A photograph of two deer standing in a lush green forest. The deer in the foreground is a young buck with light brown fur and white spots, looking towards the left. Behind it, a doe with similar fur is looking towards the right. The background is filled with dense green foliage and trees.

Town of Becket *Massachusetts*

**2020
Annual
Town Report
of the Town
Officials**

About The Cover

The Board of Selectmen thanks all who submitted entries to the Annual Town Report Photo Contest.

Front Cover Photographer and Caption

Robert Watroba: Two deer by the Buckley Dunton State Park Lake, summer 2020

Back Cover Photographers and Captions

David DeFilippo: A beautiful October sunrise on Mallard Drive as the leaves are dwindling on the way to winter

Linda Bacon: Kayaks at Buckley Dunton State Park Lake

IN MEMORIAM

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

ROBERT DIGRIUS GORDEN

Bylaw Review Committee
Community Preservation Committee
Historical Commission
Zoning Board of Appeals
February 2, 2020



RICHARD E. FURLONG

Finance Committee
Nessacus Regional Middle School Building Committee
Town Administrator
March 28, 2020



GLADYS E. (BETTY) LITCHFIELD SHEPARD

Council on Aging
April 6, 2020



KATHLEEN F. HAYN LATA

Town Clerk
Tax Collector
June 3, 2020



IN MEMORIAM

(Continued)

NANCY LEE FRISBIE

Cultural Council

Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District Representative

Zoning Board of Appeals

July 9, 2020



CHARLES H. (BOB) WILLEY

Volunteer Fire Department

August 11, 2020



BEVERLY R. GILLETTE

Historical Commission

Election Worker

September 24, 2020



PHILIP JOHN CONNOR

School Committee

October 28, 2020



JOHN (“FITZ”) FITZGERALD

Council on Aging

November 22, 2020



THANK YOU TO GERALDINE “GERI” WALTER WHO HAS RETIRED

Assessor's Office – Geraldine “Geri” Walter



We would like to express our appreciation to Geraldine “Geri” Walter for her longstanding service to the Town of Becket in honor of her retirement from the Assessor’s Office on July 23, 2020. Geri joined the Assessor’s Office on November 1, 1995, and was faithfully dedicated to serving the residents of Becket. In her combined duties as a member of the Board of Assessors and as an integral part of the day-to-day Assessor’s Office inner workings, Geri has been a dedicated, knowledgeable, and reliably friendly face. During her tenure, Geri helped usher modernization into the Assessor’s Office, gained a wealth of knowledge, and mentored new members of the Board as they learned the ropes. Her expertise and kindness will be sorely missed. We are fortunate that Geri has continued serving on the Board of Assessors. Again, we wish to say “Thank You” for her many years of dedicated service to the Town.



Town of Becket, Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Town Officials

♦ **2020** ♦



William H. Elovirta

Selectman

Michael S. Lavery

Selectman

Christopher E. Swindlehurst

Selectman

William J. Caldwell

Town Administrator

For the year ending December 31, 2020

◆ Town Officers ◆

Elected Officials

Board of Selectmen

William H. Elovirta, <i>Chair</i>	2021
Michael S. Lavery, <i>Vice Chair</i>	2023
Christopher Swindlehurst, <i>Clerk</i>	2022

Board of Health

Gale LaBelle, <i>Chair</i>	2022
Laurel Burgwardt, <i>Vice Chair</i>	2021
Robert Ronzio, <i>Member</i>	2023

Cemetery Commissioners

William Cavanaugh, <i>North Becket Cemetery</i>	2022
Michelle Smith, <i>West Becket Cemetery</i>	2021
Dean Williams, <i>Center Cemetery</i>	2023

Constables

Michael Hunt	2021
Nicole Miller	2021

Finance Committee

Dan Parnell, <i>Chair</i>	2022
Mark Karlberg, <i>Vice Chair</i>	2023
Ronald DeFoe, <i>Clerk</i>	2022
Charles Garman	2021
Ann Spadafora	2021

Planning Board

Robert Ronzio, <i>Chair</i>	2025
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>	2021
<i>appointed by the Board of Selectmen</i>	

Moderator

Ethan Klepetar	2023
Steve Rosenthal, <i>Deputy Moderator -</i>	2023
<i>appointed by the Moderator</i>	

School Committee (Becket Representatives)

Barbara Craft-Reiss, <i>Chair</i>	2022
Art Alpert	2024

Town Clerk

George Roberts	2023
----------------	------

Board of Selectmen Appointments

Agricultural Commission

Neil Toomey, <i>Chair</i>	2021
Kristopher Massini	2021
Guy McKay	2021

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

<i>appointed by the Planning Board</i>	
Robert Ronzio, <i>Delegate</i>	2021
Alvin Blake, <i>Alternate Delegate</i>	2021
<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)	
---	--

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board

William H. Elovirta, <i>Designee</i>	2021
--------------------------------------	------

Board of Assessors

Karen Avalle	2020
Beverly Gilbert	2021
Jessica Perotti	2023
Geraldine Walter (<i>retired July 23rd from office, remained on the Board</i>)	2021
Elizabeth Will (<i>resigned Oct. 27th</i>)	2022

Board of Survey

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

Bylaw Review Committee

Madelaine Elovirta	2022
Sarah Hoecker	2021
Maria Wallington	2023
Town Clerk, <i>ex officio, non-voting member</i>	
Moderator, <i>ex officio, non-voting member</i>	

Chief Procurement Officer

William Caldwell	2022
------------------	------

Citizen's Advisory Committee

Alvin Blake	2022
-------------	------

◆ *Town Officers* ◆

George Roberts 2022
Christopher Swindlehurst 2022

Community Preservation Committee

Neil Toomey, at Large member, *Chair* 2023
Cindy Delpapa, *Conservation Com. Designee* 2021
Rita Furlong, *Parks & Recreation Designee* 2023
Gail Kusek, *Historical Com. Designee* 2021
James P. Levy, *Planning Board Designee* 2023
Vacancy, at large members: 2

Conservation Commission

David Johnson, *Chairperson* 2021
Alison Dixon, *Vice Chairperson* 2020
Cindy Delpapa, *Secretary* 2022
Meredyth Babcock 2021
Douglas Bessone 2023
Henry Hagenah 2023
Henry Scarpo 2021
Vacancy

Council on Aging

Joan Moylan, *Director* 2022
Paula Bergeron, *Treasurer* 2022
Lorraine Dean 2023
Celine Godbout 2022
Marie Grull 2022
William Robinson 2022
Betty Shepard (*died April 6th*) 2022

Cultural Council

Linda Bacon, *Chair* 2022
Mary Manning Cohen, *Secretary* 2022
Andrea Nix, *Treasurer* 2022
Jennifer Avery (*resigned June 10th*) 2021
Sally Baumer 2022
Shelley Chanler 2023
Roberta Goldman 2023
Rosanna Koelle (*resigned May 12th*) 2021
Andrea Pecor 2022
Cathy Terwedow 2023
Tracy Wilson 2023

Dog Hearings Officer

Vacancy

Election Workers

Meredyth Babcock (D) 2021

Alvin Blake (U) 2021
Vernice Diane Cowell (D) 2021
Barbara Craft-Reiss (D) 2021
Susan Crossley (D) 2021
Tarcisio Ramos dos Santos (D) 2021
Charles Francis (D) 2021
Charles Garman (U) 2021
Patricia Clemons (D) 2021
Timothy Hickey (U) 2021
Lynn Howard (D) 2021
Julia Kay Grace (D) 2021
Ann Krawet (D) 2021
Gale LaBelle (R) 2021
Stephen LaBelle, Sr. (R) 2021
Adele Levine (D) 2021
James Peter Levy (U) 2021
Dennis Mahoney (R) 2021
Priscilla McEwen (U) 2021
Adrienne Metcalf (U) 2021
Susan Purser (D) 2021
Steven Reiss (D) 2021
Thomas Henry Rock (R) 2021
Ruth Rosenthal (U) 2021
Jerome Schwartzbach (U) 2021
Flora Whiffen (U) 2021

Energy Committee

Alvin Blake, *Chair* 2022
Robert Gross, *Vice-Chair* 2022
Catherine DeFoe, *Secretary* 2023
Katherine Hoak 2021
Garth Klimchuk 2021
Susan Purser, *Alternate Member* 2021
Ex-Officio Members: Edward Pickert,
William Caldwell, William Girard, Dan Parnell

Harbor Master

Steve Rosenthal 2021

Highway Superintendent Screening Committee*

William Elovirta, *Board of Selectmen Designee*
Ronald DeFoe, *Finance Committee Designee*
Albert Goodermote, *Highway Department Designee*
Katherine Warden, *Community Member*
Curt Wilton, *Town Administrator's Designee*
*Board of Selectmen established on May 6, 2020,
dissolved on August 8, 2020

◆ *Town Officers* ◆

Historical Commission

Sandra Jarvis, <i>Chair</i>	2021
Rita Furlong	2022
John Garvey	2021
Katherine Hoak	2023
Gail Kusek	2021

Jacobs Ladder Trail Advisory Committee

John Garvey (<i>resigned Sept. 30th</i>)	2021
Vacancy	

Municipal Light Plant Manager

Robert Gross	2023
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Parks & Recreation Committee

Rita Furlong, <i>Chair</i>	2023
Madelaine Elovirta, <i>Clerk</i>	2023
Tina LeVasseur	2022
Eila May Bell	2023
1 Vacancy	

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 (<i>for Town Clerk Records</i>)	
Administrative Asst. (<i>for other than Town Clerk Records</i>)	

Registrar of Voters

Colleen Cox (D)	2021
Robin Greenspan (R)	2022
Michelle Smith (D)	2023
Town Clerk, George Roberts (U)	

Tax Collector

Kenneth Bilodeau	2023
Nina Weiler, <i>Assistant Collector</i>	2021
David Shorey, <i>Deputy Collector</i>	2021

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

Town Administrator

William Caldwell	2022
------------------	------

Treasurer

Christine Bleau	2022
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Kenneth Bilodeau, <i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	2023
--	------

The Assistant Treasurer is appointed by the Treasurer with the Board of Selectmen's approval

Westfield River Wild & Scenic Advisory Committee

Cindy Delpapa, <i>Representative</i>	2022
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WiredWest

Jeffrey Piemont, <i>Delegate</i>	2022
Jeremy Dunn, <i>Delegate</i>	2020
Robert Gross, <i>Alternate Delegate</i>	2022

Zoning Board of Appeals

Victoria Bleier, <i>Chair</i>	2021
Sarah Hoecker	2023
Joy Lennartz (<i>resigned Feb. 12th</i>)	2020
Jeff Wilkinson	2022
Alvin Blake, <i>Assoc. Member</i>	2021
Katherine Warden, <i>Assoc. Member</i> (<i>resigned Sept. 2nd</i>)	2020

Zoning Enforcement Officer

William Girard	2021
----------------	------

Town Administrator's Appointments

Accountant	Term Expiring
Margaret McClellan	2021

Ambulance Director

Raymond Ferrin	2021
----------------	------

Animal Control Officer

Nicole Miller	2021
Tania Jakubiec, <i>Assistant – Agreement with the Town of Otis</i>	

Animal Inspector

Madelaine Elovirta	2021
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Inspector of Buildings/Trench Inspector

William Girard	2021
Gary Danko, <i>Asst. Building Inspector</i>	2021

Emergency Management Director

Kristopher McDonough	2021
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Fire Chief/Fire Warden

Paul Mikaniewicz	2021
------------------	------

◆ *Town Officers and Town Employees* ◆

Highway Superintendent/Pest Control/Tree Warden

Edward Pickert	2021
Christopher Bouchard (<i>resigned Apr. 11th</i>)	2020

Plumbing/Gas Inspector

Mark Levernoch	2021
Brian Middleton, Assistant Plumbing/Gas Inspector	2021

Police Department Full-Time

Kristopher McDonough, Chief	2021
Matthew Virginia, Sergeant	2021
Kurtis Eckman	2021
Michael Hunt	2021

Police Department Part-Time

Charlene Auger	2021
Trae Balardini	2021
Shawn Courtney	2021
Chad Heath	2021
Nicole Miller	2021
Kenneth Pettibone	2021

Veterans' Agent

Doug Mann	2021
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Veterans' Grave Officer

William Mulholland	2021
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Wiring Inspector

Dana Spring	2021
Jim LaPier, Assistant Wiring Inspector	2021
John Savery, Assistant Wiring Inspector	2021

Town Employees

Administrative Assistant

Beverly Gilbert

Ambulance Department

Haylie Breault (*resigned Aug. 31st*)
Lisa Michaud

Assessors/Planning Board Clerk

Jessica Perotti

Board of Health/ZBA Clerk

Terese Lundberg

Building and Grounds Technician

David Shorey

Conservation Commission Agent

Mary Stucklen
Stacy Parsons, *Interim Agent*

Highway Department

Tyler Chrystal
Albert Goodermote
Christopher Isner
Nathan Morawiec
Donald Murray

Transfer Station

George Crochiere
Robert Will
Maurice Vandesteene

Volunteer Fire Department

Paul Mikaniewicz, *Chief*
Kris Massini, *Deputy Chief*
Bob Healey Sr., *Captain*
Chris Isner, *Lieutenant*
David Furlong, *Lieutenant*
Aurele Bergeron, *Firefighter*
Warren Castonguay, *Firefighter*
Craig Calantoni, *Firefighter*
Tyler Crystal, *Probationary Firefighter*
Derek Daudelin, *Firefighter*
Jan Elovirta, *Firefighter*
Jessica Giarolo, *Firefighter/EMT*
Gene Goebel, *Firefighter*
Mark Hanford, *Retired Fire Chief/Support Staff*
Bob Healey Jr., *Firefighter*
Darien Houlihan, *Firefighter*
Robert Johnson, *Firefighter*
Nathan Morawiec, *Probationary Firefighter*
Jason Maronde, *Firefighter*
Paul Mazut, *Firefighter/Support Staff*
Travis Miller, *Firefighter*
Chris Swindlehurst, *Firefighter*
Cameron VanBuren, *Firefighter*

Town of Becket, Massachusetts
2020 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 1/11/2021)** ◆

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	2,103 (as of 12/31/2020)
Registered Voters	1,660 (as of 12/31/2020)
Form of Government	Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator Open Town Meeting
Tax Rate	\$11.08 Fiscal Year 2020
Public Schools	Central Berkshire Regional School District
Police Department	Full-Time Chief, Full-Time Sergeant, Two Full-Time Police Officers, and Six 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 and www.becketbroadband.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: <https://www.townofbecket.org/subscribe> and to receive updates on the Town-owned broadband project, you may subscribe to www.becketbroadband.org

◆ *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/Zoning Board of Appeals	#120
Board of Health	#122
Council on Aging	#127
Conservation Commission	#129
Harbor Master	#140
Animal Control Officer	#156

◆ *REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR* ◆

With a year under my belt I am beginning to get to know the Town and the people of Becket much better. After a busy first year getting my feet wet, we were all thrown into the deep end with the current coronavirus pandemic.

I have to thank all the staff in town for continuing their work during this difficult time. Residents were incredibly understanding and cooperative while Town Hall was closed, closed to the public and operating for limited hours to the public. It has been a long year, but we, as a Town, have weathered it fairly well.

Several capital projects have been completed this calendar year. The electric vehicle charging stations in the Town Hall parking lot have been installed and are working well. Several residents' visitors have stopped to use them. The Town Hall building HVAC system has been converted from fuel oil to propane. The approved project at the 2019 ATM to improve drainage at the Ambulance Garage has also been completed. A new septic system shared between the Arts Center, Athenaeum, and Mullen House was installed.

The Town approved replacement of a few vehicles. This includes two Highway Department vehicles: truck #1 and truck #2. Truck #1 is the pickup that serves as the Highway Superintendent's vehicle. Truck #2 is one of the larger trucks used for hauling material and plowing. In April we bid farewell to Highway Superintendent Chris Bouchard as he took a new position as the DPW Director of South Hadley. In July we were very fortunate to hire Ed Pickert who had been the Town of Sheffield's Highway Superintendent. The primary project of the summer for the crew and new superintendent was the paving of Yokum Pond Road.

Thanks to a 75% reimbursement grant from the USDA we purchased a new hybrid police cruiser to improve our fuel economy.

Becket received two grants to complete a new Hazard Mitigation Plan and a Municipal Vulnerability Plan to acquire state designation and allow for additional grant opportunities. The MVP process was led by Meredyth Babcock and a team of dedicated townsfolk. Both plans were approved by their respective agencies.

Grant funds were awarded for the reconstruction of a culvert on Werden Road and Benton Hill Road. The Small Community Housing Choice Capital Grant was awarded to the Town for the rehab of a vacant house. The Town was awarded Green Communities grant funding to improve insulation and to install heat pumps at the town's two fire stations.

Likely the most notable progress has been in the area of Broadband. Make Ready has been completed and construction is beginning! More information can be found at www.becketbroadband.org

This has also been a particularly trying year in terms of elections. With the State and Federal Primary and Presidential Elections' early in-person, mail-in, absentee, and in-person Election Day voting, there has been a great deal to do. Town Clerks everywhere are exhausted and deserve a big thank you.

I look forward to another year and continuing to advancing the town with its operations and seeing the Broadband project near its completion.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Caldwell
Town Administrator



◆ *REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN* ◆

The year 2020 has been quite a challenge. No one would have ever expected to be dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. The Town Hall has been closed to the public, except by appointment since March and we currently do not see a complete reopening anytime soon. Other than a couple of staff testing positive but being a-symptomatic all town employees have fared well. Because most board and committee meetings are being held virtually, we recommend that you check the town website at townofbecket.org regularly to view respective minutes of the various boards and committees. You may also call into any of our meetings via zoom to participate.

The hottest topic in town is when we will we have operational broadband. Fortunately, things are moving at a much faster pace now. The hut to house the main working components is completed. Fiber is currently being strung on poles. It is expected that some areas will be functional by early summer. Please check the Becket Broadband site at becketbroadband.org for a detailed report and to sign up for high-speed internet and telephone.

Highway Superintendent Christopher Bouchard submitted his resignation in March to become the Director of Public Works in South Hadley. Albert “Bert” Goodermote was promoted to working foreman until a new superintendent was hired. A Highway Superintendent Screening Committee was established to search, screen, and make a recommendation to the Town Administrator. The Screening Committee reviewed several applications that were submitted. After narrowing the field to three, the Screening Committee unanimously recommended to the Town Administrator that Edward Pickert be offered the position. Ed, a resident of Lee, was Sheffield’s Highway Superintendent. The Town Administrator interviewed and subsequently appointed Ed and the Board of Selectmen unanimously approved. Ed started in July.

The first job Ed had to tackle was the completion of the Yokum Pond Road reconstruction job that was in progress. Ed quickly oriented to the position.

Dave Shorey, Building and Grounds Technician, reconfigured the Town Hall pavilion to include the broadband hut and expand the size of the Parks and Recreation storage room. This year the open pavilion space will be expanded.

Dave Shorey also remodeled and expanded the Police Department offices to make additional room and update security measures. It is expected that this upgrade will serve the department for several years, as calls for service continue to climb.

Because of the problems Covid-19 presented, the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) was postponed from May to June 6 and was held under a tent on the Center Park grounds. Thankfully, it was a sunny day. All articles passed with little discussion.

The Annual Town Election was also postponed from May until June 13. Michael Lavery was re-elected as a Selectman without opposition. The Board of Selectmen voted to reorganize on June 17, as is the custom after the yearly election. William Elovirta was re-elected Chairman, Michael Lavery re-elected Vice-Chairman and Christopher Swindlehurst re-elected Clerk.

The Parks and Recreation Committee went before the Conservation Commission to obtain permission to build a small pavilion at the North Becket Park on Maple St. After a site visit and public hearing, the commission did grant approval. Plans are to erect the structure the summer of 2021.

In the fall, the deteriorating Ambulance Department garage floor was replaced. Also, the old fuel oil heaters at the Town Hall were replaced with high efficiency propane units. These new units have the capability to have air conditioning and heat pump upgrades that we hope will happen in 2021. The in-ground fuel oil tank was removed and disposed of.

The Board took into consideration that many of our businesses in town suffered considerably from the effects of Covid-19. Some establishments closed, some had reduced hours and all suffered a loss of business. The board voted unanimously to reduce all Board of Selectmen license fees for 2021 by fifty percent.

Finally, at the ATM, voters approved an article to change from the **Board of Selectmen** to the **Select Board** as most other towns in the Commonwealth have done. This required a vote of the legislature to modify our

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

charter. This was done in late December and signed into law by Governor Baker on 1/12/2021. We are now officially the Select Board in 2021.

We want to thank Administrative Assistant Beverly Gilbert for keeping the Board and Town Administrator up to date with all our correspondence, agendas, etc. Beverly is always ready to assist. And, especially during this past year of Covid-19 inconveniences, we want to thank all the other employees of the town in and out of Town Hall and 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 taxpayers and voters, 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** ◆

The Becket Fire Department responded to a total of 141 calls during the 2020 calendar year.

- 32 Smoke/Fire Alarm activations. These calls include false alarms due to alarm malfunction/faulty alarm, smoke from cooking or other non-fire issue.
- 31 EMS (medical). These calls include lifting assistance, CPR, medical/ambulance assist.
- 18 CO (carbon monoxide) alarm activations. A majority of these calls are false activations due to alarm sensor malfunction.
- 14 Brush fires. These calls include illegal outdoor fires.
- 19 MVA's (motor vehicle accidents). These include ATV's, motorcycles and person vs. vehicle.
- 3 Motor vehicle fires.
- 1 Structure fire at Jacob's Pillow.
- 1 Structure fire that was falsely reported. The Becket Fire Department along with surrounding towns investigated the possible addresses that were reported as the fire and found nothing. It was later confirmed that it was a mistaken call.
- 22 Misc./other/service calls. These included calls for mutual aid to the Town of Russell for a mill fire, the City of Agawam for a landfill fire, the Town of Otis for a structure fire, Town of Blandford for a brush fire, standby in Lee fire station during a structure fire, and standby in our own station while surrounding towns were out on structure and brush fires.
 - Searching for lost hikers and aiding Becket Police in finding a missing individual.
 - Rescuing a dog that had fallen through ice.
 - Trees on wires, trees down. During a significant wind and rain weather event the Fire Department responded to several calls for trees down, wires down, trees on wires on fire, wires on fire, etc.
- Mutual aid/automatic aid to the Town of Washington is included in the above listed calls.

The Fire Department issued a total of 139 permits. This does not include the approximately 100 outdoor burn permits.

- 81 Smoke/CO permits
- 47 Propane tank (LP tank install and storage) permits.
- 6 Oil (new tank, old tank removal, oil burner/furnace repair and/or replacement).
- 3 Liquor license inspections.
- 1 Inspection for Verizon building.
- 1 Blasting permit.

The Fire Chief and Building Inspector also conducted an inspection of the new cannabis retailer.

The Fire Chief inspected the Becket Washington Elementary School and the Fire Department conducted a fire drill at the school.

The Fire Department put into service a second set of auto extrication tools. The new tools are battery powered and were placed in service at Fire Station 1 in rescue vehicle 6. Donations to the Becket Volunteer Firefighters Association helped to make this acquisition possible. The Becket Volunteer Firefighters Association paid half the cost of the auto extrication tools. The tools were used at a school bus extrication and live burn training event at the Otis Fire Department.

This year has been challenging for the Fire Department and for everyone due to the coronavirus pandemic. In order to follow federal and state government guidelines, CDC, DPH guidelines, local health department and EMS guidelines and for the safety of the Fire Department personnel and those we serve and interact with, we modified our monthly training to limit possible exposure to COVID-19.

I would like to thank all Fire Department personnel for their dedication to the department and to the towns they serve and the people who live or pass through them. Thank you for the opportunity to lead the department.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Mikaniewicz,
Fire Chief

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



2020 was certainly a different year. Much like everyone else, the Ambulance Department certainly experienced the burdens of the COVID-19 pandemic. On behalf of the members of this department, we would like to thank the residents of Becket for their acts of kindness, donations of personal protection equipment, and moral support. Some of the challenges that we faced included shortages of personal protective equipment, staff shortages as many of our staff work at other EMS related jobs, and constant adjustments to protocols as the pandemic evolved. Despite the challenges, we responded to an increased number of calls totaling 291 for 2020. A breakdown of those responses can be found below.

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.

Respectfully submitted,

**Ray Ferrin,
Ambulance Director**

In 2020, the Ambulance Department responded to 291 calls for service. Below is a breakdown of calls by town, and by type.

Town	# of Runs	Percentage of Total Runs
Becket	228	78.35
Otis	31	10.66
Lee	14	4.81
Washington	6	2.06
Chester	5	1.72
Middlefield	2	0.69
Peru	2	0.69
Blandford	2	0.69
Tyringham	1	0.34
291 Total		



Becket Ambulance standing by following the transfer of a critical patient to LifeStar Air Ambulance

Dispatch Incident	# of Runs	% of Runs
Sick Person	43	14.78%
No Other Appropriate Choice	42	14.43%
Falls	42	14.43%
Traffic/Transportation Incident	36	12.37%
Breathing Problem	21	7.22%
Psychiatric Problem	19	6.53%
Chest Pain (Non-Traumatic)	11	3.78%
Stroke/CVA	10	3.44%
Abdominal Pain/Problems	9	3.09%
Medical Alarm	8	2.75%
Unknown Problem/Person Down	7	2.41%
Hemorrhage/Laceration	6	2.06%
Cardiac Arrest/Death	5	1.72%
Traumatic Injury	4	1.37%
Convulsions/Seizure	4	1.37%

Dispatch Incident	# of Runs	% of Runs
Standby	4	1.37%
Unconscious/Fainting/Near-Fainting	3	1.03%
Choking	3	1.03%
Assault	2	0.69%
Back Pain (Non-Traumatic)	2	0.69%
Drowning/Diving/SCUBA Accident	2	0.69%
Diabetic Problem	1	0.34%
Eye Problem/Injury	1	0.34%
Animal Bite	1	0.34%
Fire	1	0.34%
Pandemic/Epidemic/Outbreak	1	0.34%
Heat/Cold Exposure	1	0.34%
Allergic Reaction/Stings	1	0.34%
Overdose/Poisoning/Ingestion	1	0.34%
Total: 291	Total: 100.00%	

◆ **REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT** ◆

The 2020 yearly breakdown shows the Police Department responded to 4,628 calls for the year. 148 criminal offenses have been logged since January 2020. These offenses have either been cleared by arrest or a criminal application, or the case remains open and under investigation. In addition to the activity breakdown, officers also issued 177 citations for 47 civil motor vehicle violations, 72 criminal motor vehicle violations, 10 arrest motor vehicle violations, and 48 written warnings.

In 2020 we were lucky to begin station improvements which are almost complete. I would like to thank Dave Shorey, Buildings and Grounds Technician, for his carpentry work and help in making this happen. These improvements to the station will provide a professional and safe working environment for the officers of the department. I envision that the enhanced station will meet the needs of the Police Department for years to come.

All of the officers in the department continue to be proactive and responsive while serving the Town and strictly following Covid-19 guidelines. Each individual officer carries unique skills and qualities that help the department provide the highest level of service to the Town.

As stated in my prior annual reports, I want to reiterate that I have an open door policy for anyone wishing to speak to me regarding any issue. This year 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 Town Administrator, Building and Grounds Technician, and the Becket Fire, Ambulance, and Highway Departments for their dedication and partnership in working together 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 jointly appointed annually by the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings are held remotely, via zoom, on the second Wednesday of each month at the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main St. Additional meetings are scheduled on an as-needed basis.

First, the Planning Board would like to acknowledge Mr. Robert T. Ronzio for his re-election to the Board in June of 2020. Mr. Ronzio, first elected to the Planning Board in 2001, has served the Town of Becket in many different capacities both as an elected and appointed public official. As the Planning Board Chair, he has coordinated and guided the board's activities in dealing with the fairly complex and somewhat sophisticated zoning rules involved in every Special Permit application. Mr. Ronzio also serves as the town's delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

Ms. Jessica Perotti, the board's Administrative Assistant, also deserves special recognition as she continues to be approachable and accommodating to those individuals who need direction and guidance in preparing Special Permit applications or information on other zoning matters. Moreover, while Jessie continues to be a great asset to the team, she has recently assumed new duties in the Assessors' Office.

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; Mr. Alvin Blake, the Clerk Pro Tem and Dr. Howard G. Lerner.

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, assumes the duties of the absent individual as needed.

Lastly, on behalf of the board, I would like to thank Mr. Blake who was unanimously re-elected to serve as the Board's alternative representative to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and Mr. Levy who was likewise unanimously re-elected to serve as the board's designee on the Community Preservation Committee.

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 2020, the Becket Planning Board was scheduled to convene fourteen times for regularly scheduled meetings and additional public hearings. One meeting was cancelled. With COVID-19 pandemic proliferating early in 2020, starting in April, meetings were held remotely using teleconferencing as the community responded to the Governor's strict orders and related rules. This impersonal method proved to be less than ideal and added considerable time to the process.

Six ANR Form A plans were received and all six were endorsed by the board for filing at the Registry of Deeds, as these applications did not constitute a subdivision within the meaning of the Subdivision Control Law. ANRs generally enable the applicants to create new conforming building lots or redraw existing boundary lines that do not affect frontage or existing acreage requirements.

Two ANRs allowed the owners to combine smaller adjacent parcels into a larger lot with no new building lots being created. Four other ANRs reconfigured existing conforming lots while conveying smaller parcels to abutters.

Several Special Permit applications were presented for review and approval. A number of residents remotely 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.

A Special Permit application initially 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 was withdrawn and approved without prejudice unanimously by the Planning Board. The applicant stated he found a more suitable location in another town.

Since the Ipswich Pharmaceutical Associates, Inc. (IPA) experienced a change in partnership, the Cannabis Control Commission determined that the Special Permit to operate a registered marijuana facility for both medical and adult use sales, at 2727 Jacobs Ladder Road, was unaffected. The only change needed was a revision to the Host Community Agreement signed by both the Town Administrator and the marijuana establishment. Due to these organizational changes, Ben Zacks, the company's current CEO, stated his plans to open the facility have been delayed.

Grow Boys LLC, represented by Spencer Romano, submitted a Special Permit application to operate a Tier 3 indoor marijuana cultivation and manufacturing facility on a 2.94-acre parcel with access at 0 Jacobs Ladder Road. Mr. Romano requested that the Planning Board act favorably regarding his

◆ **REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD** ◆
~ Continued ~

request to withdraw due to the expressed opposition from the abutters and because he wanted his business to be welcomed. The vote to allow Grow Boys LLC to withdraw without prejudice was unanimously approved.

Grow Boys LLC, represented again by Spencer Romano, presented a second Special Permit application to operate a Tier 2 indoor marijuana cultivation and manufacturing facility on a 13.7-acre parcel with access at 0 Tanglewood Circle. The community at large raised some concerns regarding odor and were satisfied with the control measures and systems specified but also because the location was now located adjacent to a commercial solar farm array.

Conboy Realty Trust presented a Special Permit application to operate an indoor marijuana cultivation facility on a 2.7-acre parcel with access at 2727 Jacobs Ladder Road. When the hearing commenced, the Administrative Assistant reported that the applicant owed the town a considerable amount due to delinquent taxes. Article 17 Section 13 of the town's Betterment Bylaws restricts the issuance of all permits under those conditions. Therefore, the Planning Board, under the provisions of the Commonwealth's Zoning Act, voted 4 to 1 to have the application withdrawn with prejudice. Applications withdrawn in this manner will not be accepted again for two years.

Another Special Permit application was presented on behalf of New Cingular Wireless PCS for the installation of a new antenna array for AT&T at an existing cell tower site located at 1017 George Carter Road. Some discussion centered on the possibility of installing a propane generator instead of a diesel one, but it was decided that due to other safety drawbacks this option was not feasible. Planning Board approval was unanimous.

A seventh Special Permit application was presented for 308 Old Pond Road. The applicant sought relief from Section 3.4.7 to voluntarily demolish and reconstruct a slightly larger single-family dwelling within the same general footprint as the original non-conforming structure within the front yard 40' setback area. The board unanimously approved the permit due to topographical constraints, as long as the applicant also received approval from the Conservation Commission.

An eighth Special Permit application was presented for 209 Sherwood Drive. The applicants sought relief from Section 3.4.6 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 had expired. Given there was complete support from the abutters and because the reconstructed home would be a positive addition to the neighborhood, the board unanimously approved the permit to rebuild.

A ninth Special Permit application was presented for 345 Friar Tuck Drive. The applicant sought relief from Section 3.4.6 to reconstruct a home on three nonconforming lots. The board recognized that a dwelling, on one of the lots, had been demolished by the previous homeowner and the two-year limitation to rebuild 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.

A tenth Special Permit application was presented for 37 Shore Road. The applicant sought relief from Section 3.4.6 to reconstruct a dwelling after it was demolished as the result of a fire. The board approved the permit 4-0 with one abstention so long as the new structure was substantially less detrimental to the neighborhood and with the stipulation that the setbacks specified in the permit were maintained.

Additional Actions:

At the request of the Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board prepared amendments to Becket's General and Zoning Bylaws regarding appropriate and long overdue language to reflect gender neutrality when referring to the chief administrative officers of the town. The Planning Board held a public hearing to gather input on that topic. The Planning Board approved the changes for inclusion as two warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting. The articles were approved at the ATM in June 2020. This authorized the Board of Selectmen to petition for special legislation to amend the Town Charter.

The Planning Board retrieved the town's Master Plan. The document was so old, it was composed and memorialized on a typewriter. And believe it or not, in 2026 the Becket Master Plan will celebrate its 50th anniversary. It was last completed in April 1976 by the Becket Planning Board with technical assistance provided by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. MGL Chapter 41 Section 81 establishes the legal basis for the Planning Board to extend and perfect the document. Therefore, an updated Master Plan is needed to ensure the town's comprehensive long-range policy is consistent with the town's current goals and objectives.

The Planning Board reviewed a Board of Selectmen's request for input regarding the sale of property on Beech Tree Lane that is restricted under the recreational provisions set forth in Chapter 61B. The board unanimously recommended that the sale be allowed to proceed provided that land revert back to the regular tax rate status since it will no longer meet the requirements of Chapter 61B once a dwelling is built.

Residents engaged the Planning Board on numerous

◆ **REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD** ◆
~ Continued ~

occasions and had multiple informal discussions in a public forum format. One focused on growing marijuana on vacant lots, several others discussed Tier 11 indoor and outdoor cannabis cultivation opportunities, another centered on the establishment of separate zoning districts where all future commercial and industrial sites would be located, and a fourth wanted guidance on setting up a number of guest ranch lodges, somewhat like a campground, on a large parcel. Several other informal discussions were held regarding abandonment or non-use whereby a non-conforming use and/or structure loses its protected status after two years and can only be re-established by a grant of a Special Permit by the Planning Board. One individual, who represented a large private community, spoke to the Planning Board about establishing a bylaw that would regulate the burgeoning short-term lodging industry e.g., Airbnb, etc.

Lastly, The Planning Board initiated its own discussion pertinent to outdoor and indoor marijuana cultivation requirements and performance standards set forth in section 6.8 of the Becket Zoning Bylaws. The ongoing review's primary focus is on the impact the existing bylaw has on residents given that applicants may seek Special Permit approval anywhere

within Becket so long as the Special Permit conforms to the requirements set forth in the Zoning Bylaw.

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

In closing, 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. This year we wish to especially recognize the town's Administrative Assistant, Beverly Gilbert. 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, concerns, thoughts or ideas.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert T. Ronzio
Chair



◆ **REPORT OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR** ◆

With the realities of COVID – 19 upon us life has become so different yet maybe a bit simpler. For instance, I have been working mostly out of my home and stacking my inspections so that I only drive into town when needed. I have also had my hours cut to 32 per week. This has worked out well for me and for the town.

As many of you know I was going to retire a year ago in January. We even had a retirement party with thirty or so guests including several past Town Administrators. It was very nice and I appreciated it very much. As it turned out, there were no acceptable candidates for the job so I stayed on and will continue for a while longer; as long as it remains mutually advantageous to myself and the Town of Becket. Needless to say, I love my job and Becket but the daily commute was really getting to me. I hope that the residents are happy with my performance with these changes. I can be

reached anytime by phone or email so do not worry about getting answers to your question. Permits are done online and payments can be made online also.

There were ten new single family residences started in 2020 which is good for Becket and there were a few that wanted to get started but could not pull it off. There were many more buildings that have gone through remodeling projects than usual due to a larger number of our second home residents spending more time in Becket than expected. They took advantage of the opportunity to complete a few upgrades.

Unfortunately, our camps and restaurants had a difficult year because they were not able to open; which resulted in fewer Certificates of Inspections for me to process. We also lost the historic Doris Duke Theatre at Jacob's Pillow to a fire.

Here are the statistics for the year 2020:

Type of Activity	# of Activity	Est. Value	Cost of Permit
Certificate of Inspection	27		\$ 1,350.00
Certificate of Occupancy	8		\$ 305.00
Certificate of Occupancy (C)	2		\$ 125.00
Commercial Building Permit	9	\$ 564,187.00	\$ 2,794.00
Residential Building Permit	161	\$ 7,729,983.00	\$ 24,534.00
Sheet Metal Permit	2	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 400.00
Sign Permit	0	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Solid Fuel Appliance Permit	18	\$ 37,807.00	\$ 885.00
Tent Permit	8	\$ 31,620.00	\$ 550.00
Trench Permit	1		\$ 35.00
Building Permit Total	236	\$ 8,334,170.00	\$ 29,323.00
Electrical Permit	91		\$ 8,450.00
Gas Permit	59		\$ 3,780.00
Plumbing Permit	38		\$ 3,415.00

I would like to thank the Assistant Building Inspector Gary Danko, Plumbing Inspectors Mark Levernoch and Brian Middleton and Wiring Inspectors Dana Spring, John Savery and James LaPier for their dedicated service. Also, I wish to say many thanks to all my fellow employees at the Town Hall for being so helpful and keeping me informed.

Respectfully Submitted,

William E. Girard
Building Inspector

◆ **REPORT OF THE BECKET LAND TRUST** ◆

It has come to our attention that many newer residents of Becket are not aware of the history and current status of the Land Trust. Many within our community are also not aware of a tremendous opportunity that lies before us. Therefore, I am providing in this year's report a more detailed accounting of both the background of the Historic Quarry and Forest as well as a description of our current goals

The Becket Land Trust was founded in 1990 by several Becket families. Ten years later, Becket Land Trust purchased the Becket Quarry property when the town's Board of Selectmen assigned their right of first refusal, under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 61, to the trust. For those who were in town then, it was an exciting time for a major land conservation effort. We once again find ourselves faced with a choice and another wonderful opportunity. To find out more, read on...

Back in 1999, if not for the Becket Land Trust, the quarry would have been acquired by a company planning to excavate millions of cubic yards of granite for the Big Dig in Boston. This would have been a massive disruption for the sleepy town of Becket.

The Trust was successful in raising over \$300,000 to purchase the quarry. The funding came from a community deeply concerned about having a major industrial operation in town with an estimated 20 loaded tractor trailers an hour rumbling down its rural roads.

The Land Trust opened the quarry to the public and built miles of hiking trails. Then something amazing happened: it became wildly popular as a spot for outdoor recreation. A YouTube sensation, even! And this is to say nothing of its **New England Cottontail habitat reserve, and Oak regeneration forestry program.**

Now, each year, the Quarry sees over 6,000 visitors each year, though just this past June alone, we had over 3,000 visitors which is because of Covid-19 (people feel a need to be outdoors and many are out of work, school or camp). This is terrific and a huge challenge.

Over the years since the acquisition, the Trust has received over \$250,000 in State, Federal, and private grants and donations to build over **7 miles of hiking trails** and a self-led

informative Historic Hike focusing on 14 artifacts; these include a steam powered winch, and a 90-foot tall wood-masted guy derrick. These funds also were used for the two conservation projects, the habitat and forestry program.

In recent years the task of managing the Quarry has overwhelmed the all-volunteer Trust. Happily, there is a great solution. The Trustees of Reservations has agreed to take ownership of the Quarry and will bring its decades of experience in conservation and managing outdoor recreation properties.

The Trustees of Reservations have the size and budget to properly handle many challenges posed by operating Becket Quarry. They have indicated a willingness to work with the Becket Land Trust to keep the property open to the public, to maintain and improve the recreational areas and manage the wildlife and forestry programs that are in place. This is a best case scenario and will only increase the Quarry's appeal for all to enjoy.

To enable the transfer, The Trustees of Reservations has requested that the Trust endow the Quarry with a \$200,000 Stewardship Fund. Knowing the challenges posed by owning the Quarry, this is a bargain. However, for the Becket Land Trust, it is still a significant task. A third organization, **Berkshire Natural Resources Council**, has joined the other two groups to assist with this campaign.

The fundraising started in March and we have already received \$50,000 in donations and pledges.

Successfully bringing the Trustees of Reservation to the Historic Quarry and Forest will permanently ensure its future as a unique and beautiful feature of the Berkshires. Please take a moment to go to our website www.becketlandtrust.org and make a donation. All donations are tax-deductible. It can be done with your help!

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 2020 Reporting:

Total Appropriations and Charges \$7,483,451.79

Total Receipts \$1,604,892.55

Total Amount to be Raised \$5,878,559.24

CLASS	LEVY %	VALUATION	PARCEL COUNT
Residential	90.1155	478,113,252	3,680
Commercial	3.4918	18,525,792	78
Industrial	0.2928	1,553,600	5
Personal Property	6.0999	32,363,244	904
Totals	100 %	530,555,888	4,667

Tax Rate.....\$11.08

The Board of Assessors processed:

Elderly and Veteran Exemptions.....	48
Blind Exemption.....	2
Hardship.....	0
Senior Work-off Abatements.....	5
Personal Property /Real Estate abatements.....	24
Motor Vehicle Abatements.....	63

Respectfully submitted,

Geraldine L. Walter
Jessica M. Perotti
Beverly A. Gilbert

◆ **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH** ◆

The Becket Board of Health has had a very challenging year. COVID-19 has changed our lives, the lives of all our friends and the services in all our communities.

Jane Smith left Becket as our Health Agent and Edward Fahey has taken over. Thank you to Charlie Kaniecki and Valerie Bird for assisting our Health Agent.

I wish to say thank you to Laurel Burgwardt for assisting with ninety-three Title 5s this year. There were many percolation tests for new septic systems and eleven new homes being built in the Town of Becket. I extend a genuine thank you to Dave Krawet for his dedication and many hours donated to our board the last few years. Robert Ronzio has been elected and he is instrumental in updating rules, policies and regulations.

Berkshire County Boards of Health is the major COVID-19 vaccinator in Berkshire County. Please stay safe. Wear a mask; double masking is the recommended protection. Wash

your hands frequently with soap, water, and use alcohol based products. Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19.

Some residents have no symptoms, but please get the vaccination if you can. 2-1-1 has an information and referral line. Several Councils of Aging are available to assist with vaccination appointments. This information is on the Becket website www.townofbecket.org.

Stop the Spread: www.getvaccinated.com and ma.immunizations.org

*Stay Safe.
Respectfully Submitted,*

Gale LaBelle, **Chairperson 2022**
Laurel Burgwardt, **Vice Chairperson 2021**
Robert Ronzio, **Clerk 2023**



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

Sadly, the COVID-19 pandemic drastically impacted programs this past summer. We cancelled the Summer Parks Program usually held at the Becket Center Park. We managed to find a lifeguard to work four days a week at the town beach with no swimming lessons provided. Three faithful and responsible people were hired as gate attendants. During the summertime, we scheduled a Gate Attendant to work daily to check beach passes. The beach access permit cards are for the calendar year (January through December). The Collector's Office sells them year-round. After passing the Gate Attendant, visitors should place their card on their vehicle's dashboard so that it is visible to the police. Those arriving before the Gate Attendance is in place should do so as well.

The remainder of the responsibilities of the committee were conducted. The gardens were mulched and weeded by volunteers Maddie Elovirta and Rita Furlong.

In order for the pumping truck to have access to the porta-potty, we purchased signs saying, "Please Do Not Block" which seemed to do the trick.

We purchased and installed a heavy chain and lock to secure the portable dock after the summer ends. The Rossini family continues to volunteer to place lines to define the swimming area and to anchor the large raft. We are grateful to them as this is a difficult job for the committee to assume. At the beginning of each summer, volunteers Bill Elovirta and Building & Grounds Technician Dave Shorey install the other dock and they remove it each fall. We wish to express our appreciation to them as well.

We received a request to install a batting cage at the Center Park but tabled this because we do not have a ball team in Becket at this time.

The town's Broadband hut is now located in the pavilion at the Center Park. The Parks and Recreation portion of the building was moved over. The Select Board promised that the lost cement pad portion used for picnic and recreational space will be replaced this spring.

We continue to plan for expanded use of the North Becket Village Park. We received Conservation Commission permission to build a 20' x 20' pavilion there last spring. It will be available for activities like the Brouhaha event and school's outdoor classes. Electricity will be made available after the pavilion is built in July. It will allow bands to play there and perhaps become a wedding venue. It should be ideal for picnics and train watching. Hopefully, this pavilion will be in place by the summer of 2021.

We hope that during 2021 we can resume regular programming as the swimming lessons and parks program are well attended and provide much needed activities for our town's children.

Respectfully submitted,

Parks and Recreation Committee Members:

Rita Furlong
Maddy Elovirta
Tina LeVasseur

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

In addition to the daily and routine (and sometimes surprise) maintenance of town facilities and grounds, below is a listing of projects accomplished during 2020.

- Completed 24' x 24' addition to the Parks and Recreation Committee's building at the Center Park Pavilion.
- Completed the remodeling of the old Parks and Recreation Committee's building for the new Broadband hut.
- Started and completed approximately 95% of the Police Station remodeling
- Supervised the installation of four new gas fired furnaces with AC coils for future AC at the Town Hall.
- Poured a 12' x 20' concrete pad for the new propane tanks at the Town Hall.
- Oversaw the trenching operations for the new fiber lines at the Town Hall.
- Configured and assisted with the parking lot extension on the south end of the Town Hall.
- Installed a new concrete ring on the septic pump tank at the Town Hall.
- Managed the installation of electric mini-split heat and AC units at Fire Stations #1 and #2 and at the Ambulance Dept.
- Supervised the insulation upgrade of Fire Station #1's attic.
- Supervised the excavation and inspection of the Town Hall septic system.
- Oversaw and took part in removing and replacing the concrete floor and blacktop apron with concrete at the Ambulance garage.
- Other miscellaneous tasks in addition to all activities related to maintenance (i.e. cleaning, minor repairs, mowing, snow-plowing) to facilitate smooth operations of the Town's many properties.

It is always gratifying to partake in projects which result in visible improvements to town-owned properties.

I would like to thank Town Administrator Bill Caldwell, Beverly Gilbert, Police Chief Kris McDonough; the Highway, Police, Fire and Ambulance Departments and all department heads and employees for all their help during the 2020 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** ◆

Even Covid-19 couldn't stop activity on our lakes this past summer. Unfortunately, for the first time in many years, there were reportable accidents on our waters. There were also unregistered vessels. Please remember that any vessel that is motorized must be registered with the state and must show both a current sticker and proper registration numbers on the vessel. Accidents can be prevented by slowing down. Our lakes are not huge. There is no reason to speed.

If you observe any problems on the water please contact me via Town Hall (413) 623-8934 Ext. 140 so the issue can be resolved.

Also, it is important to remember that raft permitting is an

annual process. If you have a floating raft anchored to the bottom of the lake you are required to permit it every spring with the Town via the Harbor Master. Permanent docks must be registered with the Commonwealth as well as the Becket Conservation Commission.

I look forward to seeing you on the water.

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 are protected for our current residents and future generations to come.

The Conservation Commission consists of a seven-member volunteer board. At the end of 2020, we had six members serving on the commission. We currently have one vacancy and invite anyone with an interest in learning about the "conservation of our water resources areas" and wish to join the commission to contact Dave Johnson at 978-424-5752 or email aiaincdaj@gmail.com. To support the Commissioners, Becket has Mary Stucklen as our part-time Conservation Agent. She arranges site visits, posts legal and meeting notices, and follows up on inquiries and violations. Mary is currently out on maternity leave and Stacy Parsons is temporarily handling her duties.

The volunteer Commissioners review permit applications and participate in site visits as part of the administration and implementation of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. Throughout the year they continue to further their knowledge by attending webinars and conferences offered by the MA Association of Conservation Commissioners.

Important actions currently working on:

1. **Becket Lakes and Pond Council:** Over the last couple of years a number of residents appearing before the commission asked us if other water resource areas were dealing with the same issues as they were experiencing. Until recently, there was not a vehicle for all the lakes and pond residents to share important information. They pretty much function in isolation from each other. We thought creating a council would be a great benefit by providing the property owners a vehicle to share issues, concerns, and information about short and long-term lake and pond management programs. Purr (Priscilla) McEwen and Barbara Wacholder accepted our request to set up this council, which will schedule their first meeting this spring. The council, by design, will function autonomously from the Conservation Commission.
2. **Berkshire Conservation Commission Chair Council:** A few conservation commission chairs called me last fall to seek my advice on how to handle a couple of issues. It occurred to me that it might be useful to create a council in order to have a forum to share information. Our first meeting will be in April and, to date, 32 chairs will participate.
3. **Conservation Commission Webpage:** We have received complaints that the webpage is clunky and cluttered. We are working

on changing it so that appears more user-friendly. We will include important links, and declutter its appearance. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

4. **Conservation Commission Complaints:** I received a couple of complaints that applicants were either upset with the decision rendered on their application or the deliberation process of the commissioners. I think it is important as chair to respond to all complaints for these reasons: it allows applicants to be heard, it provides valuable feedback to the commission, perhaps we overlooked something in our decision process that needs to be addressed, and it improves our relationship with the residents of Becket. We are creating a feedback form that will be given to all applicants that will be shared with the entire commission at the end of our scheduled meetings.

5. **In-house education training:** We scheduled six training classes during the year. These Conservation meetings started at 6:00 p.m. and were open to the public. Mary Stucklen conducted 25-minute presentations on some aspect of the Wetlands Protection Act.

Our regularly scheduled monthly meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Becket Town Hall. Any meeting presenting an in-house educational training session will begin at 6:00 p.m. Our meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the Town website.

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

To contact the Commission Chair, Dave Johnson: cell 978-424-5752, email: aiaincdaj@gmail.com

Conservation Commissioners of 2020:

David Johnson, *Chairperson* (2021)
Henry Hagenah, *Vice-Chairperson* (2023)
Cindy Delpapa, *Secretary* (2022)
Meredyth Babcock (2021)
Henry Scarpo (2021)
Douglas Bessone (2023)
one vacancy

Issued in 2020:

Notice of intent	11
Order of Conditions	3
Determination of Applicability	22
Compliance	5
Enforcement Orders	3
Permit Extension	2
Amend order of Conditions	3
Emergency Certification	4

Respectfully submitted,

David Johnson
Conservation Commission Chairperson

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

The 2020 season at the Becket Arts Center started off with great hopes and big plans to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our founding. Everything changed in March when the stay-at-home orders were issued due to the pandemic. Given all of the uncertainty during the spring, the BAC and its board of trustees followed the example of many other cultural organizations, such as Jacob's Pillow, and made the difficult decision to cancel most of our planned season.

Still, everyone at the BAC wanted to provide some kind of arts and arts programming to the local community so we looked for and found various creative, safe, and socially-distant ways to engage with people during this strange year, and made modest improvements to our gallery space as well. Some of our undertakings included:

- **Investing more time and energy into our email newsletters**, offering links to creative videos of COVID-19 life, featured writers, gardening tips, recipes and more. We felt this was a way to connect to audiences we would normally see in person.
- **Partnering again this year with Jacob's Pillow for Families Dance Together**. This program went virtual and Jacob's Pillow reported overwhelming success as families from all over the globe danced in their living rooms with their children. The BAC is proud to be partnering with a local organization that has such wide appeal and reach.
- **Completing interior painting** in our upstairs Barber Gallery as well as downstairs in the McEwen room. Both rooms now boast bright white paint with gray trim to match the rest of the interior space.
- **Launching a 50/50 art sale**, in which we solicited donated pieces of art that were then made available to the general public to purchase for \$50 each. To date, we have sold 37 pieces of art!
- **Creating an online version of our popular artisan gift shop**, which allowed shoppers to buy pieces online and pick them up at the BAC. The online presence of the gift shop expanded the audience our artists could reach with their handmade items. And, even though the BAC is not currently heated, we bundled up and welcomed a limited number of shoppers for in-person shopping on Saturdays in November.

Beyond these undertakings, we also remained steadfastly committed to showcasing the art of local visual artists, even if we could not hold gallery openings in person, or have people exploring our gallery space in person. Some of what we accomplished in 2020 included:

- **Re-imagining our gallery shows for an online space.**

Sixteen visual artists were selected to show in our gallery in 2020, but we were not able to hold those shows in person. We did feature many artists in our e-newsletters and in a newly designed virtual gallery: www.becketartscenter.org/artists. While viewing the artwork online pales in comparison to seeing it in person, we just could not imagine a summer without the BAC's gallery artists. We extended the same offer to BAC members for the 2020 Member Show in August. Sixteen artists participated: we showcased their work in our virtual online gallery, and many pieces were offered for sale.

- **Moving forward with and holding our 2nd Annual Open Studios DriveAbout** in September. Visitors (observing COVID-19 safety protocols) came to the BAC or drove to local artists' home studios. Fourteen local artists participated and the response from those artists was overwhelmingly positive. Many artists moved their studios outside for this event, as the weather could not have been more cooperative.

In addition to our work maintaining a place for artists to showcase their work and the various other improvements we worked hard on this year, we also found time to organize and execute a few other successful initiatives, including:

- A free outdoor craft project to accompany the library's summer reading program.
- A five-week outdoor yoga series on the Mullen House lawn, taught by Rima Sala.
- A free, attendance-limited and socially-distant outdoor music concert in September. Local musicians set up their instruments on our front lawn and entertained a small gathering into the early evening.
- A custom-decorated "Arlo Guth-Tree" honoring Berkshire Legend (and former BAC trustee) Arlo Guthrie that was part of the Berkshire Museum's Festival of Trees, on display and visible nightly from 5:30-9:00 pm outside the McEwen room.
- A virtual version of our popular December workshop, usually held in Becket Town Hall. This year, Edie King led the workshop via Zoom and in just under an hour participants made their own adorable small Christmas Tree.
- A virtual holiday sing-along with professional singer Ali England, accompanied by Tracy Wilson (both Becket residents). A recording of this fun and festive event was made available for all to see afterwards on the BAC website.

We had planned to celebrate 50 successful years of the Becket Arts Center in 2020, and in some ways we did, even if

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

it was not what we had hoped or imagined. We are excited and energized to begin our next 50 years by engaging with the local community even more. This is YOUR gathering place for ARTS and you are what makes the Becket Arts Center successful. Many thanks to our volunteers and to BAC's corporate sponsors for their enthusiastic support. Thank you to our community partners, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, and the Becket Athenaeum. Special recognition for providing funds goes to the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, the Feigenbaum Foundation, and the Town of Becket.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Beatty
Executive Director

Becket Arts Center Trustees:

Mary Manning Cohen, **President**
Susan Gerstle, **Vice President**
Drea Pecor, **Treasurer**
Linda Colvin, **Secretary**



Adele Levine
Alison Atlas
Amy Attias
Fran Hamburg
Joe Gaze
Rose Borgnis
Ruth Rosenthal
Susan Dworkin

◆ **REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT** ◆

This year has been full of normal maintenance, snow and ice control, line painting, brush cutting, grading gravel roads, drainage repair and cleaning, asphalt patching, street sweeping, and catch basin cleaning.

The spring season had some challenges. An early spring thaw lead to the creation of some mud on the gravel roads. A late snow storm in early May made for a tricky cleanup. After Mother's Day the crew started the "spring" grading of the gravel roads and the "summer" maintenance.

The Mass. Dept. of Transportation Chapter 90 Program Project commenced in the late spring. The Highway Department replaced eleven culverts on Yokum Pond Rd. In addition, we removed a few trees and some low hanging brush close to the road. After the culverts were replaced, Palmer Paving performed a full depth reclamation with injected asphalt stabilization. Palmer Paving also performed fine grading before placing the new asphalt. Palmer Paving installed two inches of HMA binder asphalt followed by two inches of MHA asphalt top coat. The total project spanned 5,600 ft. of Yokum Pond Rd. The Chapter 90 total cost of the project was \$326,939.12.

Our winter season started early. Our first snow fall occurred right before Thanksgiving. There were a few small storms in the beginning of winter with a larger storm happening just before Christmas. The storm yielded approximately eighteen inches of snow throughout the town. We had above average temperatures most of the winter season which led to more rain and ice events than snow.

I would like to take this time to thank Albert Goodermote, Nate Morawiec, Don Murray, Tyler Chrystal, Chris Isner, and part-time summer employees Bob Cooper and Devon Atwell for their hard work and dedication to the Town of Becket.

I would also like to thank the Town Administrator, Buildings and Grounds Technician, Board of Selectmen, and the Ambulance, Fire, and Police Departments for all their help and support.

Residents with any questions or concerns are welcome to call the Highway Department office Monday through Friday 7:00am to 3:30pm at 413-623-8988.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Pickert,
Highway Superintendent

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

The renovated and restored town owned building in North Village continues to house four to five office spaces rented by a writer or two, a garden consultant business, the Becket Land Trust, the Becket Quarry Museum, and a Becket Historical Commission Becket Basket Display. This provides the Town of Becket with small office space to the public that we anticipate will have Broadband internet availability this coming summer. Thankfully, Town Building & Grounds Technician David Shorey mows and we hire a neighbor to plow a pathway during the winter. Each of the tenants agrees to provide some small volunteer service to the Town in exchange for the low rental fee charged.

This last fall, the septic tank located on the lawn was connected to the Becket Athenaeum and the Becket Arts Center to provide for all three buildings.

Due to the pandemic restrictions this summer and because we believed it was unsafe to do so, we did not hire a docent to oversee the Saturday museum openings. Hopefully, in 2021, museum hours will resume for the public to view part of Becket's history.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Furlong,
Director

Board Members:

Ken Smith, Ann Smith, David Willey, Cathy Halladay

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

Anyone seeking 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 2020, the Becket Energy Committee consisted of the following members:

Name	Title	Term
Garth Klimchuk	Member	2021
Robert Gross	Vice Chair	2022
Cathy DeFoe	Secretary	2023
Alvin Blake	Chair	2022
Katherine Hoak	Member	2021
Susan Purser	Alternate Member	2021
William Pickert	Ex-Officio	
Bill Caldwell	Ex-Officio	
Bill Girard	Ex-Officio	
Dan Parnell	Ex-Officio	

Mission

The committee's charge is to advise the Select Board 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 Tuesday of each month throughout 2020. Meeting minutes and agendas were posted on the Town of Becket website.

Current Priorities

Short Term

1. Create a Request for Proposal (RFP) to explore solar array(s) on the Town Hall property or alternate location.
2. Explore use of wind turbine in lieu of solar to offset Town energy usage
3. Continue to identify community solar and other renewable energy projects for the Town and Town residents.
4. Organize sixth BEC Informational Session to be held in 2021.
5. Complete implementation of the municipal aggregation program.
6. 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.

Notable Accomplishments

- Significant energy improvements to both fire stations.
- Received competitive grant to replace Heating and Air Conditioning systems.
- Participated in Town Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program.
- Facilitated final process of Town participation in municipal aggregation program.
- Assisted in the completion and utilization of two Electric Vehicle charging stations at Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,
Energy Committee



◆ *REPORT OF THE BROADBAND AD HOC GROUP* ◆

As the year began we found ourselves frustrated by the long-delayed make-ready work required by Verizon and Eversource. All of the telephone poles and cables in the town needed to be correctly configured before we could begin building our fiber network, and the utility companies were busy in other towns.

After months of waiting, construction of our network finally began in November. Our construction company, Sertex, is scheduled to complete the work in eighteen months. This timeframe is reduced from the twenty-two months originally envisioned.

Individual home connections (“drops”) will begin after all network fiber for each Fiber Service Area (FSA) is complete and tested. This could be as soon as spring 2021 for our first FSA. The drops in FSAs with completed fiber will continue even as network construction carries on in other FSAs. All the Town’s connections will be complete within a couple of months following the core network’s completion, hopefully by mid-summer 2022.

The Becket Broadband website (becketbroadband.org) includes an extensive FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) section which should answer most, if not all, of your questions. See becketbroadband.org/faq.

If you want high-speed Internet and/or digital telephone service but have not yet signed up, you can do it online at whipcityfiber.com/becket. Call 1-833-991-9378 if you have questions or need assistance.

Once you have signed up for service and your FSA’s fiber is complete and tested, you will be contacted to schedule an

in-person consultation. Someone eighteen years or older who can authorize the work will need to be present. If your connection is completely overhead (from a utility pole directly to your house), all work will be done the same day as your consultation. If your connection includes an underground cable run, three visits would typically be scheduled. The first is the consultation; the second is for the underground work; on the third visit the equipment is installed in your home, and the fiber is connected to it.

Based on the responses we are getting through our website, mailings, and Facebook page (facebook.com/townofbecket), it certainly appears that Becket is more than ready for Broadband Internet!

Thank you to the community for your patience and support. I also wish to express appreciation to all the Broadband Ad Hoc Group members along the way who have been instrumental in bringing high-speed Internet to our town. The long wait will certainly be worth it.

Respectfully submitted,

Broadband Ad Hoc Group

Bill Caldwell, ***Town Administrator***

Bob Gross, ***MLP Manager and WiredWest Alternate Delegate***

Jeremy Dunn

Chuck Garman

Dave Labrecque

Dan Parnell

Jeff Piemont, ***Wired West Delegate***



◆ **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 and/or an on-line format directed to the local community.

To say the least, it has been a challenging year to gather for meetings. Outdoor and Zoom platforms have allowed the committee to continue to work. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic causing the closing of schools, museums, and community spaces, the grantees have had difficulty holding their events as planned this year. The Massachusetts Cultural Council has modified the requirements for holding events, council meetings formats, and postponing the deadlines. This has allowed recipients and councils more flexibility. Many events have been

held, but some have had to adjust their schedule or produce a virtual experience instead.

The Massachusetts Cultural Council has amended the deadlines for new applications for this coming 2021 grant cycle. As of this writing, we expect level funding from the state. However, a final number has not been revealed. As we continue to live with COVID-19 in our country, we thank all essential workers and those who provide cultural activities for our community to enjoy.

Becket Cultural Council members for 2020-2021 are Linda Bacon, Chair; Mary Manning, Secretary; Andrea Nix, Treasurer; Roberta Goldman; Andrea Pecor; Sally Baumer; Shelley Chanler; Cathy Terwedow and Tracy Wilson. 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.

These applications were awarded grants for the 2020 cycle:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Awarded</u>
Scott Rogers	Berkshire Jazz-Blues Workshop	\$300
Becket Arts Center	Becket Washington Community Partnership Hilltown	\$625
Berkshire Music School	Music Enrichment Programs at Becket Washington Elementary School	\$500
Berkshire Pulse	Intro to Dance at Nessacus	\$500
Becket Arts Center	Explorations: Tuesday Evenings at the Arts Center	\$550
Becket Athenaeum	Museum Passes	\$800
Michele Bastow	IS183 Art School's Learning Through Arts (LTA) Pro	\$250
Colleen Trager	Mystic Aquarium	\$1,500

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 other agencies, both state and federal. Veterans with a dishonorable discharge are not eligible.

The Veterans' Service Officer (VSO) also assists veterans and their spouses with federal Veterans' Administration requests. We advise veterans on what is available, and can assist in filling out and submitting the necessary paperwork, but it must be noted that we do not have any input in the approval process. However, the majority of assistance is through Chapter 115 benefits.

With the onset of Covid-19, and the necessary closing of Town offices, this office continued to assist Becket veterans and their families. The VSO has an office in Lee that remained open and was available for in-person meetings, with all Covid-19 protocols followed. Even though the veteran could email, mail, or phone in their requests, many veterans took advantage of the in-person meetings.

The Town of Becket was able to assist veterans this year with Chapter 115 benefits totaling **\$25,630.73**, a decrease of about **\$15,000** over last year. Of this amount, 75%, or **\$19,223.05**, will be reimbursed by the state for an actual cost to the Town of **\$6,407.68**. This included regular benefits, heating assistance, and medical reimbursements. The decrease was due mostly to a veteran who was removed from benefit eligibility in January, 2020 for failure to cooperate as required by state law governing veterans' benefits.

Surprisingly, considering the Covid-19 pandemic and the financial burden that it has caused many individuals, the case load of Veterans' Services has remained fairly level. The greatest need continues to be for senior veterans and their spouses or widows, who have very little income and are

unable to work. As noted in previous reports, one of the most underused programs available to veterans, is a program that allows a Veteran to receive Medical Only benefits, even if their income is too high for regular benefits. Since this is a needs based program, the asset limit (money in the bank) of \$5,000 for singles, and \$9,800 for couples still applies. This program reimburses co-pays, other medical costs, and can even reimburse the cost of Medicare Part B and some supplemental insurances. Veterans' Services does not pay the bills, but can reimburse medical bills paid for by the veteran. Becket Veterans' Services has several veterans, or their widows, on this Medical Only program.

Toward the end of the year, we received several coats from the Coats4Vets organization. These are available to any vet in South County who needs a coat. So far, some have been given out, and there are a few left to any vet who needs one.

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 they were entitled to.

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 and focused. During FY2020, 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 and the Feigenbaum Foundation, which continued to support our after-school programs. Our local LCCs (Local Cultural Council) from both 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, and contribute towards our after-school programs.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused the closure of the Athenaeum, therefore preventing in-library services to the community. Athenaeum staff deliberated and worked hard to implement a safe curbside materials pickup plan for our patrons. This included virtual browsing via video conferencing apps and pre-recorded videos, and a brand new website with virtual browsing pages by topic of interest. The Athenaeum also shifted to the virtual programming that necessarily defines the bulk of 2020, with the expectation that this will continue into 2021. During the warm summer months, Athenaeum staff ran our Summer Reading Program, as well as a weekly outdoor Story & Craft Time for families, co-sponsored with the Becket Arts Center. We also hosted an in-person, outdoor, family event, Japanese Folktale Storytelling by professional storyteller, Motoko Dworkin. In fall 2020, the library reopened for patrons by an appointment system, following stringent disinfecting, distancing, and masking protocols. While the majority of patrons have chosen to continue with curbside service, the reopening was a welcomed change for the community.

In FY2020, 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 director and after-school program coordinator, managed this academic support program which serves up to fourteen students on a single day with the help of a mix of six adult volunteers, seven staff, and several high school interns. We have ongoing communication with the Becket Washington School teachers and administration to ensure our program meets each child's needs throughout the school year. As of March 2020, the after-school programming shifted to virtual tutoring, with a smaller group of students enrolled, as some families had limited internet accessibility and many were overwhelmed with the increase in daily screen-time. Athenaeum staff has been pleased to continue to make a difference in students' educational work and goals throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The families of our after-school students 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. We were pleased to be able to have interns working with us during the Athenaeum's outdoor family summer programming. This internship is often a teen's first paid job and the mentoring and new job skills are invaluable to them and are a vital piece of our community outreach.

The Athenaeum continued our partnership with the Dalton CRA as well as the Becket Washington School in FY2020 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. When COVID-19 restrictions continued into the 2020-21 school year, the

REPORT OF THE BECKET ATHENAEUM

(Continued)

Athenaeum funded Becket and Washington students' participation in the CRA's new Educational Support Program, which offered in-person, internet-ready, support for students on the days that their school was virtual.

Our Friday Enrichment (FE) program continued through March 2020 with a focus on 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 Becket Chimney Corners YMCA & Outdoor Center as part of the Friday Enrichment program as well as our summer camp scholarship offering to local school children at the beginning of FY2020. We would again like to acknowledge the Becket Chimney Corners YMCA & Outdoor Center for their continued support and partnership in FY2020, and we look forward to our ongoing co-sponsored programming.

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. When the COVID-19 quarantine hit in March 2020, this program was suspended until further notice, but we look forward to its return in 2021.

The Athenaeum staff enjoys 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. It is our mission that this continue as an ongoing community outreach and educational supplement for local students. Therefore, we have offered to supply library materials directly to the teachers and classrooms throughout the COVID-19 restricted months, as well as organizing virtual book readings, as fits into their classroom schedules. We heartily look forward to resuming the in-person program once state pandemic restrictions lift in 2021.

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 Fund in December 2019 to support this event for the fifth year in 2020, but then the pandemic made canceling the event necessary. The BTCF-Central Berkshire Fund board approved a Change in Usage of Grant Funds in late winter 2020 and BWCP's financial contribution made a significant increase in funding for the local food pantry located at the Becket Federated Church.

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 pleased that the group has been able to continue to meet virtually as well as outdoors throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We are open to suggestions for group activities of interest to our patrons.

In 2020, 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 Chair, 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, and the legal agreement with the town, and assisted in soliciting contractors and scheduling the work, which was successfully completed in November 2020. We also were pleased to complete the first half of the Athenaeum's new signage plans. Our new "Becket Athenaeum: Becket & Washington Community Library" signs were designed and made by staff member, Dawn Greene. They now hang on both the Route 8 facing and the parking lot facing sides of the library. Once the pandemic ends, new signage with the library's hours will also be hung on front and back sides of the Athenaeum (the second phase of our updated signage project).

REPORT OF THE BECKET ATHENAEUM

(Continued)

The Athenaeum continues to receive grant funds from the Central Berkshire Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Foundation for a series of nine to twelve workshops that were held at the Athenaeum on evenings during the winter, spring, and fall of FY2020. These workshops were led by local presenters/educators in basketmaking, holiday cookie baking, fiber arts, plant & wild edible identification. We also hosted author readings and frequent movie nights for adults. The workshops were well-attended and provided information on a wide range of interesting topics for our community.

In spring and summer 2020, the Athenaeum completed our 2020 action plan goal of a community-wide survey. This was our very first online survey, shared to the community via links in our monthly newsletters, the towns' monthly newsletters, flyers, and social media posts. We were very pleased with the nearly 200 responses to the survey and spent the remainder of the summer and fall reviewing the data collected. While the responses were overwhelmingly positive regarding our staff and meeting of traditional library needs, there is a clear mandate by respondents for a larger volume of adult workshops and presentations as well as subject-focused social groups. With this in mind, the Athenaeum staff and board have been reviewing our past and current programming and rewriting grants for 2021 with the intent to expand our role as the Becket Washington library and community center, as requested in the survey. We applied for a monetary increase in our grants to continue expanding the quantity and breadth for all adult and family workshops and programming in 2021 and look forward to seeing more of our friends and neighbors at these sessions throughout the months ahead, both virtually, and in person when safe to do so.

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!

2020 Staff

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

Ellen Manley, *Head Librarian and FE assistant*

Dawn Greene, *Catalog Specialist*

Maria Massaro, *Assistant Librarian and ACE tutor*

Emily Robinson, *Assistant Librarian and ACE tutor*

2020 Becket Athenaeum Board of Trustees

Cathy DeFoe, *Chair (Becket Resident)*

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

Robert Gross, *Treasurer (Becket Resident)*

Katherine Hoak *(Becket Resident)*

Denise Johns *(Washington Resident)*

Purr McEwen *(Becket Resident)*

Allison Mikaniewicz *(Washington Resident)*

Jeff Piemont *(Becket Resident)*



◆ *REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE* ◆

The COVID 19 pandemic was a challenge for Becket this year but fortunately had only a minimal impact on the town's finances. The Fiscal Year 2021 ATM approved spending totaling \$6,969,904, which was an overall increase of \$252,903 or 3.6% from the previous year. The pandemic's impact was minimal because over 85% of our yearly expenses are raised through real estate, personal property and motor vehicle excise taxes. None are raised through sales and occupancy taxes which have seen significant reductions for other localities that rely on them. The financial plans for the town have been carried out successfully due to the hard work of the Town Administrator, Bill Caldwell, and the Becket staff and volunteers of all departments and committees. All capital items planned were ordered or acquired in 2020 and the town offices and departments as well continued to function throughout the year.

The town tax rate for this year is \$11.62 per thousand, a 4.9% increase over the previous year. This tax rate continues to be one of the lowest in the Commonwealth, ranking 320th of all Massachusetts municipalities. The average single family residential property valuation in Becket was \$248,985 with a related tax bill of \$2,759.

A large initiative for the town in 2020 was the start of construction of our broadband network: Becket Broadband. Two Finance Committee representatives are participating on the Broadband Ad Hoc Group and are heavily involved with the financial aspects of the project to help ensure the \$3.81 million debt authorization is wisely used but not exceeded.

Becket continues to have a stable financial situation. The town has adequate reserves in the Stabilization Fund which exceeds \$950,000 and is 13% of our operating budget. We greatly appreciate all the efforts of our town employees and volunteers who make Becket a very special place to live.

Respectfully submitted,

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



◆ **REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK - 2020** ◆

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

Voter Registration Sessions	4
Candidate Voter Lists prepared	0

Census Results

All Residents	2,103
---------------	-------

Vital Records

Vitals recorded in Becket:	
Births	11
Deaths	14
Marriages	3

	<u>Fees</u>
Marriage Intentions filed: 5	\$125.00
Certified copies prepared:	
10 birth certificates	\$ 50.00
8 death certificates	\$ 40.00
2 marriage certificates	\$ 10.00
Burial Permits issued: (3)	\$ -----
Cemetery Deeds Recorded: (4)	\$ 4.00
Genealogy requests: (0)	\$ -----
Total Vitals Fees Collected	<u>\$229.00</u>

Other Licenses, Permits, Recordings

<u>Issued</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Fees</u>
0*	Dog Licenses (neutered & non-neutered)	\$ 0.00*	\$ 0.00*
0*	Kennel licenses	\$ 0.00*	\$ 0.00*
0*	Dog License Late Fees	\$ 0.00*	\$ 0.00*
0	Raffle Permits (1 renewal)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
0	Physician Registration	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
0	Utility Pole Recording	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
8	Business Certificate applications:	\$ 160.00	\$ 160.00

**Due to issues arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, dog licenses were not processed.*

Total Other Fees Collected \$ 160.00

Business Certificates recorded:

EJ CLEANING
TRUX MOBILE MECHANIC
ROBINSON FARM
216 KING ENTERPRISES
HAFEZ RUG GALLERY
BERKSHIRE FISHING CLUB
ROUTE 8 PUB
BECKET LIQUORS

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY– MARCH 3, 2020

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the Presidential Primary was held in the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street, on March 3, 2020. The polling hours were 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 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. The results of the election are as follows:

DEMOCRAT **VOTE** **369 Ballots Cast**

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE (DEMOCRAT)

Vote for one Candidate OR vote for "No Preference"

Blanks	0
DEVAL PATRICK	0
AMY KLOBUCHAR	2
ELIZABETH WARREN	85
MICHAEL BENNET	0
MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG	31
TUSLI GABBARD	3
CORY BOOKER	0
JULIAN CASTRO	0
TOM STEYER	0
BERNIE SANDERS	100
JOSEPH R. BIDEN	142
JOHN K. DELANEY	0
ANDREW YANG	0
BETE BUTTIGIEG	4
MARIANNE WILLIAMSON	1
NO PREFERENCE	1
Write Ins:	0
Other	0
TOTAL VOTES	369

STATE COMMITTEE MAN

Vote for One Man

Blanks	117
SHERWOOD GUERNSEY, II	251
Write Ins:	1
Other	0
TOTAL VOTES	369

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN

Vote for One Woman

Blanks	133
MARIETTA RAPETTI CAWSE	235
Write Ins:	1
Other	0
TOTAL VOTES	369

TOWN COMMITTEE

Blanks	185
GROUP	184

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

	TOTAL VOTES	369
<i>Vote for not more than 35</i>		
	Blanks	10359
TOMMIE HUTTO BLAKE	212	
MARIA WALLINGTON	224	
AMY M. ALPERT	206	
JULIA W. KAY-GRACE	210	
ROBERT M. GRACE	198	
MICHAEL S. LAVERY	211	
BARBARA S. CRAFT-REISS	204	
STEVEN REISS	199	
SHELLEY CHANLER	208	
GEORGE E. ROBERTS	233	
ANN LOIS KRAWET	206	
CECILIA ADEL LEVINE	208	
Write Ins:	3	
Other	0	
TOTAL VOTES		12881

REPUBLICAN **VOTE 80 Ballots Cast**

Presidential Preference (REPUBLICAN)

Vote for one Candidate OR vote for "No Preference"

	Blanks	0
WILLIAM F. WELD	10	
JOE WALSH	1	
DONALD J. TRUMP	68	
ROQUE "ROCKY" DE LA FUENTE	0	
NO PREFERENCE	0	
Write Ins:	1	
Other	0	
TOTAL VOTES		80

STATE COMMITTEE MAN

Vote for One Man

	Blanks	2
MICHAL F. CASE	58	
TYLER JAMES HASTINGS	20	
Write Ins:	0	
Other	0	
TOTAL VOTES		80

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN

Vote for One Woman

	Blanks	5
ROBIN S. ALMGREN	55	
CHRISTINE M. CANNING	20	
Write Ins:	0	
Other	0	
TOTAL VOTES		80

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

TOWN COMMITTEE

Vote for not more than 10

Blanks	796
Write Ins:	4
Other	0
TOTAL VOTES	800

GREEN RAINBOW VOTE

2 Ballots Cast

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE (GREEN RAINBOW)

Vote for one Candidate OR vote for "No Preference"

Blanks	1
DARIO HUNTER	0
SEDINAM KINAMO CHRISTIAN	
MOYOWASIFZA CURRY	1
KENT MESPLAY	0
HOWARD HAWKINS	0
NO PREFERENCE	0
Write Ins:	0
Other	0
TOTAL VOTES	2

STATE COMMITTEE MAN

Vote for One Man

Blanks	2
Write Ins:	0
Other	0
TOTAL VOTES	2

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN

Vote for One Woman

Blanks	1
Write Ins:	1
Other	0
TOTAL VOTES	2

TOWN COMMITTEE

Vote for not more than 10

Blanks	20
Write Ins:	0
Other	0
TOTAL VOTES	20

LIBERTARIAN

VOTE

0 Ballots Cast

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE (LIBERTARIAN)

Vote for one Candidate OR vote for "No Preference"

Blanks	0
ARVIN VOHRA	0
VERMIN LUVE SUPREME	0

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

JACOB GEORGE HORNBERGER	0
SAMUEL JOSEPH ROBB	0
DAN TAXATION IS THEFT BEHRMAN	0
KIMBERLY MARGARET RUFF	0
KENNETH REED ARMSTRONG	0
ADAM KOKESH	0
JO JORGENSEN	0
MAX ABRAMSON	0
NO PREFERENCE	0
Write Ins:	0
Other	0
TOTAL VOTES	0

STATE COMMITTEE MAN

Vote for One Man

Blanks	0
Write Ins:	0
Other	0
TOTAL VOTES	0

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN

Vote for One Woman

Blanks	0
Write Ins:	0
Other	0
TOTAL VOTES	0

TOWN COMMITTEE

Vote for not more than 10

Blanks	0
Write Ins:	0
Other	0
TOTAL VOTES	0

Registered voters:	1558
Ballots cast:	451
Percent Voting:	29%

A total of 451 ballots were cast. There were 10 absentee ballots, 15 early ballots, 3 Provisional ballots and 9 spoiled ballots. The AutoMARK voter assist terminal was tested at 6:40 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. There were two brief power outages at approximately 5:20 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Election Officials were: Gale LaBelle (Warden), Meredyth Babcock (Clerk), Charles Francis, Priscilla McEwen, Charles Garman, Alvin Blake, Ruth Rosenthal, Barbara Craft-Reiss, Steven Reiss, and James Levy. The Constable was Michael Hunt. The polls closed at 8:00 p.m. and the unofficial results were printed and posted.

Respectfully submitted,

George E. Roberts,
Town Clerk

ANNUAL TOWN CAUCUS, APRIL 7, 2020*

***CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Report of the Town Clerk

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, MAY 9, 2020*

***POSTPONED TO JUNE 6, 2020 DUE TO COVID 19 PANDEMIC**

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the Annual Town Meeting was called on June 6, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. at Becket Park and Ball Field located adjacent to the Becket Town Hall at 557 Main Street, Becket, MA 01223. There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by the Moderator. There were 62 registered voters present (4.0 % of 1563 registered voters) and a total of 69 people attended the meeting. Town Officials Present: Ethan Klepetar, Moderator; Bill Elovirta, Chris Swindlehurst, and Michael Lavery, Selectmen; 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 \$2,175 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 \$15.84 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 \$15.84 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 June 6, 2020 Annual Town Meeting.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 1 Was moved and seconded. A vote was taken on Article 1 by a count of hands.

Article 1 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 2 FY 2021 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 2021 Fiscal Year; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town raise and appropriate \$6,969,766 for the General Fund budget for Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021).

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

	General Government	FY2018 Actual Expenditures	FY2019 ATM Approves	FY2020 TA Recommendations	Dollar Increase (Decrease)	Percent Increase/Decrease
1	Advertising	1,587	4,000	4,000	-	0.0%
2	Selectmen's Salaries	5,547	6,365	6,525	160	2.5%
3	Selectmen's Expenses	10,715	1,900	2,200	300	15.8%
4	Town Mtg. Expenses	1,881	6,000	6,000	-	0.0%
5	Town Admin. Salary	67,262	78,000	80,000	2,000	2.6%
6	Town Admin. Expense	2,954	2,200	2,200	0	0%
7	Staff Coverage	1,064	3,000	4,000	1,000	33.3%
8	Clerk of Committees	31,915	34,356	22,000	(12,356)	-36.0%
9	Finance Committees	135	600	600	-	0.0%
10	Town Acct. Salary	23,895	24,478	25,478	628	2.5%

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

11	Payroll Service	4,483	5,100	5,200	100	2.0%
12	Town Accountant Exp.	390	400	400	-	0.0%
13	Assessors Salaries	48,334	65,000	68,000	3,000	4.6%
14	Assessors Expense	57,415	68,522	71,000	2,478	3.6%
15	Town Treasurer Sal.	45,111	46,456	47,387	931	2.5%
16	Town Treasurer Exp.	5,279	5,000	5,000	-	0.0%
17	Tax Collector Salary	56,285	57,852	59,070	1,218	2.1%
18	Assist. Collector Sal.	46,842	48,146	49,161	1,015	2.1%
19	Tax Collector Exp.	4,831	8,180	8,280	100	1.2%
20	Tax Title Expense	29,893	25,000	30,000	5,000	20.0%
21	Town Admin. Assist.	45,240	46,503	47,502	999	2.1%
22	Town Counsel	23,928	20,000	20,000	2,000	0.0%
23	Audit Expenses	19,000	18,500	23,000	4,500	24.3%
24	Postage	12,409	12,000	12,000	-	0.0%
25	Town Report	3,101	3,500	3,500	-	0.0%
26	Town Clerk Salary	28,616	29,188	29,918	730	2.5%
27	Town Clerk Expense	2,291	2,145	2,145	-	0.0%
28	Election-Registration	12,315	16,678	19,580	2,902	17.4%
29	Conservation Comm.	14,552	19,894	22,410	2,516	12.6%
30	Planning Board Exp.	3,027	2,225	2,500	275	12.4%
31	ZBA	629	1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
32	Berkshire RPC	1,383	1,383	1,900	517	37.4%
33	Muni. Buildings Sal.	47,965	49,301	50,288	987	2.0%
34	Municipal Utilities	46,756	58,000	57,000	(1,000)	-1.7%
35	Municipal Building Exp.	32,161	31,975	31,975	-	0.0%
36	Wired West	1,000	3,500	2,500	(1,000)	-28.6%
37	Muni Building Repairs	7,257	35,000	35,000	-	0%
38	Technology	25,175	25,134	35,000	9,866	39.3%
39	Reserve Fund	-	50,000	50,000	0	0%
40	General Gov't Total	766,615	917,353	944,219	26,815	2.9%
41						
42	Public Safety					
43	PD Salaries	322,626	338,328	347,278	8,950	2.6%
44	PD Expense	18,245	18,880	20,000	1,120	5.9%
45	Emergency Mgmt Exp.	942	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
46	Em. Mgmt. Training	-	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
47	Constable Expense	-	300	300	-	0.0%
48	FD Chief Salary	4,248	7,300	7,483	-	2.5%
49	Firefighter Stipends	9,800	14,000	14,000	-	0.0%
50	FD Expenses	12,198	32,000	37,000	5,000	15.6%

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

51	E911 Communication	12,313	12,683	13,064	381	3.0%
52	Building Insp. Sal.	53,431	55,160	55,000	(160)	-0.3%
53	Building & Code Insp.Sal	2,216	2,215	2,215	-	0.0%
54	Animal Control Sal.	8,202	5,500	5,638	-	2.5%
55	Animal Control Exp	-	2,500	2,500	-	0.0%
56	Harbor Master	366	1,474	1,474	-	0.0%
57	Demolition Fund	106,999	22,000	25,000	3,000	13.6%
58	Public Safety Total	551,222	514,339	532,814	18,292	3.6%
59						
60	Education					
61	CBRSD Assessment	2,134,520	2,308,156	2,318,893	12,424	0.5%
62	Vocational Tuition	141,965	175,000	185,000	7,440	5.7%
63	Vocational Transp.	40,866	70,000	75,000	5,000	7.1%
64	Education Total	2,317,351	2,553,156	2,578,893	185,623	1.1%
65						
66	Forestry					
67	Tree Account	2,900	15,300	15,300	-	0.0%
68	Forestry	-	500	500	-	0.0%
69	Forestry Total	2,900	15,800	15,800	-	0.0%
70						
71	Highway					
72	Salaries and Wages	198,003	230,897	241,000	9,103	3.9%
73	Summer Labor	-	16,800	16,800	16,800	-
74	Sal. & Wage Subtotal	198,003	247,697	257,800	9,103	3.7%
75	<i>General Maintenance</i>					
76	Mowing		-	6,000	6,000	
77	Line Painting		10,900	11,200	300	2.8%
78	Gravel/Stone		50,000	50,000	-	0.0%
79	Hot Mix Patch		16,250	16,500	250	1.5%
80	Rental Equipment		2,000	2,000	-	0.0%
81	Signs		3,300	3,300	-	0.0%
82	Culverts		3,100	3,100	-	0.0%
83	Beaver Maintenance		2,850	2,900	50	1.8%
84	Guardrail		1,750	1,750	-	0.0%
85	Crack Seal		16,000	16,500	500	3.1%
86	Catch Basin Cleaning		4,900	4,900	-	0.0%
87	Sweeping		7,800	8,000	200	2.6%
88	Hand Tools		730	730	-	0.0%
89	Misc.		1,600	1,600	-	0.0%
90	Road Improvement		51,000	51,000	-	0.0%

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

91	General Maintenance Subtotal	154,709	172,180	179,480	7,300	4.2%
92	<i>Machinery</i>					
93	Inspections		1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
94	Tires		9,250	9,250	-	1.6%
95	Oil/Lubricants		3,550	3,550	-	1.4%
96	Repairs/Equipment		19,750	20,000	250	1.3%
97	Parts/Supplies		28,600	29,000	400	1.4%
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	3,100	-	0.8%
103	Machinery Subtotal	88,365	71,275	71,950	675	0.9%
104	<i>Fuel</i>					
105	Fuel		87,750	87,750	-	0.0%
106	Operator Contract		1,850	1,850	-	0.0%
107	Maintenance/Repair		1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
108	DEF Fluid		2,000	2,000	-	0.0%
109	Reg. Compliance		2,000	2,000	-	0.0%
110	Fuel System		400	400	-	0.0%
111	Fuel Subtotal	71,061	95,500	95,500	-	0.0%
112	<i>Highway Garage</i>					
113	Legal Ads		500	500	-	0.0%
114	Drug Testing		425	600	175	41.2%
115	License Reimbursement		600	600	-	0.0%
116	Repairs/Supplies		2,800	2,800	-	0.0%
117	Berkshire County Purchasing		600	800	200	33.3%
118	Office Supplies		650	650	-	0.0%
119	Education & Training		1,600	1,700	100	6.3%
120	Meeting/Dues Expenses		600	600	-	0.0%
121	Compliance/First Aid		2,000	2,000	-	-
122	Safety Gear		5,800	5,900	100	1.7%
123	Highway Garage Subtotal	7,547	15,575	16,150	575	3.7%
124	<i>Winter Roads</i>					
125	Wages - B/G		4,120	4,120	-	
126	Wages - Highway		152,534	156,000	3,466	2.3%
127	Sand		8,550	8,600	50	0.6%
128	Stone Chips		13,900	14,000	100	0.7%

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

129	Salt		48,850	50,000	1,150	2.4%
130	Plow Blades		4,375	4,375	-	0.0%
131	Cold Patch		1,200	1,200	-	0.0%
132	Parts		3,200	3,250	50	1.6%
133	Sander Chains		4,375	4,400	25	0.6%
134	Winter Roads Total	276,178	236,984	241,825	3,727	2.0%
135						
136	Highway Department Total	795,863	839,211	862,705	22,494	2.7%
137						
138	Streetlights	8,826	8,000	9,000	1,000	12.5%
140						
141	<i>Transfer Station</i>					
142	Transfer Station Labor	28,773	31,885	37,714	5,829	18.3%
143	Processing and Recycling			9,500	9,500	
144	Rental Compactor		7,200	13,200	6,000	83.3%
145	Rental Open Container (2)		2,700	4,500	1800	66.7%
146	Trucking Compactor		8,750	10,500	1750	20.0%
147	Trucking Open Container		7,500	8,250	750	10.0%
148	Trucking Cans & Bottles		5,775	6,300	525	9.1%
149	Trucking Scrap Metal		3,500	3,600	100	2.9%
150	Trucking Paper Cardboard		4,125	4,500	375	9.1%
151	Trucking Rigid Plastics		3,300	3,600	300	9.1%
152	Trucking Fuel Surcharge		1,400	1,400	-	0.0%
153	Disposal Solid Waste		27,600	28,200	600	2.2%
154	Disposal Bulky Waste		17,480	17,860	380	2.2%
155	Disposal Haz Mat		9,500	10,000	250	5.3%
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	99,903	105,080	127,660	22,580	21.5%
162	Transfer Station Total	128,676	136,965	165,374	28,409	20.7%

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

163						
164						
165	Solid Waste	8,309	3,200	3,200	-	0.0%
167						
168	<i>Cemeteries</i>					
169	Becket Ctr Cemetery	4,969	4,898	5,000	102	2.1%
170	North Cemetery	14,150	16,227	16,500	273	1.7%
171	West Cemetery	1,159	750	800	50	6.7%
172	Cemeteries Total	20,278	21,875	22,300	425	1.9%
173						
174	<i>Health and Comm.Serv.</i>					
175	BOH Salaries	4,969	9,500	9,500	-	0.0%
176	BOH Exp.	14,150	30,000	33,500	3,500	11.7%
177	Inspector of Animals	1,159	348	357	9	2.6%
178	Nursing Services	4,961	5,061	5,200	139	2.7%
179	Council on Aging	2,967	5,000	3,500	(1,500)	-30.0%
180	Outreach	-	500	500	-	0.0%
181	Veterans Agent Sal.	2,140	2,140	2,194	54	2.5%
182	Veterans Benefits	43,611	37,200	38,500	1,300	3.5%
183	Veterans Agent Exp	-	100	100	-	0.0%
184	Becket Arts Center			10,000	10,000	
185	Health & Community Services Total	80,666	89,849	103,351	13,501	15.0%
187	Library	49,065	50,292	51,550	1,258	2.5%
188	Children Holiday Party	500	500	500	-	0.0%
189	Library Total	49,565	50,792	52,050	1,258	2.5%
190						
192	Weed Ctrl Ctr Pond	1,380	2,500	3,000	500	20.0%
193	Parks and Rec.	21,086	30,610	30,610	-	0.0%
194	Parks & Recreation Total	23,586	33,110	33,610	-	0.0%
195						
197	Historical Commission	844	2,017	2,000	-	0.0%
198	Historical Commission Total	844	2,017	2,000	-	0.0%

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

199						
201	Memorial/Veterans	1,380	1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
202	Memorial/Veterans Day Total	1,380	1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
203						
204	Benefits					
205	Health/Life Insurance	379,573	412,600	425,000	12,400	3.0%
206	County Retirement	218,821	219,163	237,932	18,769	8.6%
207	Payroll Tax Acct.	22,931	27,136	27,700	564	2.1%
208	Unemployment Exp	5,089	5,000	5,000	-	0.0%
209	General Liability Ins.	107,358	118,814	123,000	4,186	3.5%
210	OPEB		-	15,000	15,000	
211	Benefits Total	733,772	782,713	833,632	50,919	6.5%
213	Total Operating Budget	5,734,140	5,689,839	6,160,448	191,020	3.2%
214	Debt Service	\$347,123	\$294,487	\$504,318	\$45,805	10.0%
215	Ambulance	\$270,574	300,574	305,000	15,000	5.2%
216	Overall Budget	\$6,751,837	\$6,718,394	\$6,969,766	\$251,825	3.7%

Article 2 Was moved and seconded from the floor. There were brief discussions regarding Line Items 8, 20, 27, 206, and 210. There were no individual votes taken on these line items. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 2, and the motion on **Article 2 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ARTICLE 3 DEBT SERVICE

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$504,318.02 to fund debt service due in Fiscal Year 2021 for the following previously approved borrowings:

Debt	FY2021 Amount	Maturity Date
Becket Washington School	\$95,879	FY2025
Wahconah RHS Doors	\$5,883	FY2029
Wahconah Sidewalks	\$674	FY2022
Kittredge School MSBA Windows	\$295	FY2022
Craneville Roof	\$151	FY2023
Craneville Air Handler	\$38	FY2022
Wahconah RHS New Construction	\$110,000	FY2047
District Security	\$893	FY2025
Dump Truck (Highway Department)	\$49,152	FY2021
Town Hall Roof	\$24,129.02	FY2021
Ambulance	\$85,799	FY2021
Rescue Pumper (Fire Department)	\$115,425	FY2021
Interest on Short Term Debt	\$16,000.00	-

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

MOTION: Move that the Town raise and appropriate \$504,318.02 to pay principal and interest on school and Town debt for Fiscal 2021.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee Recommended

Article 3 Was moved and seconded. There was a brief discussion about Wahconah Regional High School New Construction. Greg Boino, Berkshire Regional School District Director of Finance and Operations, explained that the \$110,000 is an annual payment that will be recurring through 2047 and that it represents 80% of the estimated total amount

needed. He explained that in 5 or 6 years the remaining 20% would be borrowed. A vote was taken on the motion by a show of hands.

Article 3 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 4 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds including free cash (FC) and overlay surplus (OS), or borrow the sum of \$364,932, or any other sum, to be used to fund the Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Plan for the Town of Becket. This plan consists of the following items:

Project	Amount
USDA Grant Match Cruiser	\$17,500 (FC)
Athenaeum Repairs and Maintenance	\$7,500 (FC)
Arts Center Painting	\$2,432 (FC)
Town Hall Renovations and HVAC	\$30,000 (FC)
Highway Pickup Truck #1	\$52,500 (OS)
Highway Truck #2	255,000 (Borrow)

MOTION: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$52,500 from Overlay Surplus, \$57,432 from Free Cash, and borrow up to \$255,000, for a total of \$364,932 to be used in the Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Plan.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

2/3 Vote Required

Finance Committee Recommended

Article 4 Was moved and seconded. There were brief questions about the Warrant Article language from the floor which were responded to by Town Administrator William Caldwell and Town Counsel Joel Bard. A vote was taken on the motion by a show of hands.

Article 4 PASSED by a declared 2/3 majority.

ARTICLE 5 TRANSFER TO THE STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or transfer the sum of \$88,000 to be deposited into the Stabilization Fund for Fiscal Year 2021; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer \$88,000 from certified Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 5 Was moved and seconded. Jeremy Dunn asked the

Finance Committee to explain if we are devoting half of free cash to the Stabilization fund with respect to Article 11 which takes \$100,000 out of the Stabilization Fund. Dan Parnell, and Ronald DeFoe of the Finance Committee noted that the subject \$88,000 in Article 5 is 50% of Free Cash. They went on to explain that the \$100,000 referenced in Article 11 is to prevent increases in the tax rate that would have resulted from the Town's desire to pay off certain debts more quickly than usual. A vote was taken on the motion by a show of hands.

Article 5 PASSED.

ARTICLE 6 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 90 funds for Fiscal 2021 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

**Board of Selectmen / Finance Committee: Recommended
Majority Vote Required**

Article 6 Was moved and seconded. A vote was taken on the motion by a show of hands.

Article 6 PASSED.

ARTICLE 7 AMBULANCE BUDGET

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$425,000 for the salaries and expenses of the Ambulance Enterprise; and to fund said appropriation, to raise and appropriate \$305,000 and to transfer \$120,000 from Fiscal Year 2020 Ambulance Receipts; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town to raise and appropriate \$305,000 and to transfer \$120,000 from Ambulance Receipts to fund operations of the Ambulance Enterprise in Fiscal 2021.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 7 Was moved and seconded. A vote was taken on the motion by a show of hands.

Article 7 PASSED.

**ARTICLE 8 AMBULANCE CAPITAL
EXPENDITURES**

To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$19,100 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 \$19,100 from Ambulance Retained Earnings for capital expenditures with the remaining retained earnings of \$21,142 moving to the ambulance stabilization account, or act in relation thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 8 Was moved and seconded. A vote was taken on the motion by a show of hands.

Article 8 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 9 REVOLVING FUNDS

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the use of the following revolving funds for departmental operations which shall not exceed the noted sums for each fund, which shall be under the control of the Town Treasurer, which shall be accounted for separately, and to which shall be credited only the receipts received in connection with the departmental operations supported by the revolving fund; further to authorize the Town Treasurer to expend from such funds in

accordance with Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 of the General Laws, provided however that said expenditures for the revolving funds shall not exceed the receipts for said fund or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town will vote to authorize the use of the following revolving funds for departmental operations which shall not exceed the noted sums for each fund, which shall be under the control of the Town Treasurer, which shall be accounted for separately, and to which shall be credited only the receipts received in connection with the departmental operations supported by the revolving fund; further to authorize the Town Treasurer to expend from such funds in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 of the General Laws, provided however that said expenditures for the revolving funds shall not exceed the receipts for said fund:

Program or Purpose	FY 2021 Spending Limit
Ambulance Training	\$10,000
Ambulance Details	\$15,000
Plumbing Inspector	\$10,000
Wiring Inspector	\$15,000
Gas Inspector	\$10,000
Police Details	\$20,000

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 9 Was moved and seconded. A vote was taken on the motion by a show of hands.

Article 9 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**ARTICLE 10 FY 2021 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION
AUTHORIZATION**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from Community Preservation Fiscal Year 2021 estimated annual revenues the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for Committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other expenses in Fiscal Year 2021, 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 2021 Community Preservation estimated annual

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

revenues the amounts set forth in Article 10 of the Warrant for the June 6, 2020 Annual Town Meeting.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

CPA Committee: Recommended

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 10 Was moved and seconded. A vote was taken on the motion by a show of hands.

Article 10 PASSED.

ARTICLE 11 USE OF STABILIZATION TO OFFSET DEBT PAYMENTS

To see if the Town will transfer from stabilization a sum of money, \$100,000 to reduce the tax rate for the Fiscal Year 2021, or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town will vote to transfer from stabilization, \$100,000, to reduce the tax rate for the Fiscal Year 2021, or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

2/3 Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 11 Was moved and seconded. A vote was taken on the motion by a show of hands.

Article 11 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 12 PAYMENT OF PRIOR YEAR BILL

To see if the Town will transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$600 to pay a prior year bill for the salary of the Harbormaster, or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$600 to pay the prior year Harbormaster salary.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 12 Was moved and seconded. A vote was taken on the motion by a show of hands.

Article 12 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 13 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING FOR THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$15,000 (\$12,000 from Historical Preservation and \$3,000 from Undesignated Fund) for the restoration and stabilization of the historic First Congregational Church of Becket; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee

MOTION: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$15,000 (\$12,000 from Historical Preservation and \$3,000

from Undesignated Fund) for the restoration and stabilization of the historic First Congregational Church of Becket.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

CPA Committee: Recommended for ATM Warrant

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 13 Was moved and seconded. Ray Ellsworth noted that powder post beetles were discovered and the referenced monies are to repair the damage to this historic building only. A vote was taken on the motion by a show of hands.

Article 13 PASSED.

ARTICLE 14 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$25,000 from the Community Housing Fund for the renovation and completion of an affordable housing unit.

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee

MOTION: Move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$25,000 from the Community Housing Fund for the renovation and completion of an affordable housing unit.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

CPA Committee: Recommended

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 14 Was moved and seconded. There were questions from the floor. Jeremy Dunn asked who would be the owner of the building funded with taxpayer money. June Wolfe, the Executive Director of Construct, explained that they wanted to renovate and sell affordably. The property is 2442 Main Street, and Construct took it when it was in receivership. The house would be deeded "Affordable" which means that the purchaser could recoup any money invested after purchase, but would not be able to buy it at a low price and then sell it later at a higher marked price. Joel Bard explained the Affordability Deed. Neil Toomey spoke against this proposed use of CPA housing funds. June Wolf explained other aspects of the program funding grants. Town Administrator William Caldwell explained that the cost of demolishing houses can range from \$7,000 to approaching \$100,000 for larger buildings. Ms. Wolf acknowledged that while the Building Inspector has identified and they would like to continue to work on other projects, Construct is under no obligation to reinvest proceeds from the sale into Becket. Steven Rosenthal moved to call the question, the motion was seconded. A vote count was taken on the motion to call the question and the motion passed with 40 votes for and 11 votes against. A vote was taken on the motion by a show of hands.

Article 14 PASSED.

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

ARTICLE 15 BYLAW AMENDMENT TO CHANGE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO SELECT BOARD

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General and Zoning Bylaws of the Town by deleting, in each instance in which they appear, all references to "Board of Selectmen," "Selectmen" and "Selectman" and inserting in their place the words, "Select Board" or "Select Board member" or "Select Board members", as appropriate, and further to authorize the Town Clerk to make any non-substantive, ministerial revisions to ensure that gender and numerical issues in related text are revised to properly reflect such change in title; or to take any action related thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town vote to amend the General and Zoning Bylaws of the Town by deleting, in each instance in which they appear, all references to "Board of Selectmen," "Selectmen" and "Selectman" and inserting in their place the words, "Select Board" or "Select Board member" or "Select Board members", as appropriate, and further to authorize the Town Clerk to make any non-substantive, ministerial revisions to ensure that gender and numerical issues in related text are revised to properly reflect such change in title.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended
2/3 Vote Required

Article 15 Was moved and seconded. A vote was taken on the motion by a show of hands.

Article 15 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 16 ACT FOR SPECIAL LEGISLATION REGARDING NAME BOARD OF SELECTMEN CHANGE

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the Massachusetts General Court for special legislation, as set forth below, to amend the Town Charter by deleting, in each instance in which they appear, all references to "Board of Selectmen," "Selectmen" and "Selectman" and inserting in their place the words, "Select Board" or "Select Board member" or "Select Board members", as appropriate, and further, to insert a new sentence at the end of Section 3 as follows:

Said Select Board shall, except as otherwise provided herein, have all the powers, duties and responsibilities of a Board of Selectmen as provided in the Massachusetts General Laws, as well as those set forth by this Charter. provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and provided further that the Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition:

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN IN THE TOWN OF BECKET

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the executive body of the town of Becket, previously known as the board of selectmen, shall be known as the select board, and shall have the powers and authority of a board of selectmen under any general or special laws; and the charter of the town of Becket, as established by chapter 662 of the acts of 1989, and as it has been amended from time to time, and is on file in the office of the archivist of the commonwealth, as provided in section 12 of chapter 43B of the General Laws, is hereby amended by striking the words "board of selectmen" and inserting in place thereof the words "select board", and by striking the words "selectman" and "selectmen" and inserting in place thereof the words "select board member" or "select board members", as appropriate.

SECTION 2. Section 3 of said charter shall be amended to add the following to the end of section3:

Said Select Board shall, except as otherwise provided herein, have all the powers, duties and responsibilities of a Board of Selectmen as provided in the Massachusetts General Laws, as well as those set forth by this Charter.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

MOTION: Move article 16 as printed in the warrant.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended
Majority Vote Required

Article 16 Was moved and seconded. A vote was taken on the motion by a show of hands.

Article 16 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 17 ANNUAL ELECTION

You are also required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Becket who are qualified to vote in Town elections, to meet at Precinct 1 in Becket Town Hall at 557 Main Street, Becket on Saturday, June 13, 2020 then and there to bring in their votes for the election of the following Town Officers:

To cast their votes in the ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION for the election of candidates for the following offices on June 13, 2020 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm:

1 MEMBER, BOARD OF SELECTMEN (3-year term)
Vote for One
1 MEMBER, BOARD OF HEALTH (3-year term)
Vote for One
1 CEMETERY COMMISSIONER (3-year term)
Vote for One

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

1 MEMBERS, FINANCE COMMITTEE (3-year term)

Vote for One

1 MEMBER, PLANNING BOARD (5-year term)

Vote for One

Moderator (3-year term)

Vote for One

Town Clerk (3-year term)

Vote for One

Ballot Question:

Wahconah Regional High School

Shall the Town of Becket be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for its share of the bonds or notes issued by the Central Berkshire Regional School District in order to pay for the engineering, design, construction and equipping of a new Wahconah Regional High School and costs related thereto including demolition of the former high school and borrowing costs associated with said project and all other costs incidental or related thereto?

Yes _____

No _____

All of said officers and the ballot question to be voted for on the official ballots furnished at the polls. The polls will be opened at 12:00 PM and closed at 4:00 PM.

The Moderator notified and warned the Meeting of the Annual Town Election for the Offices and Ballot question set forth above.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn to the Annual Town Election which will be held one week from today on June 13, 2020, starting at Noon. A vote was taken and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m. The checkers were Election Workers Charles Francis, Ruth Rosenthal, Gale LaBelle and James Levy.

Respectfully submitted,

George Roberts
Town Clerk

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION, MAY 16, 2020
***POSTPONED TO JUNE 13, 2020 DUE TO COVID 19 PANDEMIC**

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the Annual Town Election was held in the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street, on June 13, 2020. The polling hours were Noon to 4 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 206 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)		
<i>Vote for One</i>		
Michael S. Lavery	173	84%
All Others (write-ins)	7	3%
Blanks	26	13%
Total Votes Cast	206	

For Member, Board of Health (3-year term)

Vote for One

Robert T. Ronzio (write-in)	8	4%
All Others (write-ins)	13	6%
Blanks	185	90%
Total Votes Cast	206	

For Cemetery Commissioner (3-year term)

Vote for One

Dean Williams	172	83%
All Others (write-ins)	2	1%
Blanks	32	16%
Total Votes Cast	206	

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

For Member, Finance Committee (3-year term)

Vote for Two

Mark L. Karlberg (write-in)	19	9%
All Others (write-ins)	12	6%
Blanks	175	85%
Total Votes Cast	206	

For Member, Planning Board (5-year term)

Vote for One

Robert T. Ronzio	105	51%
Karen Karlberg (write-in)	49	24%
All Others (write-ins)	10	5%
Blanks	42	20%
Total Votes Cast	206	

For Moderator (3-year term)

Vote for One

Ethan Klepetar	179	87%
All Others (write-ins)	1	0%
Blanks	26	13%
Total Votes Cast	206	

For Town Clerk (3-year term)

Vote for One

George E. Roberts	182	88%
All Others (write-ins)	1	0%
Blanks	23	11%
Total Votes Cast	206	

Ballot Question:

Wahconah Regional High School

Shall the Town of Becket be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for its share of the bonds or notes issued by the Central Berkshire Regional School District in order to pay for the engineering, design, construction and equipping of a new Wahconah Regional High School and costs related thereto including demolition of the former high school and borrowing costs associated with said project and all other costs incidental or related thereto?

Yes	130	63%
No	51	25%
Blanks	25	12%
Total Votes Cast	206	

Registered voters:	1563
Ballots cast:	206
Percent Voting	13%

A total of 206 ballots were cast. There were 4 absentee ballots and 2 spoiled ballots. The Auto-MARK voter assist terminal was tested at 11:50 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Election Officials were Gale LaBelle (Warden), Julia Kay Grace (Clerk), Chuck Garman, Priscilla McEwen, Charles Francis, Ruth Rosenthal and James Levy. The Constable was Michael Hunt. The polls closed at 4:00 p.m. and the unofficial results were printed and posted.

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

STATE PRIMARY - SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the State Primary was held in the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street, on September 1, 2020. The polling hours were 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Prior to the polls opening, the Ballot Boxes were publicly opened, examined and found to be empty; the register was set at zero. The results of the election are as follows:

	DEMOCRATIC	<u>Votes</u>	Ballots Cast
Senator in Congress (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	2	427
	James J. Markey	228	
	Joseph P. Kennedy, III	197	
	Write-Ins:	0	
	TOTAL VOTES	427	
Representative in Congress (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	4	
	Richard E. Neil	218	
	Alex B. Morse	205	
	Write-Ins:	0	
	TOTAL VOTES	427	
Councillor (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	74	
	Mary E. Hurley	353	
	Write-Ins:	0	
	TOTAL VOTES	427	
Senator in General Court (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	46	
	Adam G. Hinds	379	
	Write-Ins:	2	
	TOTAL VOTES	427	
Representative in General Court (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	51	
	William "Smitty" Pignatelli	375	
	Write-Ins:	1	
	TOTAL VOTES	427	
Register of Probate (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	73	
	Anthony P. Patella	352	
	Write-Ins:	2	
	TOTAL VOTES	427	

	REPUBLICAN	<u>Votes</u>	Ballots Cast
Senator in Congress (Vote for One)			71
	Blanks	0	
	Shiva Ayyadurai	33	

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

Kevin J. O'CONNOR		38	
	Write-Ins:	<u>0</u>	
	TOTAL VOTES	71	
Representative in Congress (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	71	
	Write-Ins:	<u>0</u>	
	TOTAL VOTES	71	
Councillor (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	71	
	Write-Ins:	<u>0</u>	
	TOTAL VOTES	71	
Senator in General Court (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	71	
	Write-Ins:	<u>0</u>	
	TOTAL VOTES	71	
Representative in General Court (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	68	
	Write-Ins:	<u>3</u>	
	TOTAL VOTES	71	
Register of Probate (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	68	
	Write-Ins:	<u>3</u>	
	TOTAL VOTES	71	
	LIBERTARIAN	<u>Votes</u>	Ballots Cast
			0
Senator in Congress (Vote for One)		0	
	Blanks	0	
	Write-Ins:	<u>0</u>	
	TOTAL VOTES	0	
Representative in Congress (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	0	
	Write-Ins:	<u>0</u>	
	TOTAL VOTES	0	
Councillor (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	0	
	Write-Ins:	<u>0</u>	
	TOTAL VOTES	0	
Senator in General Court (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	0	
	Write-Ins:	<u>0</u>	
	TOTAL VOTES	0	
Representative in General Court (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	0	
	Write-Ins:	<u>0</u>	
	TOTAL VOTES	0	
Register of Probate (Vote for One)			

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

Blanks	0
Write-Ins:	0
TOTAL VOTES	0

GREEN-RAINBOW	<u>Votes</u>	Ballots Cast
Senator in Congress (Vote for One)		0

Blanks	0
Write-Ins:	0
TOTAL VOTES	0

Representative in Congress (Vote for One)

Blanks	0
Write-Ins:	0
TOTAL VOTES	0

Councillor (Vote for One)

Blanks	0
Write-Ins:	0
TOTAL VOTES	0

Senator in General Court (Vote for One)

Blanks	0
Write-Ins:	0
TOTAL VOTES	0

Representative in General Court (Vote for One)

Blanks	0
Write-Ins:	0
TOTAL VOTES	0

Register of Probate (Vote for One)

Blanks	0
Write-Ins:	0
TOTAL VOTES	0

Town of Becket, Total Registered Voters:	1602
Ballots Cast:	498
Percent Voting	31%

A total of 498 ballots were cast. There were 299 Mail-In ballots, 1 Provisional ballot, which was counted, and 6 spoiled ballots. The AutoMARK voter assist terminal was tested at 7:15 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. Election Officials were: Patricia Clemons (Warden), Julia Kay-Grace (Clerk), Priscilla McEwen, Charles Garman, Adrienne Metcalf, Jerome Schwartzbach, Thomas Rock, Susan Crossley, Meredyth Babcock, James Levy, and Ruth Rosenthal. The Constables were Nicole Miller and Michael Hunt. The polls closed at 8:00 p.m. and the unofficial results were printed and posted.

Respectfully Submitted,

George Roberts,
Town Clerk

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

STATE ELECTION – NOVEMBER 3, 2020

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the State Election was held in the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street, on November 3, 2020. The polling hours were 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Prior to the polls opening, the Ballot Boxes were publicly opened, examined and found to be empty; the register was set at zero. The results of the election are as follows:

	<u>Votes</u>
Electors of President & Vice President (Vote for One)	
Blanks	3
Biden and Harris	757
Hawkins and Walker	6
Jorgensen and Cohen	17
Trump and Pence	413
All Others	2
TOTAL VOTES	1198
Senator in Congress (Vote for One)	
Blanks	41
Edward J. Markey	740
Kevin J. O'Connor	397
Dr. Shiva (write -in)	19
All Others	1
TOTAL VOTES	1198
Representative in Congress (Vote for One)	
Blanks	316
Richard E. Neal	843
Dr. Shiva (write-in)	7
Alex Morse(write-in)	7
All Others	25
TOTAL VOTES	1198
Councillor (Vote for One)	
Blanks	364
Mary E. Hurley	821
All Others	13
TOTAL VOTES	1198
Senator in General Court (Vote for One)	
Blanks	344
Adam G. Hinds	835
All Others	19
TOTAL VOTES	1198
Representative in General Court (Vote for One)	
Blanks	335
William "Smitty" Pignatelli	850
All Others	13
TOTAL VOTES	1198
Register of Probates (Vote for One)	
Blanks	501
Anthony P. Patella	685
All Others	12
TOTAL VOTES	1198
Regional School Committee (Becket) (Vote for One)	

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

	Blanks	398
	Art Alpert	787
	Art Alpert(write-in)	7
	All Others	6
	TOTAL VOTES	1198
Regional School Committee (Dalton) (Vote for not more than Three)		
	Blanks	2839
	Nicole Tucker	720
	Richard Lapatell (write-in)	10
	Howard Eberwein (write-in)	12
	All Others	13
	TOTAL VOTES	3594
Regional School Committee (Hinsdale) (Vote for One)		
	Blanks	502
	Richard Peters	692
	All Others	4
	TOTAL VOTES	1198
Regional School Committee (Peru) (Vote for One)		
	Blanks	522
	Bonnie DiTomasso	672
	All Others	4
	TOTAL VOTES	1198
Regional School Committee (Washington) (Vote for One)		
	Blanks	1175
	Mike Case (write-in)	12
	All Others	11
	TOTAL VOTES	1198
Regional School Committee (Windsor) (Vote for One)		
	Blanks	795
	Elizabeth Lounsbury	402
	All Others	1
	TOTAL VOTES	1198

QUESTION 1 (Law Proposed by Initiative Petition)

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives on or before May 5, 2020?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would require that motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities be provided with expanded access to mechanical data related to vehicle maintenance and repair.

Starting with model year 2022, the proposed law would require manufacturers of motor vehicles sold in Massachusetts to equip any such vehicles that use telematics systems — systems that collect and wirelessly transmit mechanical data to a remote server — with a standardized open access data platform. Owners of motor vehicles with telematics systems would get access to mechanical data through a mobile device application. With vehicle owner authorization, independent repair facilities (those not affiliated with a manufacturer) and independent dealerships would be able to retrieve mechanical data from, and send commands to, the vehicle for repair, maintenance, and diagnostic testing.

Under the proposed law, manufacturers would not be allowed to require authorization before owners or repair facilities could access mechanical data stored in a motor vehicle's on-board diagnostic system, except through an authorization process standardized across

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

all makes and models and administered by an entity unaffiliated with the manufacturer.

The proposed law would require the Attorney General to prepare a notice for prospective motor vehicle owners and lessees explaining telematics systems and the proposed law's requirements concerning access to the vehicle's mechanical data. Under the proposed law, dealers would have to provide prospective owners with, and prospective owners would have to acknowledge receipt of, the notice before buying or leasing a vehicle. Failure to comply with these notice requirements would subject motor vehicle dealers to sanctions by the applicable licensing authority.

Motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities could enforce this law through state consumer protection laws and recover civil penalties of the greater of treble damages or \$10,000 per violation.

A YES VOTE would provide motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities with expanded access to wirelessly transmitted mechanical data related to their vehicles' maintenance and repair.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the law governing access to vehicles' wirelessly transmitted mechanical data.

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives on or before May 5, 2020?

Yes	876
No	232
Blanks	90
TOTAL VOTES	1198

QUESTION 2: Law Proposed by Initiative Petition

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives on or before May 5, 2020?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would implement a voting system known as "ranked-choice voting," in which voters rank one or more candidates by order of preference. Ranked-choice voting would be used in primary and general elections for all Massachusetts statewide offices, state legislative offices, federal congressional offices, and certain other offices beginning in 2022. Ranked-choice voting would not be used in elections for president, county commissioner, or regional district school committee member.

Under the proposed law, votes would be counted in a series of rounds. In the first round, if one candidate received more than 50 percent of the first-place votes, that candidate would be declared the winner and no other rounds would be necessary. If no candidate received more than 50 percent of the first-place votes, then the candidate or candidates who received the fewest first-place votes would be eliminated and, in the next round, each vote for an eliminated candidate would instead be counted toward the next highest-ranked candidate on that voter's ballot. Depending on the number of candidates, additional rounds of counting could occur, with the last-place candidate or candidates in each round being eliminated and the votes for an eliminated candidate going to the voter's next choice out of the remaining candidates. A tie for last place in any round would be broken by comparing the tied candidates' support in earlier rounds. Ultimately, the candidate who was, out of the remaining candidates, the preference of a majority of voters would be declared the winner.

Ranked-choice voting would be used only in races where a single candidate is to be declared the winner and not in races where more than one person is to be elected.

Under the proposed law, if no candidate received more than 50 percent of first-place votes in the first round, the rounds of ballot-counting necessary for ranked-choice voting would be conducted at a central tabulation facility. At the facility, voters' rankings would be entered into a computer, which would then be used to calculate the results of each round of the counting process. The

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

proposed law provides that candidates in a statewide or district election would have at least three days to request a recount.

The Secretary of State would be required to issue regulations to implement the proposed law and conduct a voter education campaign about the ranked-choice voting process. The proposed law would take effect on January 1, 2022.

A YES VOTE would create a system of ranked-choice voting in which voters would have the option to rank candidates in order of preference and votes would be counted in rounds, eliminating candidates with the lowest votes until one candidate has received a majority.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the laws governing voting and how votes are counted.

Yes	467
No	622
Blanks	109
TOTAL VOTES	1198

Town of Becket, Total Registered Voters:	1660
Ballots cast:	1198
Percent Voting	72.2%

A total of 1198 ballots were cast. There were 673 early and mail in ballots cast, 8 UOCAVA ballots and 1 FWAB ballot cast. There was 1 Provisional ballot, which was not counted, and 10 spoiled ballots. The AutoMARK voter assist terminal was tested at 6:55 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. Election Officials were: Gale LaBelle (Warden), Patricia Clemons (Clerk), Julia Kay-Grace, Priscilla McEwen, Charles Garman, Adrienne Metcalf, Jerome Schwartzbach, Thomas Rock, Susan Crossley, Meredyth Babcock, James Levy, and Ruth Rosenthal. The Constables were Nicole Miller and Michael Hunt. The polls closed at 8:00 p.m. and the unofficial results were printed and posted.

Elections and Town Meetings

VOTER ATTENDANCE			
<u>Election</u>	<u>Registered Voters</u>	<u>Ballots Cast</u>	<u>Percent Voting</u>
Presidential Primary, March 3	1558	451	29%
Annual Town Caucus, April (CANCELLED due to Covid-19 Pandemic)	-	-	-
Annual Town Election, May 16 Held on June 13 due to Covid-19	1563	206	13%
State Primary Election, September 1	1602	498	31%
State Election, November 3	1660	1198	72%

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Registered Voters</u>	<u>Voters/ Non-voter</u>	<u>% of Voters Attending</u>
Annual Town Meeting, May 9, 2020 Held on June 6 due to Covid-19	1563	62/7	4%

Respectfully submitted,

George E. 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, 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 otherwise cannot 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 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; broaden housing opportunities for residents; help senior citizens repair their homes; 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. Communities can issue bonds in anticipation of future CPA proceeds. Each community has control over how the money is spent, since 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. The CPC looks forward to future project proposals.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil F. Toomey, *Chair*
Community Preservation Committee



◆ COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT ◆
FY 2020 REPORT

FY 2020 Appropriated by Category	Community Housing	Historical	Open Space	Recreation	Budget Reserves	Committee Admin Expenses	Total Appropriation
<u>Project:</u>							
Committee Administrative Expenses Article 21						\$500.00	
Total Appropriated for Projects for FY 2020	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
FY 2020 Expenses against approved Projects:							
Committee Administrative Expenses Article 21						\$500.00	
Total Expended during FY 2020	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
FY 2020 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
2020	Estimated	Actual	Actual vs. Budget				
FY 2020 Local Revenue CPA 1.5%	\$42,595.39	\$46,033.21	\$3,437.82				
FY 2020 State Percentage Match of Local Revenue	\$10,000.00	\$10,851.40	\$851.40				
Totals by Fiscal Year	\$52,595.39	\$56,884.61	\$4,289.22				

◆ **REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING** ◆

Hello from the Becket Seniors!

The Becket Seniors had a great and fun two and a half months before COVID-19 restrictions shut down our activities.

On the third Tuesday of January and February, Porchlight Visiting Nurses Association visited us.

Before shutting down, we went on a few outings including lunching at Carm's Restaurant in Chester, Massachusetts. The women in our group went on a field trip to Southington, Connecticut for lunch followed by Irish Music and dancing. We enjoyed ourselves during these excursions.

In April we lost our member Betty Shepard from COVID-19. We also lost John Fitzgerald ("Fitzy") who passed away in November. We will miss both of them a great deal.

During the COVID-19 shut down, I checked on all of the Seniors from our group by visiting their homes and telephoning them. We all cannot wait until the Becket Seniors can get together again.

Please keep our luncheons in mind for when we can gather again at the Becket Town Hall:

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 Monday. The cost for lunch is \$2.00 payable at the door.

Newcomers are welcome to join us. We eagerly await when it will be possible for us to resume operations and reunite with our friends in person. Stay Safe. We wish all of you a great 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Bergeron,
On Site Director & Treasurer



◆ **REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS** ◆

West Becket Cemetery is in good shape. Nothing is needed at this time.

This year's regular maintenance and upkeep of North Becket Cemetery was performed as needed. We would like to thank Pioneer Plumbing & Heating, Delaney Excavating, the Becket Highway Crew and the Town Mechanic for their help this past year. We wish to also thank the Jon Rosner Family for their financial donation.

Center Becket Cemetery remains in good condition with ongoing maintenance to the grounds.

Respectfully submitted,

Cemetery Commissioners:
William Cavanaugh, *North Becket Cemetery*
Michelle Smith, *West Becket Cemetery*
Dean Williams, *Center Becket Cemetery*

◆ **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.

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.

Many complaints have come into the office in regards to unrestrained dogs. Under Town By-Laws Article 20 – Dog Control By-Law Section 2: “No owner or keeper shall permit a dog to run at large within the Town of Becket. Unrestrained

dogs are subject to a \$25.00 fine for each offense as well as impound fees.”

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
Calls Received:	98	16	27	18
Transferred Calls	7	1	18	14
Assisted Calls	13	10	9	3
Surrender				
Lost/ Found	66	1		1
Cruelty/Neglect Inv.	12	4		

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

In 2020, the Zoning Board of Appeals met in June, September, October, and December. As with most things this year, many of the meetings were held remotely for everyone's safety. The Board heard one application for a dimensional special permit and one application for site plan approval. Both applications were approved.

Joy Lennartz and Katherine Warden both resigned from the board this year and they are very much missed. In December, we had the privilege of welcoming Sarah Hoecker as a new board member.

The Zoning Board currently has two vacancies. Interested parties should contact the Select Board 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

Sarah Hoecker

Alvin Blake, *Associate Member*

Clerk of the ZBA: Tess Lundberg

◆ *REPORT OF THE TRANSFER STATION* ◆

The Transfer Station hours of operation are Tuesday and Saturday from 9am to 5pm. A vehicle permit is required for entry to the Transfer Station. Vehicle permits may be purchased at the Town Hall or the 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 may also be purchased in \$5 increments by check only at the Transfer Station. Cash is not accepted at the Transfer Station.**

Disposing of recyclables (paper, cardboard, cans and 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 your vehicle. 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 the town has recycled, collected and processed: 52.38 tons of paper, 62.31 tons of cans and bottles, 32.04 tons of scrap metals, 250.82 tons of bulky waste, 351 tons of solid waste, 507 fluorescent light bulbs, 234 mattresses, and 281 car and truck tires.

I would like to thank Bob Will, George Crochiere, Maurice Vandesteene and Dean Williams for all of their hard work and dedication to the Town of Becket and 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,

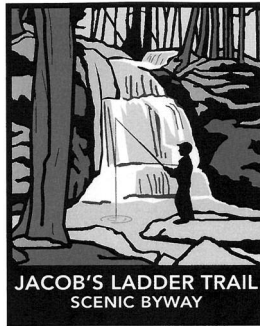
Edward Pickert
Highway Superintendent



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

The Jacob's Ladder Scenic Byway (JLTSB) Advisory Board was impacted in 2020 by the COVID-19 Pandemic. All in person meetings were postponed and due to various issues, online meetings were difficult to schedule. Communications were held via email.

The board's slated outline for 2020 will continue to be the initiative for the upcoming year:



- Various Trail Improvements
- Working with DCR to reopen the Chester/Blandford Forest Campground
- Grants for historic trolley wall stabilization along Route 20
- Updating Scenic Byway Maps and guides issued back in the 1990s.
- Biking trail along the Scenic Byway
- To re-establish an active Advisory Board similar to the Mohawk Trail Scenic Byway

The JLTSB Centennial Booklet was popular with visitors for its detailed rich history of the Byway and towns. The original supply from 2010 is nearly exhausted and an updated reprint will be sought.

The Gateway Hilltown Visitor Center located at 241 Route 20 in Chester (at Carm's Restaurant) cohosts a home for the JLTSB along with Historic Route 20. Originally opened in January, the Visitor Center reopened in mid-June and saw numerous travelers from across the country. A tally shows that nearly 500 people stopped for information, maps and more. While June and July were still slow, an uptick came in late August thru mid-October.

MASS-DOT installed Visitor INFO signs on the Scenic Byway (Route 20) in Chester to indicate the location of the Visitor Center.

The Visitor Center offers free Wi-Fi, public restrooms and information pertaining to the JLTSB.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Farr, ***President***



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

The Becket Scholarship Foundation was pleased to award scholarships to two Becket students: Emma Adams and Dalyan Babcock. This year, we also partnered with Berkshire Taconic to expand the scholarship awards to Becket students. As part of this coordination, one student, Ellen Cook, was recommended by the Foundation to receive the Berkshire Taconic award. Becket Scholarship Foundation

and Berkshire Taconic awarded a combined total in the amount of \$4,000.00. These scholarships are made possible 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 in concert with local communities to preserve, protect, and enhance the special qualities and outstanding natural resources of the Westfield River and its supporting watershed. 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 stakeholders. Project funding is provided through the National Park Service's Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers Program.

Becket was a big focus of the Committee's efforts this past year. The Committee's Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator worked with two interns to help control invasive plants along Center Pond Brook to help the native plant assemblage recover. The interns learned new skills including assisting in filing for and gaining authorization from the Conservation Commission to work in the riverfront area and secure permission from a number of property owners to work on their lands. The interns received training in plant identification and effective removal of non-native invasive species. Once properly permitted and trained, the trio made enormous inroads into trying to restore the natural vegetative community along Center Pond Brook. It was hard, hot and physically draining work and the Committee is proud of the interns and our Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator. More information on this project can be found on the website including a link to a NEPM public television Connecting Point segment highlighting the project.

Another win for Becket was two years in the making. The Committee funded and managed an initial assessment and concept design process for replacing a deteriorating culvert carrying Center Pond Brook beneath Brooker Hill Road. That Wild & Scenic funded initiative also included assistance to the town to prepare a grant application for state funding to move the project to implementation. The initial application just missed being selected for funding but the resubmitted application was selected this year. The town received funding from the MA Div. Of Ecological Restoration's Municipal Assistance Program to continue with the culvert replacement. Of note, the official announcement of all the grant awardees was hosted by the town and held on the banks of Yokum Brook.

The Committee's outreach and education efforts continue to be a strong stewardship component. This summer required significant modifications because of the COVID19 pandemic. In person educational, recreational and learning sessions were put on hold, including our signature Watershed Blitz, and replaced by a series of well received on-line videos (links to the videos are available on our website). These videos captured natural history experts introducing and explaining some of the wonderful and outstanding resources throughout the Westfield River watershed from beavers to wild edible plants.

Other activities included the Committee's beginning an extensive and exciting update of the Wild & Scenic Westfield River Conservation & Stewardship Plan. The Committee has been working with its consultant to complete interviews with key watershed stakeholders, host listening session and begin to prioritize issues. The updated plan should be available in the summer of 2021. The Committee provided financial assistance to Mass Audubon for two land conservation projects in Plainfield. The Committee once again offered Community Grants to the stakeholders and the ten Wild & Scenic towns. This funding allocation is on-going.

The Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee meets monthly. All meetings are open to the public and are currently being held virtually. Becket's alternative committee representative position is open. If you would like to learn more about the opportunity to be the alternate or learn what is happening in the watershed, visit Wild & Scenic Westfield River 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 commissioners are: Sandra Jarvis (2021)-Chair, W. Katherine Hoak (2023)-Secretary, Rita Furlong (2022)-Treasurer, Gail Kusek (2021)-CPC representative and John Garvey (2021).

Queries

- **1054 County Road:** Andrew Jackson inquired about the history of his property, especially the barn foundation. We sent two historical maps to assist with information he had from deeds including Lucius P. Allen to Elias Ballou, and Joseph R. Pomeroy to William Stanley; and previous owner Joseph Mecum. The HC also found Albert R. Mecum had owned 120 acres here in the late 1800s; he had several cows and sheep, possible previous tenants of the barn.
- **Ballou Baskets:** Peter Coccoluto sent us photos of a Becket basket he purchased measuring 31 1/2 inches in height, and 23 inches in diameter. It has a square base with a round opening on the top, and is made of woven wood. The HC shared information on Becket's basket industry including historic photos. We informed him of the small basket museum at the Mullen House in North Becket and the baskets on display at the Becket Town Hall. In 1927 the basket industry was devastated by a flood that washed away one, and damaged the second of two large basket factories. Several small shops continued on but the basket industry never returned to its pre-flood production levels.
- Follow-up from 2019: **Eliza R. Snow** birth place in Becket- It appears that at the time of her birth (1804) only Eliza's grandfather Oliver owned property in Becket. It is the most likely reason for the assertion that she was born in her grandfather's house, located on Fred Snow Road.
- Follow-up: Dudley Fincke, Caroga Museum's request for further information on the **Jonathan Whitney Wheeler** house on Main Street and birthdates/photos for tannery associates: Wheeler 1817; Gov. William Claflin 1818; Milton Barnes 1825; and Henry Addison Bidwell 1815. The only photo we had was of Massachusetts Governor Claflin.
- **Pond View Village Association:** Where was/is it located in Becket? Does anyone have any information? The HC did not have an answer.
- **Barnes Family:** A query from Liz Thomas regarding the Barnes family and ancestor Amanda Barnes Smith. Liz Thomas is doing research for a future choreographic performance around the Barnes family.
- **Veterans and Historic District Signs:** Sarah Clement, on behalf of the local DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) chapter, expressed a desire to apply for CPA funds to start engraving veterans' names on the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War Memorial Stone. The HC was concerned with the eventual cost and that there would not be enough space on the stone for all the names. In addition, we were in the process of replacing three faded, weather damaged signs with more substantial signs. The veterans name sign for the obelisk memorial stone and the North Becket Historic District sign in Ballou Memorial Park will be replaced. In addition, the Becket Center Historic District sign at the Colonial Training Grounds will also be replaced. All three signs are in possession of the HC waiting to be installed after the pandemic. The new signs have a QR Code enabling visitors to scan the code on their smartphones which links with the HC's new "Historical Facts" page on the town website. The "Historical Facts" page has direct links with information on many of Becket's historical properties. <https://www.townofbecket.org/historical-commission/pages/historical-facts>
- **Lydia Baird/Stedman families:** Helen Lyons, is researching the Lydia Baird/Stedman families for proof that Martha Amelia Stedman was David and Lydia Stedman's daughter. We found two handwritten references: first in the H. Cerelia Snow's Genealogy of the Inhabitants of Becket and secondly in the Becket Vital Records book held by the Berkshire Athenaeum, posted online, with a Church Record notation in the margin.
- **Linkon and Luce families:** Geoff Lincoln inquired of his ancestors Silas Linkon & Hannah (Luce) Linkon, who lived in Becket in the 1700s. Geoff believed they were buried in Becket. We did not find any burial records in Becket. However, we found Silas in Abstracts of Graves of Revolutionary Patriots; online. It states Silas Lincoln's burial was at the Curtis Farm, Virgil, Cortland, New York; the stone has been lost. Several records for the Linkon and Luce families were shared from the Becket Vital Records and A Bicentennial History of Becket book.
- **Epitaph verses:** John Hanson, researcher and author, reached out to the HC after a visit to the Becket Center Cemetery. He found a treasure of literary origins in the epitaph verses on the old, 1700s New England gravestones and wanted to talk with the Commission. John and the HC, agreed to postpone a proposed lecture/walking tour of the Becket Center Cemetery until after the pandemic is over. John will give a slideshow presentation in the First Congregational Church before leading a walking tour of the cemetery in 2021.

Report of the Historical Commission

(Continued)

- **Seth Snow House:** Stonehouse Properties agents requested historical information about Seth Snow and his colonial house at 2588 Main Street, built in 1789. The house is an almost exact twin to the Fred Snow House; the design and structural details show the two houses were built at nearly the same time and probably by the same family. The Flood of 1927 washed away the six-room ell, sheds and barns, while the main house was saved by the large 12-foot chimney foundation in the center of the house. According to tradition, the house, and specifically the chimney, was used by the Underground Railroad. The HC was escorted on a tour to photo document the interior of the Seth Snow House and the outside property. The grounds extend across Main Street where a cement foundation marks where a barn, used as an antique shop, stood until collapsing under snow about ten years ago.

- **Yokum Cemetery:** Peter Nikitas of Foresight Land Services inquired as to the ownership of Yokum [Pond] Cemetery; Is it on town land? According to the assessor's map 203, the Yokum Burial Ground is off western Tyne Road near Yokum Road. It is believed to be one of four Native American burial grounds in Becket. According to HC records, the Yokum Pond Cemetery location is further southeast, also along Tyne Road before Plumb Road. Annual Town Report records detail multiple times through the years when the town allocated town funds for maintenance of the Yokum Pond Cemetery ("For cutting grass and brush, Yokum Pond Cemetery 1891-1892, \$2.00, 1893 \$1.00; for mowing grass in 1916, 1917 and 1931 \$1.50.") Further, in 1977 Esther Moulthrop, a member of the Becket HC, completed the official Burial Grounds form for the Massachusetts Historical Commission. About the Yokum Pond Cemetery she stated, "However, this is a town cemetery, not a family cemetery as is the Harris [East Becket] Cemetery." There has been some confusion between the two locations both on Tyne Road and the many names: Yokum Burial grounds; Yokum Cemetery; Yokum Pond Cemetery; and the Fred or Nathan Snow Cemetery. Nathan Snow is buried here with two wives and several children, he transferred the property in 1817 to Thomas Chaffee for a "burying ground only" at a cost of ten cents. There is another, separate Snow family cemetery on the former Fred Snow property on Fred Snow Road. John Davis, a direct descendant of many buried in the Yokum Pond Cemetery, has researched the cemetery extensively for years. In 2003 John arranged for a Veterans Administration (VA) replacement headstone to be placed at the grave of his ancestor, Nathan Snow, after the original headstone broke off at ground level. The HC, Becket Cemetery Commissioner Dean Williams, along with John and Peter, have exchanged information, documents, maps and photos. The small Yokum Pond Cemetery dates burials between 1802 and 1894. It measures about 40 x 40 feet,

surrounded by a stone wall and stone stile steps on the west side. The steps were typical of the time; designed to keep out domestic animals that ran free. There are ten large marble head stones, and the rest are small field stones. The cemetery access is through private property only.

- **43-44 Pleasant Street:** Kathy Rodhouse inquired about any demolition plans. According to Bill Girard, Becket Building Inspector: There are no current demolition plans but some houses in the depot area have been condemned. The Higley-Jennings-Tobin-Davis house at 43 Pleasant Street built circa 1838 is currently being rehabbed in multiple phases. Both the historic house, and its historic partner the Higley Apothecary property across the street at 44 Pleasant Street are listed in the North Becket National Historic District. Therefore, demolition could be delayed for six months according to Becket's present Demolition By-Law which provides minimal time to look for an alternative to demolition. The Apothecary has been abandoned and is a major concern for the HC. In the future, Becket voters would need to approve a Local Historic District by-law to have the strongest form of protection for our treasured historic resources. In a Local Historic District, any plans to demolish or alter any exterior architectural feature visible from a public way, must first be approved by a local historic district commission.

Donations

- **Photo negatives:** Martin Glendon was a photographer for the Berkshire Eagle. His family donated some negatives with the name "Simmons" on the envelope. Rita was aware of a Simmons family in Washington. She was able to identify the people and has given them to the granddaughter of C. A. R. Simmons, former Washington resident.

- **Baseball photo:** A Little League photo, circa 1958-1960, was donated posthumously on behalf of Bob Podolski and Roger Peltier.

- Bev Lambert, editor, has donated a framed set of five drawings of Becket houses, all of which appear in the 1982 book **An Historic Tour of Becket, Massachusetts** developed by the HC as a tour of the town. The original drawings for the book were by Phillip Buller. The book is for sale at a cost of \$3.00 at Town Hall.

Letters of support (Written by HC members for:)

- Berkshire Regional Planning Commission for the FY20 Dalton regional **CDBG grant** application, to develop a joint housing rehabilitation program in the Towns of Dalton, Sheffield, Stockbridge and Becket, MA, and to provide ADA planning services for Dalton, Becket and Stockbridge.

Report of the Historical Commission

(Continued)

- **The Becket Arts Center:** Community Preservation Act (CPA) grant application to support a heating system for the historic town building; enabling the BAC to use the building year-round.
- **First Congregational Church:** Community Preservation Act (CPA) grant application in order to address the internal structural damage caused by powder post beetles. The process will begin with an architectural engineer determining the process needed to save the Church. The grant would need to be at least \$15,000 to cover the cost of that evaluation.

Actions/Discussions

- **Research fees:** Discussion concerning the extensive time required to complete research for personal and business queries. Should or can a fee be charged? The HC is actively working to post their digitalized Becket Historical Records (beginning in the early 1700s) on the town website thus enabling people to do some of their own research online.
- **Ballou Memorial Park and Colonial Training Ground:** purchased replacement signs with a QR Code (See above Veterans and Historic District Signs query) and pedestal stands to be installed in 2021.
- **Historical Facts link:** Beverly Gilbert, Administrative Assistant, has assisted the HC in creating a new information page on the town website. The HC has written articles about many of the historic properties in town. The historical information can be found from the HC page or directly at: <https://www.townofbecket.org/historical-commission/pages/historical-facts> It will also be accessible by the QR Code on the signs mentioned above with a smartphone.
- **Past Historical Commissioners:** Rob Gorden and Beverly R. Gillette, former longtime members of the HC, passed away in 2020. Rob Gorden served between 1995 and 2012 and Beverly Gillette served between 1992 and 2005. The present HC would like to commemorate their service and are discussing possibilities.
- **Pole flags:** Purchased replacement flags, to be installed spring 2021.
- **21 Maple Street:** plaque purchased and installed in North Becket Park to commemorate the site of the former Baptist Parsonage.
- **Becket Arts Center 50th Anniversary presentation:** The HC agreed to a request from the BAC to create a Power-Point presentation for their 50th Anniversary celebration; which unfortunately was cancelled because of the pandemic. An 80-slide presentation was completed, including the history of Seminary Hall home to the Arts Center, Becket Schools, North Becket and more. It was shared with the BAC which has posted it on their website: <https://www.becketartscenter.org/history>

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Jarvis, *Chair*



◆ TOWN OF BECKET TAX COLLECTOR - SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS ◆

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

<u>Fiscal Year/Tax</u>	<u>Balance 07/01/2019</u>	<u>Commitments</u>	<u>Collected</u>	<u>Refunds</u>	<u>Abatements</u>	<u>Tax Title Transfers</u>	<u>Balance 06/30/2020</u>
2020							
Real Estate		\$5,516,270.03	\$5,109,235.71		\$59,139.13		\$347,895.19
Personal Property		\$361,830.26	\$354,708.21		\$1,419.78		\$5,702.27
Motor Vehicle		\$256,406.22	\$221,881.11	\$1,912.47	\$2,703.06		\$33,734.52
Fees			\$1,320.00				
Interest			\$10,298.39				
2019							
Real Estate	\$259,913.46		\$103,352.23		\$311.07	\$76,512.08	\$79,738.08
Personal Property	\$4,069.68		\$1,383.58		\$163.72		\$2,522.38
Motor Vehicle	\$14,210.33	\$36,508.84	\$44,983.14	\$2,276.26	\$2,250.07		\$5,762.22
Fees			\$8,878.56				
Interest			\$12,358.84				
2018							
Real Estate	\$78,122.96		\$30,197.08			\$7,338.39	\$40,587.49
Personal Property	\$2,404.38		\$268.58				\$2,135.80
Motor Vehicle	\$7,404.71	\$10.42	\$2,231.86	\$199.66	\$50.00		\$5,332.93
Fees			\$2,863.75				
Interest			\$8,452.13				
2017							
Real Estate	\$46,710.10		\$16,808.98			\$7,508.59	\$22,392.53
Personal Property	\$1,966.61		\$326.08				\$1,640.53
Motor Vehicle	\$1,908.54		\$505.73	\$35.00	\$35.00		\$1,402.81
Fees			\$1,287.84				
Interest			\$7,183.41				
Pre 2017 Years							
Real Estate	\$25,815.31		\$11,656.66			\$3,375.43	\$10,783.22
Personal Property	\$7,547.70		\$993.37				\$6,554.33
Motor Vehicle	\$7,727.51		\$578.13				\$7,149.38
Fees			\$1,488.66				
Interest			\$7,541.15				

◆ **TOWN OF BECKET FINANCIAL REPORT** ◆

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020
GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

DEPARTMENT	CARRY FWD.	ORIG. BUD.	AMENDED	ENCUM.	EXPEND.	UNENCUM. BALANCE	% EXP.
ADVERTISING		\$4,000.00	\$-1,613.95		\$1,418.74	\$967.31	59.45
ADVERTISING TOTAL		\$4,000.00	\$-1,613.95		\$1,418.74	\$967.31	59.45
SELECTMEN SALARIES		\$6,365.00	\$62.08		\$6,427.08		100.00
SELECTMEN EXPENSES		\$1,900.00	\$-62.08		\$1,536.52	\$301.40	83.60
TOWN MEETING EXPENSE		\$6,000.00			\$2,912.68	\$3,087.32	48.54
ROUTE 20 SPRING	\$1,180.28					\$1,180.28	0.00
INDIAN LAKES ASSOCIATION		\$1,350.00				\$1,350.00	0.00
PRINT AND BIND BYLAWS	\$5,000.00					\$5,000.00	0.00
SELECTMEN TOTAL	\$6,180.28	\$15,615.00			\$10,876.28	\$10,919.00	49.90
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR SALARIES		\$76,500.00	\$11.52		\$76,511.52		100.00
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR EXPENSES	\$-1,350.00	\$2,200.00	\$1,350.00		\$984.50	\$1,215.50	44.75
STAFF COVERAGE		\$3,000.00			\$811.20	\$2,188.80	27.04
CLERK OF COMMITTEES		\$34,466.00			\$21,204.56	\$13,261.44	61.52
250TH ANNIVERSARY	\$784.20					\$784.20	0.00
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TOTAL	\$-565.80	\$116,166.00	\$1,361.52		\$99,511.78	\$17,449.94	85.08
FINANCE COMM. EXPENSES		\$600.00			\$381.60	\$218.40	63.60
FINANCE COMMITTEE TOTAL		\$600.00			\$381.60	\$218.40	63.60
TOWN ACCOUNTANT SALARIES		\$24,850.00	\$0.26		\$24,850.26		100.00
OUTSIDE PAYROLL EXPENSES		\$5,100.00	\$386.09		\$8,974.19	\$-3,488.10	163.58
TOWN ACCOUNTANT EXPENSE		\$400.00	\$-386.09			\$13.91	0.00
TOWN ACCOUNTANT TOTAL		\$30,350.00	\$0.26		\$33,824.45	\$-3,474.19	111.44
ASSESSOR SALARIES		\$65,000.00	\$3,000.00		\$67,152.15	\$847.85	98.75
ASSESSOR EXPENSES		\$68,522.00	\$-1,000.00		\$8,793.28	\$8,728.72	87.07
ASSESSOR TOTAL		\$133,522.00	\$2,000.00		\$125,945.43	\$9,576.57	92.93
TREASURER SALARIES		\$46,456.00			\$46,452.00	\$4.00	99.99
TREASURER EXPENSES	\$-15.00	\$5,000.00	\$15.00		\$1,869.39	\$3,130.61	37.38
TREASURER TOTAL	\$-15.00	\$51,456.00	\$15.00		\$48,321.39	\$3,134.61	93.90
TAX COLLECTOR SALARIES		\$57,852.00			\$57,849.60	\$2.40	99.99
ASST TAX COLLECTOR SALARIES		\$48,146.00			\$48,145.15	\$0.85	99.99
TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSES	\$1,500.00	\$8,180.00			\$5,888.44	\$3,791.56	60.83
KVS SOFTWARE UPGRADE	\$4,045.00					\$4,045.00	0.00
TAX COLLECTOR TOTAL	\$5,545.00	\$114,178.00			\$111,883.19	\$7,839.81	93.45
TAX TITLE EXPENSES		\$25,000.00	\$28,454.46		\$53,454.46		100.00
TAX TITLE TOTAL		\$25,000.00	\$28,454.46		\$53,454.46		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		\$46,503.00	\$7.24		\$46,510.24		100.00
TOWN SECRETARY TOTAL		\$46,503.00	\$7.24		\$46,510.24		100.00
TOWN COUNSEL EXPENSES		\$20,000.00	\$10,024.64		\$30,024.64		100.00
TOWN COUNSEL TOTAL		\$20,000.00	\$10,024.64		\$30,024.64		100.00
AUDIT EXPENSES	\$5,000.00	\$18,500.00			\$13,000.00	\$10,500.00	55.31
AUDIT TOTAL	\$5,000.00	\$18,500.00			\$13,000.00	\$10,500.00	55.31
POSTAGE EXPENSES		\$12,000.00	\$-4,664.13		\$7,335.87		100.00
POSTAGE TOTAL		\$12,000.00	\$-4,664.13		\$7,335.87		100.00
TOWN REPORT EXPENSES		\$3,500.00			\$3,120.00	\$380.00	89.14
TOWN REPORT TOTAL		\$3,500.00			\$3,120.00	\$380.00	89.14
TOWN CLERK SALARIES		\$29,188.00	\$0.32		\$29,188.32		100.00
TOWN CLERK EXPENSES		\$2,145.00			\$1,751.52	\$393.48	81.65
TOWN CLERK TOTAL		\$31,333.00	\$0.32		\$30,939.84	\$393.48	98.74
ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION EXPENSES		\$16,678.00	\$-8,665.18		\$5,667.21	\$2,345.61	70.72
ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION TOTAL		\$16,678.00	\$-8,665.18		\$5,667.21	\$2,345.61	70.72
CON COMM EXPENSES		\$19,894.00			\$15,337.08	\$4,556.92	77.09
CON COMM TOTAL		\$19,894.00			\$15,337.08	\$4,556.92	77.09
PLANNING BOARD EXPENSES		\$2,225.00	\$1,613.95		\$3,838.95		100.00
PLANNING BOARD TOTAL		\$2,225.00	\$1,613.95		\$3,838.95		100.00
BOARD OF APPEALS EXPENSES		\$1,500.00	\$-34.45		\$238.00	\$1,227.55	16.23
ZONING BOARD TOTAL		\$1,500.00	\$-34.45		\$238.00	\$1,227.55	16.23
BERK REGIONAL PLANNING COMM		\$1,383.00	\$34.45		\$1,417.45		100.00
BRPC TOTAL		\$1,383.00	\$34.45		\$1,417.45		100.00
MUNICIPAL BLDG LABOR		\$49,301.00	\$1,000.00		\$49,774.38	\$526.62	98.95
MUNICIPAL BLDG UTILITIES		\$58,000.00	\$-1,231.13		\$40,211.97	\$16,556.90	70.83
MUNICIPAL BLDG EXPENSES		\$31,975.00	\$-2,840.00		\$19,079.04	\$10,055.96	65.48
WIRED WEST MEMBERSHIP		\$3,500.00			\$1,337.77	\$2,162.23	38.22
MUNICIPAL BLDG REPAIRS		\$35,000.00			\$31,584.35	\$3,415.65	90.24
TOWN HALL PARKING LOT		\$15,000.00			\$2,937.36	\$12,062.64	19.58
TOWN HALL KITCHEN REPAIRS & IMPROVE		\$10,000.00			\$10,000.00		100.00
DRAINAGE - AMBULANCE DEPT.		\$60,000.00			\$7,610.00	\$52,390.00	12.68
WELL AND SEPTIC		\$35,000.00			\$251.80	\$34,748.20	.71
TWO FURNACES	\$8,679.54					\$8,679.54	0.00
MUNICIPAL BLDG TOTAL	\$8,679.54	\$297,776.00	\$-3,071.13		\$162,786.67	\$140,597.74	53.65
COMPUTER HARD/SOFTWARE UPGRADES	\$1,019.27				\$567.00	\$452.27	55.62

<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>
MUNICIPAL BLDG TOWN HALL CNTRL AIR	\$49,020.17					\$49,020.17	0.00
SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS		\$25,134.00			\$22,640.70	\$2,493.30	90.07
MUNICIPAL BLDG ARTICLES TOTAL	\$50,039.44	\$25,134.00			\$23,207.70	\$51,965.74	30.87
RESERVE FUND		\$50,000.00	\$-22,513.41			\$27,486.59	0.00
RESERVE FUND TOTAL		\$50,000.00	\$-22,513.41			\$27,486.59	0.00
POLICE DEPT SALARIES		\$338,328.00	\$1,000.00		\$338,852.06	\$475.94	99.85
POLICE DEPT EXPENSES		\$18,880.00			\$16,963.99	\$1,916.01	89.85
POLICE CRUISER		\$55,493.37			\$55,020.37	\$473.00	99.14
POLICE DEPT TOTAL		\$412,701.37	\$1,000.00		\$410,836.42	\$2,864.95	99.30
EMERG MANAGEMENT EXPENSES		\$1,000.00	\$-1,000.00				100.00
EMERG MGT TRAINING		\$1,000.00				\$1,000.00	0.00
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TOTAL		\$2,000.00	\$-1,000.00			\$1,000.00	0.00
CONSTABLE EXPENSES		\$300.00				\$300.00	0.00
CONSTABLE EXPENSES TOTAL		\$300.00				\$300.00	0.00
FIRE DEPARTMENT SALARIES		\$7,300.00			\$7,299.96	\$0.04	99.99
FIREFIGHTER STIPENDS		\$14,000.00			\$8,400.00	\$5,600.00	60.00
FIRE DEPARTMENT EXPENSES	\$9,550.00	\$32,000.00			\$22,665.02	\$18,884.98	54.54
FIRE DEPARTMENT TOTAL	\$9,550.00	\$53,300.00			\$38,364.98	\$24,485.02	61.04
1991 FORD F350 RESCUE TRUCK			\$4,250.00		\$4,250.00		100.00
DRY HYDRANT PARTS	\$7,000.00					\$7,000.00	0.00
FY19 TURNOUT GEAR	\$26,160.00				\$14,292.36	\$11,867.64	54.63
FIRE DEPARTMENT ARTICLES TOTAL	\$33,160.00		\$4,250.00		\$18,542.36	\$18,867.64	49.56
E911 COMMUNICATIONS		\$12,683.00			\$12,682.86	\$0.14	99.99
E911 COMMUNICATIONS TOTAL		\$12,683.00			\$12,682.86	\$0.14	99.99
BUILDING DEPARTMENT SALARIES		\$55,160.00			\$54,635.98	\$524.02	99.05
BUILDING DEPARTMENT EXPENSES		\$2,215.00	\$2,840.00		\$5,055.00		100.00
BUILDING DEPARTMENT TOTAL		\$57,375.00	\$2,840.00		\$59,690.98	\$524.02	99.12
ANIMAL CONTROL SALARIES		\$5,500.00			\$4,932.65	\$567.35	89.68
ANIMAL CONTROL EXPENSES		\$2,500.00			\$2,494.35	\$5.65	99.77
ANIMAL CONTROL TOTAL		\$8,000.00			\$7,427.00	\$573.00	92.83
HARBOR MASTER EXPENSES		\$1,474.00			\$1,712.99	\$-238.99	116.21
HARBOR MASTER TOTAL		\$1,474.00			\$1,712.99	\$-238.99	116.21
DEMOLITION FUND		\$22,000.00			\$21,215.00	\$785.00	96.43
DEMOLITION TOTAL		\$22,000.00			\$21,215.00	\$785.00	96.43
SCHOOL OPERATING BUDGET		\$2,308,156.00			\$2,308,156.00		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>
VOCATIONAL TUITION		\$175,000.00	\$5,248.99		\$180,248.99		100.00
VOCATIONAL TRANSPORTATION		\$70,000.00	\$-5,248.99		\$45,918.32	\$18,832.69	70.91
EDUCATION TOTAL		\$2,553,156.00			\$2,534,323.31	\$18,832.69	99.26
TREE ACCOUNT EXPENSES		\$15,300.00	\$-8,500.00		\$6,670.00	\$130.00	98.08
TREE ACCOUNT TOTAL		\$15,300.00	\$-8,500.00		\$6,670.00	\$130.00	98.08
FORESTRY		\$500.00				\$500.00	0.00
FORESTRY TOTAL		\$500.00				\$500.00	0.00
HIGHWAY DEPT SALARIES	\$8,600.00	\$230,897.00			\$234,098.36	\$5,398.64	97.74
SUMMER LABOR		\$16,800.00	\$-5,027.97			\$11,772.03	0.00
GENERAL MAINTENANCE	\$30,430.00	\$172,180.00			\$150,221.71	\$52,388.29	74.14
MACHINERY ACCOUNT		\$71,275.00			\$66,562.65	\$4,712.35	93.38
FUEL ACCOUNT	\$6,000.00	\$95,500.00	\$-4,988.05		\$72,365.17	\$24,146.78	74.98
HIGHWAY GARAGE	\$2,090.00	\$15,575.00			\$13,242.36	\$4,422.64	74.96
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TOTAL	\$47,120.00	\$602,227.00	\$-10,016.02		\$536,490.25	\$102,840.73	83.91
FY16 DUMP TRUCK		\$50,400.00			\$50,304.00	\$96.00	99.80
BACKHOE -FY19	\$127,500.00				\$119,900.00	\$7,600.00	94.03
HIGHWAY ARTICLES TOTAL	\$127,500.00	\$50,400.00			\$170,204.00	\$7,696.00	95.67
WINTER ROADS SALARIES		\$152,534.00	\$-3,500.00		\$148,885.37	\$148.63	99.90
WINTER ROADS		\$84,450.00	\$17,027.97		\$101,477.97		100.00
WINTER ROADS TOTAL		\$236,984.00	\$13,527.97		\$250,363.34	\$148.63	99.94
STREET LIGHTING		\$8,000.00	\$1,979.38		\$9,979.38		100.00
STREET LIGHTING TOTAL		\$8,000.00	\$1,979.38		\$9,979.38	100.00	100.00
TRANSFER STATION SALARIES		\$31,885.00			\$30,164.26	\$1,720.74	94.60
TRANSFER STATION EXPENSES		\$105,080.00	\$19,725.63		\$124,805.63		100.00
TRANSFER STATION TOTAL		\$136,965.00	\$19,725.63		\$154,969.89	\$1,720.74	98.90
BECKET CENTER CEMETERY		\$4,898.00	\$46.00		\$4,944.00		100.00
NORTH BECKET CEMETERY	\$5,165.18	\$16,227.00	\$-870.00		\$19,780.88	\$741.30	96.38
WEST BECKET CEMETERY		\$750.00	\$870.00		\$1,572.04	\$47.96	97.03
CEMETERY TOTAL	\$5,165.18	\$21,875.00	\$46.00		\$26,296.92	\$789.26	97.08
SO BERK SOLID WASTE		\$3,200.00			\$-5,899.76	\$9,099.76	-184.36
TRANSFER STATION TOTAL		\$3,200.00			\$-5,899.76	\$9,099.76	-184.36
BOARD OF HEALTH SALARIES		\$9,500.00			\$2,865.98	\$6,634.02	30.16
BOARD OF HEALTH EXPENSES		\$30,000.00			\$29,539.56	\$460.44	98.46
BOARD OF HEALTH TOTAL		\$39,500.00			\$32,405.54	\$7,094.46	82.03
INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS		\$345.00			\$345.00		100.00
INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS TOTAL		\$345.00			\$345.00	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			\$3,825.73	\$1,235.27	75.59
<i>VISITING NURSE TOTAL</i>		<i>\$5,061.00</i>			<i>\$3,825.73</i>	<i>\$1,235.27</i>	<i>75.59</i>
COUNCIL ON AGING EXPENSES		\$5,000.00			\$4,748.14	\$251.86	94.96
OUTREACH PROGRAMS		\$500.00				\$500.00	0.00
<i>COUNCIL ON AGING TOTAL</i>		<i>\$5,500.00</i>			<i>\$4,748.14</i>	<i>\$751.86</i>	<i>86.32</i>
VETERANS AGENT SALARIES		\$2,140.00			\$2,139.96	\$0.04	99.99
VETERANS BENEFITS		\$37,200.00			\$34,529.27	\$2,670.73	92.82
VETERANS AGENT EXPENSE		\$100.00				\$100.00	0.00
<i>VETERANS TOTAL</i>		<i>\$39,440.00</i>			<i>\$36,669.23</i>	<i>\$2,770.77</i>	<i>92.97</i>
UPGRADE & IMPROVE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM	\$200.00					\$200.00	0.00
<i>ARTS CENTER TOTAL</i>	<i>\$200.00</i>					<i>\$200.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>
WOMEN'S AUX CHILDREN'S PARTY		\$500.00				\$500.00	0.00
<i>WOMEN'S AUX TOTAL</i>		<i>\$500.00</i>				<i>\$500.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>
LIBRARY EXPENSES		\$50,292.00			\$50,292.00		100.00
<i>LIBRARY TOTAL</i>		<i>\$50,292.00</i>			<i>\$50,292.00</i>	<i>100.00</i>	<i>100.00</i>
LIBRARY CAPITAL	\$14,379.47				\$3,902.37	\$10,477.10	27.13
BECKET ARTS CENTER CAPITAL		\$7,120.00			\$3,851.99	\$3,268.01	54.10
<i>LIBRARY CAPITAL TOTAL</i>	<i>\$14,379.47</i>	<i>\$7,120.00</i>			<i>\$7,754.36</i>	<i>\$13,745.11</i>	<i>36.06</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>100.00</i>	<i>100.00</i>
PARKS AND REC COMM EXPENSES	\$12,167.30	\$30,610.00			\$34,504.96	\$8,272.34	80.66
EROSION CONTROL/DRAINAGE	\$6,900.00				\$3,500.01	\$3,399.99	50.72
REPAIR THE MAPLE STREET PARKING AREA		\$4,381.82			\$4,381.82		100.00
<i>PARKS COMM TOTAL</i>	<i>\$19,067.30</i>	<i>\$34,991.82</i>			<i>\$42,386.79</i>	<i>\$11,672.33</i>	<i>78.40</i>
HISTORICAL COMM EXPENSES	\$2,408.14	\$2,017.00			\$2,580.00	\$1,845.14	58.30
<i>HISTORICAL COMM TOTAL</i>	<i>\$2,408.14</i>	<i>\$2,017.00</i>			<i>\$2,580.00</i>	<i>\$1,845.14</i>	<i>58.30</i>
MEMORIAL/VETERAN'S DAY EXPENSES		\$1,500.00			\$910.00	\$590.00	60.66
<i>MEMORIAL/VETERAN'S DAY TOTAL</i>		<i>\$1,500.00</i>			<i>\$910.00</i>	<i>\$590.00</i>	<i>60.66</i>
AMBULANCE		\$88,349.50			\$88,349.50		100.00
TOWN HALL ROOF		\$24,707.07			\$24,707.07		100.00
WAHCONAH REGIONAL FEASIBILITY STUDY		\$754.00			\$754.00		100.00
BECKET WASHINGTON SCHOOL		\$109,613.00			\$109,613.00		100.00
INTEREST ON SHORT TERM DEBT		\$1,500.00				\$1,500.00	0.00
KITTREDGE MSBA WINDOWS		\$306.00			\$306.00		100.00
FY14 DISTRICT SECURITY		\$990.00			\$990.00		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>
WAHCONAH REGIONAL HS SIDEWALKS		\$595.00			\$595.00		100.00
WAHCONAH RHS DOORS		\$5,548.00			\$5,548.00		100.00
LOADER		\$57,400.00			\$57,400.00		100.00
RESCUE PUMPER		\$118,350.00			\$118,350.00		100.00
DEBT TOTAL		\$408,112.57			\$406,612.57	\$1,500.00	99.63
RMV SURCHARGES			\$2,383.00		\$2,813.00	\$-430.00	118.04
AIR POLLUTION			\$799.00		\$866.00	\$-67.00	108.38
REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY			\$1,114.00		\$1,192.00	\$-78.00	107.00
SCHOOL CHOICE TUITION			\$7,064.00		\$5,213.00	\$1,851.00	73.79
TOTAL			\$11,360.00		\$10,084.00	\$1,276.00	88.76
HEALTH/LIFE INSURANCE	\$15,000.00	\$412,600.00	\$-2,840.80		\$388,387.89	\$36,371.31	91.43
RETIREMENT		\$219,163.00			\$219,163.00		100.00
PAYROLL TAXES		\$27,136.00			\$28,264.98	\$-1,128.98	104.16
UNEMPLOYMENT		\$5,000.00			\$4,020.09	\$979.91	80.40
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS TOTAL	\$15,000.00	\$663,899.00	\$-2,840.80		\$639,835.96	\$36,222.24	94.64
LIABILITY INSURANCE		\$118,814.00	\$2,717.80		\$121,531.80		100.00
LIABILITY INSURANCE TOTAL		\$118,814.00	\$2,717.80		\$121,531.80		100.00
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$348,413.55	\$6,615,345.76	\$38,039.55		\$6,445,392.01	\$556,406.85	92.05
GRAND TOTAL	\$348,413.55	\$6,615,345.76	\$38,039.55	\$0.00	\$6,445,392.01	\$556,406.85	92.05

◆ TOWN OF BECKET - COMBINED BALANCE SHEET ◆

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

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	1,183,354.01	543,074.79	301,367.91	608,924.06	104,181.74	1,067,368.46	189,283.21	0.00	3,997,554.18
Property Taxes	543,828.72	3,557.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	547,385.82
Allowance for Abate & Exempt	-264,437.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-264,437.23
Tax Liens	1,324,353.73	49.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	791,730.24	0.00	2,116,133.48
Motor Vehicle Excise	60,665.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60,665.54
User Charges/Liens	16,083.01	13,572.43	0.00	0.00	-11,100.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,555.01
Amts Prov for Pay of Bonds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,467,352.00	2,467,352.00
TOTAL ASSETS	2,863,847.78	560,253.83	301,367.91	608,924.06	93,081.31	1,067,368.46	981,013.45	2,467,352.00	8,943,208.80
<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	279,391.49	3,557.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	282,948.59
Def Rev Tax Liens	1,324,353.73	49.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	791,730.24	0.00	2,116,133.48
Def Rev MV Excise	60,665.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60,665.54
Borrowing Authorized and Unissued	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1,762,247.35	-1,762,247.35
Def Rev User Charges/Liens	16,083.01	13,572.43	0.00	0.00	-11,100.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,555.01
Borrowing Authorized	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,762,247.35	1,762,247.35
Bonds Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,467,352.00	2,467,352.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,685,355.44	17,179.04	0.00	0.00	-11,100.43	0.00	791,730.24	2,467,352.00	4,950,516.29
<u>FUND BALANCES</u>									
Reserved for Encumbrances	275,022.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	275,022.35
Reserved for Expenditures	198,532.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	44,205.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	242,737.00
Reserved for Appropriation Deficits	-3,688.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-3,688.47
Designated	0.00	71,125.00	0.00	0.00	59,976.74	1,037,389.01	0.00	0.00	1,168,490.75
Undesignated	708,626.46	471,949.79	301,367.91	608,924.06	0.00	29,979.45	189,283.21	0.00	2,310,130.88
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	1,178,492.34	543,074.79	301,367.91	608,924.06	104,181.74	1,067,368.46	189,283.21	0.00	3,992,692.51
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES	2,863,847.78	560,253.83	301,367.91	608,924.06	93,081.31	1,067,368.46	981,013.45	2,467,352.00	8,943,208.80



◆ **WAGES PAID IN CALENDAR YEAR 2020** ◆

Board of Selectmen

Elovirta, William H.	2,158.68
Lavery, Michael S.	2,158.68
Swindlehurst, Christopher E.	2,158.68

Town Administrator

Caldwell, William J.	81,393.60
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Board of Assessors

Avalle, Karen	600.00
Walter, Geraldine L.	19,214.45
Will, Elizabeth A.	11,534.38

Treasurer

Bleau, Christine D.	48,483.94
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Tax Collector

Bilodeau Jr., Kenneth R.	60,322.56
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Assistant Tax Collector

Weiler, Nina M.	50,198.90
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Deputy Collector

Shorey, David O.	1,870.00
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Administrative Assistant

Gilbert, Beverly A.	48,503.84
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Town Clerk/Elections

Roberts, George E.	33,389.48
Babcock, Meredyth	334.69
Blake, Alvin V.	44.63
Clemons, Patricia L.	411.19
Craft-Reiss, Barbara	140.25
Crossley, Susan A.	474.93
Francis, Charles I.	296.44
Garman, Charles A.	357.00
Kay-Grace, Julia W.	455.81
LaBelle, Gale L.	532.31
Levy, James P	449.43
McEwen, Priscilla J.	357.00
Metcalf Adrienne K.	223.12
Purser, Susan M.	350.62
Reiss, Steven B.	140.25
Rock, Thomas H.	401.62
Rosenthal, Ruth	599.25
Schwartzbach, Jerome H.	223.12

Police Department

Auger, Charlene F.	11,039.35
Balardini, Trae E.	15,264.04
Courtney, Shaun M.	17,247.67
Eckman, Kurtis L.	56,132.72
Heath, Chad E.	27,644.84
Hunt, Michael	60,265.95
Jones, Craig	531.72
McDonough, Kristopher G.	78,382.28
Miller, Nicole M.	22,150.69
Pettibone, Kenneth E.	13,822.31
Virginia, Matthew	61,883.88

Conservation Commission

Stucklen, Mary E.	16,512.47
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Fire Chief/Chief Stipend & Fees

Mikaniewicz, Paul A.	7,391.46
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Ambulance Department

Backman, Stephen A.	239.12
Breault, Haylie R.	26,109.86
Brooks, Logan V.	7,318.53
Cawthron, Danny R.	9,674.00
Cooper, Meredydd	43,427.73
Drenen, Matthew L.	5,042.64
Ferrin, Raymond E.	60,734.88
Forsaith, Sarah R.	14,594.02
Hebert Jr., John	7,509.37
Hoppe Jr., Dean H.	8,273.37
Kelly, Gregory V.	9,866.64
Kibbe, Frances J.	30,201.67
Koivisto, Max W.	12,312.06
Lacas, Roseanna K.	2,127.98
Lucas, Christopher S.	13,484.55
Marino, Matthew J.	8,795.96
McDonough, Morgan L.	18,215.04
Michaud, Lisa J.	56,991.58
Mullany, Donna J.	1,523.40
Mullany, Michael J.	29,041.01
Norcross, David	125.44
Robillard Jr., Leo O.	152.88
Stockley, Dean M.	540.93
Wall, Steven M.	1,660.50
Willey, Peter H.	20,878.24

◆ **WAGES PAID IN CALENDAR YEAR 2020** ◆

~ Continued ~

Building Inspectors		Municipal Vulnerability Program	
Danko, Gary	1,037.24	Babcock, Meredyth A.	2,537.50
Girard, William E.	51,679.82		
Public Safety Inspectors		Transfer Station	
Levernoch, Mark A.	3,375.00	Crochiere, George A.	9,102.28
Middleton, Brian E.	1,665.00	Daigle, Ronald P.	126.08
Spring, Dana	6,030.00	White, Mark D.	225.60
		Will, Robert R.	13,260.32
		Williams, Dean R.	2,682.90
		Vandesteene, Maurice O.	10,957.76
Harbor Master		Clerk of Assessing Dept. & Planning Board	
Rosenthal, Steven	1,200.00	Perotti, Jessica M.	36,710.76
Highway Department		Clerk of the Board of Health, ZBA	
Atwell, Devon J.	7,635.00	Lundberg, Terese	11,066.92
Chrystal, Tyler J.	59,746.10		
Cooper, Robert R.	11,677.68	Recreation Program & Lifeguards	
Cormier, Tyler J.	1,260.00	Adams, Emma T.	2,968.00
Goodermote, Albert R.	65,592.67	Bell, Eila M.	2,464.00
Isner, Christopher A.	62,762.81	Fennell, Anna E.	3,690.00
Morawiec, Nathan E.	61,836.08		
Murray, Donald L.	62,306.52		
Shorey, David O.	3,896.77		
Building & Grounds Technician		Accountant	
Shorey, David O.	51,947.36	McClellan, Margaret A.	25,963.62
Highway Superintendent		Fire Department Stipend	
Bouchard, Christopher J.	38,807.32	Castonguay, Warren K.	700.00
Pickert, Edward C.	32,281.58	Colantoni, Craig S.	700.00
		Elovirta, Jan R.	700.00
		Furlong Jr., David F.	700.00
Board of Health		Giarolo, Jessica	700.00
Burgwardt, Laurel L.	2,241.26	Goebel, Gene R.	700.00
Labelle, Gale L.	1,728.60	Hanford, Mark A.	700.00
		Healey, Robert	700.00
Animal Control Officer		Healey Jr., Robert	700.00
Miller, Nicole M.	5,562.35	Houlihan, Darien D.	700.00
		Isner, Christopher A.	700.00
Animal Inspector		Massini, Kristopher M.	700.00
Elovirta, Madelaine	345.00	Swindlehurst, Christopher E.	700.00
Veterans' Agent			
Mann, Lloyd D.	1,983.93		
Cemetery			
Cavanaugh, William F.	13,269.06		
Smith, Michelle S.	1,258.93		
Williams, Dean R.	4,726.35		

TOWN OF BECKET

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

Appointment Application

TO: Select Board:

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

