



March 2019
Volume 1, Issue 6

THE BECKET BULLETIN

INFORMATION ON TOWN GOVERNMENT ISSUES
AND ACTIVITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF BECKET

Budget Season is upon us

Hello again. Thank you for the warm welcome and support so far as I have now been here a month. We all hope that the weather is changing and spring and summer are on the way. This also means that budget season is here. Departments and Town Hall staff have been working diligently to get everything ready. We are working with two groups, the Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management - UMass Boston and ClearGov.com to be more transparent and create a Town Meeting Budget Presentation that are both user friendly and informative.

Interim Town Administrator Bob Markel secured grants to cover the costs of both organizations work. The Collins institute will assist in creating the Town Meeting budget presentation. We hope to receive a certification, based on the presentation from the Government Financial Officers Association (GFOA). ClearGov.com is a website where we will upload financial data so that townspeople and others can better see the financial status of the Town. This will include greater information regarding revenues and expenditures. We hope to see the information ready to go live at the beginning of April.

Finally, as a reminder, April 6th will be both the Town Caucus and the Wahconah High School Building project vote, so please be sure to exercise your right to vote.

—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>

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March Meetings (subject to change)

- 4th:** Broadband Ad Hoc Group
- 5th:** Zoning Board of Appeals
- 6th:** Board of Health
Finance Committee
Board of Selectmen
- 12th:** Historical Commission
- 13th:** Planning Board
- 18th:** Broadband Ad Hoc Group
- 19th:** Energy Committee
- 20th:** Board of Selectmen
- 23rd:** Sherwood Forest
Road District,
Sherwood Forest
Lake District
- 26th:** Cons. Com.

THE SELECTMEN'S COLUMN

Is spring just around the corner? After this winter of snow, ice, rain and mud we can only hope that the weather will improve.

The Special Town Meeting in January passed a revised Solar By-law to bring us into compliance with our Green Communities designation which will allow us to pursue additional Green Community grants.

As you have probably heard, or read about, the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee is proposing to build a new Wahconah Regional High School. The estimated construction cost is \$71,871,147 with costs to the seven towns estimated at \$42,000,000. The estimated tax increase to Becket is \$0.24 per \$1,000 of valuation or approximately \$62.13 per year for an average house valued at \$255,700. This would be a 30-year commitment. On March 7th there will be a community meeting at the Becket - Washington School starting at 7:00pm. I encourage all voters to attend so that you will be fully informed before the vote is held on April 6th.

At the 2018 ATM, an article was passed to allow the Town to lease space on the Johnson Road cell tower to increase our public safety and highway radio coverage. Unfortunately, the final negotiations were not cost effective for the town. The town anticipates building our own tower on town owned land at a much lower cost over a twenty year period and we would have total control.

The Ambulance Department has just received their new ambulance and the Fire Department has just received their new mini-pumper, Rescue #6, that will be assigned to Station #1 in the village.

Watch for the first Robin, then spring is on the way.

William Elovirta, Chair — Board of Selectmen

Green Communities Update

The 2018 Green Communities Designation Grant is complete and has been officially closed-out by DOER. The work completed this cycle was the heating, widows, lights and doors at the Highway Garage and also windows at Station #2.

As Bill noted above, we changed the solar bylaw to move into compliance which will allow us to apply for the GC Competitive Grants. We will look to replace the Town Hall HVAC to upgrade the heating and cooling system to improve efficiency. We also will replace the lights with LED lights.

Calling all
**CRAFTERS,
ARTISANS
& VENDORS**

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

Join us @ Washington Town Park
Saturday, July 13th
for the 4th Annual
**hilltown
brouhaha**

brought to you by
BWCP
Becket Washington
Community Partnership

Becket Washington Community Fair

To register visit: www.HilltownBrouhaha.org

COMMUNITY REMINDERS

Wahconah High School Building Project

There will be a presentation of the final proposal for a new Wahconah Regional High School on March 7, at 7:00pm at the Becket & Washington School. The cost of the project along with its tax impact for Becket will be presented at the forum. There will be a question and answer opportunity at this meeting. There is a snow date for the forum on March 21. This will be the last forum prior to the April 6 vote for the project.

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 was February 28th.

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 by-law; (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 for March 2019:

Salsa Dancing with Jay Lopez, from the Pillow

Tuesday, March 12, 7-9pm



Join us in welcoming Salsa dance enthusiast, Jay Lopez, who will lead us in a fun, relaxing evening as we learn to move the Salsa way!

Salsa is a combination of Afro-Cuban dance, Son, cha-cha-cha, mambo and other dance forms. The dance, along with salsa music, saw major development in the mid-1970s in New York.

A popular form of social dance originating from Cuban folk dances, salsa is great exercise, a fun social activity, and a way to beat the winter hibernation!

We will serve refreshments.

Preregistration is required for this FREE workshop.

Please contact us by noon, Saturday, March 9th.

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.



Conservation Commission Volunteer Opportunity

The Becket Board of Selectmen is seeking applications from residents in the Town of Becket to serve on the Conservation Commission. The role of the Conservation Commission is to protect the water resources in Becket by ensuring compliance with the state's Wetlands Protection Act and associated local policies. No specific experience is required to participate as a valuable member of the commission, although familiarity with the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act, engineering, forestry, or other related fields is desirable. Applicants are welcome and encouraged to attend Conservation Commission meetings which occur the 4th Tuesday each month at 6:30 p.m. Interested applicants can apply by submitting an Appointment Application to the Selectmen. The application may be obtained from the Administrative Assistant at Becket Town Hall or at the Forms and Documents page of the town website: www.townofbecket.org. For questions about this opportunity with the Conservation Commission, contact the commission by email at Conservation@townofbecket.org or by phone at (413)-623-8934 ext. 129.



Town of Becket Employment Opportunity POLICE OFFICER

The Becket Police Department is seeking qualified candidates for the position intermittent/reserve police officer. Minimum requirements include: successfully completed a MPTC Academy for intermittent/reserve police officers, be at least 21 years of age with a valid Massachusetts Drivers License, and possess a High School Diploma or equivalent. Application packets may be obtained at the Becket Town Hall 557 Main Street, Monday-Friday 9-4. The Town of Becket is an equal opportunity employer. Deadline for applications is March 15, 2019.



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

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