



February 2019
Volume 1, Issue 5

THE BECKET BULLETIN

INFORMATION ON TOWN GOVERNMENT ISSUES
AND ACTIVITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF BECKET

Hello, Becket!

Thank you for welcoming me so warmly to the Town of Becket. I began in the role on Monday, January 28, 2019. I am looking forward to the new position. The transition from teaching high school history to Town Administration will be difficult in many aspects; however, many of the skills necessary for teaching will lend themselves to Town Administration.

There are two core values that I hold in terms of public service: Customer Service and Maintaining the Public Trust and Public Interest.

As residents, citizens and voters, you allow us to do the work that we do and maintaining a high level of customer service is essential to this end. Working best with the public will not only help the Town and its residents, but will maintain that Becket is a premiere town in Berkshire County.

The Public Trust works hand-in-hand with Customer Service. Building the Public's Trust in this line of work is essential. Working alongside the Board of Selectmen and other Town Boards and Committees to improve this trust will lead to successes in several areas of the Town. Collectively, we look to work in the Public's Interest. As elected and appointed local officials in the executive branch of the Town, it is our work that will follow what the public wants. Looking to do what is best for the largest group of people is essential to effective governing.

I look forward to working with many of you over my time here and I am looking to become a part of the community. Please feel free to stop by the office and I hope to see many of you around town.

In closing, I want to thank the many people in Town Hall, Bob Markel, the Town's Interim Town Administrator since January 2018 and other members of the community that have come to welcome me and help me get acclimated in the new role. I hope to see many of you soon.

—William J. Caldwell, Town Administrator

For more news on Town Government issues and activities, download the complete newsletter from the Town website:
http://www.townofbecket.org/Public_Documents/index

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

Inside this issue

- New Town Administrator Welcome
- Green Communities Grant Update
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February Meetings (subject to change)

- 4th:** Broadband Ad Hoc Group
- 6th** Board of Health
Finance Committee
Board of Selectmen
- 12th** Historical Commission
- 13th** Planning Board
- 16th:** Sherwood Forest
Road District,
Sherwood Forest
Lake District
- 19th** Broadband Ad Hoc Group
- 20th** Board of Selectmen
- 21st** Energy Committee
- 23rd:** Sherwood Greens
Road District
- 26th:** Cons. Com.

THE SELECTMEN'S COLUMN

By Michael Lavery—Vice Chairman, Board of Selectmen

There have been many changes since last month. Many for the good, depending on who you ask. One is the hiring of our new Town Administrator, William Caldwell from Athol who started on January 28th, 2019. Welcome to Becket, Mr. Caldwell! Many thanks and best wishes to our interim TA, Robert Markel, who helped in the transition. In other news, the townsfolk gathered for a Special Town Meeting and voted not to fund a UV-filtration system for the Route 20 Spring on the border of Becket and Chester. This was a contentious issue and we enjoyed a vigorous open debate and exchange of ideas with our Moderator Ethan Klepetar keeping us all on task. Thanks to Ethan K. and George Roberts, Town Clerk for a smoothly run Special Town Meeting. Other articles voted on and approved at the STM were a transfer of funds to help the Police Department keep up to date with their in-car and portable radio equipment, a transfer of funds to update the wireless router in Town Hall, two computers, and a change to the Solar by-laws to keep us in harmony with the Green Communities Act. This last item will allow the Town to apply for more grants and hopefully change over the old HVAC system in Town Hall to a newer and more energy-efficient model.

The Selectmen, Town Administrator and the Finance Committee are working on their 2018 annual reports and a budget for the next fiscal year. Our Broadband Ad Hoc Group had four informational sessions which were well-attended. Progress on the town-owned network is moving along nicely. Tell all your friends and neighbors about the Becket Bulletin and encourage them to sign-up to receive this E-Newsletter and other information from the town Announcements email subscribers list by visiting TownofBecket.org

Reminder about

Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes:

Any owner of a motor vehicle garaged in Becket and registered on January 1st should have received an excise tax bill. The due date is February 28th.

Building Inspector

Winter Work Schedule:

Monday through Thursday
8:30 a.m. till 4:30 p.m.

Closed on Friday, effective
Nov. 30th through Feb. 23rd.

Town Hall Closed:

Monday, February 18th in observance of President's Day.

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.

BROADBAND

The Becket Broadband *Ad Hoc* Group recommended, and the Board of Selectmen accepted the recommendation that the broadband network in Becket will be Town-owned. Over the course of the public meetings several questions were asked regarding pricing, the Town-owned system and many other facets relating to this project. Please see the attached link for the questions and answers to several vital questions regarding the Broadband service.

[Broadband Questions and Answers](#)

Green Communities Grant Projects Update

As many of you may know, Becket is exceeding targets in energy conservation. Down more than 30% since the inception of the grant, we have made vast improvements to nearly all town-owned facilities. In this most recent round, we have made upgrades at the Highway Garage on Lyman Street and Fire State #2 on Jacob's Ladder Road.

As part of the project, propane heaters, doors, windows and lights were replaced at the Highway Garage. The heaters, which are 93% efficient, coupled with the other projects, will bring significant savings to the Town. At Fire Station #2, windows were replaced for energy efficiency.

In addition to the most recent projects others were completed since the grant became available including work at the Town Hall and Fire Station #1.

At the Town Hall, we are exploring options for a small solar field to the south-east in the adjacent field to help offset energy costs for the building. As part of that project we hope to change over the heating/air conditioning system to either a propane system, or air-sourced heat pumps.

The Town has contracted with Bowman Engineering to advise on the best options moving forward. This work to the Town Hall HVAC system will hopefully be paid for in-part or in whole by the next round of the Competitive Green Communities Grant.

The work to reduce energy consumption and emissions has been supported by the Energy Committee, the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen. As the new Town Administrator, I hope to work alongside these groups to continue the efforts of reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions.

Community Reminders

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)**

Route 20 Spring Update

The Town is working in conjunction with Town Counsel and the Mass DEP to figure out a course of action regarding the closure of the spring. We will bring forward more information regarding this when more is available in terms of a timeline, how this closure will be executed and any other next steps. Thank you for your interest in this matter.

BECKET ATHENAEUM NEWS

Becket Athenaeum News for February 2019:

Zentangle Workshop with Delsie Dunn

Wednesday, February 13, 6-8pm



Join Certified Zentangle Teacher, Delsie Dunn, for a fun and relaxing evening learning the art of Zentangle.

The Zentangle Method is an easy-to-learn way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. Zentangle art is non-representational and unplanned so you can focus on each stroke and not worry about the result. People who draw following this method describe their experiences as others describe the states of mindfulness and flow.

We will serve refreshments.

Preregistration is required for this FREE workshop.
Please contact us by noon, Monday, February 11th.
Email: info@bwlibrary.org or call 623-5483

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

We have E-Catalog items available:

The Becket Athenaeum offers e-books, digital audiobooks, and video content! Our patrons have access to six different library network collections: CLAMS, C/W Mars, Minuteman, NOBLE, Old Colony, and SAILS.

Like regular library materials, electronic resources are checked out for a period of time and when they are due back, they simply leave your device and become available for the next interested patron. Also like other library materials, there are a limited number of digital copies of any given item at a time.

To get started, go to www.becketathenaeum.org and follow the instructions, or:

If you're new to e-books and need help, bring your device with you to the library and we'll help you get set up to take advantage of our vast collection!

IMPORTANT To proceed, you will need to know your library card number and password associated with your account. The password is set to the last four digits of your library card number unless you have changed it when accessing our [catalog on MassCat](#). If you don't know your card number or are having issues, [contact us](#).

COUNCIL ON AGING

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- This year, we decided to treat ourselves by going out and the Becket Seniors will celebrate Valentines Party at Papa Bob's on February 1st.
- We are planning a trip to the casino for a day of fun and a great lunch at one of the restaurants. We are looking at March or April. More information will be available in March.
- Wishing Joe Wilkenson and Dean Peterson a speedy recovery.
- Lunch Bunch tries to meet once a month and is going strong.

Submitted by Joan Moylan, Director – Council on Aging

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 Thursday, 9:30 a.m.
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

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