



Town of Becket *Massachusetts*

2019
Annual
Town Report
of the Town
Officials

About The Cover

The Board of Selectmen wishes to acknowledge and thank the following photographers for their beautiful submissions to the Annual Town Report Photo Contest:

Front Cover Photographer and Caption

Chris Post - looking out over Center Pond from the town beach, on the morning of October 27th 2019.

Back Cover Photographers and Captions

David Edgecomb - A couple enjoying a nice warm day of serenity at the Becket Quarry

Mitchell S. Gilbert - Crystal Pond taken on Oct 4th

Debra Hoffman - Sunset over Yokum Pond in Beautiful Becket

Paul Breault - Robin Hood Lake

H. David Stein - Hunter's Moon on Tyne Road

Dori Scofeld - rescued German Shepherd Duchess enjoying a swim in Long Bow Lake in Sherwood Greens

H. David Stein - Yokum Pond

David DeFilippo - Sunrise on January 1, 2020 following an ice storm looking east from Mallard Drive



David Edgecomb



Mitchell S. Gilbert



David DeFilippo



Debra Hoffman



Paul Breault



H. David Stein



Dori Scofeld



H. David Stein

IN MEMORIAM

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

JOHANNE L. BOOMSMA

Westfield Vocational Technical High School Bus Driver

May 9, 2019



KATHERINE “ANNE” SHRADER

Anne’s efforts were instrumental in establishing the
Center Pond Restoration & Protection District
of which she devoted her time serving on its Prudential Committee.

December 20, 2019

WITH APPRECIATION AND BEST WISHES TO BOB WHO HAS RETIRED

Robert “Bob” Cooper, Truck Driver – Highway Department



Robert “Bob” Cooper was hired in September of 1978 as a temporary worker and hired full-time in January of 1979 as a Truck Driver. Bob took pride in performing all of his responsibilities while serving on the Highway Department. We will miss Bob’s humor as it lightened the day. Bob delighted us with tidbits of his local area knowledge. During his 40-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 Bob for his many years of dedicated service.

WITH APPRECIATION AND BEST WISHES TO OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO RETIRED FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT



Mark A. Hanford
Fire Chief
40+ Years of Service
He continues as a member.
Fire Chief from July 1, 2014
through August 7, 2019



Madelaine Z. Elovirta
Assistant Fire Chief
46 Years of Service



William H. Elovirta
Firefighter
45 Years of Service



James R. Atwell
Firefighter
17 Years of Service

Town of Becket, Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Town Officials

♦ **2019** ♦



William H. Elovirta

Selectman

Michael S. Lavery

Selectman

Christopher E. Swindlehurst

Selectman

William J. Caldwell

Town Administrator

For the year ending December 31, 2019

◆ Town Officers ◆

Elected Officials

Board of Selectmen

William H. Elovirta, <i>Chair</i>	2021
Michael S. Lavery, <i>Vice Chair</i>	2020
Christopher E. Swindlehurst, <i>Clerk</i>	2022
Nicole D. Ledoux	resigned 2-4-2019

Board of Health

Term Expiring

Gale LaBelle, <i>Chair</i>	2022
Laurel Burgwardt, <i>Vice Chair</i>	2021
I. David Krawet, <i>Clerk</i>	2020

Cemetery Commissioners

William Cavanaugh, <i>North Becket Cemetery</i>	2022
Michelle Smith, <i>West Becket Cemetery</i>	2021
Dean Williams, <i>Center Cemetery</i>	2020

Constables

Michael Hunt	2021
Nicole Miller	2021

Finance Committee

Dan Parnell, <i>Chair</i>	2022
Mark Karlberg, <i>Vice Chair</i>	2020
Ronald DeFoe, <i>Clerk</i>	2022
Charles Garman	2021
Ann Spadafora	2021

Planning Board

Robert Ronzio, <i>Chair</i>	2020
James Levy, <i>Vice Chair</i>	2021
Alvin Blake, <i>Clerk Pro Tem</i>	2022
Ann Krawet, <i>Clerk</i>	2023
Howard Lerner	2024
Gale LaBelle, <i>Associate Member -</i>	2020
<i>appointed by the Board of Selectmen</i>	

Moderator

Ethan Klepetar	2020
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School Committee

Barbara Craft-Reiss	2022
John Les -resigned 9/23/19	2020
Vacancy	

Town Clerk

George Roberts	2020
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Board of Selectmen Appointments

Animal Inspector

Madelaine Elovirta	2020
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Agricultural Commission

Kristopher Massini	2020
Neil Toomey	2020
Vacancy	

Cultural Council

Linda Bacon, <i>Chair</i>	2 0 2 2
Barbara Wacholder, <i>Treasurer</i>	resigned 9-11-2019
Jennifer Avery	2021
Sally Baumer	2022
Judy Cromwell	resigned 8-3-2019
Roberta Goldman	2020
Rosanna Koelle	2021
Mary Manning Cohen, <i>Secretary</i>	2022
Andrea Nix, <i>Treasurer</i>	2022
Andrea Pecour	2022
Sally Soluri	2019

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

<i>appointed by the Planning Board</i>	
Robert Ronzio, <i>Delegate</i>	2020
Alvin Blake, <i>Alternate Delegate</i>	2020
<i>appointed by the Board of Selectmen</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)	
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Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board

William H. Elovirta, <i>Designee</i>	2020
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Board of Assessors

Geraldine Walter	2021
Elizabeth Will	2022
Karen Avale	2020

Board of Survey

Paul Mikaniewicz, <i>Fire Chief</i>	
David O. Shorey, <i>Building & Grounds Technician</i>	

◆ Town Officers ◆

Bylaw Review Committee

Town Clerk, *ex officio*, non-voting member

Moderator, *ex officio*, non-voting member

Vacancies: 3

Chief Procurement Officer

William Caldwell 2022

Community Preservation Committee

Neil Toomey, *at Large member, Chair* 2020

Cindy Delpapa, *Conservation Com. Designee* 2021

Jan Elovirta, *At large member (resigned 12/5)* 2020

Rita Furlong, *Parks & Recreation Designee* 2019

Gail Kusek, *Historical Com. Designee* 2021

James P. Levy, *Planning Board Designee* 2020

Vacancy, at large members: 2

Conservation Commission

David Johnson, *Chairperson* 2021

Alison Dixon, *Vice Chairperson* 2020

Cindy Delpapa, *Secretary* 2022

Meredyth Babcock 2021

Barbara Brand 2019

Karen Karlberg 2019

Henry Scarpo 2021

Council on Aging

Joan Moylan, *Director* 2022

Paula Bergeron, *Treasurer* 2022

Lorraine Dean 2020

Celine Godbout 2022

Marie Grull 2022

Herbert "Sonny" Nelson resigned 9-5-19 2020

William Robinson 2022

Betty Shepard 2022

Dog Hearings Officer

Vacancy

Election Workers (done during the summer)

Meredyth Babcock (D) 2020

Alvin Blake (U) 2020

Paula Bergeron (D) 2020

Vernice Diane Cowell (D) 2020

Barbara Craft-Reiss (D) 2020

Susan Crossley (D) 2020

Tarcisio Ramos dos Santos (D) 2020

Charles Francis (D) 2020

Charles Garman (U) 2020

Patricia Clemons (D) 2020

Timothy Hickey (U) 2020

Katherine Hoak (U) 2020

Lynn Howard (D) 2020

Julia Kay Grace (D) 2020

Ann Krawet (D) 2020

Gale LaBelle (R) 2020

Stephen LaBelle, Sr. (R) 2020

Adele Levine (D) 2020

James Peter Levy (U) 2020

Dennis Mahoney (R) 2020

Priscilla McEwen (U) 2020

Adrienne Metcalf (U) 2020

Susan Purser (D) 2020

Steven Reiss (D) 2020

Thomas Henry Rock (R) 2020

Ruth Rosenthal (U) 2020

Jerome Schwartzbach (U) 2020

Beth VanNess (D) 2020

Flora Whiffen (U) 2020

Energy Committee

Alvin Blake, *Chair* 2022

Robert Gross, *Vice-Chair* 2022

Catherine DeFoe, *Secretary* 2020

Katherine Hoak 2021

Garth Klimchuk 2021

Susan Purser, *Alternate Member* 2020

Ex-Officio Members: Christopher Bouchard,
William Caldwell, William Girard, Dan Parnell

Harbor Master

Steve Rosenthal 2020

Historical Commission

Sandra Jarvis, *Chair* 2021

Rita Furlong 2022

John Garvey 2021

Katherine Hoak 2020

Gail Kusek 2021

Zoning Enforcement Officer

William Girard 2021

Jacobs Ladder Trail Advisory Committee

John Garvey 2021

Wired West

Jeremy Dunn, *Delegate* 2020

Robert Gross, *Alternate Delegate* 2020

◆ *Town Officers* ◆

Municipal Light Plant Manager

Robert Gross 2020

Parks & Recreation Committee

Rita Furlong, *Chair* 2020

Madeline Elovirta, *Clerk* 2020

Tina LeVasseur, *Beach Coordinator* 2022

2 Vacancies

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 Assistant (for other than Town Clerk Records)

Registrar of Voters

Colleen Cox (D) 2021

Robin Greenspan (R) 2022

Michelle Smith (D) 2020

Town Clerk, George Roberts (U)

Tax Collector

Kenneth Bilodeau 2020

Nina Weiler, *Assistant Collector* 2020

David Shorey, *Deputy Collector* 2020

The Assistant and Deputy Collectors are appointed by the Tax Collector with the Selectmen's approval.

Town Administrator

William Caldwell 2022

Robert Markel, *Interim T.A.* Jan 27th

Town Administrator Search/Screening Committee

Katherine Warden, *Chair* Jan. 27th

Alvin Blake, *Co-Chair/Vice-Chair* Jan. 27th

Beverly Gilbert, *Clerk* Jan. 27th

Robert Gross Jan. 27th

Dan Parnell Jan. 27th

Jeff Wilkinson Jan. 27th

On 1/17/18, the Board of Selectmen voted on

Appointments to this advisory committee charged

with selecting applicants to present to the

Board of Selectmen. The new Town Administrator began

Employment on 1/28/2019

Treasurer

Christine Bleau 2022

Kenneth Bilodeau, *Assistant Treasurer* 2020

The Assistant Treasurer is appointed by the

Treasurer with the Selectmen's approval

Westfield River Wild & Scenic Advisory Committee

Cindy Delpapa, *Representative* 2022

Zoning Board of Appeals

Victoria Bleier, *Chair* 2021

Karen Karlberg, *Vice Chair* 2019

Joy Lennartz 2020

Jeff Wilkinson 2020

Alvin Blake, *Associate Member* * 2020

Katherine Warden, *Associate Member* * 2020

** appointed by the Board of Selectmen*

Town Administrator's Appointments

Accountant

Margaret McClellan **Term Expiring** 2020

Ambulance Director

Raymond Ferrin 2020

Animal Control Officer

Albert Goodermote 2019

Nicole Miller 2020

Tania Jakubiec, *Assistant – Agreement with The Town of Otis*

Inspector of Buildings/Trench Inspector

William Girard 2021

Gary Danko, *Asst. Building Inspector* 2020

Emergency Management Director

Kristopher McDonough 2020

Fire Chief/Fire Warden

Mark Hanford resignation effective Aug. 6th

Paul Mikaniewicz 2020

Highway Superintendent/Pest Control/Tree Warden

Christopher Bouchard 2020

Plumbing/Gas Inspector

Mark Levernoch 2020

Brian Middleton, *Assistant Plumbing/Gas Inspector* 2020

◆ *Town Officers and Town Employees* ◆

Police Department Full Time

Kristopher McDonough, Chief	2020
Matthew Virginia, Sergeant	2020
Kurtis Eckman	2020
Michael Hunt	2020

Police Department Part-Time

Charlene Auger	2020
Trae Balardini	2020
Shawn Courtney	2020
Chad Heath	2020
Craig Jones	2020
Nicole Miller	2020
Kenneth Pettibone	2020

Veterans' Agent

Doug Mann	2020
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Veterans' Grave Officer

William Mulholland	2020
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Wiring Inspector

Dana Spring	2020
Jim LaPier, <i>Assistant Wiring Inspector</i>	2020

Town Employees

Ambulance Department

Haylie Breault
Vincent Garofoli resigned 5/18/2019
Lisa Michaud

Assessors/Planning Board Clerk

Jessica Perotti – effective Dec. 9th

Building and Grounds Technician

David Shorey

Clerk of Committees

Jessica Perotti – through Dec. 8th

Conservation Commission Agent

Mary Stucklen

Highway Department

Robert Cooper retired 7/29/2019

Tyler Chrystal
Albert Goodermote

Christopher Isner

Nathan Morawiec

Donald Murray

Administrative Assistant

Beverly Gilbert

Transfer Station

Dean Williams

Mark White

Robert Will

Volunteer Fire Department

Paul Mikaniewicz, *Chief*

Kristopher Massini, *Deputy Chief*

Robert Healey, Sr., *Captain*

Christopher Isner, *Lieutenant*

David Furlong, Jr., *Lieutenant*

Aurele Bergeron

Richard Beringer

Warren Castenguay

Craig Colantoni

Jan Elovirta

Justin Elovirta

Jessica Giarolo, EMT

Gene Goebel

Mark Hanford

Robert Healey, Jr.

Darian Houlihan

Robert Johnson

Jason Maronde

Paul Mazut

Travis Miller

Michael Ozner

Christopher Swindlehurst

Cameron VanBuren

Fire Dept. members who Retired in 2019:

Mark Hanford, retired as Chief, still a firefighter

James Atwell

Madelaine Elovirta

William Elovirta

Town of Becket, Massachusetts
2019 Annual Report
of the
Town Officials
January 1 through December 31
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**Town of Becket Appointment Application* – At end of report

◆ **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR USE (updated 1/7/2020)** ◆

Governor

Charlie Baker

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

United States Senators

Elizabeth Warren

309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
TEL: 202-224-4543
www.warren.senate.gov

Edward J. Markey

255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
TEL: 202-224-2742
www.markey.senate.gov

Congressman

Richard E. Neal

Federal Building, 78 Center Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
TEL: 413-442-0946
www.neal.house.gov

State Senator

Adam G. Hinds

100 North Street, Suite 410
Pittsfield, MA 01201
TEL: 413-344-4561, 413-768-2373
adam.hinds@masenate.gov

State Representative

William “Smitty” Pignatelli

Lenox Town Hall
PO Box 2228
Lenox, MA 01240
TEL: 413-637-0631
Rep.Smitty@mahouse.gov

Annual Town Meeting

Second Saturday of May

Annual Town Election

Third Saturday of May

◆ **FACTS ABOUT BECKET** ◆

Incorporated	June 21, 1765
Location	Western Massachusetts
Population	1,981 (as of 12/31/2019)
Registered Voters	1,535 (as of 12/31/2019)
Form of Government	Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator Open Town Meeting
Tax Rate	\$11.07 Fiscal Year 2019
Public Schools	Central Berkshire Regional School District
Police Department	Full-Time Chief, Full-Time Sergeant, Two Full-Time Police Officers, and Seven Part-Time Officers Non-Emergency Telephone: 413-623-6010
Fire Department	Fire Chief Non-Emergency Telephone: 413-207-1602 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> http://www.bcburnpermits.com/
Ambulance Department	Fire Station #2 Non-Emergency Telephone: 413-623-5027
Public Library	Becket Athenaeum 3367 Main Street, Becket Telephone: 413-623-5483
Arts Center	Becket Arts Center 7 Brooker Hill Road, Becket Telephone: 413-623-6635
Post Office	Becket Post Office 623 Main Street, Becket Telephone: 413-623-8845
Elevation	1,200 Feet
Area	48.04 Square Miles
Website:	www.townofbecket.org

If you would like to receive public meeting agendas and/or public notices please subscribe on the town's website at the following link: <http://www.townofbecket.org/subscribe>. Thank you.

◆ **TELEPHONE DIRECTORY OF TOWN SERVICES** ◆

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT	413-207-1602
AMBULANCE	413-623-5027
POLICE	413-623-6010
STATE POLICE	413-243-0600

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT 413-623-8988

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

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

◆ *REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR* ◆

I cannot believe that it has been nearly a year since I joined the Town of Becket. It has been a pleasure to be here. There is still much to be done. I would like to recognize and thank the Town's Interim Town Administrator Robert Markel for keeping the Town moving forward, and putting me in a strong position to start my career in public administration.

2019 was a whirlwind. Since getting hired we have all worked hard to continue moving projects forward. Jumping feet first into the fire, it was budget and Town Meeting season. Working with the departments, Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen a strong budget was developed along with a capital plan to address some of the Town's needs.

As noted in last year's report, Becket was recognized for its energy reduction measures. Closing out the Green Communities funds allowed the Town to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and opened up future opportunities for the Town. The Town, through Green Communities and Eversource grants, installed two electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at Town Hall at almost no cost. Additionally, all lighting in the Town Hall, Fire Station #2/Ambulance Garage, and Highway Garage has been converted to LEDs. This will show savings over time.

One of the biggest ongoing projects is Broadband. For what may seem like forever, Broadband has been discussed in Becket. Significant progress has been made. As the calendar year ends we will finish our Make Ready, the process of readying the utility poles and wires for the fiber cable. In October and November the construction phase of the project was put out to bid. Construction will begin in early 2020. The work of the Broadband Ad Hoc Group has been intense, time

consuming and thorough. If you see the members, thank them. We would not be where we are today without them.

There are many properties in Town that are currently in the Tax Title process for unpaid municipal taxes. We held a Tax Title auction in October. Twenty-three of the thirty-six properties were auctioned. The Town received more than \$118,000 on properties sold at the auction. There will be another in 2020.

Over the spring and summer, the Town began work to enter the Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP). The MVP Program will identify issues within the Town's infrastructure and landscape that can be affected by climate change. Community members, staff and the hired consultants will work together to identify needs of the Town. Once complete, the designation will allow the Town to apply for future competitive grants.

This has been a great year and I am so glad that I came to the Town of Becket. I have learned a lot and still have much to learn. I appreciate the contributions that the volunteers, employees, and the many boards and committees have brought to the Town. I look forward to my next year in Becket.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Caldwell
Town Administrator



◆ *REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN* ◆

Your Board of Selectmen experienced a very busy 2019. We faced many issues including broadband, Route 20 Spring, hiring a new Town Administrator and auctioning surplus town properties.

The first order of business in 2019 was to sign a contract with William Caldwell to become our new Town Administrator who started on January 28th. Bill comes from Athol where he was a high school teacher, a member of the Board of Selectmen and a member of the School Committee. Bill is working toward his doctorate in Public Administration. Although this is Bill's first stint as a TA, he has adapted well. We would like to thank Bob Markel who spent a year as our Interim Administrator.

On January 22nd a Special Town Meeting (STM) was held to consider a citizens' petition to transfer \$100,000.00 from the stabilization fund to fund the construction of a UV Water Purification system at the Route 20 Spring. After considerable citizen input the article failed. The Board of Selectmen, in compliance with the consent order issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, arranged to close the Route 20 Spring.

Winter found the TA, Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen busy trying to formulate a fair budget to present at the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) in May. We can never fund all requests even though they may be justified.

Also, during the winter, Dave Shorey, Building and Grounds Technician, remodeled and refinished the Dog Kennel at the Transfer Station. This was the first time it had been remodeled since being built.

The Board requested for the Building Inspector/Code Enforcer to act against the violators of the unregistered car by-law. Letters were mailed to violators giving them until June 30th to comply with the by-law.

In March the Board accepted the Highway Superintendent's recommendation to accept a MassDOT Small Bridge Program Grant in the amount of \$430,000 to repair the arch culvert on Werden Rd. This work is expected to be completed in 2020.

On April 6th all towns in the Central Berkshire Regional School District voted on an article to build a new Wahconah Regional High School. The School Committee changed the voting rules to make it a popular district wide vote resulting in the yes vote winning by 88 votes. Under the previous rule of voting it would not have passed, having been defeated by four of the seven member towns. The School Committee, having been challenged by a couple of the district towns, has agreed

that future voting will be under the old rules (Voting approval requires at least four out of the seven district towns).

The ATM held on May 11th passed a FY2020 operating budget of \$6,716,894. The most time was spent on the discussion of a proposed local meals and lodging tax that was largely opposed and failed passage. An article to make the Town Clerk an appointed position also created a lot of discussion and failed passage.

On May 18th the Annual Town Election was held. Christopher Swindlehurst emerged as the victor in the race for the Board of Selectmen. Chris replaced Nicole Ledoux who resigned in the spring to move to Connecticut and a new job.

The Fire Department received delivery of their new Rescue #6 that will be housed at Fire Station #1 in the village. This is a four-wheel drive quick attack/rescue vehicle equipped with a 1,000GPM pump and holds 300 gallons of water. This will replace Rescue #4 which had no actual fire-fighting capabilities.

The Ambulance Department also received their new ambulance. This replaced an ambulance that was having age-related mechanical problems.

The Police Department also received a new police cruiser to replace the oldest one in the fleet. Due to the nature of police work, cruisers put on a lot of miles and idle time.

Broadband is probably the hottest topic in town. Almost everyone is eager to acquire high-speed internet. This board gets updates from the Broadband Ad-Hoc Group every meeting. The group, headed by Bob Gross, the Municipal Light Plant Manager, has done an outstanding job. The Board of Selectmen must vote on many policy and contractual decisions regarding broadband, and without the input from the group we would not have the knowledge to make the educated decisions. We cannot thank the volunteer group enough.

Board member Michael Lavery was instrumental in researching and pushing to have an electric vehicle charging station installed at the Town Hall. This was through a grant at no cost to the town.

The kitchen, adjacent to the community room at the Town Hall, was upgraded with new cabinets, counter tops and appliances. This was the first upgrade since the Town Hall was built in 1992.

We are still trying to get a new HVAC system for the Town

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

Hall. We want to get the most efficient system we can for a price we can afford and still be within our Green Community designation.

The Parks and Recreation Committee finished the grading, seeding and fencing at 21 Maple Street, the addition to the North Becket Park. Unfortunately, the Conservation Commission would not allow any parking on that lot as was promised to the citizens when they approved money to buy the parcel. The Board is seeking alternatives for parking spaces and may return to the Conservation Commission for another consideration.

The Board is also seeking a permanent solution to the Town Beach parking. The Town owns the beach but not the parking area. We would like to buy the land that we need. A new storage shed and enclosure for a year-round porta-potty was installed at the beach. The Selectmen wish to express their appreciation to the Becket Highway Dept. for assisting the Parks & Recreation Committee with their repairs to the actual beach culminating with new sand.

A proposed exit off the Mass Pike in Otis or Blandford created a lot of discussion at Board of Selectmen meetings, public hearings and letters to the editors. The proposal for the Otis exit on Algeria Rd. is now history but the two Blandford proposals are still on life support. There are many Becket residents who would love to see an exit on Algeria Rd. and there are many who are very vocal about opposing it. It would be interesting to see what a ballot vote would tally.

In the fall the town held a public auction of approximately 30 parcels of property that the town had acquired through tax title takings and gifts. This auction resulted in sales of a little over \$100,000.00. Another auction is planned for late spring or early summer to dispose of additional parcels.

The Board increased licensing fees modestly for liquor licenses and other licenses under their control. A review of what other towns charge revealed that in many cases Becket was way under. Our fees had not been increased in many years.

Through the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, the Board signed an application for another round of CDBG grants. Because of federal rule changes we will partner with three other towns instead of being alone. This grant can be used for repairs to low income family homes.

As the year ends, we are in negotiations to renew the lease with the Becket Arts Center for the use of 7 Brooker Hill Road.

As in the past, we want to thank Administrative Assistant Beverly Gilbert for keeping the Board and Town Administrator up to date with all our correspondence, agendas, etc. The Town is lucky to have Beverly. We also want to thank all the other employees of the town in and out of town hall and to the many volunteers on departments and committees for their hard work and dedication to make Becket a great place to live and visit.

We thank you, the taxpayer, for putting your trust in us to administer the town for you. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the town office, Town Administrator or any Board member.

Respectfully submitted,

Becket Board of Selectmen
William H. Elovirta, *Chairperson*
Michael S. Lavery, *Vice-Chairperson*
Christopher Swindlehurst, *Clerk*



◆ *REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT* ◆

I am starting this annual report with a big thank you to the 2019 Fire Department retirees.

- **Fire Chief Mark Hanford:** Thank you for your service and dedication to the Fire Department and loyalty to its members, and also for your devotion to the citizens of the towns of Becket and Washington. Mark Hanford retired as the Fire Chief and remains a member of the Fire Department.
- **William and Madelaine (Maddy) Elovirta:** Thank you for over 80 years combined service and dedication to the Fire Department. Maddy started and persevered in a time when females were not readily accepted on fire departments. Maddy proved that females are an integral part of the fire service.
- **James Atwell:** Thank you for your years of service and dedication to the Fire Department and the knowledge you brought from your experiences on prior departments before making Becket your home.

Thank you all and enjoy your hard earned and deserved retirement time.

The Becket Fire Department responded to 140 calls:

- 40 Fire alarm activations
- 17 Carbon monoxide (CO) alarm activations
- 17 Motor vehicle accidents (MVA)
- 16 Emergency medical service (EMS), to include assisting ambulance
- 6 Brush fires
- 5 Mutual aid to surrounding towns and Automatic aid to the Town of Washington
- 4 Rescues
- 4 Motor vehicle fires
- 3 Structure fires
- 28 Miscellaneous & other service calls

There were 72 inspections including: Smoke and CO, propane tank installations, oil burner/line/tank installations/removals, blasting permits, annual inspections for businesses, school inspection and fire drill, pre-demolition inspection of condemned properties and a few distressed citizen/consultations. There were over 100 open burn permits issued.

Thank you to the Fire Department members and their families for their dedication and sacrifices and to the town residents for giving me the opportunity to serve as Fire Chief.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Mikaniewicz,
Fire Chief



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



2019 was an exciting year for the Ambulance Dept. We responded to 276 calls for service. This year also saw the replacement of our ambulance. Our old unit, a 2011 McCoy Miller ambulance, was replaced with a 2018 Lifeline Paraliner model ambulance, equipped with an automatic stretcher loading system to help make loading and unloading patients safer for our crew. However, the most notable “Change” with this new truck is its unique blue and white color scheme. This year also saw a change in staff. Longtime EMT and training officer, Vincent Garofoli, left to pursue a new endeavor as Fire Chief in the nearby Town of Stockbridge. Vinny was replaced in October by Paramedic, Lisa Michaud, who brings with her 25+ years in EMS, serving in both field provider, as well as administration roles. Also this year, the department was able to begin offering First Aid, CPR, and AED courses through Emergency Care and Safety Institute, both in person, and through an online platform. If you are interested in any of these classes, please call (413) 623-5027.

As always, I wish to thank my staff for their continued dedication to providing the town with the best emergency care possible. The town currently has approximately 30 EMTs who stand ready to keep the ambulance in service and respond on a 24\7\365 basis. They give up holidays and other 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. 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.

In 2019, the Ambulance Department responded to 276 calls for service. Below are breakdowns of calls by town, and by type.

Town	# of Runs	Town	# of Runs
Becket	166 incidents	Peru	2 incidents
Blandford	3 incidents	Russell	5 incidents
Chester	4 incidents	Sandisfield	2 incidents
Lee	22 incidents	Tolland	2 incidents
Middlefield	4 incidents	Tyringham	4 incidents
Monterey	1 incident	Washington	6 incidents
Otis	55 incidents		

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Ferrin,
Ambulance Director

<u>Dispatch Reason</u>	<u># of calls</u>
Abdominal Pain.....	9
Allergies.....	4
Animal Bite.....	1
Assault.....	4
Back Pain (Non-Traumatic).....	4
Breathing Problem.....	19
Chest Pain.....	7
Convulsions/Seizure.....	3
Diabetic Problem.....	1
Eye Problem.....	1
Fall Victim.....	43
Headache.....	1
Heart Problems.....	1
Hemorrhage/Laceration.....	3
Ingestion/Poisoning/overdose.....	4

<u>Dispatch Reason</u>	<u># of calls</u>
Medical Alarm.....	1
Not Applicable.....	4
Not Available.....	2
Not Known.....	15
Not Recorded.....	17
Psychiatric Problems.....	18
Sick Person.....	39
Stroke/CVA.....	3
Traffic/Transportation Accident.....	34
Transfer/Inter-facility/Palliative Care.....	3
Traumatic Injury.....	6
Unconscious/Fainting.....	9
Unknown Problem/Man Down.....	4
Unknown.....	7
Well Being Check.....	1

◆ **REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT** ◆

The 2019 yearly breakdown shows the Police Department responded to 4,788 calls for the year. The statistics are gathered from our computer records management system, IMC. Every call that the department receives gets put into this database and the department can print out the statistics monthly.

In addition to the activity breakdown, officers also issued citations for 107 civil motor vehicle violations, 78 criminal motor vehicle violations, 7 arrest motor vehicle violations, and 127 written warnings, for a total of 319 citations. For the year the department had 54 primary arresting offenses and 145 criminal charges were filed at Southern Berkshire District Court against individuals.

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.

In September the Becket Police Association held its annual car show, “Cops & Rodders.” This car show was created and is headed by Officer Nicole Miller to raise money to provide a holiday party for the children of Becket and Washington. I cannot begin to tell you the amount of work Officer Miller undertakes to continually make this event a success. I would first like to thank the Town of Washington for letting the association use the Washington Town Park. It is estimated that throughout the day roughly 500 people attended the car show to view the 100 show cars that showed up to attend the event. I would also like to thank my entire department and their family members for volunteering their time that day. Officers spent most of their time parking cars, selling raffle tickets, and maintaining the safety of spectators and of course the show cars. The Becket Police Association uses the money raised for the children’s holiday party.

In December the Becket Police Association held its annual holiday party for the children of Washington and Becket. The YMCA Becket Chimney Corners Outdoor Center was kind enough to offer their dining hall for use and also provide lunch and snacks for the children. Santa Claus arrived in a firetruck escorted by a police cruiser and ambulance and handed out approximately 100 presents to the children. Once again I would like to thank Officer Nicole Miller and all the officers of the department that volunteered their time to make this event successful.

I want to reiterate that I have an open door policy for anyone wishing to speak to me in regards to any issue. License to carry or firearms identification card renewals or applicants may 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.

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 Becket Fire Department, Becket Ambulance, Becket Highway Department, and the Becket Buildings and Grounds Technician for their dedication and partnership in working 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



◆ *REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD* ◆

The Planning Board consists of five elected members with five-year terms and one associate member who is appointed annually by the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street. Additional meetings are scheduled on an as needed basis.

First, the Planning Board would like to acknowledge Dr. Howard G. Lerner for his election to the Board in May of 2019. Dr. Lerner has previously served the Town of Becket in many different capacities both as an elected and appointed public official. Most recently, Dr. Lerner served on the Becket Board of Health where he provided his in-depth professional experience, insight and knowledge.

Secondly, I personally would like to recognize the following members in their respective positions on the Board and the additional time and energy it takes of them: Mr. James Levy, the Vice-Chair; Ms. Ann Krawet, the Clerk; and Mr. Alvin Blake, the Clerk Pro Tem.

Additionally, Ms. Gale LaBelle was reappointed as the Board's associate member. The associate member attends all board meetings and in the absence of a regular member, she assumes the duties of the absent individual as needed.

Ms. Jessica Perotti, the Board's Administrative Assistant, also deserves mention as she continues to be very responsive to the needs of those individuals who find themselves in need of guidance in preparing special permit applications or other zoning matters. She continues to be a great asset to the team.

Lastly, on behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Mr. Charles Andrews for his service to the community. Mr. Andrews, who for decades has been an invaluable asset to the town, decided to retire from public service by not seeking re-election. His extensive knowledge of the community, insight and expertise will be missed. Mr. Ronzio was unanimously elected to serve as the Board's representative to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and Mr. Blake was likewise unanimously elected as the alternate.

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.

In 2019, the Becket Planning Board convened 15 times for regularly scheduled meetings and additional public hearings.

One ANR plan was received and endorsed by the Board for filing at the Registry of Deeds, as this application did not constitute a subdivision within the meaning of the Subdivision Control Law. The ANR enabled the applicants to redraw existing boundary lines and did not affect the frontage or existing acreage requirements. The ANR allowed the owner to sell a large parcel of land to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which will be added to state forest.

Several special permit applications were presented for review and approval. A number of residents attended the regular meetings to informally discuss special permit requirements for projects under consideration. Some of these informal discussions resulted in formal applications but others were never submitted.

Ipswich Pharmaceutical Associates, Inc. (IPA) presented a special permit to operate a registered marijuana facility for both medical and adult use sales at 2727 Jacobs Ladder Road. Local residents raised concerns regarding traffic, parking, lighting, noise, security as well as the impact this facility would have on the environment and neighborhood in general. The Board determined that the special permit met the requirements under Section 6.8 of the Becket Zoning Bylaws and the Cannabis Control Commission. The special permit was unanimously approved.

Plantus, Inc. presented a special permit to operate a commercial agricultural greenhouse on a site on Lane Road to organically grow and selectively harvest temperate climate natural forest products. Local residents asked questions regarding traffic, lighting, noise, security and the impact this facility would have on the environment and neighborhood in general. The special permit, received unanimous board approval.

Another special permit was presented on behalf of T-Mobile/American Tower for the installation of a replacement 50 kW diesel backup generator at an existing cell tower site located at 57 Tower Road. Some discussion centered on the possibility of installing a propane generator but it was decided that due to safety drawbacks and enlargement of the cell tower footprint, this option was not feasible. Planning Board approval was unanimous.

A fourth special permit approval enabled the applicant to install a 10' stockade fence between 3417 and 3425 Main Street. The Board decided to unanimously approve the permit due to topographical constraints, mutual agreement between both parties and the authority found in section 4.3.2.2 of the Becket Zoning Bylaws.

A fifth special permit was presented by Papa Bob's seeking relief from Section 3.1.3 to operate a seasonal ice-cream food truck and to host a seasonal vendor show on weekends at 71 Chester Road. Questions regarding traffic, lighting, noise,

◆ **REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD** ◆

~ Continued ~

security and the impact this facility would have on the environment and neighborhood in general. The applicants subsequently, with the concurrence of the Board, withdrew the vendor show portion of the permit. The amended special permit, received unanimous board approval.

A sixth special permit was presented for 128 YMCA Road. The applicant sought relief from Section 3.4.3 to construct a non-conforming garage within the front yard 40' setback area. The Board unanimously approved the permit due to topographical constraints, as long as the applicant received approval from both the Board of Health and the Conservation Commission.

A seventh special permit was presented for 22 Dragon Way, the applicants sought relief from Sections 3.4.6 and 3.4.7 to reconstruct their home on a nonconforming lot. The Board recognized that through an oversight on the part of the applicants, the two-year limitation to rebuild after a catastrophe had expired. Given there was complete support from the abutters and the reconstructed home would be a positive addition to the neighborhood, the Board unanimously approved the permit to rebuild.

An eighth special permit was presented for 34 Western Road. The applicant sought relief from Section 3.4.3 to construct an addition to square off the house. The Board unanimously approved the permit as the addition would not be substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood and there were no objections from the abutters.

A ninth special permit was presented for Becket West CNB LLC to operate a marijuana cultivation packaging and distribution facility at a vacant five plus acre site on Jacobs Ladder Road. Local residents raised concerns regarding traffic, parking, lighting, odor, noise, security as well as the impact this facility would have on the environment and neighborhood in general. The hearing was continued by mutual consent until January 2020.

Additional Actions:

As a result of the special permit approval of the Ipswich Pharmaceuticals Associates Inc.'s request to operate a registered retail marijuana dispensary for both medical and adult-use retail sales, an appeal to dismiss was filed with Superior Court. KP Law represented the town in this matter until the appeal was ultimately withdrawn. The special permit was subsequently issued.

At the request of the Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board reviewed and endorsed the local acceptance of a six percent (6%) local option tax for AirBnBs short term rentals under MGL Chapter 64G, Section 3A. The article failed at the May 2019 Annual Town Meeting.

The Planning Board held a public hearing for minor proposed changes to the Zoning Bylaws regarding Section 6.6, Solar Photovoltaic Installations and Section 6.8, Marijuana Establishments and Medical Treatment Centers. The actions were unanimously approved at the May 2019 Annual Town Meeting.

The Planning Board initiated another solar bylaw review due to the impact the existing bylaw had on the town due to the requirements found in Green Communities Act. Of note and in conjunction with the input from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, the new modified bylaw added a section regarding medium scale installations. The newly modified bylaw was presented and passed by a 2/3 majority hand count at the January 2019 Special Town Meeting.

Lastly, the Board also reviewed the proposed Zoning Bylaws regarding driveways. The Board, as it had previously determined, was committed to setting a single set of standards for all driveways and not just for common driveways which are currently regulated within the Zoning Bylaws. The Board reviewed model Access Management Regulations as well as existing statutes in surrounding towns such as the Town of Alford. The goal is to have the driveway proposal and plan ready for the 2020 Annual Town Meeting.

Informal discussions were held regarding potential site-line obstructions as the result of boundary line fences. Concerned individuals were directed to take up the matter with the town's Zoning Enforcement Officer.

The Board appreciates and encourages public attendance at its meetings and encourages citizens to offer their constructive comments. Planning Board meetings are posted in Town Hall, and also for informational purposes, on the town website, www.townofbecket.org.

Finally, 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. Please feel free to call the Planning Board Office at 413-623-8934 ext. 120, send correspondence via USPS or email at planning@townofbecket.org with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert T. Ronzio
Chair

◆ **REPORT OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR** ◆

Although my retirement on January 31st didn't happen as planned due to the fact that there was not a suitable applicant we did have a wonderful party. Thank you to all who came and to those who donated toward the wonderful gifts. Once a replacement is found, I will be retiring from my position as Building Inspector for the lovely Town of Becket. It is a wonderful place to work; my co-workers are the best and could always be counted on to answer difficult questions or be there for personal support. The contractors have never been disrespectful and have been willing to comply with the requirements that the Building Code as I have interpreted them. Most have expressed disappointment over my leaving, mostly due to the unknown of who will be my replacement but also because of the relationships that have been forged over the last 14 ½ years that I have held this position.

Thank you also to the residents who have made the effort to pull permits where required, do the right things even though it may have cost them more or extended the projects. Also, I would like to thank everyone for your support, tough questions and the ability to be of service to you when needed.

I would like to thank the Selectmen and Town Administrators that have continued to appoint me, support me

and finance the inspection office. I hope that will continue with my replacement.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Assistant Building Inspector Gary Danko, Plumbing Inspectors Mark Levernoch and Brian Middleton, and Wiring Inspectors Dana Spring and James LaPier for their dedicated service. Also many thanks to Jessica Perotti, the Clerk to the Planning, Zoning and Health Boards. She is always helpful and keeps me informed.

My greatest accomplishment for the Town of Becket has been the demolition of the deteriorated housing stock around town. I am sure that you have noticed that I have spent every dollar allocated to the Demolition Fund since it was created. That has allowed contracts, for the clearing of 27 dangerous and abandoned structures from town streets. Plus there are numerous structures that the land owners voluntarily removed after receiving violation notices advising that demolition was required, or that failure to comply would lead to court action. We have also removed most of the junk cars. Still, there is much more to do in the future.

There were only three new single family residences started in 2019 which seems to be the new normal for Becket.

Here are the statistics for the year 2019:

Type of Activity	# of Activity	Est. Value	Cost of Permit
Certificate of Inspection	70		\$ 3,350.00
Certificate of Occupancy	6		\$ 255.00
Commercial Building Permit	22	\$ 486,250.00	\$ 6,371.00
Residential Building Permit	170	\$ 7,577,279.00	\$ 23,332.00
Sheet Metal Permit	3	\$ 25,900.00	\$ 279.00
Sign Permit	3	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 313.00
Solid Fuel Appliance Permit	11	\$ 27,600.00	\$ 595.00
Tent Permit	8	\$ 25,800.00	\$ 450.00
Trench Permit	0		\$ 0.00
Building Permit Total	293	\$ 8,143,829.00	\$ 34,945.00
Electrical Permit	92		\$ 8,095.00
Gas Permit	46		\$ 2,750.00
Plumbing Permit	37		\$ 3,190.00

Respectfully Submitted,

William E. Girard
Building Inspector

◆ *REPORT OF THE BECKET LAND TRUST* ◆

The Becket Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission of protecting open space in the Town of Becket and increasing the public's awareness of conservation issues. Your enthusiasm and involvement are essential to our mission of protecting the Town of Becket's rural character, natural resources and ecologically sensitive areas.

Our primary holding is the 320 acre Historic Quarry and Forest on Quarry Road. We have seven miles of hiking trails and a self-led historic hike with 14 granite-posted signs that explain the highlighted artifacts.

Here are just a few of the accomplishments that your generosity, along with leveraged grant funding and volunteer labor, have made possible:

- We have created a 20-acre Oak Regeneration Area where native oaks are once again thriving and supporting the re-establishment of other native plants and animals.
- We have launched a wildlife management project with funding from the US Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. This is called the New England Cottontail Habitat.
- We have enhanced the Historic Quarry Museum exhibit at the Mullen House, with new exhibits of additional local artifacts from Becket history.
- We continue to provide an outdoor recreation destination for thousands of visitors annually, with the inclusion of revised and improved maps and blazes and upgraded trails in 2018 through a state-funded project in partnership with the Appalachian Mountain Club.

We have instituted a parking charge of \$10 per car per day. This fee is helping to offset the cost of maintaining new comfort facilities and weekly trash removal as well as an on-site attendant. Through these efforts, we have succeeded in improving the experience of Land Trust visitors and we have also greatly reduced litter and graffiti.

Your Becket Land Trust membership donation of \$50 or more at this time will support our mission of environmental preservation, for our community today and for future generations – and will also allow you to park for free for the 2020 season as you and your family enjoy the natural beauty of the Becket Land Trust's Historic Quarry and Forest.

I hope you will continue to visit and support this special place in Becket and will give generously to help us stay on-course with all of our ongoing projects. Please take a moment to go to our website www.becketlandtrust.org and make a donation. All donations are tax-deductible.

We encourage you to “Like” us on Facebook or send us an email to be placed on our email list so you can stay current with our activities.

From all of us on the board of the Becket Land Trust, please accept our sincere thanks for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Smith
President



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

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

- Elderly 70+
- Veteran
- Blind

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

Tax Bill Reminders: Motor Vehicle Excise bills are generated

by the Registry of Motor Vehicles in Boston, so it is important to contact the Registry with any address changes - online at www.mass.gov/rmv or by phone.

Please remember to submit changes of address to the Assessors' office so all tax bills will be mailed appropriately.

Two web sites which may be helpful: www.massrmv.com and www.masslandrecords.com.

A number of our forms and maps can be found at www.townofbecket.org

Fiscal Year 2019 Reporting:

Total Appropriations and Charges \$6,913,098.02

Total Receipts \$1,335,305.55

Total Amount to be Raised \$5,577,792.47

CLASS	LEVY %	VALUATION	PARCEL COUNT
Residential	90.6208	456,607,121	3,706
Commercial	3.5389	17,831,453	79
Industrial	0.2705	1,362,800	4
Personal Property	5.5698	28,064,251	914
Totals	100%	503,865,625	4,703

Tax Rate.....\$10.87

The Board of Assessors processed:

Elderly and Veteran Exemptions.....	42
Blind Exemption.....	3
Hardship.....	0
Senior Work-off Abatements.....	4
Personal Property /Real Estate abatements.....	26
Motor Vehicle Abatements.....	70

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Will
Geraldine L. Walter
Karen Avalue

◆ **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH** ◆

The Becket Board of Health has integrated its new Full Circle computerized on line permitting program. All camps, lodging, and food permits are on line and scheduled for renewal review every January. Septic permitting is also on line, but additional education is needed. Annual permits are computer initiated. Most fees are now web based into full circle.

There were two receiverships awarded this year. One home is on Main Street which will become Affordable Housing, and another is on Wells Road, to be renovated in the future.

The Becket Route 20 Spring closed in April after many years of being a public water supply. It was sad closing the spring after approximately 100 years, but it was difficult to keep the water safe for the residents. The spring needed a filtration system because it was deficient of public health compliance standards. Rocks were placed around the base of the system.

Berkshire Public Health Alliance has assisted in the many septic plan reviews and percolation tests. Camp regulations have changed this year. Transportation services for excursions away from camp are documented with the state prior to the

start of the season. Christian's Law was implemented 2 years ago and all Becket camps are in compliance. Laurel Burgwardt has been instrumental in assisting with the Title V witnessing. David Krawet provided administrative support.

The Board of Health gives a special thanks to Jessica Perotti, Clerk and Administrative Assistant, who moved on to the Assessor's Office. She was instrumental in implementing our Full Circle computer system, assisting the many phone calls, and keeping our board on track. Also, the Board of Health bids a farewell to Jayne Smith, Health Agent, who is now a consultant in her field. We wish them luck.

Tess Lundberg is now our Administrative Assistant, and we are happy she is here. Sandra Martin is now our interim Health Agent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gale LaBelle, ***Chairperson***
Laurel Burgwardt, ***Vice Chairperson***
I. David Krawet, ***Clerk***



◆ *REPORT OF THE PORCHLIGHT VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION* ◆

The following is a report of the services performed in the Town of Becket during the 2019 calendar year:

HOME VISITS	1st Quarter 1/1/19 - 3/31/19	2nd Quarter 4/1/19 - 6/30/19	3rd Quarter 7/1/19 - 9/30/19	4th Quarter 10/1/19 - 12/31/19
Skilled Nursing	9	24	4	0
Physical Therapy	25	33	33	4
Occupational Therapy	13	23	18	2
Nutritionist	0	0	0	0
Medical Social Work	1	0	0	0
Home Health Aide	0	0	0	0
Totals	48	80	55	6
Non-Billable Visits	0			
Telehealth Patients	1			

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE	Confirmed	Probable	Suspected	Grand Total
Campylobacteriosis	1	1		2
Giardiasis	1			1
Hepatitis B		1		1
Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis			1	1
Influenza	2		1	3
Lyme Disease			8	8
Pertussis (and other <i>Bordetella</i> species)	4			4
Salmonellosis	2			2
Shigellosis		1		1
Tuberculosis			1	1
Grand Total	10	3	11	24

CLINICS	# of Clinics	# of Residents	
Flu Immunizations	1	14	
TB Immunizations	0	0	
Blood Pressure Clinics	11	106	<i>BP Clinics at: Town Hall Held 3rd Tuesday of every month</i>

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Odgren,
CEO

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

Residents of Becket can be proud of its properties. We live in a beautiful area of the state. We have parks, a ballfield, a beach, lakes to paddle about on, hiking trails, a tennis/pickle ball court, a track to run on (1/7 of a mile), fitness equipment, and woods full of wildlife. However, all these things require a measure of awareness and concern for all of us. The benefits of these areas will enhance the health of everyone who takes advantage of them. Those who help to maintain them, both volunteers and town employees, do so for your pleasure.

Town ownership of the property at 21 Maple Street to the North Becket Village Park allows us to now see what is behind it. It has been cleared and planted by volunteers Bill and Maddy Elovirta, Rita Furlong, and the Town Highway Workers. Bill Cummings was hired to build riverside benches out of the stone found on the property. The large bluestone bench seats are from the dwelling that was there. A neighbor, Randy Johnson, donated time with his tractor and gave us stone for the bench foundations. The large stone will be used to hold a plaque with the history of the removed building. It is hoped to add a pavilion to the park for programs and music in the future. When more parking spaces are found the Becket Washington Community Fair, called the Brouhaha, will again be held in the village every other year.

The tennis/pickle ball court on Prentice Place has new pickleball rackets for all to use and return afterwards. Plantings at Ballou Park are donated each year by Skip and Kathy Saville in time for Memorial Day services. Rita Furlong plants and maintains the island near there. Maddy Elovirta plants and maintains the other islands at intersections throughout Becket. They look lovely and some who drive by comment on the gardens.

The new beach shed houses lifeguard equipment and a porta potty. The building was spray painted by volunteers Bill and Maddy Elovirta. The interior of the porta potty shed has been painted white to try to improve lighting in the area. Three separate lights placed in the porta potty have been vandalized/stolen and so they will not be replaced.

Part of the Becket Center Pavilion has a new function. The previous Parks and Recreation portion will now be home to the Becket Broadband Hut. The next section has been enclosed and will house the summer park program equipment and the Boy Scout equipment. The actual pavilion will be extended so that picnics can continue to be held there. People watching children on the ballfield and on the playground equipment can sit in the shade there. Please remember that the playground equipment is **ONLY** for those who are under twelve years of age.

The Summer Parks Program was well attended and the children had lots of fun there under the guidance of April La Forest, Emma Adams, and Candace Hall. The beach lifeguard was Emmy Cote and beach road attendants were Ariana Shannon, Stacey Nabozny, and Deb Nabozny. If anyone in your family does not know how to swim, please take advantage of a trained lifeguard to teach them. Lessons are free as is the Summer Parks Program.

BEACH PERMITS WILL NOW BE AVAILABLE STARTING JANUARY 1ST. YOU WILL HAVE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE YOUR BEACH PERMIT IN TIME FOR SWIMMING WEATHER. The price will again be \$5.00. The permits changed to a dashboard card.

Respectfully submitted,

Parks and Recreation Committee Members:

Rita Furlong
Maddy Elovirta
Tina LeVasseur

◆ **REPORT OF THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS TECHNICIAN** ◆

During the year, my on-going responsibilities include daily and routine maintenance of Town buildings and properties. This entails cleaning, attending to minor repairs, mowing the town's many properties, plowing snow in the winter, and myriad miscellaneous tasks brought before me. Outside the scope of my daily and routine (and sometimes surprise) maintenance of town facilities and grounds, below is a listing of projects accomplished during 2019.

- Completed remodeling of the dog kennel.
- Replaced the windows at the North Becket Cemetery Vault
- Built the Parks & Recreation Program a new building addition at the Center Town Park Pavilion.
- Started to upgrade and convert the Parks and Recreation garage at the Center Town Park Pavilion into the new Broadband Hut
- Town Hall lower level kitchen Upgrades: 1) removed all old cabinets and countertops; 2) prepared the space for upgrades. 3) Supervised the installation of new kitchen cabinets, countertops, and appliances

- Painted the North Becket Cemetery garage.
- Oversaw the painting of Fire Station #1
- Helped install LED lighting upgrades in the Town Hall, Fire Station #2 and Ambulance Garage.

It is always gratifying to partake in projects which result in visible improvements to town-owned properties. I would like to thank the department heads and employees for all their help during the 2019 year. I look forward to serving the Town of Becket in the upcoming year.

Respectfully Submitted,

David O. Shorey,
Buildings & Grounds Technician

◆ **REPORT OF THE HARBOR MASTER** ◆

The boating season was once again unremarkable in that there were no reportable accidents and most folks used their boats in a responsible manner. It is most important to remember that our great ponds are relatively small and that excessive speed creates excessive and dangerous wakes. The creator of any wake that causes damage is, by law, responsible for that damage. Please take it easy, enjoy our beautiful lakes, and boat responsibly.

Rafts or any object anchored in our great ponds must be permitted on an annual basis by the Harbor Master. Please insure that you are in compliance. Docks, attached to the shore,

are required to have approval by the Becket Conservation Commission and the Commonwealth Of Massachusetts DEP and a Chapter 91 license.

Questions related to boating or the permitting of rafts can be addressed to me at Town Hall or by calling (413) 623-8934 extension 140 and leaving a message.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Rosenthal
Harbor Master

◆ **REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION** ◆

Becket has a wealth of wetlands, streams, lakes and ponds. All of these water resources provide important habitat for wildlife and serve as recreational and scenic assets. The headwaters of three major New England rivers lie within Becket's borders: the Westfield (a nationally designated Wild and Scenic river), the Farmington (also nationally designated Wild and Scenic in Connecticut), and the Housatonic. Becket's many wetlands also help keep our rivers, lakes, ponds and groundwater supplies clean and protect against flooding. Today, these resources are protected by state and federal laws. The Becket Conservation Commission works hand-in-hand with state agencies to make sure that our water resources remain intact for future generations.

The Conservation Commission consists of a seven-member volunteer board. At the end of 2019, we had five members serving on the Commission. The Commission extends their deepest gratitude to Alison Dixon who recently stepped down after four years as the chairperson of the Commission. Her dedication to the Commission and to the protection of Becket's wetland and natural resources was inspiring. Ms. Dixon provided an extraordinary level of service to the community including fulfilling all of legal and regulatory duties when the town was without a conservation agent and serving on three hiring committees. Chair Dixon's poise, fairness and good nature will long be remembered. David Johnson has transitioned into the role as chairperson of the Commission and looks forward to continuing the hard work that preceded him. The Commission also thanks Barbara Brand and Karen Karlberg for their service to the Commission.

The Commission members volunteer their time to review permit applications and participate in site visits as part of the administration and implementation of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. Our Commissioners further their knowledge by attending webinars and conferences offered throughout the year. In addition, the Commission began developing a plan to educate and better connect with our Becket community. The goal for this plan is to increase our

community's awareness and knowledge about the importance of and the standards within the Wetlands Protection Act, as well as to inspire all landowners to bring their land into compliance.

To support the Commission, Becket has a part-time Conservation Agent who arranges site visits, posts legal and meeting notices and follows up on inquiries and violations. Mary Stucklen filled this role throughout 2019.

Our regularly scheduled monthly meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the Becket Town Hall. We currently have two vacancies on the Commission. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact the Commission or attend a meeting. We welcome local residents to attend our meetings and learn more about the Commission and its responsibilities. Please find our meeting agendas and minutes located on the Town website.

To contact the Commission, call the office at Town Hall at 413-623-8934 Ext 129 or send an email to conservation@townofbecket.org.

Conservation Commissioners of 2019:

David Johnson, *Chairperson (2021)*
Alison Dixon, *Vice-Chairperson (2020)*
Cindy Delpapa, *Secretary (2022)*
Meredyth Babcock *(2021)*
Henry Scarpo *(2021)*
Karen Karlberg *(Term ending June 2019)*
Barbara Brand *(Term ending June 2019)*

Respectfully submitted,

David Johnson
Chair of Becket Conservation Commission

Issued in 2019:

Order of Conditions – 6	Permit Extensions – 3
Determination of Applicability – 18	Amended Order of Conditions – 1
Certificate of Compliance – 5	Emergency Certifications – 7
Enforcement Orders – 1	

◆ *REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT* ◆

It has been a busy year filled with normal road maintenance sweeping, drop inlet cleaning, grading and ditching, brush cutting, tree work, asphalt patching, crack sealing, shoulder work, drainage work, line painting, and snow and ice control.

Mud season was a little more severe due to record warmth and rain in a short amount of time. We try to do preventative maintenance and preparation but sometimes Mother Nature has other ideas. This year's above average rainfall added to the challenge of maintaining and keeping our roads in good shape.

Due to Chapter 90 funding's late release, we were not able to complete the project during this year. We anticipate bidding out our Chapter 90 project for completion in spring or early summer. The project involves two sections of Yokum Pond Rd. Section one is located after the intersection of County Rd. for 2600' and section two is located after Tyne Rd. for 3000'. This project will include full-depth reclamation with asphalt injection and four inches of hot mix asphalt, replacement of eleven culverts and shoulder work. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Chapter 90 provided \$365,778.00 to fund this project.

Winter Weather Statistics

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Amount of Snow Accumulations</u>
Jan. 2019 through May 2019.....	55.5" snowfall (average). It snowed on Mother's day!
Nov. 2018 through May 2018	76.5" snowfall (average)
Nov. 2019 and Dec. 2019	45" snowfall (late winter start) (above average) and numerous snow & freezing rain events.

The rain and above normal temperatures have caused quite a bit of trouble with the gravel roads, and caused ice build-up from thawing and refreezing water in ditches that expand into our roads.

In July Bob Cooper retired after 40 years of service to the Town. Enjoy Bob!

I would like to thank Bert Goodermote, Bob Cooper, Chris Isner, Don Murray, Nate Morawiec, and Tyler Chrystal for their hard work and dedication to the Highway Department.

I wish to thank the Town Administrator, Buildings and Grounds Technician, Board of Selectmen; and our Ambulance, Fire, and Police Departments for their support and dedication.

Residents with questions or concerns are welcome to call the Highway Department office Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 623-8988.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher J. Bouchard
Highway Superintendent



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

The 2019 season at the Becket Arts Center saw an uptick in the number of visitors coming from outside our immediate area. Word has spread that our beautiful 165-year old building is now handicap accessible, due to the installation of a chairlift that carries patrons up to the second floor gallery. Various programs, including several scheduled in the fall-winter season, have attracted patrons from as far away as Dalton and Northampton.

The season began with the annual Becket Washington School Art Show, in which the children's art work is framed and hung just as in a professional exhibition. A joint project of the Becket Washington School PTO, the school arts faculty, and BAC as well as the Art Show also features performances by the school band and chorus. This attraction draws big crowds of picture-taking parents and grandparents.

Throughout the summer, BAC runs exhibitions of painting, sculpture, photography and designer crafts by local artists. These included Ben Mancinco, Marguerite Bride, Patricia Hogan, Joseph Tracy, Sean McCusker, Ellen Grenadier, H. David Stein, Carolyn Newberger, Eric Grab, Bruce Panock, John Clarke, the late Michael Bufis, Bryan Powers and Lee Sproul. Our popular annual Members' Show was open to all members of the Arts Center.

The Explorations series (six programs free to all) began with a lecture-demonstration of guitar making by Becket-based luthier, John Osthoff. We heard a lively presentation about criminal justice in Berkshire County from the newly elected District Attorney, Andrea Harrington. Camesha Scruggs, Site Guide at the W.E.B. DuBois National Historic Site in Great Barrington, discussed the life and career of the Berkshire-born civil rights leader, one of the founders of the NAACP. Daniel Elihu Kramer, the new artistic director of the Chester Theatre, described the shows in his summer season. In a collaboration of activists and poets, Ulli Nagle, Dana Drugmand, Danielle and Gabrielle Orlando, Dan Warner, Logan Malik and Becket's own Bruce Garlow celebrated the efforts of our local young people to save the planet. A singalong with Frank Newton and Bob Shepherd featured the timeless tunes of Cole Porter. What a pleasure it was to hear a crowd of almost 70 people singing I Love Paris!

In honor of outgoing Arts Center stalwart and former president Sally Soluri, BAC held a beautiful concert at the Becket Washington School, featuring the extraordinary young musicians of the Boston University Tanglewood Institute. The BAC Summer Art Camps worked in partnership with Becket Day Camp to offer sessions for 5-8 year olds as well as 9-13 year olds, with art in the morning, outdoor activities in the afternoon. In partnership with Jacob's Pillow, BAC offered "Families Dance", in which children can bring their grown-ups to share the joys of music and movement. Stephanie Leeds led Saturday morning yoga. The popular band Misty Blues delighted audiences at BAC's annual fund-raising gala at Papa Bob's Roadhouse on Chester Road.

For the first time, we ran the Autumn Open Studios DriveAbout. Eighteen artists in Becket, Washington, Otis and Hinsdale opened their studios to the public to show their work and describe their process. Patrons made their way to each studio by following beautiful road signs emblazoned with BAC's new logo. Right before the holidays, floral designer Edie King returned to BAC to teach workshops on how to make a gorgeous super-size wreath, a delightful kissing ball, and garlands to decorate the home. At the BAC Gift Shop, patrons could browse through a unique selection of beautiful crafts, ceramics, jewelry, books and novelties, offered at extremely reasonable prices.

The vibrant program at the Becket Arts Center is run almost entirely by devoted volunteers, friends and neighbors committed to creating a local gathering place for the arts to serve our community. Many thanks to them and to BAC's corporate sponsors for their enthusiastic support. Special recognition for providing funds goes to the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, the Feigenbaum Foundation, the Mass Cultural Council, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, the David and Sandra Bakalar Family, the Town of Becket and the Cultural Councils of Chester, Hinsdale-Peru, Lee, Otis and Washington.



Respectfully submitted,

Adele Levine and Sue Gerstle,
2020 Co-Presidents

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

The side of the Mullen House next to the Becket Athenaeum has been repainted and the front door has been repainted a colonial plum color. The building continues to look great and provides low rental fees to persons who wish to conduct business there. Two renters have moved on and so there are two offices available for rent. Please telephone Rita Furlong (413-623-5146), Acting Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Mullen House Education Center if you are interested in renting one of the offices. The building is handicapped accessible, has an ADA restroom on the main level, and a meeting room available to renters. Presently three tenants occupy space.

We have plans for our septic system to connect with and serve the Becket Athenaeum and Arts Center buildings. The Town continues to maintain the water system.

Please stop in to view the Becket Quarry Museum and a video created by the Becket Land Trust, the Becket Basket display, and art work hanging in the gallery. The summer hours are Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., and by appointment (call 623-5146).

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Furlong, *Acting Chairperson*
Board of Directors:
Ken Smith, Ann Smith & Sid Cholmar.

◆ **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 Board of Selectmen. 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 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, obtaining technical assistance on nonpoint source pollution, conservation farm planning, manure management, and environmental stewardship.

Anyone seeking out 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

◆ **REPORT OF THE ENERGY COMMITTEE** ◆

For 2019, the Becket Energy Committee consisted of the following members:

Name	Title	Term
Garth Klimchuk	Member	2021
Robert Gross	Vice Chair	2022
Cathy DeFoe	Secretary	2021
Alvin Blake	Chair	2022
Katherine Hoak	Member	2021
Susan Purser	Alternate Member	2020
Chris Bouchard	Ex-Officio	
Bill Caldwell	Ex-Officio	
Bill Girard	Ex-Officio	
Dan Parnell	Ex-Officio	

Mission

The committee's charge is to advise the Becket Board of Selectmen 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 and advise them on energy-related issues and recommend specific initiatives.

The BEC met on or about every third Thursday of each month throughout 2019. Meeting minutes and agendas were posted on the Town of Becket website.

Notable Accomplishments

- Undertook fifth Annual Informational Session in which Town residents were presented with specific solar, energy efficiency and loan financing program information by BEC members, representative of the MA Dept. of Energy Resources (DOER) and private entities.

- Applied for new competitive grant to replace Heating and Air Conditioning systems.
- Submitted RFP for possible solar arrays in order to reduce the Town's energy bill and carbon footprint.
- Installed 2 electric car charging stations at Town Hall.
- Per the BEC's recommendation, the Board of Selectmen appointed an Alternate Member of the committee.
- Continued process of participation in municipal aggregation program.

Current Priorities

Short Term

1. Create a Request for Proposal (RFP) to explore construction of solar array on the Town Hall property or alternate location.
2. Continue to explore anchor tenant participant role (purchase of a larger share than a typical household or business) in community solar array.
3. Continue to identify community solar and other renewable energy projects for the Town and Town residents.
4. Organize sixth annual BEC Informational Session to be held in 2020.
5. Continue to assist Town Administrator with ongoing Green Community opportunities.

Long Term

Continue to implement Town sustainability and renewable energy objectives and reduce dependency on fossil fuels.

Respectfully Submitted,
Energy Committee



◆ *REPORT OF THE BROADBAND AD HOC GROUP* ◆

After more than five years of work, we are starting to see the fruits of our efforts: Broadband is coming to Becket!

Most of the make-ready by the utilities (Verizon, Eversource, and KCST Axia which manages the Mass123 middle-mile network) is complete. More than 220 telephone poles were replaced, and hundreds of adjustments were made to existing wires to make space for the town network. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is paying for the make-ready work, and has generously increased the amount offered to the town, due to unforeseen circumstances and inaccurate estimates from 2014.

The broadband network design is complete, and was sent out to bid in October 2019. Three bids were received, and the low bidder was awarded the contract after careful review of their proposal and subcontractor list by our project management agent Westfield Gas & Electric (WG&E). The low bid was within the estimated budget.

Becket has selected WiredWest as the network operator, and has signed a contract for services. WiredWest is a consortium of towns which have joined together to make operation and maintenance of each town's network easier and less expensive. WiredWest in turn has selected WG&E as the provider for Internet and Network Operation services, and has negotiated and signed contracts.

The town has finalized pricing for several tiers of service, after taking input from residents and the Board of Selectmen. Prices will be posted on the town's broadband website (www.BecketBroadband.org), and information will be distributed by email. If you'd like to receive email updates and you have not already replied to the survey, please sign up via the website. Our goal is to make the service very affordable, so everyone will benefit. Many people who transition from Cell or Satellite service will end up saving money, and will have much better service.

Owners of approximately 50% of the premises in town responded to the broadband survey in Jan 2020. Thank you for your input! We are happy to see that most people are very enthusiastic about the service. Based on the information received, the Broadband Ad Hoc Group is working with WG&E (as our construction-management agent) to plan the construction sequence.

Construction will begin after all make-ready work is complete. Make-ready progress is constrained by winter weather, and by priority given to other towns that started before Becket. At the time of this writing (Feb 2020) the exact date is unknown, but we are hoping to begin actual network construction in Spring 2020.

The "hut" (housing electronics and other central components) will be situated near Town Hall. Renovations to an existing structure have been designed; construction will happen when the weather improves. Electronics are on order.

Construction of the network has many steps, including hanging steel supporting "strand" on the telephone poles; hanging and lashing the fiber; splicing the fiber; and testing. After each portion of the network is constructed, "drops" (connections) to each house can begin. All residents will be contacted to take service when it becomes available on each road. The overall construction timeline is more than two years long. Some houses may receive service as early as Summer 2020. We hope to complete all drops by the end of 2022.

The Board of Selectmen has authorized a very generous drop-subsidy policy: the town will pay up to the first \$2,500 of each "drop" (connection from street to house). This covers the entire drop-cost for about 97% of homes in town. If your home's existing electric and phone service is above-ground, 100% of your drop-cost will be paid by the town. The remaining homes will pay the amount over \$2,500 to get connected. For the underground connections we can provide the estimated drop-cost; but actual costs could be higher if obstacles (ledge, boulders, etc.) are encountered while digging. For more information, including details of various underground construction techniques, see the town website www.BecketBroadband.org. The subsidy will only be available to premises whose owners agree to take service during the initial sign-up period.

You may have read or heard that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has offered a \$500 per home drop-subsidy, for up to 70% of homes in town. This funding is included in the town-subsidy described above, and will be paid directly to the town, not to the homeowner.

There is a one-time connection fee of \$99. People who made a \$49 deposit to WiredWest in 2015 will get that credit plus a small amount of interest.

If you use your Becket home only part of the year, you have several options including keeping the broadband service active year-round, or suspending for part of the year, or cancelling and reinstating. See www.BecketBroadband.org for details.

At the time of this writing, we are working actively with representatives of areas that have underground wiring on their roads. The town will offer partial funding to build the network in these areas, and the homeowners will need to make up the difference.

Report of the Broadband Ad Hoc (Continued)

Our goal is to offer service to any premise where electric service is available. We anticipate using all \$3.81 million as authorized at Annual Town Meeting 2015; but not requesting additional funds from the town.

There are a few small areas in Becket which are not covered by the Becket project. These homes will be offered service by other towns (Washington, Otis) or by Charter Cable (Chester).

We are committed to keeping everyone informed about progress. Please check the website first, but if you have questions or concerns which are not addressed, please contact us. There's a contact-form on the website, or email

mlpmanager@townofbecket.org and we'll respond quickly.

*Respectfully submitted,
Broadband Ad Hoc Group*

Bob Gross, ***Municipal Light Plant (MLP) Manager***
Jeremy Dunn, ***WiredWest delegate***
Dan Parnell, ***Finance Committee Chair***
Chuck Garman
Jeff Piemont
Dave Labrecque
Cristian Sanchez
Jenn Beatty, ***Marketing and Communications***

◆ REPORT OF THE BECKET CULTURAL COUNCIL ◆

The Becket Cultural Council is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, whose allocations are made to all Massachusetts cities and towns to support community and cultural activities.

The Becket Cultural Council gives priority to projects and programs that directly benefit local organizations and local citizens of all ages. New applicants for projects in Becket should embrace the arts, sciences, humanities or environment; emphasize age and/or cultural diversity and identify a local venue with local support.

Becket Cultural Council officers for 2019-2020 are Linda Bacon, Chair; Mary Manning, Secretary; Andrea Nix,

Treasurer. Our other members are Roberta Goldman, Jenn Avery, Andrea Pecor, Sally Baumer, and Rosanna Koelle. The Council welcomes inquiries for membership especially from Becket residents with children attending Becket Washington School. Please contact anyone of our members with questions or the desire to join our committee.

Our state funding for the next fiscal year, 2020, has increased by \$300 yet the number of applicants for 2020 was significantly lower than prior years. Applications for grant cycle 2021 need to file during the window of Sept. 1 to Oct. 15, 2020.

These are the projects for which the Cultural Council funded in the grant cycle 2019:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Decision</u>
Becket Arts Center	Explorations: Tuesday Evenings at the Arts Center	\$500
IS183 Art School of the Berkshires	IS183 Art School's Learning Through Arts (LTA) Pro	\$250
Becket Athenaeum	Museum Passes	\$800
Berkshire Music School	Music Enrichment Programs at Becket-Washington School	\$500
Becket Washington Elementary School PTO	Becket Washington PTO Carnival	\$450
Becket Washington School	Connecticut Science Center Field Trip	\$750
Becket Volunteer Fireman's Association	Entertainment for the Hilltown Brouhaha	\$500
Becket Volunteer Fireman's Association	Outdoor Family Movie Nights	\$500
Central Berkshire Regional School District	Colonial Theater	\$200
Central Berkshire Regional School District	Berkshire Museum	\$100

*Respectfully submitted,
Linda Bacon, **Chair***

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

The Veterans' Services Office serves the needs of 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 state and federal agencies. Veterans with a dishonorable discharge are not eligible.

The Veterans' Service Officer also assists veterans and their spouses with federal Veterans' Administration requests. We advise veterans on what is available, and may assist in filling out and submitting the necessary paperwork. However, the majority of assistance is through Chapter 115 benefits. Every year the Veterans' Service Officers from each Town are required to attend a four day training session administered by DVS. This year the training was almost exclusively on federal Veterans' Administration benefits.

The Town of Becket was able to assist veterans this year with Chapter 115 benefits totaling \$40,687.55, a decrease of almost \$10,000 over last year. Of this amount, 75%, or \$30,515.67, will be reimbursed by the state for an actual cost to the Town of \$10,171.89. This included regular benefits, heating assistance, and medical reimbursements. The decrease was due mostly to the loss of a veteran's spouse who received benefits.

The caseload of Veterans' Services has remained fairly constant. The greatest need continues to be for senior veterans' and their spouses, or widows, who have very little income and are unable to work. There were several veterans or their widows who applied, but were denied because they exceeded the asset limit. Since Chapter 115 is a needs based benefit, there is an asset limit (money in the bank) of \$5,000 for singles and \$9,800 for couples. There is also an income limit that changes almost every year.

As noted in previous reports, one of the most underused programs available to veterans, is a program that allows Veterans to receive Medical Only benefits, even if their income is too high for regular benefits. 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 Veteran Services has several veterans or their widows on this Medical Only program.

Occasionally there are veterans who are able to work, but have lost their job and need temporary assistance until they find employment. For those needing employment, we try to help them gain employment as soon as possible. All veterans and their families who meet the requirements, received the benefits for which they were entitled.

For those who received Chapter 115 benefits, there was additional help with heating costs during the winter. Recipients must first apply for, and use, funds from the Low Income Heating Assistance Program. Once that was used up, limited funds were made available.

The Veterans' Service Officer is available by telephone or in his office on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The office is located in the Airolodi Building, 45 Railroad Street (P.O. Box 199), Lee, MA 01238. Sometimes, the part-time hours is a hardship for some veterans or their families, and if necessary, an appointment can be made for another day and time. Those who desire to use email, may contact me at LeeVetsAgent@wmconnect.com.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

◆ *REPORT OF THE BECKET ATHENAEUM* ◆

At the Becket Athenaeum, our commitment to serving the communities of Becket and Washington remains strong. During 2019, we continued to provide outstanding library services and high-quality after-school programming as a result of appropriations received from the Towns of Becket and Washington toward both operating and capital expenses, as well as the Fairfield County Community Trust, which continues to support our after-school programs. Our LCCs (Local Cultural Council) from Becket and Washington have provided support for the museum passes to local attractions we provide to our patrons all year long. The Central Berkshire Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation continued to fund our evening workshops, as well as contributing towards our after-school programs.

In 2019, our after-school programming continued to offer academic support to elementary and middle school students. The ACE (Academic, Collaboration, and Enrichment) program serves the needs of students from the local elementary and middle school with nutritious snacks, help with homework, extra math and reading practice tailored to each student, and other educational enrichment activities. This fully-funded, (and free to families) program is filled by applicants with a demonstrated academic need along with teacher recommendations. Jodi Shafiroff, our After-School Program Coordinator, managed this academic support program to serve up to 12 students on a single day with the help of a mix of 6 adult volunteers, 7 staff, and several high school interns. We have continued our ongoing line of communication with the BWS teachers and administration to ensure our program is meeting each child's needs as they change throughout the school year. The families of our program participants help support our program by donating time at the library or making a donation to our annual appeal. We also offer grant-funded, paid internships for high school students to work in either the after-school program or in the library, helping with various tasks. Mentoring these teens is a vital piece of our community outreach.

The Athenaeum continued their partnership with the Dalton CRA as well as the Becket Washington School in 2019 to provide an affordable after-school program to help working families in our community with after-school care. This is the third State-accredited Kids' Club program managed by the Dalton CRA. This program offers affordable childcare five

days per week during the school year. BWS Kids' Club is held at the Becket Washington School and is partially funded by a generous grant through the Fairfield County Community Fund. Families have a low \$5/day/child contribution fee.

Our Friday Enrichment (FE) program continued through June 2019 with a focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) under the direction of Dr. Sarah Reedy. Dr. Reedy stepped away from the program in June, due to increased teaching hours at her primary university job, and Jodi Shafiroff became the FE coordinator in August, in time for the new school year. The FE program's focus became Geography through Food and Culture, to include geographical map work, cooking, music, dance, and language from each country of focus. We continued to work with the Berkshire Outdoor Center as part of the Friday Enrichment program as well as our summer camp scholarship offering to local school children. We would again like to acknowledge the YMCA Berkshire Outdoor Center for their continued support and partnership in 2019.

Our Story Craft program for the pre-school age group continued as a STEAM exploration program. This program meets for an hour on the second, third and fourth Tuesdays each month and is managed by Wendy Provencher, the Family and Community Engagement Coordinator for the Central Berkshire Regional School District. Wendy's position is funded through a grant by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

The Athenaeum is now hosting BWS 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. This will be an ongoing community outreach throughout 2020 and beyond.

The Athenaeum, along with the Becket Arts Center, Becket Washington School PTO, Congregational Church, Fire Department, and members of the Washington Community continue to work together as the BWCP (Becket Washington Community Partnership). These organizations have worked together to make the Hilltown Brouhaha a community event with something for everyone! We received a grant from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation-Central Berkshire

REPORT OF THE BECKET ATHENAEUM

(Continued)

Fund in December 2018 to support this event for the fourth year in 2019. The Hilltown Brouhaha for 2020 will be held at the Washington Town Park on Saturday, July 11, 2020.

We have a dynamic book club group that meets on the first Tuesday of each month. This group is open to all interested in discussing literature new and old with the hot or cold beverage of your choice. We are open to suggestions for group activities of interest to our patrons.

In 2019, we continued to work on the septic system assessment project. Hill Engineering was contracted to perform the necessary technical aspects of this project. Working with Athenaeum Trustee, Cathy DeFoe, Hill completed the plans for the Athenaeum system to be connected to the town's repaired system, coordinated the permitting review with the Board of Health, coordinated the legal agreement with the town, and will assist in soliciting contractors and scheduling the work, come Spring 2020.

The Athenaeum partnered with the Becket Arts Center as grant recipients from the Central Berkshire Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Foundation for a series of nine workshops that were held at the Athenaeum on evenings during the winter, spring, and fall of 2019. These workshops were led by local experts in wildlife corridors, Hospice care, integrative health and nutrition, salsa dancing, couples' communication skills, Zentangle meditative drawing, as well as food and farming as climate change solutions. The workshops were well attended and provided a wide range of interesting topics for our community. We have also added a monthly game night, family-friendly movie afternoons, and movie evenings for adults. We applied for, and have now received, a monetary increase in our grant to continue all these programs in 2020, and look forward to seeing more of our friends and neighbors at these sessions throughout the months ahead.

Cathy DeFoe, Athenaeum Director since 2013, re-joined the Board of Trustees in 2019 following her 12/31/2018

retirement, and will continue to support the Athenaeum in this capacity. Jodi Shafiroff, Assistant Director since February 2018, became the new Director, effective 1/1/2019. The staffing transition went smoothly with Cathy acting as Staff Advisor, as needed throughout the year.

As an independent non-profit organization, we rely on and so appreciate the many supportive groups that help us deliver the services and programs our community deserves from its library.

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!

2019 Staff

Jodi Shafiroff, *Director and After School Program Coordinator, ACE and FE*

Cathy DeFoe, *Staff Advisor*

Ellen Manley, *Librarian and Tutor*

Dawn Greene, *Catalogue Specialist*

Maria Massaro, *Assistant Librarian*

Jerry Greene, *Assistant Librarian*

Sarah Reedy, *Friday Enrichment Coordinator*
(through June 2019)

2019 Becket Athenaeum Board of Trustees

Purr McEwen, *Chair (Becket Resident)*

Aaron Beatty, *Vice-Chair (Becket Resident)*

Robert Gross, *Treasurer (Becket Resident)*

Jan Nelson, *(Washington Resident)*

Elizabeth Oakes, *(Washington Resident)*

Allison Mikaniewicz, *(Washington Resident)*

Katherine Hoak, *(Becket Resident)*

Denise Johns, *(Washington Resident)*

Jeff Piemont, *(Becket Resident)*



◆ *REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE* ◆

The members of the Finance Committee would like to thank and acknowledge William “Bill” Caldwell who became our new Town Administrator in January 2019. He has easily grasped the challenges Becket faces and has involved the Finance Committee in the efforts that need to be done. He led many new endeavors getting Becket ready for the coming years.

The Town is well into the Broadband Project which will bring high speed internet to Becket. The \$3.81 Million debt that will be needed to complete this project may lead to the Town’s first Bond Offering. In order to prepare for the town’s first bond rating, preparatory work was started. Bill put together a Financial Policy Manual, incorporating the few policies already existing and adding additional policies which are deemed necessary for the best possible bond rating for the town. A better bond rating could lead to the lowest possible interest rate for the bond offering. A 1% difference in the bond interest rate would save the town almost \$500,000 in interest over the 20-year issue. In addition, Bill has investigated a methodology and mechanism to fund the OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits such as Medical Benefits) liability which the town should undertake. Lastly, the town had its first sale of town-owned foreclosed property in over 10 years generating \$118,000 in proceeds and returning these properties to the tax rolls. This is the start of a lengthy process of getting our delinquent tax properties current or in the hands of owners who will keep them current.

The new Wahconah Regional High School (WRHS) building project was approved by the district voters and construction will start in the coming months with completion scheduled during 2021. The debt service for this project along with the debt service for the Broadband Project mentioned above will increase our tax rate in coming years.

There was a continued excellent working relationship between the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen in developing the FY 2020 town budget with the guidance and support of our Town Administrator Bill Caldwell. Total appropriations at the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) were \$6.788 million, ultimately leading to a tax rate of \$11.07 per thousand valuation. This tax rate actually decreased from the

previous year, because property valuations were increased across town during the assessment process. The average single-family residential property in Becket is assessed at \$248,985 with a related tax bill of \$2,755, an increase of 5.9% over last year. The significant increase relates to an 8.1% increase in the school district assessment and an acceleration of the debt payments in order to clear all debt from the books in anticipation of the new WRHS and Broadband debt.

Education expenses, including school capital costs, remain the largest item in the operating budget at almost 40%.

Capital acquisitions in 2019 included a new police cruiser, firehouse floor drainage improvements, Town Hall improvements to the kitchen and parking lot, support for improvements to the Becket Arts Center, Becket Athenaeum and Mullen House properties, and a new mower for the North Becket Cemetery.

The Town’s Stabilization Fund remains close to \$1 million and the Financial Reserve Policy was enhanced recommending a yearly 67% appropriation of Free Cash and establishing a use tier for road paving to supplement State Chapter 90 road improvement funds.

Becket’s financial future seems stable and we hope our efforts to keep the tax rate under control remain successful. The tax rate is the ninth lowest of the 32 Berkshire communities and ranks 323 out of 351 for the lowest tax rate in Massachusetts, a tribute to our town officials and employees who work so hard for our town.

Respectfully submitted,

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

◆ *REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK - 2019* ◆

Board of Registrars: George Roberts (Town Clerk), Michelle Smith, and Robin Greenspan, and Coleen Cox.

Voter Registration Sessions	2
Candidate Voter Lists prepared	0
Sherwood Forest Road District Voter Lists prepared	1

Census Results

Residents over age 16	1,726
All Residents	1,981

Vital Records

Vitals recorded in Becket:

Births	12
Deaths	15
Marriages	2

	Fees
Marriage Intentions filed: 2	\$ 50.00
Certified copies prepared:	
1 birth certificate	\$ 5.00
28 death certificates	\$ 140.00
6 marriage certificates	\$ 30.00
Burial Permits issued: 15	\$ 0.00
Cemetery Deeds Recorded: 3	\$ 3.00
Genealogy requests: 0	\$ 0.00

Total Vitals Fees Collected	\$ 228.00
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Other Licenses, Permits, Recordings

<u>Issued</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Fees</u>
243	Dog Licenses (neutered & non-neutered)	\$ 1,359.00	\$ 193.50
2	Kennel licenses	\$ 41.00	\$.75
17	Dog License Late Fees	\$ 185.00	\$ 180.00
1	Raffle Permits (Renewal)	\$ 0	\$ 0
0	Physician Registration	\$ 0	\$ 0
2	Utility Pole Recording	\$ 0	\$ 0
11	Business Certificate applications:	\$ 225.00	\$ 225.00

Total Other Fees Collected	\$ 599.25
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Business Certificates recorded:

CRISPINA FRENCH	BERKSHIRE BERRIES
SCIENCE SIMON	GARDENS OF THE GODDESS
CR WILSON CONSTRUCTION	BLUE MOON CHIMNEY SERVICE
CARING CUSTOM CARPENTRY	HOPLANDS BUILDING CONTRACTORS
A DOGS PLACE	JOHN OSTHOFF GUITARS
BERKSHIRE FISHING CLUB	

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

Elections and Town Meetings

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ~ JANUARY 22, 2019

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the Special Town Meeting was called on January 22, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket, MA 01223. There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by the Moderator. There were 143 registered voters present (9.7% of 1,476 registered voters), and a total of 165 people attended the meeting. Town Officials Present: Ethan Klepetar, Moderator; William Elovirta, and Michael Lavery, Selectmen; Mark Karlberg, Ann Spadafora, and Dan Parnell, Finance Committee Members; George E. Roberts, Town Clerk; Bob Markel, Interim Town Administrator, and Beverly Gilbert, Town Secretary. Town Counsel, Jeff Blake, was also in attendance.

The Moderator opened the meeting stating the rules to be followed. He asked for a showing of hands of non-voters and welcomed them, indicating that they could address the meeting but could not vote. The Moderator noted measures he would take to speed up the meeting, including paraphrasing each article (as the articles are available in written form) and not having the Town Clerk read the call of the meeting and officer's return of service. The Moderator reviewed the warrant and noted it as having been duly posted. The following articles were voted on:

ARTICLE 1. CITIZEN PETITION

"We would like the people of Becket to vote for the funding of the UV Water Purification building, designed by Berkshire Engineering, with substitutions that fall within DEP Regulations. We want this to be decided at the next Special Town Meeting, tentatively scheduled for December 2018, by the registered voting people of the town of Becket."

Board of Selectmen: Not Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Not Recommended

Article 1 Was moved and seconded. There were comments from the floor both in support of and in opposition to the Article. A motion was made and seconded to call the question. A vote on the motion to call the question. A vote on the motion to call the question was taken by a show of hands. The Moderator declared that the motion to call the question passed by a 2/3 majority. A vote was taken on Article 1 by a count of hands. **Article 1 FAILED.**

ARTICLE 2. FUNDING FOR THE ROUTE 20 SPRING PROJECT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer up to \$100,000 from the Stabilization Fund to a special Board of Selectmen Capital Account to fund construction of a UV Water Purification system and building to comply with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection consent order regarding the Route 20 Spring; or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Not Recommended
2/3 Vote Required

Finance Committee: Not Recommended

Article 2 Was moved and seconded. Mr. Roberts made a motion to pass over Article 2 insofar as Article one failed to pass. The moderator explained that a motion to pass over if passed, would allow the meeting to move to Article 3 without voting on Article 2, and would result in the Town not transferring \$100,000 from the Stabilization Fund and would thus result in the "Route 20 Spring" being closed down. Andras Sala addressed the meeting suggesting that the Town should contest the DEP on the water quality standard and pointed out that the spring was important to the Town. Rita Furlong observed that it was likely that the Town would be sued if it trespassed on the private property that separated the spring from Route 20. Interim Town Administrator Robert Markel announced new testing results regarding the water coming out of the spring, noting that the DEP has reduced the threshold for Coliform Bacteria from 5 parts to Zero parts and that the spring water was most recently tested in the 10 to 11 range, double what the old DEP standard was. Mr. Lavery moved to call the question on the motion to pass over, and there was a second. A vote was taken by a show of hands on the motion to call the question on the motion to pass over. The motion to call the question passed. A vote was then taken on the motion to pass over. The moderator again explained that if the motion to pass over Article 2 would mean that Article 2 would not be voted on and that such a result would mean that the spring would be closed down. A vote was taken and the motion to pass over passed by majority vote.

Article 2 PASSED OVER by majority vote.

ARTICLE 3. FINANCIAL TRANSFERS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the following amounts

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

for the Fiscal Year 2019 operating budget:

From:	To:	Amount:
Free Cash	Police Dept. Expense (01-210-5500)	\$1,860
Free Cash	Computer Hardware (01-193-5800)	\$3,399

or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 3 Was moved and seconded. There were questions from the floor which were addressed by Selectman Lavery. A vote was taken on Article 3 by a count of hands.

Article 3 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 4. 72 DEPOT STREET EASEMENT

To see if the Town will vote to grant an easement at 72 Depot Street to allow grading, including construction of up to a 4' stone retaining wall that extends approximately 9 feet into the Town's right-of-way and which extends no closer than 9 feet to the northerly edge of the existing paved travel surface and which spans not more than 50 feet in length, as shown on Accord Engineering & Surveying, LLC's proposed sewage disposal plan, dated 10-31-2018, on file in the Town Clerk's office, prepared for Jane L. LaMontagne's property located at 72 Depot Street, Becket, Massachusetts; or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Article 4 Was moved and seconded. Ms. LaMontagne gave a brief explanation of the necessity of this Article for her to upgrade the septic system for her 150-year-old house. Selectman Elovirta confirmed that there was no other place to put the septic system. A vote was taken on Article 4 by a count of hands.

Article 4 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 5. AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING BY-LAW REPLACING SECTION 6.6, PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS, IN ITS ENTIRETY

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Becket Zoning By-Law by amending Section 6.6, Solar Photovoltaic Installations, by deleting the strikethrough text and adding the bold italicized text, bringing this By-Law into compliance with MGL Chapter 40A, Section 3 and the Green Communities Act.

6.6 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS

6.6.1 Purpose. The purpose of this bylaw is to provide a

permitting process for solar photovoltaic installations for cost-effective, efficient, and timely implementation to increase the use of distributed generation; to integrate these installations into the Town in a manner that minimizes their impacts on the character of neighborhoods, on property values, and on the scenic, natural and historic, and environmental resources of the Town; to protect health, welfare, and safety; and to provide adequate financial assurance when such installations are decommissioned or removed.

6.6.2 Applicability. This section applies to solar photovoltaic installations proposed to be constructed after the effective date of this bylaw amendment. This section also applies to modifications that alter the type, number, configuration or size of any existing solar photovoltaic installation.

6.6.3 Definitions.

Applicant: A person or entity that has ownership of a lot(s) that may apply to construct a solar photovoltaic installation. The applicant for a project may also be an individual who has a property interest in the proposed address. Interest may be demonstrated by one of the following:

- An option to purchase the proposed site;
- A lease;
- A legally enforceable agreement to give such title; or
- Binding permission to use the premises for a solar photovoltaic installation from the owner of said lot(s).

As-of-Right Siting: As-of-Right Siting shall mean that development may proceed without the need for a special permit, variance, amendment, waiver, or other discretionary approval. As-of-Right development may be subject to site plan review to determine conformance with local zoning ordinances or bylaws. Projects cannot be prohibited, but can be reasonably regulated by the Becket Building Inspector ~~and the Planning Board.~~

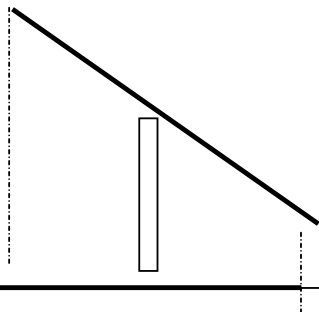
Building Permit: A construction permit issued by an authorized licensed building inspector; the building permit evidences that the project is consistent with the state and federal building codes as well as local zoning bylaws, including those governing solar photovoltaic installations.

Commercial Use: ~~The sale of electric power generated on-site by a small scale or roof mounted solar photovoltaic installation that exceeds on-site use.~~ *The generation of electricity on-site for business activities on-site.*

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

Impervious Area of a Solar Panel: The area of impervious surface of a solar panel shall be calculated as if the solar panel projects straight down to the ground on each side, as illustrated in the figure below.



Distance to be measured

Operator: A person or entity that is primarily responsible for the daily operation of a *solar* photovoltaic installation.

Rated Nameplate Capacity: The maximum rated output of electric power production of the solar photovoltaic system in Direct Current (DC). The manufacturer typically specifies this output with a “nameplate” on the equipment.

Roof or Building-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation: A roof-mounted or building-mounted solar photovoltaic installation of any size that is permanently mounted on a building or other inhabitable structure.

Special Permit Granting Authority (SPGA):

- A. *The Building Inspector shall be the issuing authority for small-scale solar photovoltaic installations 0-25 kW.*
- B. *The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) shall be the issuing authority for medium-scale solar photovoltaic installations greater than 25 kW or less than 250 kW (>25 kW or < 250 kW).*
- C. *The Planning Board shall be the ~~Special Permit Granting Authority (SPGA)~~ issuing authority for large-scale solar photovoltaic installations 250 kW or greater.*

Solar Photovoltaic Installation: A device, structure, or structural design feature, the substantial purpose of which is to provide for the generation, collection, storage and distribution of solar energy.

A. Small-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Installation: A ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation that ~~occupies one eighth (1/8th) of a building acre or less and~~ generates a *rated nameplate capacity of 25 kW or less* electricity ~~for the~~

~~purpose of on-site use.~~ The photovoltaic system is structurally mounted on the ground and is not building-mounted.

B. Medium-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Installation: *A ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation that generates a rated nameplate capacity of greater than 25 kW or less than 250 kW (>25 kW or <250 kW) electricity. The photovoltaic system is structurally mounted on the ground and is not building-mounted.*

C. Large-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Installation: A ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation that ~~occupies more than one eighth (1/8th) of a building acre up to a maximum of 50 acres and~~ generates a *rated nameplate capacity of 250 kW or more* electricity ~~for the purpose of off-site use.~~

Site Plan: Under § 9.3.2 Special Permits Criteria the Planning Board is directed to consider the criteria and guidelines specified in § 9.4.5. to evaluate the sites suitability.

Site Plan Review: *Under § 9.4 Criteria, the SPGA is directed to consider the criteria and guidelines specified in § 9.4.5 to evaluate the site’s suitability.*

Solar Photovoltaic Array: An arrangement of solar photovoltaic panels.

6.6.4 ROOF OR BUILDING-MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS.

A. By-Right Use: A roof or building-mounted solar photovoltaic installation is allowed by-right only after the issuance of a Building Permit by the Building Inspector.

B. ~~Special Permit Height Restriction:~~ Roof-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall not protrude above the highest point of the roofline *or as referenced in § 4.2.8* ~~except by Special Permit or upon a finding that a waiver is in the public interest and that the waiver is consistent with the intent of the Zoning Bylaws.~~

6.6.5 SMALL-SCALE SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS.

6.6.5.1 Use: A small-scale solar photovoltaic installation may be allowed as a ~~primary~~ *principle* use or an accessory use ~~after the issuance of a Special Permit by the Planning Board, in accordance with this section and Section 6.6.3 “Special Permit Granting Authority”.~~

6.6.5.2 Building Permit and Inspection: A small-scale solar photovoltaic installation may only be constructed or materially modified after the issuance of a Building Permit by

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

the Building Inspector.

6.6.5.3 Design Requirements.

A. Height. A small-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall not exceed twenty-five feet (20 25') in overall height.

B. Setbacks. A small-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall not be placed closer than forty feet (40') to the street line or twenty feet (20') from side or rear lot lines.

C. Screening. A small-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall be screened year round with dense native vegetation from all adjoining properties and public and private ways. ~~This requirement may be waived by the Planning Board.~~

D. Vegetation Clearing. The clearing of vegetation shall be limited to that which is necessary for the construction, operation, maintenance, modification and removal of a small-scale solar photovoltaic installation.

E. Habitat Fragmentation. A small-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall, to the greatest extent practicable, be clustered and located in or adjacent to areas of the site where the land has already been cleared of vegetation to avoid habitat fragmentation.

F. Invasive Species. The introduction of invasive species shall be prevented to the greatest extent practicable, during any construction or removal of a solar photovoltaic installation, through the use of current best practices.

G. Underground Utilities. All on-site utilities shall be located underground to the greatest extent practicable.

H. Size and Dimensions. A small-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation is limited to 25 kW one-eighth (1/8th) of a building acre. ~~This requirement may be waived by the Planning Board provided the electricity generated is solely for the purpose of on-site use.~~

6.6.5.4 Application Submission of a Small Scale Photovoltaic.

The application packet must contain all appropriate application fees, application forms, and appropriate number of all plans supporting documentation set forth in § 9.4.3 of the Zoning Bylaws of Becket. The application is to be submitted to the ~~Town Clerk~~ **Building Inspector**. ~~The Town Clerk shall stamp the application with the date and time the packet was received and shall notify the chair of the Planning Board of a submitted packet. Applications to construct or modify a small scale solar photovoltaic installation must be submitted to the Planning Board in the form of site plan(s). The application package must include seven (7) physical copies and one (1) electronic copy in PDF format provided on a flash drive, CD or similar electronic version, or transmitted via email. The site plan(s) must include the following information, unless waived by the~~ ~~Special Permit from the~~

~~Planning Board~~ **Building Inspector:**

A. The names, mailing addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and signatures of the owners.

B. Physical address (if one exists) and the map, lot and block number of the proposed site.

C. Property lines of the proposed site.

D. Outlines of all existing and proposed buildings and structures on the proposed site.

E. Distances from the proposed small-scale solar photovoltaic installation to the nearest point of the front, side and rear property lines.

F. Height of the proposed small-scale solar photovoltaic installation.

G. An official boundary survey by a Registered Land Surveyor (RLS) showing topographic detail, and if there are wetlands on the proposed site within one hundred feet (100') of the proposed small-scale solar photovoltaic installation, the wetlands need to be delineated.

H. All necessary permits from the Conservation Commission to ensure compliance with the local, state and federal requirements including the Wetlands Protection Act, G.L. c. 141§ 40 et seq., shall be obtained by the applicant ~~prior to Site Plan Review by the Planning Board.~~

I. Any vegetation to be removed or altered.

6.6.5.5 Lapse of Approval. ~~Any Special~~ **The Building** Permit shall automatically lapse if the small-scale solar photovoltaic installation is not installed and functioning within two (2) years ~~or the small scale solar photovoltaic installation is abandoned as defined in Section 6.6.5.6.~~

6.6.5.6 Abandonment and Removal

~~**A.** A small scale solar photovoltaic installation which is in disrepair and has not been in operation for a period of twelve (12) months shall be deemed abandoned.~~

~~**B.** After twelve (12) months of non-operation, the Building Inspector shall provide written notification to the owner/operator that such small scale solar photovoltaic installation is presumed to be abandoned. The owner/operator has thirty (30) days to rebut the presumption of abandonment by submitting evidence to the Building Inspector that the small scale solar photovoltaic installation has been in operation during the relevant twelve (12) month period.~~

~~**C.** If the owner/operator does not respond within the thirty (30) day appeal period or does not submit evidence that, in the discretion of the Building Inspector, proves that the small-scale solar photovoltaic installation has been in operation for the relevant twelve (12) month period, then the small scale~~

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

~~solar photovoltaic installation shall be deemed abandoned. The Building Inspector shall provide written notification of abandonment to the owner/operator.~~

~~D. The owner/operator of the small-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall remove the installation and restore the site within one hundred eighty (180) days of the date of the written notification of abandonment. If the owner/operator fails to remove the small-scale solar photovoltaic installation within one hundred eighty (180) days, the Town shall have the right, to the extent it is duly authorized by law, to enter onto the site and physically remove the small-scale solar photovoltaic installation and restore the site at the sole expense of the owner/operator.~~

~~**6.6.5.7 Proof of Liability:** Proof of liability insurance in an amount and form acceptable to the Planning Board shall be maintained throughout the life of a small-scale solar photovoltaic installation up until the time it is removed. Proof of liability insurance in the form and amount approved by the Planning Board shall be provided to the Building Inspector on an annual basis. All subsequent owners/operators shall continue to provide proof of liability insurance in the form and amount approved by the Planning Board to the Building Inspector on an annual basis.~~

6.6.6 Medium-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Installations.

6.6.6.1 Use: A medium-scale solar photovoltaic installation may be allowed as a principle use or an accessory use after a site plan review by Zoning Board of Appeals acting as the SPGA in accordance with this section and § 6.6.3.

6.6.6.2 Building Permit: A medium-scale solar photovoltaic installation may only be constructed after the issuance of a Building Permit by the Building Inspector after approval by the Zoning Board of Appeals acting as the SPGA.

6.6.6.3 Design Requirements.

A. Height. A medium-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall not exceed twenty-five feet (25') in overall height.

B. Setbacks. A medium-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall not be placed closer than one-hundred feet (100') to the street line or fifty feet (50') from side or rear lot lines.

C. Screening. A medium-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall be screened year round with dense native vegetation from all adjoining properties and public and private ways.

D. Vegetation Clearing. The clearing of vegetation shall be limited to that which is necessary for the construction, operation, maintenance, modification and removal of a

medium-scale solar photovoltaic installation.

E. Habitat Fragmentation. A medium-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall, to the greatest extent practicable, be clustered and located in or adjacent to areas of the site where the land has already been cleared of vegetation to avoid habitat fragmentation.

F. Invasive Species. The introduction of invasive species shall be prevented to the greatest extent practicable, during any construction or removal of a solar photovoltaic installation, through the use of current best practices.

G. Underground Utilities. All on-site utilities shall be located underground to the greatest extent practicable.

H. Size and Dimensions. A medium-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation is limited to greater than 25 kW or less than 250 kW (>25kW or <250 kW).

6.6.6.4 Application Submission of a Medium-Scale Photovoltaic. The application packet must contain all appropriate application fees, application forms, and appropriate number of all plans supporting documentation set forth in 9.4.3 of the Zoning Bylaws of Becket. The application is to be submitted to the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk shall stamp the application with the date and time the packet was received and shall notify the chair of the SPGA of a submitted packet. Applications to construct or modify a medium-scale solar photovoltaic installation must be submitted to the SPGA in the form of site plan(s). The application package must include seven (7) physical copies and one (1) electronic copy in PDF format provided on a flash drive, CD or similar electronic version, or transmitted via email. The site plan(s) must include the following information, unless waived by the SPGA:

A. The names, mailing addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and signatures of the owners.

B. Physical address and the map, lot and block number of the proposed site.

C. Property lines of the proposed site.

D. Outlines of all existing and proposed buildings and structures on the proposed site.

E. Distances from the proposed medium-scale solar photovoltaic installation to the nearest point of the front, side and rear property lines.

F. Height of the proposed medium-scale solar photovoltaic installation.

G. An official boundary survey by a Registered Land Surveyor (RLS) showing topographic detail, and if there are wetlands on the proposed site within one hundred feet (100') of the proposed medium-scale solar photovoltaic installation, the wetlands need to be delineated.

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

H. All necessary permits from the Conservation Commission to ensure compliance with the local, state and federal requirements including the Wetlands Protection Act, G.L. c. 141§ 40 et seq., shall be obtained by the applicant prior to Site Plan Review.

I. Any vegetation to be removed or altered.

6.6.6.5 Lapse of Approval. *Any Special Permit shall automatically lapse if the medium-scale solar photovoltaic installation is not installed and functioning within two (2) years.*

6.6.6.6 Abandonment and Removal

A. A medium-scale solar photovoltaic installation which is in disrepair and has not been in operation for a period of twelve (12) months shall be deemed abandoned.

B. After twelve (12) months of non-operation, the Building Inspector shall provide written notification to the owner/operator that such medium-scale solar photovoltaic installation is presumed to be abandoned. The owner/operator has thirty (30) days to rebut the presumption of abandonment by submitting evidence to the Building Inspector that the medium-scale solar photovoltaic installation has been in operation during the relevant twelve (12) month period.

C. If the owner/operator does not respond within the thirty (30) day appeal period or does not submit evidence that, in the discretion of the Building Inspector, proves that the medium-scale solar photovoltaic installation has been in operation for the relevant twelve (12) month period, then the medium-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall be deemed abandoned. The Building Inspector shall provide written notification of abandonment to the owner/operator.

D. The owner/operator of the medium-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall remove the installation and restore the site within one-hundred eighty (180) days of the date of the written notification of abandonment. If the owner/operator fails to remove the medium-scale solar photovoltaic installation within one-hundred eighty (180) days, the Town shall have the right, to the extent it is duly authorized by law, to enter onto the site and physically remove the medium-scale solar photovoltaic installation and restore the site at the sole expense of the owner/operator.

6.6.6.7 Proof of Liability: *Proof of liability insurance in an amount and form acceptable to the SPGA shall be maintained throughout the life of a medium-scale solar photovoltaic installation up until the time it is removed. Proof of liability insurance in the form and amount*

approved by the SPGA shall be provided to the Building Inspector on an annual basis. All subsequent owners/operators shall continue to provide proof of liability insurance in the form and amount approved by the SPGA to the Building Inspector on an annual basis.

6.6.7 LARGE-SCALE SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS.

6.6.7.1 Use:

A. A large-scale solar photovoltaic installation, *not on town owned land*, may be allowed as a ~~primary~~ **principle** use or an accessory use after the issuance of a Special Permit from the ~~Planning Board~~ **SPGA** in accordance with Section 3.0 Industrial Uses. ~~“Special Permit Granting Authority.”~~

B. *Any solar photovoltaic system of 250 kW or greater that is on town owned property is allowed by-right and will only require Site Plan Approval.*

6.6.7.2 Pre-Application Conference.

Prior to the submission of an application for a large-scale solar photovoltaic installation, applicants are required to meet with the ~~Planning Board~~ **SPGA** at a public meeting to discuss the proposed large-scale solar photovoltaic installation project and to clarify the filing requirements and permitting process. The applicant is encouraged to prepare sufficient preliminary architectural and/or engineering drawings to inform the SPGA and the public of the location of the proposed large-scale solar photovoltaic installation, as well as its overall scale and design.

6.6.7.3 Siting Criteria.

A. Impact Mitigation: Large-scale solar photovoltaic installations shall be located so as to minimize the potential impacts on the following:

- (1) Visual/aesthetic: shall, when possible, be sited off ridge lines to locations where their visual impact, including glare or reflection, is least detrimental to valuable historic and scenic areas, and established residential areas;
- (2) General health, safety, and welfare of residents;
- (3) Diminution of residential property values; and
- (4) Safety, as in cases of attractive nuisance.

B. Preferences:

- (1) The use of municipal land, which comply with other requirements of this section and where visual impact can be minimized and mitigated, shall be encouraged.

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

(2) The use of land distant from higher density residential properties and where visual impact can be minimized and mitigated shall be encouraged.

(3) Use of land, other than that which results in significant loss of land and natural resources, including farm and forestland.

C. Percentage Cover Limitations. ~~No~~ A large-scale solar photovoltaic installations *on a parcel* greater than 50 acres in size ~~shall~~ *may* be permitted *provided* that *it* would *not* cover more than 30% of the area of the tax parcel on which the proposed installation is to be built. The SPGA may ~~consider~~ a waiver ~~of~~ this requirement.

6.6.7.4 Design Requirements.

A. Height. A large-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall not exceed twenty-five feet (~~20~~ 25') in overall height.

B. Setbacks. A large-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall not be placed closer than one hundred feet (100') to the street line or fifty feet (50') from side or rear lot lines.

C. Lighting. Lighting of large-scale solar photovoltaic installations shall be consistent with local, state and federal law. There shall be no lighting of any parts of the installation other than as mandated under such laws. Appurtenant structures that may require illumination, shall be limited to that required for safety and intrusion purposes and shall be directed downward and shall incorporate full cutoff fixtures. Lighting shall be shielded from abutting property.

D. Landscaping/Buffer Requirements. Appropriate land capping and vegetative buffer shall be installed adequate to visually screen the solar energy system from the boundary of any abutting residential properties that would have a direct view of the proposed installation and *from* any public or private ways unless a natural undisturbed vegetative landscape exists. The landscaped buffer must be sufficiently dense to block the view of the project from all dwellings abutting the property. The applicant shall submit a Landscape Plan as part of the Special Permit and/or site plan approval application. Tall landscaping in the required buffer areas shall be properly maintained. Landscaping shall be designed in an environmentally sensitive manner with non-invasive drought tolerant native plants, so as to reduce irrigation needs. Landscape plants shall be monitored for at least two (2) growing seasons. The ~~Planning Board~~ *SPGA* may waive the landscaping and buffer requirement.

E. Vegetation. The clearing of vegetation shall be limited to that which is necessary for the construction, operation, maintenance, modification and removal of a large-scale solar photovoltaic installation. Herbicides may not be used to control vegetation at the solar electric installation. Mowing is

preferred but the use of pervious pavers or geotextile materials underneath the solar array are possible alternatives. Planting design shall include details of the types and size of plant materials.

F. Habitat Fragmentation. A large-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall, to the greatest extent practicable, be clustered and located in or adjacent to areas of the site where the land has already been cleared of vegetation to avoid habitat fragmentation.

F. Wildlife Corridors. Large-scale solar photovoltaic installations shall be designed and constructed to optimize the maintenance of wildlife corridors.

G. Invasive Species. The introduction of invasive species shall be prevented to the greatest extent practicable, during any construction or removal of a solar photovoltaic installation, through the use of current best practices.

H. Security Measures. A large-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall be secured with ~~an seven~~ *eight* foot (7 8') high fence with a six inch (6") gap at ground level constructed to prevent unauthorized persons from accessing the large-scale solar photovoltaic installation.

I. Signage. The owner/operator shall install signs at a large-scale solar photovoltaic installation as determined by the Planning Board for public safety and shall include 24-hour emergency contact number(s). No signage is otherwise permitted.

J. Emergency Access. A large-scale solar photovoltaic installation and access roads shall be constructed and maintained to allow for safe access by emergency vehicles.

K. Emergency Response Plan. The owner/operator of a large-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall develop an emergency response plan and provide copies to the Town's fire chief, police chief and emergency management director and provide them with a copy of the project summary, electrical schematic, and site plan. All means of shutting down the solar photovoltaic installation shall be clearly marked. The owner or operator shall identify a responsible person for public inquiries throughout the life of the installation.

L. Underground Utilities. All on-site utilities shall be located underground except where the utilities connect into the electric grid if required by the utility provider.

M. Appurtenant Structures. All appurtenant structures to such solar installations shall be subject to reasonable regulations concerning the bulk and height of structures ~~and~~ *as well as* determining lot area, setbacks, open space, parking and building coverage requirements. All such appurtenant structures, including but not limited to, equipment shelters, storage facilities, transformers, and substations shall be architecturally compatible with each other. Whenever

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

reasonable, structures should be shaded from view by vegetation and/or joined or clustered to avoid adverse visual impacts.

N. Roads and Land Clearing. Access roads shall be constructed to minimize grading, removal of stonewalls or street trees, and minimize impacts to environmental or historical resources.

O. Hazardous Materials. Hazardous materials stored, used, or generated on site shall not exceed the amount for a Very Small Quantity Generator of Hazardous Waste as defined by the DEP pursuant to Mass DEP Regulations 310 CMR 30.000 and shall meet all requirements of the DEP including storage of hazardous materials in a building with an impervious floor that is not adjacent to any floor drains to prevent discharge to the outside environment. If hazardous materials are utilized within the solar electric equipment, then impervious containment areas capable of controlling any release to the environment and to prevent potential contamination of groundwater are required.

P. Noise. The operation of a large-scale solar photovoltaic installation and appurtenant equipment shall not increase the background ambient noise level by greater than five (5) *dB* measured at the property lines.

6.6.7.5 Application Submission of a Large Scale Photovoltaic. The application packet must contain all appropriate application fees, application forms, and appropriate number of all plans supporting documentation set forth in 9.4.3 of the Zoning Bylaws of Becket. The application is to be submitted to the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk shall stamp the application with the date and time packet received and shall notify the chair of the ~~Planning Board~~ **SPGA** of a submitted packet. Applications to construct or modify a large-scale solar photovoltaic installation must be submitted to the ~~Planning Board~~ **SPGA** in the form of site plan(s). The application package must include seven (7) physical copies and one (1) electronic copy in PDF format provided on a flash drive, CD or similar electronic version, or transmitted via email. The site plan(s) must include the following information unless waived by ~~the a~~ Special Permit from the ~~Planning Board~~ **SPGA**.

6.6.7.6 Filing Requirements. The site plan(s) must include the following information:

A. Contact Information. The names, mailing addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and signatures for the applicant, owner and operator.

B. Site Identification. Identify the location of the proposed large-scale solar photovoltaic installation. Provide the street

address, if any, and the tax map and parcel number(s).

C. Location Map. A relevant portion of the most recent USGS Quadrangle Maps at a scale of 1" = 25,000' or similar scale showing the proposed large solar energy system site, associated roadways, transmission lines and the area within at least a two mile radius of the proposed site.

D. Vicinity Map. A map of the proposed large solar energy system site at a scale of 1" = 300' or similar scale, with existing contour intervals no greater than ten (10') feet showing the entire area within a ½ mile radius of the proposed large wind energy system, showing existing topography, public and private roads, recreation trails, property lines of all lots, structures including their use, historic sites, cultural sites, wetlands, known critical habitat areas, other environmentally sensitive areas, location of existing and proposed electric distribution lines, transformers, substations, and access easements.

E. Site Plan. A site plan with a scale of 1" = 40', unless otherwise noted with contour intervals no greater than two (2') feet showing the following:

- (1) Property lines of the proposed large-scale solar photovoltaic installation site and adjacent parcels within six hundred feet (600') of the proposed site.
- (2) Existing and proposed public and private roads, driveways, and recreational trails.
- (3) Representations, dimensioned and to scale, of the proposed large-scale solar photovoltaic installation including, but not limited to, associated equipment and structures, fencing, electric distribution infrastructure, parking and access roads.
- (4) All proposed changes to the existing site, associated roadways and transmission lines, including but not limited to areas of temporary clearing, areas of permanent clearing, areas of grading, and areas of cut and fill.
- (5) Delineation of all wetland resource areas and buffers on the proposed large-scale solar photovoltaic installation site in accordance with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) guidelines and regulations, associated roadways and transmission lines.
- (6) Location of known habitat areas for rare species, endangered species and species of special concern in accordance with the Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program (NHESP) guidelines and regulations.
- (7) A cross section of the proposed access road indicating its width, crown, depth of gravel, drainage, and paving or other surface material.

F. Elevations. Siting elevations or views at grade from north, south, west and east. Elevations shall be at one-quarter inch equals one foot or similar scale and show the following:

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

- (1) The proposed large-scale solar photovoltaic installation, associated equipment, existing and proposed structures, and security barriers with total elevation dimensioned.

- (2) Existing and proposed trees and shrubs at the time of application with approximate elevations dimensioned.

G. Layout. Detailed layout of the proposed large-scale solar photovoltaic installation, including, but not limited to, panel mounts, foundations, appurtenant equipment and fencing type and height. Detailed layout of the electric infrastructure to connect the large-scale solar photovoltaic installation to the electric grid or net metering equipment.

H. Engineering Controls. Engineering controls at the site and on the access road to control erosion and sedimentation both during construction and after construction as a permanent measure. Such engineering controls shall conform to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's Storm Water Policy.

I. Technical Information:

- (1) Blueprints or drawings of a large-scale solar photovoltaic installation signed by a registered Professional Engineer (PE) and Registered Land Surveyor (RLS) licensed to practice in Massachusetts showing the proposed layout of the installation and any potential shading from nearby trees or structures.

- (2) One or three-line electrical diagram detailing the solar photovoltaic installation appurtenant equipment and electrical interconnection methods with all National Electric Code compliant devices.

- (3) Documentation of the major large-scale solar photovoltaic installation components to be including but not limited to solar photovoltaic panels, panel mounts and inverter.

(4) *In addition to the normal filing fee, the SPGA may, at its discretion, charge the applicant with a fee to hire outside consultants to assist the Board in administering and reviewing applications.*

6.6.7.7 Building Permit and Inspection: A large-scale solar photovoltaic installation may only be constructed or materially modified after the issuance of a special permit issued by the Planning Board and a Building Permit by the Building Inspector. The construction, maintenance, operation, modification and removal of a large-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall comply with all applicable local, state, and federal requirements.

6.6.7.8 Ownership: The applicant shall demonstrate ownership over the proposed site sufficient to allow for the construction and operation of a large-scale solar photovoltaic installation.

6.6.7.9 Utility Provider Approval: The applicant shall demonstrate that it has received conditional approval to connect a large-scale solar photovoltaic installation to the electric grid from the utility provider. Off-grid installations are exempt from this requirement.

6.6.7.10 Operation and Maintenance Plan: The owner/operator of the large-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall maintain the site, at their own expense, according to an Operation and Maintenance Plan (OMP) to be submitted with the Special Permit application. The OMP shall be reviewed and approved by the local Fire Chief, Emergency Medical Service and Highway Superintendent, and/or their designee(s). The OMP shall also specify whether the owner or the operator is responsible for compliance with the plan. At the time of approval of the Site Plan Review, ~~the permit/approval-granting authority~~ **SPGA** shall specify one party, either the owner or operator, who shall have the responsibility for compliance with this section. While the ~~Planning Board~~ **SPGA** may impose site specific requirements to be addressed by the OMP, the OMP shall describe the method of maintenance and party responsible for each of the following:

A. Access roads

B. Site access

C. Storm water control measures

D. Security measures

E. Signage

F. Site lighting

G. Structural repairs, including the solar photovoltaic installation equipment

H. Vegetation and vegetation screening

I. Facility shall be maintained in good condition. Maintenance shall include, but not be limited to, painting, structural repairs, and integrity of security measures.

6.6.7.11 Findings Required. In addition to the findings required in **Section 6.6.3** before granting a Special Permit for a large-scale solar photovoltaic installation, the ~~Planning Board~~ **SPGA** shall find that the proposed large-scale solar photovoltaic installation:

A. Is not detrimental to the long term agricultural viability of the Town.

B. Minimizes the amount of clearing of forested land.

C. Is not sited on ridgelines.

D. Is not detrimental to important scenic views or vistas in the Town.

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

6.6.7.12 Technical Review. Upon receipt of an application for a large-scale solar photovoltaic installation, the ~~Planning Board~~ **SPGA**, may engage professional and technical consultants, at the applicant's expense, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44 § 53G, to assist the SPGA with its review of application materials. The ~~Planning Board~~ **SPGA** may direct the applicant to deposit funds with the ~~Planning Board~~ **SPGA** for such review at the time the application is accepted and to add additional funds as needed upon notice. Failure to comply with this section shall be good grounds for denying the Special Permit application. Upon the approval or denial of the application, any excess amounts in the account attributable to the application process, including any interest accrued shall be refunded to the applicant.

6.6.7.13 View Shed Analysis. ~~A view Shed Analysis regarding the proposed large scale solar photovoltaic installation and its relation to surrounding properties may be required upon request by the Special Permit Granting Authority. The plan for any solar photovoltaic system shall be designed to preserve the on-site and abutting natural and developed features. In natural (undeveloped) areas, existing vegetation shall be retained to the greatest extent possible, especially where such vegetation provides a benefit to the natural environment. In developed areas, the design of the installation shall consider and incorporate human-design landscape features to the greatest extent, including landscape amenities that complement the physical features of the site and abutting property. Whenever reasonable, structures should be screened from view by vegetation and/or joined or clustered to avoid adverse visual impacts and be architecturally compatible with each other. Vegetation shall be varieties native to New England and a mix of deciduous and evergreen species. Vegetative screening shall reach a mature form to effectively scree the installation within five years of installation. Planting of the vegetative screening shall be completed prior to final approval of the installation by the SPGA.~~

6.6.7.14 Request of Production Report. Upon issuance of a Special Permit, the ~~Planning Board~~ **SPGA** shall require a production report annually from the applicant that demonstrates the functionality of the large-scale solar photovoltaic installation.

6.6.7.15 Lapse of Approval. Any Special Permit shall automatically lapse if less than 10% of the large-scale solar photovoltaic installation is not installed and functioning within two (2) years or the large-scale solar photovoltaic installation is abandoned as defined in Section 6.6.6.17.

6.6.7.16 Damage to Public/Private Ways & Public/Private Lands.

The applicant shall be responsible for the cost of repairing any damage to public/private ways and public/private lands in the Town of Becket in connection with the transportation, construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the large-scale solar photovoltaic installation system. In furtherance of this section, the Becket Highway Superintendent, in conjunction with an independent licensed professional engineer, paid for by the applicant and selected by the town, shall document the condition of all public/private ways and public/private lands prior to installation and decommissioning.

6.6.7.17 Abandonment & Removal.

A. A large-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall be deemed abandoned when less than 10% of the large-scale solar photovoltaic installation has not been in operation for a period of twelve (12) months.

B. After twelve (12) months of non-operation, the Building Inspector shall provide written notification to the owner/operator that such large-scale solar photovoltaic installation is presumed to be abandoned. The owner/operator has thirty (30) days to rebut the presumption of abandonment by submitting evidence to the Building Inspector that the large-scale solar photovoltaic installation has been in operation during the relevant twelve (12) month period.

C. If the owner/operator does not respond within the thirty (30) day appeal period or does not submit evidence that, in the discretion of the Building Inspector, proves that the large-scale solar photovoltaic installation has been in operation for the relevant twelve (12) month period, then the large-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall be deemed abandoned. The Building Inspector shall provide written notification of abandonment to the owner/operator.

D. The owner/operator of the large-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall remove the large-scale solar photovoltaic installation and restore the site within one hundred eighty (180) days of the date of the written notification of abandonment. If the owner/operator fails to remove the large-scale solar photovoltaic installation within one-hundred eighty (180) days, the Town shall have the right, to the extent it is duly authorized by law, to enter onto the proposed site and physically remove the large-scale solar photovoltaic installation and restore the site at the sole expense of the owner/operator.

6.6.7.18 Proof of Liability:

Proof of liability insurance in an amount and form acceptable

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

to the ~~Planning Board~~ **SPGA** shall be maintained throughout the life of a large-scale solar photovoltaic installation up until the time it is removed. Proof of liability insurance in the form and amount approved by the ~~Planning Board~~ **SPGA** shall be provided to the Building Inspector on an annual basis. All subsequent owners/operators shall continue to provide proof of liability insurance in the form and amount approved by the ~~Planning Board~~ **SPGA** to the Building Inspector on an annual basis.

6.6.7.19 Financial Surety.

A. Prior to construction, applicants seeking to construct a large-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall provide a form of surety to cover the cost of removal and restoration of the site in the event the site is abandoned. The amount and form of surety shall be determined by the ~~Planning Board~~ **SPGA**, but in no instance shall the amount exceed one-hundred twenty-five (125%) percent of the estimated cost of removal. Applicants shall submit a fully inclusive cost estimate, which accounts for inflation, of the costs associated with the removal of the large-scale solar photovoltaic installation prepared by a registered professional engineer. The said cost estimate shall be reviewed by the applicant, or any successor, every five (5) years from the date of the final installation and adjusted as necessary. This updated cost estimate shall be transmitted to the ~~Planning Board~~ **SPGA**.

B. No less than ninety (90) days prior to the expiration of any financial surety required by this bylaw, the current operator of the large-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall provide the Building Inspector with renewed, extended or replacement financial surety in an amount and form determined by the ~~Planning Board~~ **SPGA** in accordance with this bylaw.

6.6.8 Severability: The provisions of this bylaw are severable, and the invalidity of any section, subdivision, subsection, paragraph or other part of this bylaw shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remainder of this bylaw; or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

2/3 Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 5 Was moved and seconded. Mr. Blake on behalf of the Planning Board gave a brief description of the article noting that the modifications presented would bring the Zoning By-Laws into agreement with the Green Community Act and made some other changes. Mr. Blake confirmed that there was a meeting by the Planning Board wherein the Planning Board unanimously agreed to recommend the

changes outlined in this article to the Town Meeting. Ms. Lennartz questioned the screening requirements set forth for small solar. Mr. Blake responded to Ms. Lennartz question. Mr. Ronzio, Chairman of the Planning Board also responded to Ms. Lennartz query noting that screening vegetation would be along the road line and generally not to exceed 6 feet in height, and the solar panels would be at least 40 feet from the road, thus it would be unlikely that the screen would interfere with the ability of the panels to gather sunlight. Mr. Blake and Mr. Ronzio responded to additional questions on this article. A motion was made and seconded to call the question. A vote on the motion to call the question was taken by a show of hands. The Moderator declared that the motion to call the question passed by a 2/3 majority. A vote was taken on Article 5 by a count of hands. The Moderator declared that the motion on Article 5 passed by a 2/3 majority.

Article 5 PASSED BY 2/3.

A motion to dissolve the meeting was moved and seconded from the floor. A vote was taken, and the motion to dissolve the meeting passed. The checkers were Election Workers Meredyth Babcock, Charles Francis, and Ann Krawet.

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

ANNUAL TOWN CAUCUS, APRIL 6, 2019

Pursuant to the foregoing notice, a Town Caucus was held in the Becket Town Hall on April 6, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. by Town Clerk George E. Roberts and the following Caucus Officers were elected: Patricia Clemons, Chair (Presiding Officer); Julia Kay Grace, Secretary. The polls opened promptly at 10:00 a.m. and 233 voters of the Town participated and cast ballots for the nomination of candidates. The results were as follows; the names of the candidates nominated appear in **bold**:

	<u>Votes</u>	<u>%</u>
For Member, Board of Selectmen (3-year term) Vote for One		
Laurel Burgwardt	37	15.88%
Christopher Swindlehurst	106	45.49%
Maria Wallington	79	33.91%
All Others (write-ins)	0	0.00%
Blanks	11	4.72%
Total Votes Cast	233	
 For Member, Board of Health (3-year term) Vote for One		
Gale LaBelle	192	82.40%
All Others (write-ins)	0	0.00%
Blanks	41	17.60%
Total Votes Cast	233	
 For Cemetery Commissioner (3-year term) Vote for One		
William F. Cavanaugh	195	83.69%
All Others (write-ins)	3	1.29%
Blanks	35	15.02%
Total Votes Cast	233	
 For Member, Finance Committee (3-year term) Vote for Two		
Ronald J. DeFoe	190	40.77%
All Others (write-ins)	8	1.72%
Blanks	268	57.51%
Total Votes Cast	466	
 For Member, Planning Board (5-year term) Vote for One		
All Others (write-ins)	17	7.30%
Blanks	216	92.70%
Total Votes Cast	233	
 Registered voters:	1501	
Ballots cast:	233	
Percent Voting	15.52%	

The polls closed promptly at 4:00 pm. The election workers were: Patricia Clemons, Julia Kay-Grace, Barbara Craft-Reiss, Steven Reiss, Ann Krawet, Priscilla McEwen, Charles Garman, and Adele Levine. The Constables were Nicole Miller and Michael Hunt. The Police Officer was Charlene Lamb.

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

SPECIAL TOWN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION APRIL 6th 2019

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the Special Town Regional School District Election was held in the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street, on April 6, 2019. The polling hours were 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 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 253 voters cast ballots for the question:

“Do you approve of the vote of the Regional District School Committee of the Central Berkshire Regional School District on February 14, 2019, to authorize the borrowing of \$71,871,107 to pay costs of designing, constructing, equipping and furnishing a new Wahconah Regional High School to be located at 150 Old Windsor Road, in Dalton, Massachusetts, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, which vote provides, in relevant part, as follows:

“VOTED: That the Central Berkshire Regional School District (the “District”) hereby appropriates the amount of \$71,871,107 for the purpose of paying costs of designing, constructing, equipping and furnishing a new District high school to be located at 150 Old Windsor Road, in Dalton, Massachusetts, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the “Project”), which school facility shall have an anticipated useful life as an educational facility for the instruction of school children of at least 50 years, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”), said amount to be expended at the direction of the School Building Committee. To meet this appropriation the District is authorized to borrow said amount, under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 71, §16(n) and the District Agreement, as amended, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The District acknowledges that the MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need as determined by the MSBA, and any Project costs the District

incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District; provided further that any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA shall not exceed the lesser of (1) fifty-four and seventy-nine hundredths percent (54.79%) of eligible, approved Project costs, as determined by the MSBA, and (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA, and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

The results of the election are as follows: A total of 253 ballots were cast.

There were **176 YES** votes and **77 NO** votes.

Ballot Question	Yes	176	69.56%
	No	77	30.03%

Total Votes Cast 253

Registered voters: 1501

Ballots cast: 253

Percent Voting 16.85%

The polls closed promptly at 4:00 pm. There were 22 absentee ballots, and 1 provisional ballot. There were 3 spoiled ballots. The unofficial results were printed and posted. The election workers were: Patricia Clemons, Julia Kay-Grace, Ann Krawet, Steven Reiss, Barbara Craft-Reiss, Charles Garman, Priscilla McEwen, and Adele Levine. The Constables were Nicole Miller and Michael Hunt. The police officer was Charlene Lamb.

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MAY 11th 2019

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the Annual Town Meeting was called on May 11, 2019, 7:00 p.m. at Becket Washington School, 12 Maple Street, Becket, MA 01223. There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by the Moderator. There were 78 registered voters present (5.18 % of 1,505 registered voters) and a total of 99 people attended the meeting. Town Officials Present: Ethan Klepetar, Moderator, Bill Elovirta, and Michael Lavery, Selectmen; Ann Spadafora, Dan Parnell, Charles Garman, and Ronald Defoe; Finance Committee Members; George E. Roberts, Town Clerk; William Caldwell, Town Administrator; Joel Bard, Esq., Town Counsel.

The Moderator opened the meeting stating the rules to be followed. He welcomed all non-voters and noted that while they could address the meeting, they could not vote. The Moderator reviewed the warrant and declared it to have been duly posted as evidenced by the attestation of the posting

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 Board of Selectmen at \$2,121.60 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 \$15.45 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 \$15.45 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 11, 2019 Annual Town Meeting.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 1 Was moved and seconded. Jeremy Dunn noted that there was no payment period for the Board of Selectmen. A motion was made and seconded to add the phrase “per year” after “Board of Selectmen at \$2,121.60.” There was no discussion. A vote on the proposed amendment was taken by a count of hands, and the motion to amend passed unanimously.

A vote was taken on Article 1, as amended, by a count of hands.

Article 1 as amended PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 2 FY 2020 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 2020 Fiscal Year; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town raise and appropriate \$6,716,894 for the General Fund budget for Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020).

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

	General Government	FY2018 Actual Expenditures	FY2019 ATM Approves	FY2020 TA Recommen- dations	Dollar Increase (Decrease)	Percent Increase/ Decrease
1	Advertising	2,725	4,000	4,000	-	0.0%
2	Selectmen’s Salaries	6,120	6,240	6,365	125	2.0%
3	Selectmen’s Expenses	10,219	1,900	1,900	-	0.0%
4	Town Mtg. Expenses	3,496	6,000	6,000	-	0.0%
5	Town Admin. Salary	67,262	72,000	76,500	4,500	6.3%
6	Town Admin. Expense	1,225	1,400	2,200	800	57.1%
7	Staff Coverage	1,079	2,000	3,000	1,000	50.0%
8	Clerk of Committees	32,317	33,443	34,466	1,023	2.7%

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

9	Finance Committees	135	600	600	-	0.0%
10	Town Acct. Salary	23,793	24,363	24,850	487	2.0%
11	Payroll Service	4,695	5,000	5,100	100	2.0%
12	Town Accountant Exp.	390	400	400	-	0.0%
13	Assessors Salaries	45,906	63,622	65,000	1,378	2.2%
14	Assessors Expense	59,589	62,427	68,522	6,095	9.8%
15	Town Treasurer Sal.	44,229	45,114	46,456	1,342	3.0%
16	Town Treasurer Exp.	1,948	5,000	5,000	-	0.0%
17	Tax Collector Salary	55,182	56,498	57,852	1,354	2.4%
18	Assist. Collector Sal.	45,926	47,031	48,146	1,115	2.4%
19	Tax Collector Exp.	6,371	8,180	8,180	-	0.0%
20	Tax Title Expense	25,182	10,000	25,000	15,000	150.0%
21	Town Admin. Assist.	44,346	45,223	46,503	1,280	2.8%
22	Town Counsel	13,861	18,000	20,000	2,000	11.1%
23	Audit Expenses	12,500	18,500	18,500	-	0.0%
24	Postage	10,553	12,000	12,000	-	0.0%
25	Town Report	2,754	3,500	3,500	-	0.0%
26	Town Clerk Salary	28,055	28,616	29,188	572	2.0%
27	Town Clerk Expense	3,991	2,145	2,145	-	0.0%
28	Election-Registration	2,833	17,727	16,678	(1,049)	-5.9%
29	Conservation Comm.	15,832	19,894	19,894	-	0.0%
30	Planning Board Exp.	1,976	2,225	2,225	-	0.0%
31	ZBA	411	1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
32	Berkshire RPC	1,349	1,383	1,383	-	0.0%
33	Muni. Buildings Sal.	47,029	48,161	49,301	1,140	2.4%
34	Municipal Utilities	49,455	61,000	58,000	(3,000)	-4.9%
35	Municipal Building Exp.	53,968	54,975	31,975	(23,000)	-41.8%
36	Wired West	1,000	1,000	3,500	2,500	250.0%
37	Muni Building Repairs	9,451	12,000	35,000	23,000	191.7%
38	Software Maintenance	24,086	25,134	25,134	-	0.0%
39	Reserve Fund	-	35,000	50,000	15,000	42.9%
40	General Gov't Total	761,238	863,201	900,963	52,652	6.1%
41						
42	Public Safety					
43	PD Salaries	294,079	326,206	338,328	12,122	3.7%
44	PD Expense	24,879	16,679	18,880	2,201	13.2%
45	Emergency Mgmt Exp.	318	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
46	Em. Mgmt. Training	-	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

47	Constable Expense	-	300	300	-	0.0%
48	FD Chief Salary	4,165	4,248	7300	3052	71.0%
49	Firefighter Stipends	9,100	14,000	14,000	-	0.0%
50	FD Expenses	36,423	31,200	32,000	800	2.6%
51	E911 Communication	11,955	32,114	12,683	(19,431)	-60.5%
52	Building Insp. Sal.	52,596	53,654	55,160	1,506	2.8%
53	Building & Code Insp.Sal	1,428	2,215	2,215	-	0.0%
54	Animal Control Sal.	8,041	8,202	5,500	(2,702)	-32.9%
55	Animal Control Exp	676	2,500	2,500	-	0.0%
56	Harbor Master	1,166	1,455	1,474	19	1.3%
57	Demolition Fund	3,276	15,000	22,000	7,000	46.7%
58	Public Safety Total	448,101	509,773	511,372	4,566	0.9%
59						
60	Education					
61	CBRSD Assessment	2,041,390	2,134,973	2,308,156	173,183	8.1%
62	Vocational Tuition	176,759	167,560	175,000	7,440	4.4%
63	Vocational Transp.	40,521	65,000	70,000	5,000	7.7%
64	Education Total	2,258,671	2,367,533	2,553,156	185,623	7.8%
65						
66	Forestry					
67	Tree Account	7,560	15,000	15,300	300	2.0%
68	Forestry	500	500	500	-	0.0%
69	Forestry Total	8,060	15,500	15,800	300	1.9%
70						
71	Highway					
72	Salaries and Wages	204,454	226,765	230,897	4,132	1.8%
73	Summer Labor	-	-	16,800	16,800	-
74	Sal. & Wage Subtotal	204,454	226,765	247,697	20,932	9.2%
75	General Maintenance					
76	Mowing		1,500	-	(1,500)	--
77	Line Painting		10,690	10,900	210	2.0%
78	Gravel/Stone		50,000	50,000	-	0.0%
79	Hot Mix Patch		15,950	16,250	300	1.9%
80	Rental Equipment		1,650	2,000	350	21.2%
81	Signs		3,300	3,300	-	0.0%
82	Culverts		3,100	3,100	-	0.0%
83	Beaver Maintenance		2,850	2,850	-	0.0%
84	Guardrail		1,700	1,750	50	2.9%
85	Crack Seal		15,700	16,000	3,000	1.9%
86	Catch Basin Cleaning		4,800	4,900	100	2.1%

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

87	Sweeping		7,660	7,800	140	1.8%
88	Hand Tools		730	730	-	0.0%
89	Misc.		1,600	1,600	-	0.0%
90	Road Improvement		41,000	51,000	10,000	24.4%
91	General Maintenance Subtotal	204,454	162,230	172,180	9,950	6.1%
92	Machinery					
93	Inspections		1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
94	Tires		9,100	9,250	150	1.6%
95	Oil/Lubricants		3,500	3,550	50	1.4%
96	Repairs/Equipment		19,450	19,750	300	1.5%
97	Parts/Supplies		28,100	28,600	500	1.8%
98	Welding Supplies		2,000	2,000	-	0.0%
99	Radios		1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
100	Scanner Updates		850	850	-	0.0%
101	Fleet Software Maintenance/Updates		2,200	2,200	-	0.0%
102	Tools/Safety		3,075	3,075	-	0.0%
103	Machinery Subtotal	65,750	70,275	71,275	1,000	1.4%
104	Fuel					
105	Fuel		87,750	87,750	-	0.0%
106	Operator Contract		1,850	1,850	-	0.0%
107	Maintenance/Repair		2,900	1,500	(1,400)	-48.4%
108	DEF Fluid		2,000	2,000	-	0.0%
109	Reg. Compliance		-	2,000	2,000	-
110	Fuel System		-	400	400	-
111	Fuel Subtotal	70,972	94,500	95,500	1,000	1.1%
112	Highway Garage					
113	Legal Ads		900	500	(400)	-44.4%
114	Drug Testing		400	425	25	6.3%
115	License Reimbursement		600	600	-	0.0%
116	Repairs/Supplies		3,100	2,800	(300)	-9.7%
117	Berkshire County Purchasing		600	600	-	0.0%
118	Office Supplies		640	650	10	1.6%
119	Education & Training		1,600	1,600	-	0.0%
120	Meeting/Dues Expenses		600	600	-	0.0%

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

121	Compliance/First Aid		-	2,000	2,000	-
122	Safety Gear		2,550	5,800	3,250	127.5%
123	Highway Garage Subtotal	8,397	10,990	15,575	4,585	41.7%
124	Winter Roads					
125	Wages - B/G		3,921	-	(3,921)	--
126	Wages - Highway		148,613	152,534	3,921	2.6%
127	Sand		8,400	8,550	150	1.8%
128	Stone Chips		13,650	13,900	250	1.8%
129	Salt		47,900	48,850	950	2.0%
130	Plow Blades		4,300	4,375	75	1.7%
131	Cold Patch		1,200	1,200	-	0.0%
132	Parts		3,200	3,200	-	0.0%
133	Sander Chains		4,300	4,375	75	1.7%
134	Winter Roads Total	111,171	235,484	236,984	1,500	0.6%
135						
136	Highway Department Total	665,198	800,244	839,211	38,967	4.9%
137						
138	Streetlights	7,146	8,000	8,000	-	0.0%
139	Street Lights Total	7,146	8,000	8,000	-	0.0%
140						
141	Transfer Station					
142	Transfer Station Labor	28,784	31,230	31,885	655	2.1%
143						
144	Rental Compactor		3,600	7,200	3,600	100.0%
145	Rental Open Container (2)		2,700	2,700	-	0.0%
146	Trucking Compactor		8,750	8,750	-	0.0%
147	Trucking Open Container		7,500	7,500	-	0.0%
148	Trucking Cans & Bottles		5,775	5,775	-	0.0%
149	Trucking Scrap Metal		3,500	3,500	-	0.0%
150	Trucking Paper Cardboard		4,125	4,125	-	0.0%

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

151	Trucking Rigid Plastics		3,300	3,300	-	0.0%
152	Trucking Fuel Surcharge		1,400	1,400	-	0.0%
153	Disposal Solid Waste		26,400	27,600	1,200	4.5%
154	Disposal Bulky Waste		16,720	17,480	760	4.5%
155	Disposal Haz Mat		9,250	9,500	250	2.7%
156	Chemicals		300	300	-	0.0%
157	Permits		1,850	1,850	-	0.0%
158	MRF education		100	100	-	0.0%
159	Maintenance		1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
160	Inspections/Testing	-	2,500	2,500	-	0.0%
161	Total Expenses	91,778	99,270	105,080	5,810	5.9%
162	Transfer Station Total	120,562	130,500	136,965	6,465	5.0%
163						
164						
165	Solid Waste	8,167	8,328	3,200	(5,128)	-60.8%
166						
167						
168	Cemeteries					
169	Becket Ctr Cemetery	4,707	4,802	4,898	96	2.0%
170	North Cemetery	15,597	15,909	16,227	318	2.0%
171	West Cemetery	720	735	750	15	2.0%
172	Cemeteries Total	21,024	21,446	21,875	429	2.0%
173						
174	Health & Comm.Serv.					
175	BOH Salaries	1,351	9,364	9,500	136	1.5%
176	BOH Exp.	27,093	25,820	30,000	4,180	16.2%
177	Inspector of Animals	331	338	345	7	2.0%
178	Nursing Services	4,961	5,061	5,061	-	0.0%
179	Council on Aging	5,000	5,000	5,000	-	0.0%
180	Outreach	500	500	500	-	0.0%
181	Veterans Agent Sal.	2,098	2,140	2,140	-	0.0%
182	Veterans Benefits	47,248	37,200	37,200	-	0.0%
183	Veterans Agent Exp	-	100	100	-	0.0%
184	Health & Community Services Total	88,582	85,523	89,849	4,326	5.1%
185						
186	Library					
187	Library	47,868	49,065	50,292	1,227	2.5%

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

188	Children Holiday Party	500	500	500	-	0.0%
189	Library Total	48,368	49,565	50,792	1,227	2.5%
190						
191	Parks and Rec.					
192	Weed Ctrl Ctr Pond	1,500	2,500	2,500	-	0.0%
193	Parks and Rec.	27,139	30,610	30,610	-	0.0%
194	Parks & Recreation Total	28,639	33,110	33,110	-	0.0%
195						
196	Historical Comm.					
197	Historical Commission	921	2,017	2,017	-	0.0%
198	Historical Commission Total	921	2,017	2,017	-	0.0%
199						
200	Memorial Day					
201	Memorial/Veterans	1,301	1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
202	Memorial/Veterans Day Total	1,301	1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
203						
204	Benefits					
205	Health/Life Insurance	336,531	425,360	412,600	(12,760)	-3.0%
206	County Retirement	201,455	217,821	219,163	1,342	0.6%
207	Payroll Tax Acct.	22,581	26,604	27,136	532	2.0%
208	Unemployment Exp	-	5,000	5,000	-	0.0%
209	General Liability Ins.	107,593	118,814	118,814	-	0.0%
210	Benefits Total	668,160	793,599	782,713	(10,886)	-1.4%
211						
212						
213	Total Operating Budget	5,134,140	5,689,839	5,950,523	278,542	4.6%
214	Debt Service	\$347,123	\$294,487	\$458,513	\$164,026	35.8%
215	Ambulance	\$270,574	300,574	290,000	(10,000)	-3.4%
216	Overall Budget	\$5,751,837	\$6,440,649	\$6,716,894	\$278,542	4.9%

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

The Moderator stated that he would not read each line item but rather, if there were to be any questions or discussion of any line item, a “Hold” should be placed on that line item. There will be a vote on all the line items that weren’t placed on “Hold.” After the initial vote there would be an opportunity for discussion on each line item placed on “Hold,” and the Meeting would vote upon each. The Moderator stated that in the non-held line items, the figure voted upon would be the Finance Committee/ Selectmen recommended amount. The following line items had “Holds” placed upon them:

Line 36 (WiredWest)

Line 51 (E911 Communication)

Article 2 Was moved and seconded from the floor.

A vote on the motion exclusive of line items 36 (WiredWest) and line item 51 (E911 Communication) was taken by a show of hands and the motion on **Article 2 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Line Item 36. Wired West:

Line Item 36 was moved and seconded. Robert Gross of the Broadband Ad Hoc Group gave a brief presentation and update regarding the Broadband Initiative. There was no further discussion. A vote was taken and **Line Item 36 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Line Item 51. E911 COMMUNICATION:

Line Item 51 was moved and seconded. Selectmen William Elovirta explained that this line item was for leasing space on cell towers to facilitate radio communication in Becket for emergency services. A vote was taken and **Line Item 51 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ARTICLE 3 DEBT SERVICE

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$458,513 to fund debt service due in Fiscal Year 2020 for the following previously approved borrowings:

Becket Washington School	\$109,613	FY2025
Wahconah RHS Doors	\$5,548	FY2029
Wahconah Sidewalks	\$595	FY2022
Kittredge School MSBA Windows	\$306	FY2022
Craneville Roof	\$0	FY2023
Craneville Air Handler	\$0	FY2022
Wahconah RHS Feasibility Study	\$754	FY2022
District Security	\$990	FY2025
Dump Truck (Highway Department)	\$50,400.00	FY2021
Loader (Highway Department)	\$57,400.00	FY2020
Town Hall Roof	\$24,707.07	FY2020
Ambulance	\$88,349.50	FY2021
Rescue Pumper (Fire Department)	\$118,350.00	FY2021
Interest on Short Term Debt	\$1,500.00	-

MOTION: Move that the Town raise and appropriate \$458,513 to pay principal and interest on school and Town debt for Fiscal 2020.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee Recommended

Article 3 Was moved and seconded. Jan Elovirta questioned whether the debt service payments on the Wahconah Regional High School Windows and Sidewalks could be rolled into the upcoming debt for the new high school, and whether the School District could offset some of the debt for the towns from their reserves. Daniel Parnell stated that the existing debt had to be serviced. Mellissa Falkowski, Assistant Superintendent of the Central Berkshire Regional School District, stated that the School District had already used reserves to offset \$1.2 million of \$1.3 million debt for the towns. There was also brief discussion regarding the debt for the ambulance and loader. A vote was taken by a count of hands. **Article 3 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ARTICLE 4 TRANSFER TO THE STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or transfer the sum of \$205,271.34 to be deposited into the Stabilization Fund for Fiscal Year 2020; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer \$205,271.34 from certified Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 4 Was moved and seconded. James Levy asked how much is in the stabilization fund. Daniel Parnell stated that there was a little over \$900,000.00 in the fund. There was no discussion. A vote was taken by a count of hands. **Article 4 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ARTICLE 5 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

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

90 funds for Fiscal 2020 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 5 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion.

A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 5 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 6 AMBULANCE BUDGET

To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$410,000 for the salaries and expenses of the Ambulance Enterprise; and to fund said appropriation, to raise and appropriate \$290,000 and to transfer \$120,000 from Fiscal Year 2019 Ambulance Receipts; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town raise and appropriate \$290,000 and to transfer \$120,000 from Ambulance Receipts to fund operations of the Ambulance Enterprise in Fiscal 2019.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 6 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion.

A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 6 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 7 AMBULANCE CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$23,109.23 from Ambulance Retained Earnings for capital expenditures with the remaining retained earnings moving to the ambulance stabilization account, or act in relation thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town appropriate the sum of \$23,109.23 from Ambulance Retained Earnings for capital expenditures with the remaining retained earnings of \$21,095.77 moving to the ambulance stabilization account, or act in relation thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 7 Was moved and seconded. There was brief discussion regarding the Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 7 PASSED.

ARTICLE 8 CAPITAL REPAIRS TO THE BECKET ARTS CENTER

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$7,120 for capital repairs and improvements at the Becket Arts Center, including all incidental and related costs; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer \$7,120 from Free Cash to the Becket Arts Center to fund capital repairs and improvements during Fiscal Year 2020.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 8 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 8 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 9 PURCHASE OF A NEW POLICE CRUISER

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$55,493.37 for the purchase and equipping of a new police cruiser and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to trade or sell the old police cruiser; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer \$55,493.37 from Free Cash to the Police Department to fund the purchase and equipping of a new police cruiser and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to trade or sell the old police cruiser.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 9 Was moved and seconded. Laurel Burgwardt questioned the need for another cruiser when there are currently 3 cruisers and only one or two officers on duty at any time. The Police Chief explained the need for three cruisers and explained how the one K9 cruiser fit into the duty rotation. Daniel Parnell explained that having three vehicles made the most sense. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 9 PASSED.

ARTICLE 10 FIRE DEPARTMENT FEES

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$4,553.00 to pay an outstanding fund balance.

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer \$4,553.00 from Free Cash to the General fund to pay the outstanding fund balance of Fire Department Fees.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

4/5 Vote Required Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 10 Was moved and seconded. There was a brief discussion with an explanation regarding the need for a 4/5 supermajority. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 10 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 11 AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT DRAINAGE

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$60,000.00 for the Town to install necessary drainage at the Ambulance department; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer \$60,000 from Free Cash to complete the drainage project at Fire Station

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

#2/Ambulance Bay.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 11 Was moved and seconded. Christopher Swindlehurst stated that he felt that the cost was excessive. The Town Administrator gave an explanation that any excess would be returned to the General Fund. Laurel Burgwardt questioned why the original engineering plan didn't provide for drainage. There was further discussion. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 11 PASSED.

ARTICLE 12 TOWN HALL PARKING LOT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$15,000.00 for the Town to patch and expand the Town Hall parking lot; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer \$15,000.00 from Free Cash for the Town to complete Town Hall parking lot repairs.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 12 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 12 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 13 TOWN HALL KITCHEN REPAIR

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$10,000.00 for the Town to make necessary repairs and improvements to the Town Hall kitchen; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer \$10,000.00 from Free Cash to Buildings and Grounds to make Town Hall Kitchen renovations.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 13 Was moved and seconded. Laurel Burgwardt questioned where the figure to improve the Town Hall kitchen came from. Michael Lavery explained that the Board of Health told the Town that the kitchen had problems and that they needed to be fixed. David Shorey stated that the cost was derived from getting quotes from LP Adams for mid-grade cabinets. He noted that the base cabinets were rotting and moldy and couldn't be fixed. A vote was taken by a count of hands. **Article 13 PASSED.**

ARTICLE 14 PARKS AND RECREATION MAPLE STREET PARKING

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$4,381.82 for the Parks and Recreation to repair the Maple Street parking area; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer \$4,381.82 from Free Cash to Parks and Recreation to repair the Maple Street parking area.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 14 Was moved and seconded.

Cynthia DelPapa noted that the parking area was in a watershed area. William Elovirta explained that Parks and Recreation has already been in contact with the Conservation Agent who told Parks and Recreation what needed to be done with respect to moving forward with this project. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 14 PASSED.

ARTICLE 15 LOCAL OPTION MEAL EXCISE TAX

To see if the Town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 64L, Section 2 (a) to impose a .75% meals tax on the sales of restaurant meals; or take any other action thereon.

MOTION: Move that the Town will accept Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 64L, Section 2(a) to impose a .75% meals tax on the sales of restaurant meals.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 15 Was moved and seconded. Daniel Osman, Heather Anello, Town Clerk George Roberts, William Cavanaugh, Rick Bowers, Michael Lavery, Gary Danko, Randy Johnson, Ann Spadafora and others spoke against this proposed tax. Daniel Parnell, and others spoke in favor of this proposed tax. William Elovirta stated that a resident asked why Becket wasn't taking advantage of this, and given the forecast of increased expenses the Selectmen and the Finance Committee decided to go forward with this Article. Jeremy Dunn stated that the Town Meeting couldn't bind a future Town Meeting by earmarking funds, and noted that 75 cents on a \$100 dollar meal bill is not significant. A motion was made to call the question. The motion to call the question was seconded, there was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion to call the question passed unanimously. A vote was taken on Article 15 by a count of hands. **Article 15 FAILED.**

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

ARTICLE 16 PAYMENT AGREEMENTS FOR PROPERTIES IN TAX TITLE

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General Bylaws by adding a new Section 9 to Article 9, titled "Tax Title Payment Plans", to read as follows, and further to amend the Table of Contents to reflect said amendment, or take any other action thereon:

SECTION 7. Tax Title Payment Plans

- A. Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 60, sec. 62A, the Treasurer shall have the authority to enter into a written payment agreement with any person(s) entitled to redeem ownership of parcels in tax title which have been taken by the Town for nonpayment of real estate taxes (the "Redeemer"). The payment agreement shall be executed on such terms and conditions for payment of the delinquent taxes, interest and any other costs, fees or charges associated with same, in accordance with G.L. c. 60, §62A and this bylaw. The Treasurer shall not refuse to enter into agreements with eligible taxpayers.
- B. This bylaw shall apply to all taxpayers with parcels in all categories of real property subject to all other terms and conditions in this bylaw.
- C. The following conditions must be met prior to the Town entering into all payment agreements:
 1. The Town has not filed a petition in Land Court to foreclose the rights of redemption; and
 2. All real estate taxes due for the current fiscal year assessed against the parcel, as well as any other fees and charges owed to the Town, are paid to date.
- D. All payment agreements shall comply with the following minimum requirements:
 1. The payment agreement must state the amount of the payment due from the Redeemer at the time of execution of the agreement, which must be a minimum of twenty-five (25%) or the total amount required to redeem the parcel at the inception of the agreement, including all principal, interest, fees, costs, and other charges, in the form of certified funds or cash.
 2. The agreement shall have a maximum term of sixty (60) months (i.e., five (5) years). At the request of the Redeemer, the Treasurer is authorized to agree to a shorter term.
 3. The agreement must state that all payments shall be made quarterly based on the Town's fiscal year and in the amounts and at the time provided in a payment schedule prepared by the Treasurer which shall be a part of said payment agreement.
- E. During the term of the agreement the Treasurer may not bring an action to foreclose the tax title unless payments are not made in accordance with the

schedule set out in the agreement or timely payments are not made on other amounts due to the Town that are a lien on the same parcel. The Treasurer is under no obligation to accept late payments. In the event that the Redeemer breaches a payment Agreement and the Treasurer has not foreclosed on the tax title, a subsequent payment Agreement shall not be made available for the same parcel(s).

- F. The agreement may include a waiver of not more than fifty (50%) percent of the accrued interest on the amount of the tax title account. Interest shall continue to accrue, pursuant to the rate established by state law for tax title accounts, during the term of the payment Agreement.
- G. The agreement shall not be assignable by the Redeemer. In the event of any sale or other transfer of any kind of the parcel(s) subject to an Agreement or any interest therein, in whole or part, all amounts owed to the Town, including the full amount of interest, fees and costs, shall become immediately due and payable.
- H. The Treasurer may agree to accelerated payments. In the event of any discrepancy between the Agreement and the bylaw, the bylaw shall control.

Motion: Move that the Town amend the Town of Becket General Bylaws, adding Article 9, Section 9, titled "Tax Title Payment Plans," and the Table of Contents as presented in Article 17 of the warrant for the May 11, 2019 Annual Town Meeting.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 16 Was moved and seconded. There was a brief discussion of this Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 16 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 17 SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the amount to be received by the Town upon the sale of the Town's Rescue #4 firetruck to be reimbursed to the Becket Volunteer Firefighters' Association which had paid to purchase the truck, or to take any other action related thereto.

MOTION: Move that Town will appropriate the amount to be received by the Town upon the sale of the Town's Rescue #4 firetruck to be reimbursed to the Becket Volunteer Firefighters' Association which had paid to purchase the truck, or to take any other action related thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

Article 17 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion of this Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands. **Article 17 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ARTICLE 18 TOWN CLERK

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen 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 Board of Selectmen, or to take any other action related thereto.

MOTION: Move that Town authorize the Board of Selectmen 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 Board of Selectmen.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 18 Was moved and seconded. The Moderator explained to the Meeting that there was an error on the Warrant as the Finance Committee had not recommended Article 18. Ms. O'Malley-Levy asked why the Town wanted to change the Town Clerk from an elected office to an appointed position. Selectman William Elovirta explained that in the past the Tax Collector and Treasurer's position was changed from elected to appointed mainly so that you had certified people if there was an opening. Mr. Elovirta stated that this got him thinking about the Town Clerk position, and while he claimed not to have anything against the present Town Clerk, he claimed that the Town Clerk has made it known that he is looking for another job, and if he takes another job and quits, the Selectmen would have to find another Town Clerk. He stated that in filling the position we would need someone that is professional and knows what they are doing. Mr. Elovirta stated that he would always want to hire someone from within the Town if they are qualified, but if there are not qualified candidates from within the Town, candidates from outside the town would be recruited. Mr. Elovirta stated that if this Article passes, the Town Clerk could complete his elected term and then apply to be an appointed Town Clerk. He stated that this is not a case of trying to push the current Town Clerk out, but to protect the Town by having the option of hiring someone from out of Town that is better qualified. Mr. Elovirta stated that this is not a position that would be appointed by the Board of Selectmen, but rather if there was an opening, it would be advertised and the Town Administrator would make the appointment, subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen. Town Clerk George Roberts stated that he was

against this Article. He pointed out that there had been 7 Town Administrators in the last 9 years. He also pointed out that the argument that we like to hire from within the Town is belied by the composition of the bulk of the full time benefited town employees. Mr. Roberts noted that the Town Administrator, Town Secretary, Building Inspector, Conservation Commission Consultant, Assessor's Consultant, Board of Health Consultant, Building and Grounds Technician, Police Chief, Highway Superintendent, and Ambulance Director positions were all held by non-residents, as were many of the police, highway and ambulance rank and file positions. Mr. Roberts acknowledged that there are pressures to fill positions with people that have the best possible skill sets for the job and that this is understandable. Mr. Roberts noted that the Town of Becket is now being largely serviced by paid employees who are not from the town and are really dependent on the continued good will of the Board of Selectmen and whatever Town Administrator happens to be in Office at any given time for their positions. Mr. Roberts noted that if the Town Clerk needed to be replaced the person would not need to be a lawyer, and that Town Clerk's Association provides training. Mr. Roberts also noted that a person appointed by the Board of Selectmen might not be the best person for the job, referencing how the then Town Administrator and the Board of Selectmen mishandled a contract dispute arising from the clean-up efforts after the bad ice storm of December 2008 which resulted in \$500,000.00 legal settlement on the part of the Town of Becket and significant legal expenses. Mr. Roberts noted that it is the Board of Selectmen's job to supervise the Town Administrator. Mr. Roberts also observed it was not unreasonable for the Town Clerk to be accountable to each and every voter in the Town for his or her performance the same way that the Board of Selectmen is directly responsible to the voters of the Town. Mr. Roberts noted that in his opinion it is a slippery slope when people start giving up their rights as a citizen to vote, and encouraged the meeting not to do so. Katherine Hoak asked why, during these times when our democracy is under serious threats, would we agree to surrender our right to elect this important position to have it become a position appointed by the Board of Selectmen. She noted that the townspeople have the right and responsibility to vote for the Town Clerk, as well as for each of the Selectmen. Ms. Hoak stated that she didn't see how switching from an elected to appointed Town Clerk would serve the best interests of the Town. Ms. Hoak noted that as an elected official the Town Clerk could perform his duties without interference from, or fear of being dismissed by, the Board of Selectmen. She noted that the Town Clerk kept an eye on the various Town Boards to ensure that they complied with the

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

Open Meeting Law. She argued that the Town Clerk remain an elected position. William F. Cavanaugh stated he had been a Selectman for 14 years and always got good candidates from within the Town of Becket for the position of Town Clerk, and didn't think that we should give up our right to vote for the Town Clerk position. Daniel Osman stated that this is not the time to have less voices in government or more appointed officials and asked that the Article be voted down. Jeremy Dunn observed that the recommendation to change some offices from elected to appointed was made during an audit that was conducted by the State at the Town's request in 2004 or 2005. The recommendation came from the Division of Local Services because it was easier to find qualified candidates from out of town. He noted that elected officials must live in town, and an appointed official can live anywhere. Mr. Dunn stated that in our small town there are sometimes few or no qualified candidates. He observed that the duties performed by the Town Clerk would not change if the position was made appointed. Mr. Dunn observed that when the Town converted the position of Treasurer and Tax Collector from elected to appointed it made no difference, and there was no change in personnel. Mr. Roberts noted that in 2010 this issue came before the Town Meeting under Article 25. Mr. Roberts noted that it was voted down. Mr. Roberts noted that the Tax Collector, Tax Assessor and Treasurer's customers were the Town, and don't have responsibilities similar to the Town Clerk. Mr. Roberts noted that on occasions there is a conflict between the Selectmen and the Town Clerk with respect to the duties of the Town Clerk. Mr. Roberts, as an example, alluded to the situation that arose when it came to his attention as Town Clerk that the Town was not complying with the enabling legislation for the Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District (SFRMD). He observed since the SFRMD came into existence the Town had not been collecting SFRMD taxes from the residents of SFRMD that lived along Wells Road in the belief that because they lived along a road maintained by the Town, they weren't part of the SFRMD. Mr. Roberts further explained that while he, as Town Clerk, doesn't deal with taxes, he does have responsibilities with respect to voting in the Town of Becket, and issuing voter lists for the SFRMD that included the registered voters in Sherwood Forest that lived along Wells Road. He noted that because the Town of Becket was not collecting taxes from Sherwood Forest residents living along Wells Road, the Board of Selectmen had taken the position that those people were not members of the SFRMD, and that as a result, they couldn't vote in the SFRMD annual meeting to elect officers of the District and set District policy. Mr. Roberts related that when the Town Clerk disagreed with the past practice of the Town with respect to issuing SFRMD

voter lists, the Board of Selectmen adopted a written policy forbidding the Town Clerk from including residents who lived along Wells Road from being included in the SFRMD voter list. Mr. Roberts explained that upon receiving the Selectmen's written policy, he corresponded with Town Counsel. Town Counsel issued a written legal opinion stating in relevant part, that the Sherwood Forest residents who lived along Wells Road were, in fact, members of the SFRMD and should be included in the SFRMD voter list, and further opined that the Town Clerk need not follow the Board of Selectmen's written policy with regard to omitting Wells Road residents from the SFRMD voter's list. Mr. Roberts noted that the Selectmen's actions disenfranchised approximately 17 percent of the SFRMD eligible voters for over twenty years and also deprived the SFRMD of those voter's road maintenance taxes for the same period of time. Mr. Roberts concluded with the observation that if he had been an appointed employee the Selectmen may have fired him for insubordination when he didn't follow their written policy regarding the Wells Road voters. Mr. Roberts stated that he feels that it is important for the Town Clerk to have the autonomy to take at least limited corrective actions when the Town Clerk discovers something wrong; to say "no, this isn't right," to seek legal counsel, or some other appropriate response without fear of retaliation from the Board of Selectmen. Steven Rosenthal spoke against this Article. James Levy spoke against this Article, noting that we are here at this meeting operating under the assumption that we may rule ourselves. Mr. Levy noted that for a couple centuries residents have been voting for officers to govern this community and be responsible to this community. He feels that participation and residents passing through these position learning about our community, and serving our community has extraordinary value above and beyond voting. He encouraged the meeting to vote this Article down. David Lebrecque asked about the language "seek" of this Article. Town Counsel, Joel Bard explained that the Selectmen don't have the authority to enact legislation, but can file an application to the Legislature for them to enact legislation to change the Town's By-Laws. He acknowledged that it was routine for the Legislature to approve such applications. A vote was taken by a count of hands. **Article 18 FAILED.**

ARTICLE 19 EXTENDED CONTRACT - RECYCLING

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select board to enter into a ten (10) year contract, commencing on July 1, 2020 with the qualified vendor selected by MassDEP through a competitive bid process for recycling processing services for the Town, subject to the Select board's determination that the contract is in the best interests of the Town and subject to

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

Town Meeting approval in the Spring of 2020 for funding for these services and/or take any vote or votes in relation thereto. **MOTION:** Move that Town authorize the Select board to enter into a ten (10) year contract, commencing on July 1, 2020 with the qualified vendor selected by MassDEP through a competitive bid process for recycling processing services for the Town, subject to the Select board's determination that the contract is in the best interests of the Town and subject to Town Meeting approval in the Spring of 2020 for funding for these services and/or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 19 Was moved and seconded. Several people expressed concern that a services contract for a 10 year term was too long. Highway Superintendent Christopher Bouchard explained the rationale for entering into a contract of this type and duration. A vote was taken by a count of hands. **Article 19 PASSED.**

ARTICLE 20 LOCAL OPTION (ROOM OCCUPANCY EXCISE)

To see if the Town of Becket will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c. 64G, § 3A to impose a local option room occupancy excise at the rate of six percent (6%), or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town accept the provisions of G.L. c. 64G, § 3A to impose a local option room occupancy excise at the rate of six percent (6%), or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Planning Board: Recommended

Article 20 Was moved and seconded. Linda Bacon of Canterbury Farm Bed and Breakfast spoke in opposition to Article 20, noting that they already pay 5.7% in room occupancy taxes to the State. She also notes that the Article doesn't mention short term rentals such as Airbnb. Town Counsel, Joel Bard, noted that this tax would also apply to short term rentals because that law dealing with room occupancy excise taxes was amended earlier this year to include short term rentals, noting that if the Town adopted this Article the tax would therefor apply to short term rentals such as Airbnb. Robert Healey spoke in favor of this Article noting that he and his wife operated the Chambery Inn in Lee. He observed that this tax was unpopular in Lee when it was first proposed, but that the revenue it generated monies of which 10% is set aside to promote the Town. He stated that the funds were used to put up flower baskets on Main Street, and create and staff visitor centers in Lee. He noted that all rentals

in town, including Airbnb's will have to pay taxes to the state, and if we don't opt for our portion we will get nothing back. Mr. Healey noted that as of the time of the Town Meeting there were 98 listings for Airbnb in Becket. Robert Grace spoke against this Article. He noted that he and his wife rented short term through Airbnb and it helped pay the mortgage, and relied heavily on the vacation rentals. He fears that this tax might impact the limited volume of his rentals. Mr. Grace noted that this tax would also make Becket look less friendly. Meredyth Babcock spoke in favor of promoting the town and questioned whether the 6% tax was a hard figure or if there was some flexibility in the amount of the tax. Linda Bacon suggested that before imposing taxes on lodgings, the Town should level the playing field with all lodgings, and require licensing, and inspections before imposing taxes. Dave Krawet spoke in opposition to this Article. Ann Spadafora addressed the issue of cost of inspections. She noted that at the Cape the combined state and local occupancy tax was approximately 12.5% and that would be renters were balking at the increased cost, and the sellers were asking that real estate agents accept lower commissions for their work. She thinks that if this Article passes, some accommodation needs to be made to differentiate between those that buy up properties to rent them out through Airbnb, and those who just rent out a few bedrooms in their home. Mr. Roberts notes that the hoteliers in Becket are burdened enough with state taxes, property taxes and the other costs of operation. Mr. Roberts speculated that many of the Airbnb's in town are likely second homeowners. He noted that second homeowners use local real estate agents, tradesmen and the like contributing to the local economy. He noted that second homeowners also pay property taxes at the same rate as full time residents but don't use services, and don't have kids in local schools. He agreed that there was no reason that lodgings shouldn't be inspected for safety and health, but suggested that inspection fees would be more palatable than a tax. Mr. Roberts urged the meeting to vote against this Article. Selectman Michael Lavery proposed amending this Article to lower the proposed tax from 6% to 3.3%. The motion to amend was seconded. Linda Bacon spoke against the Article even at the lower rate, and observed that those providing lodgings used local contractors and contributed to the local economy in other ways. Mr. Grace and Mr. Krawet spoke against the Article even at the lower rate. A vote was taken by a show of hands and the amendment passed by 41 in favor of the amendment and 11 against. Mr. Swindlehurst received clarification that all Airbnb and traditional lodgings would be paying the same state lodging excise tax rate, and that even if this Article is voted down this year, the town would not be prohibited from

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

considering it again in the future. Ann Krawet spoke in opposition to this Article. A vote was taken on Article 20 as amended by a count of hands. **Article 20 FAILED.**

ARTICLE 21 FY 2020 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION AUTHORIZATION

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from Community Preservation Fiscal Year 2020 estimated annual revenues the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for Committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other expenses in Fiscal Year 2020, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation, all as set forth below:

Appropriations:

Committee Administrative Expenses	\$500
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Reserves:

Historical Resources Reserve	\$4,259
Community Housing Reserve	\$4,259
Open Space Reserve	\$4,259
Undesignated Reserve	\$29,316

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee

MOTION: Moved that the Town appropriate or reserve from Fiscal 2020 Community Preservation estimated annual revenues the amounts set forth in Article 22 of the Warrant for the May 11, 2019 Annual Town Meeting.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

CPA Committee: Recommended

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 21 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion of this Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands. **Article 21 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ARTICLE 22 USE OF STABILIZATION TO OFFSET DEBT PAYMENTS

To see if the Town will transfer from stabilization a sum of money, \$185,000, to reduce the tax rate for the Fiscal Year 2020, or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town will vote to transfer from stabilization a sum of money, \$185,000, to reduce the tax rate for the Fiscal Year 2020, or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

2/3 Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 22 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion of this Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands. **Article 22 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ARTICLE 23 CITIZEN PETITION: PLASTIC BAG BAN

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Becket Bylaws by adding the following language to Article 17, Section 24 of the Town of Becket Town Betterment Bylaws:

MOTION: Move that the Town amend the Town of Becket Bylaws by adding the following language to Article 17, Section 24 of the Town of Becket Town Betterment Bylaws:

Section 24. Thin-Film Plastic Bags

Reduction of Retail Use

A. Purpose and Intent.

The purpose of this bylaw is to reduce the use of thin-film plastic checkout bags by all retail and grocery stores in the Town of Becket. The production and use of thin-film plastic checkout bags have significant impacts on the environment, including, but not limited to: contributing to the potential death of aquatic animals and other wildlife through ingestion and entanglement; contributing to pollution of the land environment; creating a burden to solid waste collection and recycling facilities; clogging storm drainage systems; and requiring the use of millions of barrels of crude oil nationally for their production.

B. Definitions

- i. Checkout bag: A carryout bag provided by a store to a customer at the point of sale. Check out bags shall not include bags, whether plastic or not, in which loose produce or products are placed by the consumer to deliver such items to the point of sale or checkout area of the store.
- ii. Thin-film plastic bags: Typically with plastic handles, these are bags with a thickness of 4 Mil or less and are intended for transport of purchased products.
- iii. Grocery store: A retail establishment where more than fifty percent of the gross floor area is devoted to the sale of food products for home preparation or consumption, which typically also offers home care and personal care products.
- iv. Retail store: An establishment that offers the sale and display of merchandise within a building.
- v. Reusable checkout bag: A bag, with stitched-on handles, capable of at least 175 uses; which can carry 25 pounds over a distance of 300 feet, and is made of plastic (greater than 4 Mil thick), cloth, fabric or other machine-washable materials.

C. Use Regulations

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

- i. Thin-film plastic bags shall not be distributed, used, or sold for checkout at any retail or grocery store within the Town of Becket. Retail establishment shall mean any business facility that sells goods directly to the consumer including but not limited to grocery stores, pharmacies, liquor stores, “mini-marts,” and retail vendors selling clothing, food, and household or personal items.
- ii. Customers are encouraged to bring their own reusable or biodegradable shopping bags to stores. Retail or grocery stores are strongly encouraged to provide reusable checkout bags with or without charge to customers.
- iii. Thin film plastic bags that are used to contain dry cleaning, newspapers, produce, meat, bulk foods, wet items, and other similar merchandise, typically without handles, are still permissible.

D. Enforcement and Penalties

Violations of this section shall be enforced by non-criminal disposition in the manner provided in MGL Chapter 40, Section 21D by the Board of Selectmen. The fine schedule shall be, First offense: Warning; second offense: \$25.00; third and each successive offense: \$50.00.

Majority Vote Required

Article 23 Was moved and seconded. Michael Lavery moved to amend by adding to section 24 C subsection:

”iv “**Said by-law to become effective January 1st, 2020.**”

Several voters spoke in favor of the Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands, and the amendment passed unanimously. A vote was taken on Article 23 as amended by a show of hands
Article 23 as amended PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 24 INDIAN LAKES ASSOCIATION DUES

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$1,350 for the Indian Lakes Association dues owed for property owned by the Town.

Motion: Move that the Town vote to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$1,350 for the Indian Lakes Association dues owed for the property owned by the Town.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 24 Was moved and seconded. The Moderator noted that there was an error in the Warrant on this Article as a 4/5 majority is needed because this is a debt from a prior year. A

vote was taken by a count of hands and there were 42 votes in favor and 1 vote against the Article.

Article 24 PASSED by a 4/5 Majority.

ARTICLE 25 EASEMENTS RELATED TO THE ATHENAEUM

To see if the Town will vote to accept easements from Becket Athenaeum, or the current owner of 3367 Main Street, Becket (Map 206, Lot 105) for the following purposes (a) a sewer line, and related appurtenances, for the benefit of the Becket Athenaeum; and (b) a water line, and related appurtenances, for the benefit of Town property, being the Becket Arts Center (Map 206, Lot 106) and the Mullen House (Map 206, Lot 14); and authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute any and all documents related thereto, or take any other action related thereto.

MOTION: Moved that the Town accept easements from Becket Athenaeum, or the current owner of 3367 Main Street, Becket (Map 206, Lot 105) for the following purposes: (a) a sewer line, and related appurtenances, for the benefit of the Becket Athenaeum; and (b) a water line, and related appurtenances, for the benefit of Town property, being the Becket Arts Center (Map 206, Lot 106) and the Mullen House (Map 206, Lot 14); and authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute any and all documents related thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 25 Was moved and seconded. Cathy Defoe, spoke in support of this Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 25 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 26 BECKET ATHENAEUM WELL AND SEPTIC

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$35,000.00 for the Town to complete the necessary work to combine the well and septic at the Becket Athenaeum, Becket Arts Center and Mullen House; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town vote to transfer \$35,000.00 from Free Cash to the Becket Athenaeum to complete a shared well and septic for the Becket Athenaeum, Becket Arts Center and Mullen House.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 26 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion of this Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands. **Article 26 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

ARTICLE 27 REVOLVING FUNDS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws, Article 22, Section 1 by adding the following new revolving funds, specifying the departmental receipts to be credited to each fund, the departmental purposes or programs for which each fund may be expended, and the entity authorized to expend each fund, such bylaw to provide as follows:

Program or Purpose	Representative or Board Authorized to Spend Fund	Department Receipts
Ambulance Details	Ambulance Director	Fees & charges for Ambulance Department Details
Ambulance Training	Ambulance Director	Fees & charges for Training Programs offered by Ambulance Department

And, further, to set FY 2020 spending limits for such revolving funds as follows:

Program or Purpose FY 2020 Spending Limit

Ambulance Training \$10,000

Ambulance Details \$15,000

Or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Moved that the Town amend the Town of Becket General By-laws, Article 22, Article 1, establishing two (2) new revolving funds and set the FY 2020 spending limits for such revolving funds as presented in Article 27 of the warrant for the May 11, 2019 Annual Town Meeting.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 27 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion of this Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands. **Article 27 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ARTICLE 28 FREE CASH FOR DEBT PAYMENT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$24,568.37 for the Town to make a required debt payment in FY2019 for the new ambulance; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$24,568.37 for the Town to make a required debt payment in FY2019 for the new ambulance; or take any action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 28 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion of this Article. A vote was taken by a count of

hands. **Article 28 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ARTICLE 29 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Becket Zoning Bylaw **SECTION 3.0, USE REGULATIONS**, by adding in **Section 3.1.3, Table of Use Regulations**, new lines in the **Residential, Institutional and Exempt Uses, Commercial, Industrial, & Accessory Uses** sections as follows:

Table A: Table of Use Regulations

Institutional and Exempt Uses

Solar Photovoltaic Installation >250 kW on town owned property - **Y**

Residential Uses

Roof or Building Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation - **Y**

Commercial Uses:

Medium-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Installation >25 kW or < 250 kW - **SPR**

Large-Scale Photovoltaic Installation >250 kW - **PB**

Industrial Uses:

Large-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Installation >250 kW - **PB**

Accessory Uses:

Small-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Installation <25 kW - **Y**

Medium-Scale solar Photovoltaic Installation >25 kW or <250 kW - **SPR**

Planning Board: Recommend

2/3 Vote Required

MOTION: Move that the Town amend the Town of Becket Zoning Bylaw, Section 3.1.3, Table of Use Regulations, as presented in Article 29 of the warrant for the May 11, 2019 Annual Town Meeting.

Article 29 Was moved and seconded. Ann Krawet of the Planning Board gave the Planning Board's recommendation of this Article. There was no discussion of this Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 29 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 30 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Becket Zoning Bylaw **Table of Contents SECTION 6.6**, replacing the title **LARGE-SCALE GROUND-MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS** with a new title, **SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS.**

Planning Board: Recommend

2/3 Vote Required

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

MOTION: Move that the Town amend the Table of Contents of the Town of Becket Zoning Bylaw as presented in Article 30 of the warrant for the May 11, 2019 Annual Town Meeting.

Article 30 Was moved and seconded. Ann Krawet as a member of the Planning Board gave the Planning Board's recommendation for this Article. There was no discussion of this Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 30 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 31 MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS (ME) & MEDICAL MARIJUANA TREATMENT CENTERS (MMTC)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Becket Zoning Bylaw **SECTION 3.0, USE REGULATIONS**, by adding to **SECTION 3.1.3, TABLE OF USE REGULATIONS**, new lines in the Commercial and Industrial Uses sections as follows:

Table A: Table of Use Regulations

Commercial Use

Marijuana Craft Cooperative - **PB**
Marijuana Cultivation (Indoor) - **PB**
Marijuana Cultivation (Outdoor) - **PB**
Marijuana Independent Testing Laboratory - **PB**
Marijuana Micro Business
(Cultivator under 5,000 sq. ft.) - **PB**
Marijuana Research Facility - **PB**
Marijuana Retailer - **PB**
Marijuana Transporter - **PB**
Medical Marijuana Treatment Center - **PB**

Industrial Uses

Marijuana Product Manufacturer - **PB**

Planning Board: Recommend

2/3 Vote Required

MOTION: Move that the Town amend the Town of Becket Zoning Bylaw, Section 3.1.3, Table of Use Regulations, as presented in Article 31 of the warrant for the May 11, 2019 Annual Town Meeting.

Article 31 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion of this Article. James Levy of the Planning Board gave the Planning Board's recommendation for this Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 31 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 32 MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS (ME) & MEDICAL MARIJUANA TREATMENT CENTERS (MMTC) To see if the Town will vote to amend the Becket Zoning Bylaw Table of Contents by adding Section 6.8, MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS (ME) & MEDICAL MARIJUANA TREATMENT CENTERS (MMTC) and all of its subsections.

Planning Board: Recommend

2/3 Vote Required

MOTION: Move that the Town amend the Table of Contents of the Town of Becket Zoning Bylaw as presented in Article 32 of the warrant for the May 11, 2019 Annual Town Meeting.

Article 32 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion of this Article. James Levy of the Planning Board gave the Planning Board's recommendation for this Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 32 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn to the Annual Town Election which will be held one week from today on May 18, 2019, starting at 10:00 a.m. A vote was taken and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m. The checkers were Election Workers Charles Francis, Alvin Blake, Ruth Rosenthal and Ann Krawet.

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION, MAY 18, 2019

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the Annual Town Election was held in the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street, on May 18, 2019. 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 245 voters participated and cast ballots for the election of candidates. The results of the election are as follows:

	<u>Votes</u>	<u>%</u>
For Member, Board of Selectmen (3-year term) Vote for One		
Laurel Burgwardt	41	16.73%
Christopher Swindlehurst	103	42.04%
Maria Wallington	100	40.82%
All Others (write-ins)	0	0.00%
Blanks	1	0.41%
Total Votes Cast	245	

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

	<u>Votes</u>	%
For Member, Board of Health (3-year term)	Vote for One	
Gale LaBelle(write-in)	36	14.69%
All Others (write-ins)	3	1.22%
Blanks	206	84.08%
Total Votes Cast	245	
For Cemetery Commissioner (3-year term)	Vote for One	
William F. Cavanaugh	202	82.45%
All Others (write-ins)	7	2.86%
Blanks	36	14.69%
Total Votes Cast	245	
For Member, Finance Committee (3-year term)	Vote for Two	
Ronald J. DeFoe	199	40.61%
Daniel Parnell	175	35.71%
All Others (write-ins)	2	0.41%
Blanks	114	23.27%
Total Votes Cast	490	
For Member, Planning Board (5-year term)	Vote for One	
Howard Lerner (write-in)	18	7.35%
All Others (write-ins)	15	6.12%
Blanks	212	86.53%
Total Votes Cast	245	
Registered voters:	1505	
Ballots cast:	245	
Percent Voting	16.28%	

A total of 245 ballots were cast. There were 16 absentee ballots and 4 spoiled ballots. There were no provisional ballots. The Auto-MARK voter assist terminal was tested at 9:50 a.m. and 4:55 p.m. Election Officials were Gail LaBelle (Clerk), Patricia Clemons (Warden), Charles Francis, Beth VanNess, Julia Kay-Grace, and Alvin Blake, Priscilla McEwen, Charles Garman, and Ruth Rosenthal. The Constables were Nicole Mill and Michael Hunt. The polls closed at 7:00 p.m. and the unofficial results were printed and posted.

Respectfully Submitted,

George Roberts,
Town Clerk

◆ *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 and 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 can otherwise not 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 back 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, to broaden housing opportunities for residents, to help senior citizens repair their homes, to 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, and communities can issue bonds in anticipation of future CPA proceeds. Each community also has control over how the money is spent, since each disbursement of CPA funds needs to be approved by town meeting.

Anyone interested in funding a project through the CPA should contact the committee through the town website, and follow up by attending a CPC meeting, where they will receive information regarding funding criteria and procedures. This information is also on the town website.

I would like to thank the townspeople and the administrative staff at the town hall for their support of the CPA and look forward to future project proposals.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil F. Toomey, *Chair*
Community Preservation Committee



◆ COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT ◆
FY 2019 REPORT

FY 2019 Appropriated by Category	Community Housing	Historical	Open Space	Recreation	Budget Reserves	Committee Admin Expenses	Total Appropriation
Project:							
Committee Administrative Expenses Article 13						\$500.00	
North Becket Park					\$22,000.00		
Shed at Town Beach					\$17,000.00		
Total Appropriated for Projects for FY 2019	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$39,000.00	\$500.00	\$39,500.00
FY 2019 Expenses against approved Projects:							
Committee Administrative Expenses Article 13						\$350.00	
North Becket Park					\$22,000.00		
Shed at Town Beach					\$17,000.00		
Total Expended during FY 2019	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$39,000.00	\$350.00	\$39,350.00
FY 2019 Est. Revenues Appropriated to Reserves	Community Housing Reserves	Historical Preservation Reserves	Open Space Reserves	Recreation Reserves	Undesignated Budget Reserves		Total Budgeted Reserves
Estimated Revenues to Reserves	\$4,259.00	\$4,259.00	\$4,259.00	\$0.00	\$29,316.00		\$42,093.00
2019	Estimated	Actual	Actual vs. Budget				
FY 2019 Local Revenue CPA 1.5%	\$42,093.00	\$44,004.86	\$1,911.86				
FY 2018 State Percentage Match of Local Revenue	\$7,818.00	\$7,170.00	-\$648.00				
Totals	\$49,911.00	\$51,174.86	\$1,263.86				

◆ *REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING* ◆

Hello from the Becket Seniors!

The Becket Seniors had a great and fun year. We started with a monthly visit from the Porchlight Visiting Nurse Association. They come out on the third Tuesday of each month.

The seniors participated in several events. In February we celebrated a Valentine's Day dinner. We enjoyed a cookout at the Congregational Church given by Reverend Kevin Smail. His wonderful congregation hosted the seniors with a wonderful lunch. We enjoyed lunch at the Becket General Store, Ozzie's, Papa Bob's, and the Russell Inn. We also took a trip to Connecticut for lunch.

We had a Christmas party at Papa Bob's. The seniors had fun and enjoyed the food.

It has been over thirty years that Sonny Nelson has been with the Council on Aging as Site Director and Treasurer. He resigned in September to enjoy traveling. He has been a guiding force for us. He will be extremely missed. Paula Bergeron, the new Council on Aging on Site Director and Treasurer, has taken his place.

A gentleman came in to talk about portions and sodium on containers from the grocery store.

Someone from Porchlight came out to help us with exercising and balance.

We lost a great friend, Joseph Wilkinson. He enjoyed lunches and bingo.

We have lunch Tuesdays and Thursdays with a great Bingo game after lunch. We invite all to join us. Lunch is served at 11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Becket Town Hall's Community Room on the lower level. Reservations for our lunches are required so that enough meals are ordered. You may sign-up to attend lunch by calling (413) 623-8934 extension 127. The deadline to sign-up for our Tuesday luncheon is on Friday. The deadline to sign-up for our Thursday lunch is on Tuesday. The cost for lunch is \$2.00 payable at the door.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Bergeron, *On Site Director & Treasurer*



◆ *REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS* ◆

West Becket Cemetery is in good shape. A new mower was purchased in the spring.

North Becket Cemetery had a good year with regular maintenance performed as needed. Thank you goes out to Town departments and individuals who assisted as needed to make this season a good one.

Center Becket Cemetery is in good condition.

Respectfully submitted,

Cemetery Commissioners
Michelle Smith, *West Becket*

◆ **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.

2019 provided some change to the Animal Control Department. The town's longstanding Animal Control Officer, Bert Goodermote, retired. Best of luck to him in his retirement!

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.

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

	Dogs	Cats	Wildlife	Misc
Total Calls Received:	102	23	26	20
Transferred Calls	10	7	12	20
Assisted Calls	12	9		
Surrender	1			
Lost/ Found	37	6		
Cruelty/Neglect Inv.	4			
Misc.	38	1	14	

July 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019

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

In 2019, the Zoning Board of Appeals met in April and September. The Board received one new application - a request for dimensional special permit. The application was approved.

Jessica Perotti, who served the Board as Clerk of Committees, resigned from that position at the end of 2019. We wish Jessica the best of luck in her new position with the Assessor's office.

The Zoning Board of Appeals currently has one vacancy. Interested parties should contact the Board of Selectmen via Beverly Gilbert at adminasst@townofbecket.org

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. Applications

to the Zoning Board of Appeals should be submitted to the Town Clerk. Meetings are held as needed on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Bleier, *Chairperson*

Board Members:

Victoria Bleier, *Chairperson*

Jeffrey Wilkinson

Joy Lennartz

Alvin Blake, *Associate Member*

Katherine Warden, *Associate Member*

Clerk of Committees: Tess Lundberg

◆ *REPORT OF THE TRANSFER STATION* ◆

The Transfer Station hours of operation during May 15th to October 15th are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm. From October 16th to May 14th the hours are Tuesday and Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm. A vehicle permit is required for entry to the Transfer Station. Vehicle permits may be purchased at the Town Hall or town website www.townofbecket.org. A bag sticker must be affixed to each bag of household trash prior to disposal into the compactor. Bag stickers (\$1 each) may be purchased at the Town Hall, through the town's website, or through businesses in town listed on the town's website. **Bag stickers are not available for purchase at the Transfer Station.**

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

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 are working with the Tri-Town Board of Health to arrange for our residents to participate in two hazardous waste collections per year.

This report is an opportunity to provide a reminder that the Town has a recycling bylaw. By recycling, we reduce

our disposal expenses and use of natural resources. This year we recycled, collected and processed: 53 tons of paper and cardboard; 52 tons of cans, bottles, and plastics; 15 tons of scrap metals; 216 mattresses; 1.5 tons of clothing; 175 tires; 439 fluorescent light bulbs; 1.86 tons of bulky rigid plastics; 5.63 tons of electronics; 319 tons of Solid waste disposal; and 203 tons of bulky waste. Residents participated in two hazardous waste collections at various sites in Berkshire County.

Recycling will be changing as we move forward. The markets that once took the recycled goods no longer accept them. As we determine our new practices, we will educate the community about how the Town of Becket will recycle.

Mark White retired from the Transfer Station in December. On behalf of the Town, I wish to thank him for his years of service. In addition to Mark, I would like to thank Bob Will and Dean Williams for their hard work and dedication to the Transfer Station.

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 8:30 am to 4:30 pm) at 623-8934 or the Highway Department office (Monday through Friday 7 am to 3:30 pm) at 623-8988.

Respectfully submitted,

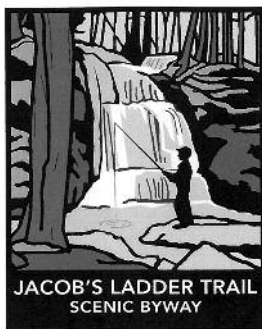
Christopher J. Bouchard
Highway Superintendent



◆ **REPORT OF THE JACOB'S LADDER TRAIL SCENIC BYWAY, INC.** ◆

The JLTSB Advisory Board continued work on initiatives and projects in 2019. The board discussed the impacts of the Russell Wind Project and the ramifications of a potential new turnpike exit at several meetings.

An outline of new initiatives have been introduced to revitalize the JLTSB to be on par with the neighboring Mohawk Trail Scenic Byway along with efforts brought forth from the Gateway Hilltown Collaborative and Historic Route 20 Association.



The Jacob's Ladder Trail Scenic Byway now has an active Facebook page at www.facebook.com/JacobLadderScenicByway

Chester representative Bryan Farr was hard at work renovating and opening the Gateway Hilltowns/ Historic Route 20 Visitor Center located at Carm's Coffee Shop and Restaurant in Chester. The Visitor Center is now open and will be home to future JLTSB Advisory Board meetings as well as many other exciting activities.

The Visitor Center offers free Wi-Fi, public restrooms and information pertaining to the JLTSB. This completes an early initiative set by the JLTSB.

- Various Trail Improvements
- Working with DCR to reopen the Chester/Blandford Forest Campground
- National Park Service Heritage Designations
- Grants for historic trolley wall stabilization along Route 20
- Updating Scenic Byway Trail Maps and guides issued back in the 1990s.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Farr, **President JLTSB**



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

The Becket Scholarship Foundation was pleased to award scholarships to four graduating seniors for 2019 totaling \$3,300. These excellent students were Jillian Artioli, Carrie Conklin, Phaedra Duhon and Libby Walker. These scholarships are made possible, in part, through the generous donations of Becket residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Rodhouse
Secretary

REPORT OF THE

◆ WESTFIELD RIVER WILD & SCENIC COMMITTEE ◆

The Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee works to preserve, protect, and enhance the special qualities and outstanding natural resources of the Westfield River Watershed in concert with local communities. Appointed representatives from Becket, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Huntington, Middlefield, Savoy, Washington, Windsor, and Worthington meet monthly with representatives from the National Park Service, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and other entities. Project funding is provided through the National Park Service's Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers Program.

2019 was a year of change as the Commonwealth withdrew its administrative support for the Committee; project funding from the National Park Service continues. The committee is working with our elected state representatives to restore this small amount of funding which helps leverage the Park Service funding.

The committee's outreach and education efforts continue to be a strong component of our efforts.

Wild & Scenic Saturdays and workdays, took place in and around the West & East Branch of the Westfield River. Highlights included:

- Showing of the Wild and Scenic Film Festival at four locations in the watershed
- Continuation of the Center Pond Weed Project in Becket
- Vernal Pools Plunge, a three-day intensive training in collaboration with Hilltown Land Trust. In 2019, nine pools were certified due to this program. All 16 towns have a trained Vernal Pool Rep.
- Four Highlands Footpath Workdays carried out in the Chester/Blandford State Forest (on the Newman Marsh trail).
- Hikes in collaboration with the Highlands Footpath along the Highlands Footpath route in Lee, Becket, Washington, and Chester.
- Two Native Bee Identification trainings
- Beginning outreach to Silvio Conte Wildlife Refuge for a possible 2020 project clean up and restoration plan of the Mill site in Chesterfield MA.
- Tidying the East Branch Trail (Yearly clean up on the EBT Chesterfield)

Meredyth Babcock, the committee's outreach coordinator, coordinated two short segment videos that were shared on

WGBY's connecting point.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEGmaQNT5D8> Vernal Pool WGBY

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjOe_cI0GWE Tidying the East Branch Trail

The Committee continues to support the work of the Highlands Footpath Collaborative. We are excited by the development of a long-distance footpath through the towns and along segments of the river with a Wild & Scenic designation. This is a unique opportunity to incorporate many trails along designated river segments and highlight the dynamic Westfield River in outreach and planning.

The sixth annual Watershed Blitz was held on September 28th. The Town of Cummington partnered with us. They donated their park, community center and amenities. Eight specialists from various organizations and area universities offered a full day's exploration to over 57 community members who collectively spent 342 hours in one day marveling at and collecting data on the East Branch of the Westfield River.

The committee provided financial assistance to Mass Audubon and The Nature Conservancy for land conservation projects in Plainfield and Middlefield. Money was awarded to the Town of Windsor to help finish their final culvert design study along River Road.

The committee is supporting a number of communities within the watershed as they work to complete their Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP) plans. To date half of the Wild and Scenic Communities are working on a MVP plan. They are Becket, Cummington, Chesterfield, Windsor, and Worthington. We expect the other towns to shortly follow. The committee has begun planning to create a new master plan to guide our work into the future.

Our committee meets once a month and all meetings are open to the public. We encourage you to take part in any of our sponsored activities including stream teams, river clean-ups, land protection, and workshops. To learn more about what is happening in the watershed, visit our newly updated website at www.wildscenicwestfieldriver.org.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Delpapa, **Becket Representative**.
Westfield River Wild & Scenic Committee

◆ *REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION* ◆

The Historical Commission (HC) meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 3 P.M. at its office in the basement of Town Hall. The members are: Sandra Jarvis (2021)-Chair, W. Katherine Hoak (2020)-Secretary, Rita Furlong (2022)-Treasurer, Gail Kusek (2021)-CPC representative and John Garvey (2021). The HC is pleased to welcome our new member, John Garvey.

Information requests:

- Benton Hill Road, **Hayes Farm Slope**, a ski area that operated in the 1930s and was accessible from Benton Hill Road, a Mike Steben inquiry in 2018. He also believed there was a snow train depot nearby. This year a Hay's Farm Ski Slope/Snow Train was found in the 1939 WPA American Guide Series, *The Berkshire Hills*, which states that the ski slope was located on the Washington town line west of Route 8, a half-mile north of Becket. The Snow Trains brought city skiers to the Berkshires but did not come to Becket.
- County Road, cellar holes, foundations of former houses and a possible school which are there. We provided a map and information on the former **Chaffee school** closed in 1911 located on the south side of County Road near Stanley Road. In response to Mr. Sabanosh's further inquiry about the former Whitney Mansion, he was provided with numerous newspaper clippings about the nearby Whitney Mansion in Washington.
- **160 Y.M.C.A. Road**, realtor inquiry, confirmed it is a historic property in the Becket Center Historic District.
- **Lake Yokum Hotel Certificate**, from Dora Sutter, issued to A.E. Gaudreau (her paternal grandfather) dated October 1, 1919. Members, along with the Local History department at the Berkshire Athenaeum did an extensive investigation. It could not be determined whether the hotel was actually built by J.C. and Willis Ballou along with Walter D. Otis of Becket, and Thomas W. Irwin and Arthur G. Taylor of Springfield. The Massachusetts Articles of Organization stated the corporation was chartered for 50 years. Otis had been the manager of the summer **Yokum View House** on the site of the proposed hotel. Dora was provided with more than a dozen articles from 1913 to 1971 concerning development around Yokum Pond (Lake). The 1926-1928 and 1929-1931 Becket Directories showed listings for a "Yokun" Hotel but was not found in the 1935-1942 issues.
- Pete Hiam, a former Becket resident, asked about Cathaline Alford Archer's book, "**Becket's First Fifty Years, 1752-1802**". He was provided a copy. This book, along with another of Archer's titled "**Sons of Becket**" have been scanned, enabling computer accessibility.
- John Costello sent a photo of **Green Water Lodge** seeking information. He also shared information with us about his family including the **Broga** and **Phelps** families. He sent photos and information about the filling stations along Greenwater Pond. Members found 1858 and 1876 Becket maps of the area showing **Houston** living near Greenwater Pond; and several

Berkshire Eagle articles that mention the Greenwater Lodge and family references in Becket directories.

- ❖ 21 Sep 1931 - Cars Collide near Greenwater lodge injuring "an 11-year-old boy lying on the grass near the highway."
- ❖ 14 Jul 1943 - Chester couple observe 50th Anniversary, parents of Mrs. Lillian Houston of Greenwater Lodge.
- ❖ 6 Aug 1934 - Fred Stone stage star spent the week-end at Greenwater Lodge on Greenwater Pond.
- ❖ 14 Nov 1939 - Ladies' Aid Society supper at Mrs. F. C. Houston's Greenwater Lodge.

• **Becket Mountain Fire Lookout**, Jack Kelly, part of the Forest Fire Lookout Association's Massachusetts chapter. The FFLA is dedicated to the preservation and researching of fire lookouts, like the one that used to stand on Becket Mountain. He provided the following information: it was a 38' steel tower with a 12'x12' base and an 8'x8' wooden cab accessed by a ladder. It was built in 1912 on the property of a "Mr. Cordonier" who owned the mountain. The fire observer for that year was Thomas R. Buxton, and he began his work on July 11, 1912. The 1913 fire observer was James S. Rose, and in 1914 it was Charles Kimball, who had the honor of seeing the first moose of that summer when it passed by the base of the lookout. The fourth and final observer at the tower was Edward J. McIntyre for the 1915 fire season, during which he spotted few fires due to rainy weather. With the construction of another fire tower on Lenox Mountain in Lenox (1915), the Becket tower was no longer needed, and was removed then rebuilt on Lair Mountain in Tolland. The HC was able to provide him with four recent photos found on Facebook, taken by hikers on the Appalachian Trail, and three old newspaper articles 1912-1915.

Mr. Kelly and the HC would like a photograph of the lookout, or any historical photographs of the mountain in general, along with any information on the fire observers themselves. If anyone has additional information or photos please contact the HC; we would like to assist Mr. Kelly and add the material to our files.

- **Becket Basket**: Carol Lavra; appraisal request. The HC does not do appraisals, but sent her information on the basket factory in Becket. She sent us photos of her unique, cone-shaped Becket basket.
- Caroga Museum: Dudley Fincke, Trustee; request for biographical information on **Jonathan Whitney Wheeler** (1817-1889). HC research found many documents, photos and internet sources relating to his life, including his tannery and lumber business activities in Becket with **Addison Hull Bidwell** (1850-1907) and Gov. **William Claflin** (1818-1905). We credit Newspapers.com research, courtesy of Gale Andrade who helped with the genealogy of Wheeler.
- "Massachusetts Civil War Monuments Project" Patrick Browne, coordinator. The project catalogs and photographs

Report of the Historical Commission

(Continued)

Civil War monuments and memorials in each Massachusetts town. He was unable to find any reference to a **Becket Civil War Memorial**. (See macivilwarmonuments.com.) We confirmed that Becket does have an obelisk monument in Ballou Memorial Park, and sent information, along with six photos.

- **Eliza R. Snow birthplace** in Becket: In the undated booklet, An Historic Tour of Becket, Massachusetts, Beverly K. Lambert for the Becket HC states that the Latter-day Saint poet and leader Eliza R. Snow was born in the Fred Snow House (listed in the booklet in the Dish Hollow section as No. 19). Jill Derr, is working on a biography of Snow and asked two questions:

1) What documents link Eliza Snow's grandfather Oliver Snow II (1749-1841) to the Fred Snow house? 2) If the census for 1800 lists Eliza Snow's father Oliver Snow III and his wife Rosetta Pettibone as a Becket household separate from his father (Oliver II), what evidence is there that Eliza Snow was born in 1804 in the home of her grandfather, rather than in the home of her parents? Oliver II and family left Becket in 1805. Research of both printed and historic handwritten records, including the comprehensive H. Cerelia Snow's Snow Genealogical Records of the Inhabitants of the Town of Becket only shows the town of Becket as her birthplace. The HC did not find any evidence to corroborate the information in the booklet. There are three Snow houses mentioned in the booklet: 1) Fred Snow House No. 19 (Pre-1790). There was a Frederic Snow born in Becket in 1820 and another Fred living in Becket in the early 1900's. If the house was named for either Fred Snow after Eliza and her family left Becket, then perhaps one of the Oliver Snows might have also owned the house. 2) Stonybrooks or Seth Snow House No. 21 (1798). On 15 Jan 1989, Richard Taskin in a *Berkshires Week* article pictured Stonybrooks and stated this was Eliza's birthplace. The HC found no evidence to support this claim. 3) Cerelia Snow House No. 36 (1860). This house was built in 1860, long after Eliza left Becket.

Donations

- **Munn-Coakley-Bates Collection.** Shane Bates spoke with us about the lengthy search he and his mother have undertaken to explore their family's earliest days in Becket and Middlefield, in the area known as Bancroft Village. Starting in the late 1800s into the mid-1900s there were two paper mills and an entire community that had existed in the area between Becket and Middlefield. He has also been going back to the original deeds. The Ellsworth family is descended from the Merryfields who were settled here in the 1760's, having come from England. Shane shared his family albums with pictures of the people involved with the mills. When Ernie Barber first moved to his property on Bancroft Road in Becket, several small houses that housed mill workers still existed near his property. Shane and the HC shared information with each other, and plan to continue to collaborate in the future.
- **Becket 1776 map**, received from John Lambert. It has been scanned and a copy framed.

- Postcards: **Ballou Purifying Pump** and Bucksteep in Washington, two postcards donated by HC member John Garvey.
- **John Runz Military items:** We received a display with memorial items from the nephew of John Runz, killed in the Battle of the Bulge at 22 years of age. It includes the flag that draped his coffin; which was given to the family. Runz was buried in Belgium, but the family later had his remains brought here and buried in the Becket Center Cemetery.
- The **1933 Berkshire County Phone Book**, a pdf., was sent to us by Roger Gillette and has been downloaded to the HC computer.

Actions

- **21 Maple Street** property, former site of the Baptist parsonage; the Park and Recreation Committee has prepared the site. The HC hired Bill Cummings, to construct three benches made from original wall and site stones and to build a foundation for a larger stone to hold a plaque. The bronze plaque will be installed by AA Cemetery Services in the spring. The Plaque will read:

NORTH BECKET VILLAGE NATIONAL HISTORIC
DISTRICT
21 MAPLE STREET
A NEW ENGLAND GREEK REVIVAL STYLE BUILDING
BUILT CIRCA 1850

- ❖ **1857-1926-Served as the Baptist Parsonage for nearly seventy years, until the First Baptist Church of Becket and the North Congregational Church joined in federation.**
- ❖ **1926-2002-The Federated Baptist Church continued to use it as a parsonage for almost another sixty years, later renting it, until eventually selling it for a private home.**
- ❖ **2016-2018-The Town of Becket purchased the property and demolished the building.**
- 43 Pleasant Street, the **Higley-Jennings-Tobin-Davis House**, part of the North Becket Historical District; the HC voted 3-1 to sign off on the Town Building Inspector's notification of a request to "remove two poorly constructed additions on the building at 43 Pleasant Street and to further remodel and restore the two story house". The HC discussed saving the historic sections of the building rather than losing the entire structure. In its decision, the HC stipulated its approval was based on the remaining exterior sections of the building, along Pleasant St., were to be preserved as historically accurate as possible.
- There are fourteen **microfilm rolls of historic records** which have been processed into PDF books, thanks to Ann-Marie Harris, Berkshire Athenaeum, Local History Department. **Becket Historical Records** were converted from microfilm rolls (six rolls from the Historical Commission and eight additional historic films from George Roberts, Town Clerk) to

Report of the Historical Commission

(Continued)

digital PDF files. A recent update to the microfilm readers allowed for the scanning of entire rolls of microfilm. Fortunately the Athenaeum facilitated the copying for free, saving Becket several hundred dollars per roll, compared to a professional service. Sandi used their equipment to make scans of each image; some of the rolls containing 1,100 images each. Next the individual images were made into the PDF “books.” The “books” will be available on the Town web site, at The Berkshire Athenaeum and Becket Athenaeum once finding aids are completed. As a result the HC is getting rid of its oldest microfilm projector. If you are interested in this machine please contact the HC.

- Bought the **Legacy Family Tree** software enabling the HC to record family genealogies to assist in tracking, organizing, printing, and sharing family history. The multimedia support includes pictures, sound clips, and videos; images can be displayed individually or in slide shows.

- **Local Landmark Ordinance** discussion. The landmark could be a place, structure, feature, or object which is historically or architecturally significant by itself or because it is associated with events, persons, or trends significant in the history of Becket. Designation as a landmark would be an honor that recognizes the importance of its design or its unique place in the town's history. We discussed the ramifications of this possible ordinance and decided it was unnecessary for Becket at this time. Individuals may decide on their own to seek the designation.

- **Display cases:** New cases were placed in the basement center hallway outside the Community Room at Town Hall. All the display cases throughout Town Hall were rearranged and updated.

- **Brewster House:** Becket Chimney Corners YMCA, Gary Clark, Asst. Director of Property invited the HC to view a section of the foundation wall, in need of repair at the Brewster House, built in 1786. The House, is listed in the Becket Center National Historic District. The HC appreciated Gary Clark's invitation to visit and comment on the work they have planned for both the Brewster House and also The Barn. The HC is also thankful for the Camp's guardianship of these historic Becket buildings.

- Met with Jenn Beatty, Acting Executive Director of the **Becket Arts Center**. She alerted the HC to the upcoming **50th anniversary** for the Arts Center, founded in 1970. Jenn invited the HC to create a historical presentation about the original Seminary Hall and development of North Becket in the mid 1800s, for the Art Center's Exploration series in the 2020 season. It was agreed the HC would prepare a presentation furthering our goal to publicize Becket's history and the work of the HC.

- **Seminary Hall** built in 1855, the Art Center needs support to protect its historic building, originally a town schoolhouse, and part of the North Becket National Historic District. Currently, the building has no heat and little air conditioning; the directors would like to acquire heat pumps. The HC agreed to send a letter in support of the Becket Art Center's maintaining

the historic, town owned building.

- Investigated the William G. Pomeroy Foundation grants to provide **historical markers**; the HC decided not to apply for the one available sign at this time but keep the grant in mind for a future location.

- Historical Commission postcards from other localities were returned to the municipalities from which they came. We received two thank you responses from Old Orchard Beach Historical Society in ME and Lakewood, NJ.

Goals

- Develop an audio/video **tour of Becket** to be used on SmartPhones.

- **Publicize** the HC and Becket resources:

Publications for sale at **Town Hall:** **An Historic Tour of Becket** \$3; **A Bicentennial History of Becket, Berkshire County Massachusetts 1765-1965**, \$17.95; and **Becket Massachusetts, From Colonial Township to Modern Town 1765-2015**, \$20. There are many historic artifacts on display throughout Town Hall and at the **Mullen House** (historic quarry museum and basket display). Other recommended treasures in town include the **Arts Center, Becket Athenaeum, Becket Land Trust quarry** and the town parks: **Becket Center, Parade Ground, Bidwell and Ballou Memorial, and North Becket.**

- **Signage** at Ballou Memorial Park and the Parade Grounds have faded and illegible signs need to be replaced.

- “Welcome to Becket” **pole flags** purchased for the Becket 250th Anniversary need to be replaced on the roads from Washington, Chester, Lee & Otis (single-sided flags) and two double-sided flags would be placed at Town Hall and at the triangle in North Becket.

- We want to place the historic **microfilm** and list of HC **artifacts** online.

- **Back-up computer files:** move files from the HC office computer to the town server; they have been backed up on the HC external hard drive.

- Obtain pictures of the **Brewster House** and “**The Nest**” barn, Becket Chimney Corners YMCA.

- Tour and obtain photos of the **Baird Tavern**, West Becket.

- **Tech equipment:** acquire a new computer, larger monitor and scanner for the HC office.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Jarvis, *Chair*

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

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

<u>Fiscal Year/Tax</u>	<u>Balance 07/01/2018</u>	<u>Commitments</u>	<u>Collected</u>	<u>Refunds</u>	<u>Abatements</u>	<u>Tax Title Transfers</u>	<u>Balance 06/30/2019</u>
2019							
Real Estate		\$5,267,126.19	\$4,974,834.14	\$90.29	\$32,468.88		\$259,913.46
Personal Property		\$344,118.38	\$339,102.50		\$946.20		\$4,069.68
Motor Vehicle		\$240,377.35	\$223,482.56	\$2,647.70	\$5,332.16		\$14,210.33
Fees			\$11,295.97				\$11,295.97
Interest			\$12,228.52				\$12,228.52
2018							
Real Estate	\$255,389.70		\$98,076.11		\$28.46	\$79,162.17	\$78,122.96
Personal Property	\$3,262.23		\$857.85		\$0.00		\$2,404.38
Motor Vehicle	\$15,364.37	\$30,065.52	\$38,025.18	\$1,994.68	\$1,994.68		\$7,404.71
Fees			\$10,476.19				
Interest			\$11,462.87				
2017							
Real Estate	\$92,327.67		\$28,773.63		\$0.00	\$16,843.94	\$46,710.10
Personal Property	\$2,238.97		\$272.36		\$0.00		\$1,966.61
Motor Vehicle	\$4,089.50		\$1,987.21	\$281.56	\$475.31		\$1,908.54
Fees			\$3,095.78				
Interest			\$8,902.56				
2016							
Real Estate	\$49,080.81		\$15,661.08	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,035.38	\$16,384.35
Personal Property	\$2,043.33		\$152.80		\$0.00		\$1,890.53
Motor Vehicle	\$804.37		\$208.85	\$135.62	\$135.62		\$595.52
Fees			\$1,052.74				
Interest			\$7,032.39				
Pre 2016 Years							
Real Estate	\$29,456.82		\$7,301.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,724.56	\$9,430.96
Personal Property	\$5,687.92		\$30.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,657.17
Motor Vehicle	\$7,872.62		\$750.53	\$9.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,131.99
Fees			\$1,065.40				
Interest			\$4,670.87				

◆ **TOWN OF BECKET FINANCIAL REPORT** ◆

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD.</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD.</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>ENCUM.</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
ADVERTISING		\$4,000.00	\$-249.58		\$1,586.72	\$2,163.70	42.30
ADVERTISING TOTAL		\$4,000.00	\$-249.58		\$1,586.72	\$2,163.70	42.30
SELECTMEN SALARIES		\$6,240.00			\$5,546.56	\$693.44	88.88
SELECTMEN EXPENSES		\$1,900.00	\$8,815.04		\$10,715.04		100.00
TOWN MEETING EXPENSE		\$6,000.00			\$1,880.86	\$4,119.14	31.34
ROUTE 20 SPRING		\$15,000.00			\$13,819.72	\$1,180.28	92.13
LEGAL EXPENSES							99.91
PRINT AND BIND BYLAWS	\$5,000.00					\$5,000.00	.00
SELECTMEN TOTAL	\$5,000.00	\$29,140.00	\$8,815.04		\$31,962.18	\$10,992.86	74.40
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR SALARIES		\$72,000.00	\$-6,553.85		\$61,646.53	\$3,799.62	94.19
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR EXPENSES		\$1,400.00	\$203.93		\$2,953.93	\$-1,350.00	184.16
STAFF COVERAGE		\$2,000.00			\$1,063.71	\$936.29	53.18
CLERK OF COMMITTEES		\$33,443.00			\$31,915.04	\$1,527.96	95.43
250TH ANNIVERSARY	\$784.20					\$784.20	0.00
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TOTAL	\$784.20	\$108,843.00	\$-6,349.92		\$97,579.21	\$5,698.07	94.48
FINANCE COMM. EXPENSES		\$600.00			\$135.00	\$465.00	22.50
FINANCE COMMITTEE TOTAL		\$600.00			\$135.00	\$465.00	22.50
TOWN ACCOUNTANT SALARIES		\$24,363.00			\$23,894.52	\$468.48	98.07
OUTSIDE PAYROLL EXPENSES		\$5,250.00			\$4,483.30	\$766.70	85.39
TOWN ACCOUNTANT EXPENSE		\$400.00				\$400.00	0.00
TOWN ACCOUNTANT TOTAL		\$30,013.00			\$28,877.82	\$1,635.18	94.55
ASSESSOR SALARIES		\$63,622.00			\$48,334.22	\$15,287.78	75.97
ASSESSOR EXPENSES		\$62,427.00			\$57,414.77	\$5,012.23	91.97
ASSESSOR TOTAL		\$126,049.00			\$105,748.99	\$20,300.01	83.89
TREASURER SALARIES		\$45,114.00			\$45,111.04	\$2.96	99.99
TREASURER EXPENSES		\$5,000.00	\$278.71		\$5,293.71	\$-15.00	100.28
TREASURER TOTAL		\$50,114.00	\$278.71		\$50,404.75	\$-12.04	100.02
TAX COLLECTOR SALARIES		\$56,498.00			\$56,284.80	\$213.20	99.62
ASST TAX COLLECTOR SALARIES		\$47,031.00			\$46,841.60	\$189.40	99.59
TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSES	\$257.75	\$8,180.00			\$4,831.08	\$3,606.67	57.25
KVS SOFTWARE UPGRADE	\$4,045.00					\$4,045.00	0.00
TAX COLLECTOR TOTAL	\$4,302.75	\$111,709.00			\$107,957.48	\$8,054.27	93.05
TAX TITLE EXPENSES	\$-932.80	\$10,000.00	\$20,826.25		\$29,893.45		100.00
TAX TITLE TOTAL	\$-932.80	\$10,000.00	\$20,826.25		\$29,893.45	\$29,893.45	100.00

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD.</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>ENCUM.</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
TOWN SECRETARY SALARIES		\$45,233.00	\$7.01		\$45,240.01		100.00
TOWN SECRETARY TOTAL		\$45,233.00	\$7.01		\$45,240.01		100.00
TOWN COUNSEL EXPENSES		\$18,000.00	\$5,928.04		\$23,928.04		100.00
TOWN COUNSEL TOTAL		\$18,000.00	\$5,928.04		\$23,928.04		100.00
AUDIT EXPENSES	\$5,500.00	\$18,500.00			\$19,000.00	\$5,000.00	79.16
AUDIT TOTAL	\$5,500.00	\$18,500.00			\$19,000.00	\$5,000.00	79.16
POSTAGE EXPENSES		\$12,000.00	\$409.39		\$12,409.39		100.00
POSTAGE TOTAL		\$12,000.00	\$409.39		\$12,409.39		100.00
TOWN REPORT EXPENSES		\$3,500.00	\$-399.00		\$3,101.00		100.00
TOWN REPORT TOTAL		\$3,500.00	\$-399.00		\$3,101.00		100.00
TOWN CLERK SALARIES		\$28,616.00	\$0.12		\$28,616.12		100.00
TOWN CLERK EXPENSES	\$-815.52	\$2,145.00	\$961.37		\$2,290.85		100.00
TOWN CLERK TOTAL	\$-815.52	\$30,761.00	\$961.49		\$30,906.97		100.00
ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION EXPENSES		\$17,727.00	\$-1,133.65		\$12,339.69	\$4,253.66	74.36
ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION TOTAL		\$17,727.00	\$-1,133.65		\$12,339.69	\$4,253.66	74.36
CON COMM EXPENSES		\$1,414.45	\$19,894.00		\$14,552.23	\$6,756.22	68.29
CON COMM TOTAL		\$1,414.45	\$19,894.00		\$14,552.23	\$6,756.22	68.29
PLANNING BOARD EXPENSES	\$53.25	\$2,225.00	\$748.57		\$3,026.82		100.00
PLANNING BOARD TOTAL	\$53.25	\$2,225.00	\$748.57		\$3,026.82		100.00
BOARD OF APPEALS EXPENSES		\$1,500.00	\$-48.57		\$628.73	\$822.70	43.31
ZONING BOARD TOTAL		\$1,500.00	\$-48.57		\$628.73	\$822.70	43.31
BERK REGIONAL PLANNING COMM		\$1,383.00			\$1,382.88	\$0.12	99.99
BRPC TOTAL		\$1,383.00			\$1,382.88	\$0.12	99.99
MUNICIPAL BLDG LABOR		\$48,161.00			\$48,010.92	\$150.08	99.68
MUNICIPAL BLDG UTILITIES		\$61,000.00			\$46,755.57	\$14,244.43	76.64
MUNICIPAL BLDG EXPENSES		\$54,975.00			\$32,160.83	\$22,814.17	58.50
TELEPHONE SYSTEM	\$12,200.00				\$12,169.48	\$30.52	99.74
WIRED WEST MEMBERSHIP		\$1,000.00			\$1,000.00		100.00
MUNICIPAL BLDG REPAIRS		\$12,000.00			\$7,257.27	\$4,742.73	60.47
TWO FURNACES	\$38,000.00				\$29,320.46	\$8,679.54	77.15
TRUCK FY18	\$-564.05		\$564.05				100.00
MUNICIPAL BLDG TOTAL	\$49,635.95	\$177,136.00	\$564.05		\$176,674.53	\$50,661.47	77.71
COMPUTER HARD/SOFTWARE UPGRADES	\$895.25				\$3,274.98	\$1,019.27	76.26
MUNICIPAL BLDG TOWN HALL CNTRL AIR	\$49,020.17		\$3,399.00			\$49,020.17	0.00
SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS		\$25,134.00	\$40.62		\$25,174.62		100.00

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD.</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>ENCUM.</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
<i>MUNICIPAL BLDG ARTICLES TOTAL</i>	\$49,915.42	\$25,134.00	\$3,439.62		\$28,449.60	\$50,039.44	36.24
RESERVE FUND							
<i>RESERVE FUND TOTAL</i>		\$35,000.00	\$-29,598.10			\$5,401.90	0.00
		\$35,000.00	\$-29,598.10			\$5,401.90	0.00
POLICE DEPT SALARIES		\$326,206.00			\$322,907.76	\$3,298.24	98.98
POLICE DEPT EXPENSES		\$16,679.00	\$1,860.00		\$18,245.39	\$293.61	98.41
POLICE IMC MOBILE SOFTWARE		\$26,223.00			\$26,222.50	\$0.50	99.99
POLICE CRUISER		\$48,866.55			\$47,133.91	\$1,732.64	96.45
<i>POLICE DEPT TOTAL</i>		\$417,974.55	\$1,860.00		\$414,509.56	\$5,324.99	98.73
EMERG MANAGEMENT EXPENSES		\$1,000.00			\$942.00	\$58.00	94.20
EMERG MGT TRAINING		\$1,000.00				\$1,000.00	0.00
<i>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TOTAL</i>		\$2,000.00			\$942.00	\$1,058.00	47.10
CONSTABLE EXPENSES		\$300.00				\$300.00	0.00
<i>CONSTABLE EXPENSES TOTAL</i>		\$300.00				\$300.00	0.00
FIRE DEPARTMENT SALARIES		\$4,248.00			\$4,248.00	100.00	100.00
FIREFIGHTER STIPENDS	\$1,400.00	\$14,000.00			\$11,200.00	\$4,200.00	72.72
FIRE DEPARTMENT EXPENSES	\$3,278.75	\$31,200.00			\$12,197.62	\$22,281.13	35.37
DRY HYDRANTS	\$6,886.85					\$6,886.85	0.00
FIRE STATION #1 REPLACE/INSTALL WIN	\$5,874.91					\$5,874.91	0.00
<i>FIRE DEPARTMENT TOTAL</i>	\$17,440.51	\$49,448.00			\$27,645.62	\$39,242.89	41.33
DRY HYDRANT PARTS	\$7,000.00					\$7,000.00	0.00
FY19 TURNOUT GEAR		\$27,000.00			\$840.00	\$26,160.00	3.11
<i>FIRE DEPARTMENT ARTICLES TOTAL</i>	\$7,000.00	\$27,000.00			\$840.00	\$33,160.00	2.47
E911 COMMUNICATIONS		\$32,114.00	\$-19,000.00		\$12,313.46	\$800.54	93.89
<i>E911 COMMUNICATIONS TOTAL</i>		\$32,114.00	\$-19,000.00		\$12,313.46	\$800.54	93.89
BUILDING DEPARTMENT SALARIES		\$53,647.00			\$53,431.04	\$215.96	99.59
BUILDING DEPARTMENT EXPENSES		\$2,215.00	\$0.80		\$2,215.80	100.00	100.00
<i>BUILDING DEPARTMENT TOTAL</i>		\$55,862.00	\$0.80		\$55,646.84	\$215.96	99.61
ANIMAL CONTROL SALARIES		\$8,202.00			\$8,201.96	\$0.04	99.99
ANIMAL CONTROL EXPENSES		\$2,500.00				\$2,500.00	0.00
<i>ANIMAL CONTROL TOTAL</i>		\$10,702.00			\$8,201.96	\$2,500.04	76.63
HARBOR MASTER EXPENSES		\$1,455.00			\$366.02	\$1,088.98	25.15
<i>HARBOR MASTER TOTAL</i>		\$1,455.00			\$366.02	\$1,088.98	25.15
DEMOLITION FUND	\$85,701.89	\$15,000.00	\$7,800.00		\$106,999.00	\$1,502.89	98.61
<i>DEMOLITION TOTAL</i>	\$85,701.89	\$15,000.00	\$7,800.00		\$106,999.00	\$1,502.89	98.61
SCHOOL OPERATING BUDGET		\$2,134,973.00			\$2,134,519.87	\$453.13	99.97

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD.</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>ENCUM.</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
VOCATIONAL TUITION		\$167,560.00			\$141,965.03	\$25,594.97	84.72
VOCATIONAL TRANSPORTATION		\$65,000.00	\$-10,635.19		\$40,866.01	\$13,498.80	75.16
EDUCATION TOTAL		\$2,367,533.00	\$-10,635.19		\$2,317,350.91	\$39,546.90	98.32
TREE ACCOUNT EXPENSES		\$15,000.00	\$-12,000.00		\$2,900.00	\$100.00	96.66
TREE ACCOUNT TOTAL		\$15,000.00	\$-12,000.00		\$2,900.00	\$100.00	96.66
FORESTRY		\$500.00				\$500.00	0.00
FORESTRY TOTAL		\$500.00				\$500.00	0.00
HIGHWAY DEPT SALARIES	\$12,966.00	\$226,765.00			\$198,002.65	\$41,728.35	82.59
GENERAL MAINTENANCE	\$30,272.00	\$162,230.00	\$-5,000.00		\$154,708.67	\$32,793.33	82.51
MACHINERY ACCOUNT	\$8,000.00	\$70,275.00	\$12,500.00		\$88,365.44	\$2,409.56	97.34
FUEL ACCOUNT	\$1,897.00	\$94,500.00	\$-12,500.00		\$71,060.68	\$12,836.32	84.69
HIGHWAY GARAGE		\$10,990.00			\$7,547.40	\$3,442.60	68.67
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TOTAL	\$53,135.00	\$564,760.00	\$-5,000.00		\$519,684.84	\$93,210.16	84.79
FY16 DUMP TRUCK		\$51,456.00			\$51,456.00		100.00
BACKHOE -FY19		\$127,500.00				\$127,500.00	0.00
HIGHWAY ARTICLES TOTAL		\$178,956.00			\$51,456.00	\$127,500.00	28.75
WINTER ROADS SALARIES		\$152,534.00	\$-10,000.00		\$141,592.47	\$941.53	99.33
WINTER ROADS		\$82,950.00	\$51,635.19		\$134,585.19		100.00
WINTER ROADS TOTAL		\$235,484.00	\$41,635.19		\$276,177.66	\$941.53	99.66
STREET LIGHTING		\$8,000.00	\$825.81		\$8,825.81		100.00
STREET LIGHTING TOTAL		\$8,000.00	\$825.81			\$100.00	100.00
TRANSFER STATION SALARIES	\$125.04	\$31,230.00			\$28,772.85	\$2,582.19	91.76
TRANSFER STATION EXPENSES	\$793.00	\$99,270.00	\$5,000.00		\$99,902.84	\$5,160.16	95.08
TRANSFER STATION TOTAL	\$918.04	\$130,500.00	\$5,000.00		\$128,675.69	\$7,742.35	94.32
BECKET CENTER CEMETERY		\$-10.83	\$4,791.00	\$189.03	\$4,969.20		100.00
NORTH BECKET CEMETERY		\$-1,885.95	\$11,746.00	\$9,455.23	\$14,150.10	\$5,165.18	73.25
WEST BECKET CEMETERY			\$1,325.00		\$1,158.98	\$166.02	87.47
CEMETERY TOTAL		\$-1,896.78	\$17,862.00	\$9,644.26	\$20,278.28	\$5,331.20	79.18
SO BERK SOLID WASTE		\$8,328.00			\$8,309.15	\$18.85	99.77
TRANSFER STATION TOTAL		\$8,328.00			\$8,309.15	\$18.85	99.77
BOARD OF HEALTH SALARIES		\$9,364.00			\$696.90	\$8,667.10	7.44
BOARD OF HEALTH EXPENSES	\$-429.14	\$25,820.00	\$429.14		\$25,802.72	\$17.28	99.93
BOARD OF HEALTH TOTAL	\$-429.14	\$35,184.00	\$429.14		\$26,499.62	\$8,684.38	75.31
INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS		\$338.00			\$338.00		100.00
INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS TOTAL		\$338.00			\$338.00	\$100.00	100.00

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD.</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>ENCUM.</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
NURSING SERVICES		\$5,061.00	\$49.09		\$5,110.09		100.00
<i>VISITING NURSE TOTAL</i>		<i>\$5,061.00</i>	<i>\$49.09</i>		<i>\$5,110.09</i>		<i>100.00</i>
COUNCIL ON AGING EXPENSES		\$5,000.00			\$2,967.14	\$2,032.86	59.34
OUTREACH PROGRAMS		\$500.00				\$500.00	0.00
<i>COUNCIL ON AGING TOTAL</i>		<i>\$5,500.00</i>			<i>\$2,967.14</i>	<i>\$2,532.86</i>	<i>53.94</i>
VETERANS AGENT SALARIES		\$2,140.00			\$2,139.96	\$0.04	99.99
VETERANS BENEFITS		\$37,200.00	\$6,411.43		\$43,611.43		100.00
VETERANS AGENT EXPENSE		\$100.00				\$100.00	0.00
<i>VETERANS TOTAL</i>		<i>\$39,440.00</i>	<i>\$6,411.43</i>		<i>\$45,751.39</i>	<i>\$100.04</i>	<i>99.78</i>
UPGRADE & IMPROVE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM	\$200.00					\$200.00	0.00
REPAIR AND REFURBISH STAIRS	\$5,350.00				\$5,350.00		100.00
<i>ARTS CENTER TOTAL</i>	<i>\$5,550.00</i>				<i>\$5,350.00</i>	<i>\$200.00</i>	<i>96.39</i>
WOMEN'S AUX CHILDREN'S PARTY		\$500.00			\$500.00		100.00
<i>WOMEN'S AUX TOTAL</i>		<i>\$500.00</i>			<i>\$500.00</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>	<i>100.00</i>
LIBRARY EXPENSES		\$49,065.00			\$49,065.00		100.00
<i>LIBRARY TOTAL</i>		<i>\$49,065.00</i>			<i>\$49,065.00</i>	<i>\$49,065.00</i>	<i>100.00</i>
LIBRARY CAPITAL		\$10,000.00			\$6,281.91	\$14,379.47	30.40
<i>LIBRARY CAPITAL TOTAL</i>	<i>\$10,661.38</i>	<i>\$10,000.00</i>			<i>\$6,281.91</i>	<i>\$14,379.47</i>	<i>30.40</i>
WEED TREATMENT CENTER POND		\$2,500.00			\$2,500.00		100.00
<i>CENTER POND TOTAL</i>		<i>\$2,500.00</i>			<i>\$2,500.00</i>	<i>\$2,500.00</i>	<i>100.00</i>
PARKS AND REC COMM EXPENSES		\$30,610.00			\$21,528.87	\$12,167.30	63.89
EROSION CONTROL/DRAINAGE						\$6,900.00	0.00
<i>PARKS COMM TOTAL</i>	<i>\$9,986.17</i>	<i>\$30,610.00</i>			<i>\$21,528.87</i>	<i>\$19,067.30</i>	<i>53.03</i>
HISTORICAL COMM EXPENSES	\$1,236.02	\$2,017.00			\$844.88	\$2,408.14	25.97
<i>HISTORICAL COMM TOTAL</i>	<i>\$1,236.02</i>	<i>\$2,017.00</i>			<i>\$844.88</i>	<i>\$2,408.14</i>	<i>25.97</i>
MEMORIAL/VETERAN'S DAY EXPENSES		\$1,500.00			\$1,380.14	\$119.86	92.00
<i>MEMORIAL/VETERAN'S DAY TOTAL</i>		<i>\$1,500.00</i>			<i>\$1,380.14</i>	<i>\$119.86</i>	<i>92.00</i>
AMBULANCE		\$69,298.39	\$18,134.94		\$87,433.33		100.00
TOWN HALL ROOF		\$25,284.00	\$0.12		\$25,284.12		100.00
BECKET WASHINGTON SCHOOL		\$103,867.00			\$103,867.00		100.00
CRANEILE ROOF		\$161.00			\$161.00		100.00
INTEREST ON SHORT TERM DEBT		\$1,500.00				\$1,500.00	0.00
WAHCONAH REGIONAL HS DEBT		\$7,876.00			\$7,876.00		100.00
KITTREDGE MSBA WINDOWS		\$456.00			\$456.00		100.00

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD.</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>ENCUM.</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
FY14 CRANEVILLE AIR HANDLER		\$41.00			\$41.00		100.00
FY14 DISTRICT SECURITY		\$999.00			\$999.00		100.00
WAHCONAH REGIONAL HS SIDEWALKS		\$838.00			\$838.00		100.00
LOADER		\$58,800.00			\$58,800.00		100.00
DEBT TOTAL		\$269,120.39	\$18,135.06		\$285,755.45	\$1,500.00	99.47
RMV SURCHARGES			\$2,600.00		\$2,387.00	\$213.00	91.80
AIR POLLUTION			\$837.00		\$770.00	\$67.00	91.99
REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY			\$1,046.00		\$968.00	\$78.00	92.54
SCHOOL CHOICE TUITION			\$11,494.00		\$6,851.00	\$4,643.00	59.60
TOTAL			\$15,977.00		\$10,976.00	\$5,001.00	68.69
HEALTH/LIFE INSURANCE	\$3,087.42	\$425,360.00	\$-1,000.00		\$379,572.84	\$47,874.58	88.79
RETIREMENT		\$217,821.00	\$2,000.00		\$218,821.00	\$1,000.00	99.54
PAYROLL TAXES		\$26,604.00			\$22,930.78	\$3,673.22	86.19
UNEMPLOYMENT		\$5,000.00	\$88.72		\$5,088.72		100.00
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS TOTAL	\$3,087.42	\$674,785.00	\$1,088.72		\$626,413.34	\$52,547.80	92.26
LIABILITY INSURANCE		\$118,814.00	\$-6,411.43		\$107,358.40	\$5,044.17	95.51
LIABILITY INSURANCE TOTAL		\$118,814.00	\$-6,411.43		\$107,358.40	\$5,044.17	95.51
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$307,248.21	\$6,261,673.94	\$60,009.23		\$5,985,028.52	\$643,902.86	90.28
GRAND TOTAL	\$307,248.21	\$6,261,673.94	\$60,009.23		\$5,985,028.52	\$643,902.86	90.28

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

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

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
<u>ASSETS</u>									
Cash	1,247,033.88	497,553.58	285,734.43	608,923.46	84,446.96	1,020,019.86	147,287.57	0.00	3,890,999.74
Property Taxes	421,115.97	2,525.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	423,641.38
Allowance for Abate & Exempt	-292,789.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-292,789.24
Tax Liens	1,198,033.69	-424.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	731,014.35	0.00	1,928,623.98
Motor Vehicle Excise	41,741.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	41,741.45
User Charges/Liens	15,534.33	13,273.51	0.00	0.00	-47,880.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	-19,072.22
Amts Prov for Pay of Bonds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,190,755.00	1,190,755.00
TOTAL ASSETS	2,630,670.08	512,928.44	285,734.43	608,923.46	36,566.90	1,020,019.86	878,301.92	1,190,755.00	7,163,900.09
<u>LIABILITIES</u>									
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	128,326.73	2,525.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	130,852.14
Def Rev Tax Liens	1,198,033.69	-424.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	731,014.35	0.00	1,928,623.98
Def Rev MV Excise	41,741.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	41,741.45
Borrowing Authorized and Unissued	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-3,627,089.35	-3,627,089.35
Def Rev User Charges/Liens	15,534.33	13,273.51	0.00	0.00	-47,880.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	-19,072.22
Borrowing Authorized	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,627,089.35	3,627,089.35
Bonds Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,190,755.00	1,190,755.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,388,497.87	15,374.86	0.00	0.00	-47,880.06	0.00	731,014.35	1,190,755.00	3,277,762.02
<u>FUND BALANCES</u>									
Reserved for Encumbrances	350,116.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350,116.05
Reserved for Expenditures	393,616.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	44,205.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	437,821.53
Reserved for Appropriation Deficits	-1,365.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1,365.00
Designated	0.00	58,348.00	0.00	0.00	40,241.96	990,410.42	0.00	0.00	1,089,000.381
Undesignated	499,804.63	439,205.58	285,734.43	608,923.46	0.00	29,609.44	147,287.57	0.00	2,010,565.11
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	1,242,172.21	497,553.58	285,734.43	608,923.46	84,446.96	1,020,019.86	147,287.57	0.00	3,886,138.07
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES	2,630,670.08	512,928.44	285,734.43	608,923.46	36,566.90	1,020,019.86	878,301.92	1,190,755.00	7,163,900.09



◆ **WAGES PAID IN CALENDAR YEAR 2019** ◆

Board of Selectmen

Elovirta, William H.	\$2,284.49
Lavery, Michael S.	\$2,284.49
Ledoux, Nicole D.	\$346.66
Swindlehurst, Christopher	\$1,944.51

Town Administrator

Caldwell, William J.	\$64,812.73
Markel, Robert T. (Interim TA)	\$6,325.00

Board of Assessors

Avallé, Karen	\$900.00
Walter, Geraldine L.	\$29,519.12
Will, Elizabeth A.	\$18,288.78

Treasurer

Bleau, Christine D.	\$45,674.87
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Tax Collector

Bilodeau Jr., Kenneth R.	\$56,803.20
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Assistant Tax Collector

Weiler, Nina M.	\$47,273.61
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Deputy Collector

Shorey, David O.	\$2,941.00
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Administrative Assistant

Gilbert, Beverly A.	\$45,662.40
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Town Clerk/Elections

Roberts, George E.	\$29,312.22
Babcock, Meredyth	\$48.00
Blake, Alvin V.	\$72.00
Clemons, Patricia L.	\$231.00
Craft-Reiss, Barbara	\$96.00
Francis, Charles I.	\$180.00
Garman, Charles A.	\$159.00
Kay-Grace, Julia	\$231.00
Krawet, Ann L.	\$144.00
LaBelle, Gale L.	\$135.00
McEwen, Priscilla J.	\$159.00
Reiss, Steven B.	\$96.00
Rosenthal, Ruth	\$120.00
VanNess, Elizabeth P.	\$135.00

Police Department

Auger, Charlene F.	\$7,701.60
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Balardini, Trae E.	\$3,328.16
Courtney, Shaun M.	\$9,726.91
Eckman, Kurtis L.	\$54,026.85
Forest, Cameron D.	\$297.92
Heath, Chad E.	\$27,212.91
Hunt, Michael	\$57,966.27
Jones, Craig	\$15,698.91
McDonough, Kristopher G.	\$70,926.76
Miller, Nicole M.	\$14,434.16
Parkington, Stephen J.	\$6,818.44
Pettibone, Kenneth E.	\$1,996.89
Virginia, Matthew	\$57,553.06

Constables

Hunt, Michael B.	\$298.68
Miller, Nicole M.	\$267.58

Conservation Commission

Parsons, Stacy A.	\$503.62
Stucklen, Mary E.	\$12,223.09

Fire Chief/Chief Stipend & Fees

Hanford, Mark A.	\$4,046.33
Mikaniewicz, Paul A.	\$3,041.65

Ambulance Department

Backman, Stephen A.	\$2,850.88
Breault, Haylie R.	\$20,166.99
Brooks, Logan V.	\$2,059.43
Cawthron, Danny R.	\$10,949.46
Cooper, Meredydd	\$18,487.06
Drenen, Matthew L.	\$15,959.82
Ferrin, Raymond E.	\$58,181.09
Forsait, Sarah R.	\$22,118.40
Garofoli, Vincent J.	\$20,861.20
Hart, Hillary T.	\$4,428.08
Hebert Jr., John	\$887.33
Hoppe Jr., Dean H.	\$12,416.94
Kelly, Gregory V.	\$15,159.20
Kibbe, Frances J.	\$33,592.75
Koivisto, Max W.	\$9,154.35
Lacas, Roseanna K.	\$7,517.50
Marino, Matthew J.	\$2,744.00
McDonough, Morgan L.	\$12,101.64
Michaud, Lisa J.	\$11,591.49
Mullany, Michael J.	\$24,047.74
David Norcross	\$4,762.11
Robillard Jr., Leo O.	\$4,942.83

◆ **WAGES PAID IN CALENDAR YEAR 2019** ◆

~ Continued ~

Stanton, Diana L.	\$3,720.66	Municipal Vulnerability Program	
Trzcinka, Maria K.	\$13,345.53	Babcock, Meredyth A.	\$1,662.50
Wall, Steven M.	\$3,726.90		
Willey, Peter H.	\$23,453.91	Transfer Station	
Building Inspectors		White, Mark D.	\$11,244.37
Danko, Gary	\$919.90	Will, Robert R.	\$10,369.04
Girard, William E.	\$54,598.40	Williams, Dean R.	\$7,503.85
		Clerk of Committees	
Public Safety Inspectors		Perotti, Jessica M.	\$32,399.00
Levernoch, Mark A.	\$3,150.00		
Spring, Dana	\$6,075.00	Recreation Program & Lifeguards	
Highway Department		Adams, Emma T.	\$1,579.50
Chrystal, Tyler J.	\$22,039.44	Cote, Emmaline E.	\$5,220.00
Cooper, Robert R.	\$46,680.94	Elovirta, Madelaine	\$182.00
Goodermote, Albert R.	\$62,350.51	Hall, Candace L.	\$848.25
Isner, Christopher A.	\$14,328.03	Laforest, April G.	\$2,055.00
Morawiec, Nathan E.	\$62,210.76	Nabozny, Debra A.	\$2,295.00
Murray, Donald L.	\$62,681.14	Nabozny, Stacey L.	\$1,485.00
Shorey, David O.	\$6,370.27	Shannon, Ariana A.	\$1,638.00
		Accountant	
Building & Grounds Technician		McClellan, Margaret A.	\$24,032.04
Shorey, David O.	\$48,644.98		
Highway Superintendent		Fire Department Stipend	
Bouchard, Christopher J.	\$65,521.60	Atwell, James R.	\$700.00
		Beringer, Richard	\$700.00
Board of Health		Castonguay, Warren K.	\$700.00
Burgwardt, Laurel L.	\$1,129.50	Colantoni, Craig S.	\$700.00
		Elovirta, Jan R.	\$700.00
Animal Control Officer		Elovirta, Madelaine	\$700.00
Goodermote, Albert	\$4,416.44	Elovirta, William H.	\$700.00
Miller, Nicole M.	\$2,099.00	Furlong Jr., David F.	\$700.00
		Goebel, Gene R.	\$700.00
Animal Inspector		Healey, Robert	\$700.00
Elovirta, Madelaine	\$338.00	Isner, Christopher A.	\$700.00
		Massini, Kristopher M.	\$700.00
Veterans' Agent		Mikaniewicz, Paul A.	\$700.00
Mann, Lloyd D.	\$2,139.96		
Cemetery			
Cavanaugh, William F.	\$15,078.00		
Smith, Michelle S.	\$1,741.40		
Williams, Dean R.	\$4,536.30		

TOWN OF BECKET

557 Main St.
Becket, MA 01223
(413) 623-8934 ext. 100

Appointment Application

TO: Board of Selectmen:

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?

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

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?

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

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

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

Signature

Date