



THE BECKET BULLETIN

INFORMATION ON TOWN GOVERNMENT ISSUES
AND ACTIVITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF BECKET

The Route 20 Spring

The Annual Town Meeting appropriated up to \$15,000 to fund a design and cost estimates to bring the Route 20 spring into compliance with state DEP requirements.

The Town contracted with Housatonic Basin to perform the study. Results are expected the week of September 30. DEP is requiring installation of a UV water purification system to eliminate traces of coliform in the water. The only other option would be to close the spring.

The next step will be to bring the Housatonic Basin proposal project before a Town Meeting for funding. The only source of funding would be the Town's Stabilization Fund. By law, any vote to take funds from Stabilization will require a 2/3rds vote.

School Transportation

The Towns of Becket and Washington have signed contracts to cooperate in providing transportation for students attending McCann Technical School and the Smith Vocational School.

The Town of Washington will be the "lead community" for transportation to McCann, and the Town of Becket will be the "lead community" for transportation to Smith Voc. Each lead community will provide the transportation and bill the other community for a proportionate share of the costs.

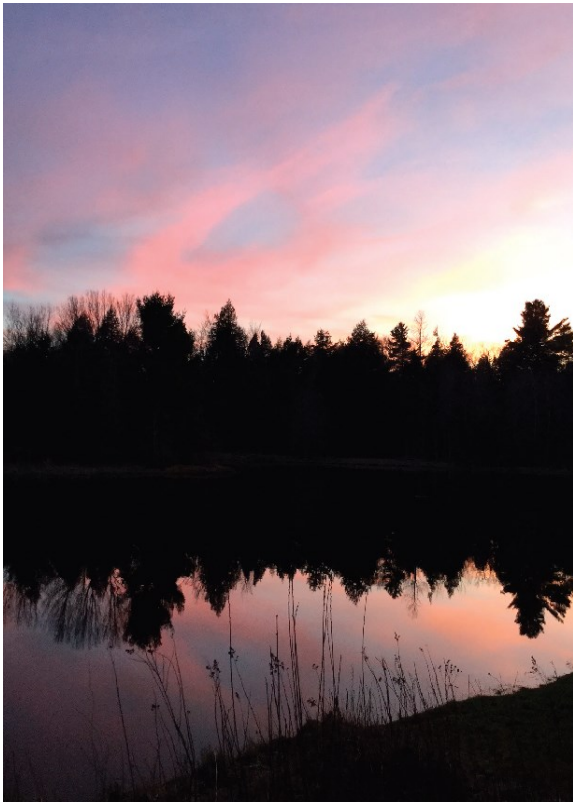
Nine Becket students will be attending Smith Vocational this academic year and two students will be attending McCann.

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October Meetings *(subject to change)*

- 4th:** Board of Selectmen
- 6th:** Sherwood Greens Rd. District
- 9th:** Historical Com Mission
- 10th:** Finance Committee, Planning Board
- 13th:** Sherwood Forest Road District, Sherwood Forest Lake District
- 15th:** Broadband Ad Hoc Group
- 16th:** Planning Board Public Hearing
- 17th:** Board of Selectmen
- 18th:** Energy Committee
- 23rd:** Conservation Com Mission
- 29th:** Broadband Ad Hoc Group



Energy Issues

A wide variety of energy conservation initiatives are underway in Becket with the support of the Board of Selectmen and Energy Committee.

In January, the Town was recognized by the Director of the state's Green Communities program for achieving a 31% reduction in energy consumption in Town buildings over the past seven years. This exceeds the program's goal of a 20% reduction in energy use over five years.

Becket has used Green Communities grant monies to replace and weatherize windows at Town Hall and the Highway Garage, replace oil heat systems with propane fired heating units and upgrade roof insulation.

The Town will apply for a grant of up to \$250,000 in February for installation of a new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system at Town Hall.

Since 2011, the Town of Becket has reduced energy consumption in municipal buildings by 31%

Broadband Project Status

The Board of Selectmen and the Broadband Committee have been meeting and working hard to move the broadband project forward. With anything that is worth doing, it sometimes requires effort, pain and difficulty. A major reason for the delay is that the original budget estimates provided by the State caused the project to be significantly underfunded.

The Town will have to make a big decision regarding the way we bring you high-speed internet service. The two options being considered are a Town Owned Network or one built, owned and operated by an outside vendor, with the option to purchase it after 3 years. Current estimates indicate that a Town Owned Network and, possibly, the vendor owned network may require additional Town funding. In addition, consideration must be given to how much of the debt will be paid by subscribers to the network or taxpayers.

We hope to have a network operating in the next two years. We want your input! If you want to attend a Board of Selectmen or Broadband Committee meeting, just let us know and we will add you to our notification emails. The Town of Becket's website will contain regular updates of the project's status.

Thanks,
The Board of Selectmen

Community Compact Program

On September 5, the Board of Selectmen approved application for a state grant under the Community Compact Program to improve financial management.

The grant application was submitted by the Town Administrator asking for funding from the Commonwealth to hire a consultant to assist in upgrading the Town's operating and capital budget systems.

For Selectmen, the Finance Committee and Town Meeting attendees, upgrading of the budget documents will provide much more valuable information for the making key decisions on how and where tax dollars should be spent.

The goal for this program will be to enable the Town to improve its financial management systems to qualify for a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association. This prestigious award has been earned by only 23 Massachusetts cities and towns out of a total of 351. The list includes the town of Adams and the City of Pittsfield in Berkshire County.

I-90 Interchange

MassDOT is conducting a study that will evaluate the feasibility of establishing an interchange on the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90 (I-90), between the existing interchanges located in Lee and Westfield (Exits 2 and 3, respectively). Civic, business and political leaders in the area have been discussing the benefits of a new interchange and the DOT has been holding regional meetings since February 2018.

The study will focus on the creation of an interchange intended to provide better access to and from the Mass Pike for the communities in the surrounding areas, while also routing I-90 traffic away from Lee and Westfield. The State has decided to look at only three options: Algeria Road, the Blandford Service Area and the Blandford Maintenance Facility.

The study will examine the alternatives in the context of vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian use, transit use, land use, and cost, as well as resulting economic, social and cultural impacts. It will then produce a final report that includes the study's analytical findings, preliminary cost estimates, recommendations, and other relevant details.

For additional information, see https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/09/19/I90WGM3_Pres.pdf

Future Issues: COUNCIL ON AGING

The Becket Council on Aging will provide a regular column in this publication beginning with the November newsletter.

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
Conservation Commission..... 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
Energy Committee 3rd Thursday, 9:30 a.m.
Finance Committee 2nd Wednesday, 6 p.m.
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

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