Washington
Community Partnership

COMMUNITY REMINDERS

Town Caucus and School Vote

When: April 6, 2016 10:00am-4:00pm

Where: Becket Town Hall Community Room (Lower Lever)

Issues: Town Caucus and Wahconah Regional High School Building Project Vote

Reminder about Property Taxes

The 4th installment of real estate, personal property, and district taxes are due May 1st.

Town Hall Closed

Monday, April 15th, in observance of Patriots' Day.

Special dates in May

Annual Town Meeting: May 11th

Annual Town Election: May 18th

Unregistered Vehicles

There have been several complaints regarding unregistered vehicles in the Town of Becket. Administration, Police and the Building Inspector have been working to address this issue. Below is the Town By-Law regarding unregistered vehicles, but in summary—**no more than 1 unregistered vehicle is allowed.**

ARTICLE 17--TOWN BETTERMENT BY-LAWS:

SECTION 8. The keeping of more than one unregistered automobile or truck assembled or disassembled, except by a person licensed under MGL Chapter 140, Section 59, on any premises shall not be permitted unless said automobiles or trucks are stored within an enclosed building. A permit to keep more than one unregistered automobile or truck on any premises not within an enclosed building may be granted by the Board of Selectmen, if it finds that such keeping is (1) in harmony with the general intent of this bylaw; (2) will not adversely affect the neighborhood; and (3) will not be a nuisance. All such permits granted shall limit the number of unregistered automobile and trucks to be kept on the premises by the permit holder, shall not run with land and shall be limited to a reasonable length of time. This article shall not apply to motor vehicles which are designed and used for farming. **Who ever violates any provision of this bylaw shall be liable to a penalty of five (\$5.00) dollars per day for each day of violation commencing ten (10) days following receipt of written notice from the Board of Selectmen. (Adopted 5/11/85)**

Becket Athenaeum News

Becket Athenaeum News for April 2019:

3 WORKSHOP EVENINGS IN APRIL:

Judicial Outreach Presentation by Berkshire Court System's Judge Joan McMenemy, 1st Justice of the Berkshire Juvenile Court

Judge McMenemy will cover topics including:

- Rule of Law
- Fair & Impartial Judicial System
- Role of the courts in preserving the rule of law and liberty
- Judges must be free from political, special interest, and financial influence
- Her personal history in the judicial system

The judge will also reserve time for Q & A from registrants.

This FREE event is sponsored by the American Bar Association's National Judicial Outreach Week.

Preregistration is appreciated.

Please contact us by noon on Monday, April 1.

Email: info@bwlibrary.org or call 623-5483.

Hospice Care in the Berkshires Presentation

June Green, a representative from Hospice Care in the Berkshires, will present on their widely-varied programs including end of life, long term illness, loss and bereavement groups, and Compassionate Care groups for children with long term illnesses that prevent them from living their childhood "normally".

Preregistration is appreciated for this FREE workshop.

Please contact us by noon on Monday, April 8th.

Email: info@bwlibrary.org or call 623-5483.

Integrative Health/Nutrition & Gut Health with Jenn Avery

Tuesday, April 30th

6-8pm

Integrative Health Nutritionist Jenn Avery will discuss a wide range of topics regarding healthy eating including: organic vs. conventional (Dirty Dozen & Clean 15), GMOs, gut health, kombucha and other ferments, label reading, buying foods that don't require labels: whole foods, etc., stress-reduction, exercise and positive activity.

REFRESHMENTS ARE SERVED AT ALL WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS.

Evening Workshops are funded by a grant from the Central Berkshire Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

Becket Athenaeum News (continued)

STEAM Group Activities for Pre-schoolers with Wendy Provencher



Join Wendy Provencher for an hour of great fun! This is an opportunity to inspire your kids to engineer, create, design, explore, and build!

Tuesdays
1-2pm at the Becket Athenaeum
FREE!

The program does not meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month or during school holidays.

The Central Berkshire Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

Job Posting March 29, 2019

Librarian Assistant Position Available

The Becket Athenaeum, located at 3367 Main Street in Becket, has an immediate opening for a library assistant. The Becket Athenaeum is a vibrant community center for the towns of Becket and Washington. We have an after-school program, book club, evening workshops, and a varied selection of books, DVDs, magazines, music, and museum passes for circulation.

We are currently staffed by 3 paid professionals and several volunteers, as well as after-school tutoring staff. The library assistant position reports to the Athenaeum Director, but takes direction from the Librarian. This position will maintain new and existing material circulation, interact with patrons, assist with general cleaning, and work on large library projects. This is a 4 hour per week position with salary to start at \$12/ hour with room for growth in both hours and salary.

This position will be scheduled to work some evenings and Saturdays. There will be overlap of the schedule with other staff, but this position will also work alone some of the time.

For additional information on this position, please contact
Jodi Shafiroff, Director, by phone at 413-623-5483
or email at jodi@bwlibrary.org.

Your letter of interest along with resume can be dropped off at the library during normal open hours.

This position will remain open until filled.



Summer is coming!



The Becket Parks and Recreation Summer Camp Program will begin on July 2 at the Becket Center Town Park pavilion. It will take place Monday through Thursday from 10-3 and will run until August 15. This free program is for Becket and Washington children ages 6-12 who would like to play games, learn sports, do crafts and have a lot of fun. If weather permits, one day will be spent at the Becket Beach. If you are interested in participating, please call the town secretary at 623-8934 and register now. If you have questions, please call Rita at 623-5146.

Anyone who would like to learn to swim may also register by calling the Town Secretary. Lessons will be Monday through Friday from 10-12, June 24-August 16. A specific time will be determined for each swimming level the first day or the first day that you can be there. Talk with the life guard to determine the exact time.

If children attending the summer camp program would like to also have swimming lessons, parents/guardians will need to transport them from one activity to another.

Both Becket Parks have equipment available to kids. Becket Center Park has a ballfield, basketball half court, volleyball, tether ball, and a playground for children 0-12. (Adults should not use this equipment.) We have benches there for adults to exercise on! When not in use by the Summer Camp program, the pavilion is available for picnics.

The North Becket Park has a small ballfield, a fitness trail, a 1/7 mile tract, and picnic tables to sit at and watch the trains go by.

There is a great tennis/pickleball court on Prentice Place Street across from the athenaeum for everyone. Anyone wanting to help teach folks to play should call the Parks and Recreation Committee to volunteer your services.

We also have a wonderful beach for Becket and Washington residents. A life guard should be present from 9:30-5:30 daily. Rules for good beach behavior are listed. No dogs, no feeding wildlife, and fill in all sand holes before you leave. (See other rules posted there.) This is not the ocean which can smooth things out and so sand holes left there can cause erosion which damages the beach for everyone. A beach sticker must be obtained at the town hall for \$5.00 for Becket and Washington residents only.

A Mecum Way guard will be in place to prevent cars without stickers from going to the beach. Police will also help to monitor beach access. The parking lot is small and prohibits large numbers of people using the beach at the same time. You may bring your canoe or sailboat or kayak and park in the designated spots to then truly enjoy this beautiful lake. Buckley Dunton Lake off Yokum Road also allows boating but no swimming.

There are trails to hike at the Becket Quarry and Becket even has a segment of the Appalachian Trail to hike on.

The Becket Arts Center also sponsors activities for children. They have free passes to use for local and near by museums. The Mullen House (across from the athenaeum) has a Becket Quarry Museum and a display of Becket baskets and is open to the public on Saturdays from 12-4. These are designed to help everyone learn some of Becket's history. There are also displays of artifacts about Becket's history at the town hall in the Becket Room and downstairs in the hallway. If you have never taken your children there, summer would be a great time to do that.

So.... as you can see there are lots of things to do in Becket.



TOWN OF BECKET SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES JOBS:

Summer Park Program director and Assistant

Duty includes preparing daily crafts and sports activities. One day a week will be a Beach day that you will preside over (weather permitting).

Where: Becket Center Town Park Pavilion

When: Monday -Thursday July 1-August 16 (9:30-3:30) 7 weeks

Compensation: \$14.00-\$15.00

Certified Life Guards for Center Lake Beach

When: Daily from June 22-September 2 (9:30-5:30)

Duty includes being a swim instructor from 10-12 Monday- Friday

Compensation \$14-\$15 per hour

Beach Road Guard Mecum Way, Becket

Duty: Check and admit only cars with official beach 2019 sticker

When: Weekend of June 15-16 and then daily
from June 21-Labor Day (9:30-5:30)

Compensation: \$13-\$14 per hour

Submit cover letter and resume to:

Parks and Recreation Committee, 557 Main Street, Becket, MA 01223

Or Email: secretary@townofbecket.org



Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals is searching for two new members. This Board meets as needed on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm at Becket Town Hall. The Zoning Board of Appeals reviews land use issues that pertain to Becket zoning ordinance. In 2018, the Board met three times. If you would like more information, please contact Jessica at zba@townofbecket.org



The **Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee** is seeking a Becket Representative as well as an alternate Rep. , to participate when the Rep. is unavailable. The committee sponsors hikes, workday, trainings and events. In addition, the committee assists with advice and grant funding for projects that improve, protect and preserves the Wild & Scenic Westfield river. For many years, our dearly departed Mercedes Gallagher represented the town for which we are eternally grateful. If you have any questions or would like to attend one of our meetings, please call Meredyth Babcock at 413 623-2070. You are invited to visit our website <http://www.westfieldriverwildscenic.org/>

**REGULARLY SCHEDULED TOWN OF BECKET
COMMITTEE AND BOARD MONTHLY MEETINGS:**

Board of Health 1st Wednesday, 5 p.m.
Board of Selectmen:..... 1st and 3rd Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Conservation Commission..... 4th Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
Energy Committee..... 3rd Tuesday, 5:00pm
Finance Committee 1st or 2nd Wednesday, evening
Historical Commission..... 2nd Tuesday, 3 p.m.
Planning Board: 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals..... 1st Tuesday, 7 p.m. as needed

For the most updated schedule, please see the calendar section of the town website:
http://townofbecket.org/Public_Documents/BecketMA_Calendar/?formid=158

TOWN OF BECKET

557 Main Street
Becket, MA 01223

Phone: (413) 623-8934