A winter landscape with snow-covered evergreen trees and a sunset sky. The scene is a snowy field with several large, snow-laden evergreen trees in the foreground and middle ground. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and grey, indicating a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is serene and cold.

TOWN OF BECKET

Massachusetts

2023 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT
of the Town Officials

About The Cover

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

Front Cover Photographer and Caption

Linda Bacon: Sunrise at Canterbury Farm - winter

Back Cover Photographers and Captions

Linda Bacon: Buckley Dunton Lake


Robert Watroba: Water lily on Buckley Dunton Lake

IN MEMORIAM

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


WILLIAM “BILL” FRANCIS CAVANAUGH

Board of Selectmen
Cemetery Commission – North Becket
Community Preservation Committee
Finance Committee
February 21, 2023




MADELEINE SWINDLEHURST

Bylaw Review Committee
Conservation Commission
February 22, 2023




ELLEN MARGARET YOUNG

Town Secretary
Tax Collector
Town Clerk
April 9, 2023




ROY SIMMONS

Zoning Board of Appeals
December 3, 2023




MARK LESLIE KARLBERG

Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee
December 12, 2023



CHARLES “CHUCK” ANDREWS

Becket Volunteer Ambulance Squad
Board of Health
Board of Selectmen
Conservation Commission
Finance Committee
Planning Board
December 19, 2023



Town of Becket, Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Town Officials

♦ **2023** ♦



William H. Elovirta

Select Board Member

Christopher E. Swindlehurst

Select Board Member

Jeffrey L. Piemont

Select Board Member

Katherine A. Warden

Town Administrator

For the year ending December 31, 2023

◆ Town Officers ◆

Elected Officials

Select Board	Term Expiring
William H. Elovirta, <i>Chair</i>	2024
Christopher E. Swindlehurst, <i>Vice Chair</i>	2025
Jeffrey L. Piemont, <i>Clerk</i>	2026

Board of Health

Gale LaBelle, <i>Chair</i>	2025
Robert Ronzio, <i>Vice Chair</i>	2026
Laurel Burgwardt, <i>Clerk</i>	2024

Cemetery Commissioners

William Cavanaugh, <i>North Becket Cemetery</i> <i>Passed away Feb. 21st</i>	2025
Michelle Smith, <i>West Becket Cemetery</i>	2024
Dean Williams, <i>Center Cemetery</i>	2026

Constables

William H. Elovirta	2024
Robert Ronzio	2024

Finance Committee

Dan Parnell, <i>Chair</i>	2025
Ann Spadafora, <i>Vice Chair & Scheduler</i>	2024
Ronald DeFoe, <i>Clerk</i>	2025
Charles Garman	2024
Ellen Manley	2026

Planning Board

Robert Ronzio, <i>Chair</i>	2025
James Levy, <i>Vice Chair</i> <i>Resigned Oct. 18th</i>	2026
Alvin Blake, <i>Vice Chair</i>	2027
Ann Krawet, <i>Clerk</i>	2028
Howard Lerner	2024
Diana Mott, <i>Clerk Pro Tem - appointed by</i> <i>Planning Board & Select Board to serve</i> <i>Nov. 15th until the 2024 Town Election</i>	
Gale LaBelle, <i>Associate Member - appointed by</i> <i>Planning Board & Select Board</i>	2024

Moderator

Ethan Klepetar	2026
Steve Rosenthal, <i>Deputy Moderator -</i> <i>appointed by the Moderator</i>	2024

School Committee (Becket Representatives)

Barbara Craft-Reiss	2026
Art Alpert	2024

Town Clerk

Robin C. Mathiesen	2026
--------------------	------

Select Board Appointments:

Agricultural Commission

Neil Toomey, <i>Chair</i>	2024
Kristopher Massini	2024

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

<i>appointed by the Planning Board</i>	
Robert Ronzio, <i>Delegate</i>	2024
Diana Mott, <i>Alternate Delegate</i> <i>appointed by the Select Board</i>	2024

Berkshire Public Health Alliance

<i>appointed by the Board of Health</i>	
Gale Labelle, <i>Voting Member</i>	
Laurel Burgwardt, <i>Alternate Representative</i>	

Berkshire Transportation Advisory Committee

William H. Elovirta, <i>Representative</i> (no expiration date)	
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Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board

William H. Elovirta, <i>Designee</i>	2024
--------------------------------------	------

Board of Assessors

Geraldine Walter, <i>Chair</i>	2024
Jessica Perotti, <i>Vice Chair</i>	2026
Beverly Gilbert, <i>Clerk</i>	2024

Board of Survey

Paul Mikaniewicz, <i>Fire Chief</i>	
-------------------------------------	--

Bylaw Review Committee

Chuck Garman, <i>Chair</i>	2026
Robert Gross, <i>Vice Chair</i>	2026
Vickie DeLorenzo, <i>Clerk</i>	2026
Town Clerk, <i>ex officio, non-voting member</i>	
Moderator, <i>ex officio, non-voting member</i>	

Chief Procurement Officer

Katherine A. Warden	2025
---------------------	------

◆ Town Officers ◆

Community Preservation Committee

Douglas Bessone, <i>Cons. Com. Designee</i>	2026
Rita Furlong, <i>Parks & Recreation Designee</i>	2026
John Garvey, <i>Historical Com. Designee</i>	2024
Ann Krawet, <i>Planning Board Designee</i>	2026
Larisa Shpitalnik, <i>at Large member</i>	2025
Thomas Salzer, <i>at Large member</i>	2026
Vacancy, <i>at Large member</i>	

Conservation Commission

David Johnson, <i>Chairperson</i>	2024
Douglas Bessone	2026
Christopher Clapper	2025
Henry Hagenah	2026
Henry Scarpo	2024
James Schaefer	2025
John Verity	2025

Council on Aging

Paula Bergeron, <i>Co-Director / Treasurer</i>	2025
Linda Shaw, <i>Co-Director</i>	2024
Lorraine Dean	2026
Celine Godbout	2025
Flora Whiffen	2024

Cultural Council

Cathy Terwedow, <i>Chair</i>	2026
Shelley Chanler, <i>Secretary</i>	2026
Andrea Pecor, <i>Treasurer</i>	2025
Sarah Reedy, <i>Publicity</i>	2025
Karen Ludington	2026
Jane Markham	2025
Carole Rivel	2024
Lisa Rosier	2025

Election Workers

Alvin Blake (U)	2023
Victoria T. Bleier (U)	2023
Susan Crossley (D)	2023
Chris Felker (D)	2023
Charles Francis (D)	2023
Julia Kay Grace (D)	2023
Lawrence J. Goetz (U)	2023
Susan Purser (D)	2023

Energy Committee

Garth Klimchuk, <i>Chair</i>	2024
Catherine DeFoe, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	2026
Susan Purser, <i>Secretary</i>	2024
Alvin Blake	2025
Julie Craumer	2026
Robert Gross <i>resigned Sept. 20th</i>	2025
Ex-Officio Members: Edward Pickert, Katherine A. Warden, Paul Greene, Dan Parnell	

Harbor Master

Tim Fogarty	2024
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Historical Commission

Sandra Jarvis, <i>Chair</i>	2024
Rita Furlong	2025
John Garvey	2024
Gail Kusek	2024
James Sullivan <i>resigned Feb. 9th</i>	2024
Michael Lavery	2026

Jacobs Ladder Trail Advisory Committee

Vacancy

Municipal Light Plant Manager

Robert Gross	2026
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Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee

Meredyth Babcock
Al Blake
Cindy Delpapa
Michael Lavery
Larisa Shpitalnik
Kenneth Smith
*The Open Space and Recreation Plan
Advisory Committee will be disbanded when
the Plan has been completed and approved.*

Parks & Recreation Committee

Rita Furlong, <i>Chair</i>	2026
Madelaine Elovirta, <i>Clerk</i>	2026
David Weiler	2025
Shirley Vachula	2025
Vacancy	

Public Relations Liaison/Officer

William H. Elovirta

◆ Town Officers ◆

Records Access Officers (term effective 1/1/2017
per Chapter 121 of the Acts of 2016)
Town Clerk (for Town Clerk Records)
Administrative Asst. (for other than Town Clerk Records)

Registrar of Voters

Colleen Cox (D)	2024
Robin Greenspan (R)	2025
Michelle Smith (D)	2023
Town Clerk, Robin Mathiesen (D)	

Tax Collector

Kenneth Bilodeau	2026
Nina Weiler, <i>Assistant Collector</i>	2024
Brian Bean, <i>Deputy Collector</i>	2024

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

Town Administrator

Katherine A. Warden	2025
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Treasurer

Christine Bleau	2025
Kenneth Bilodeau, <i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	2026

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

Westfield River Wild & Scenic Advisory Committee

Cindy Delpapa, <i>Representative</i>	2025
Mary Latham, <i>Alternate Representative</i>	2024

WiredWest

Robert Gross, <i>Delegate</i>	2024
Jeremy Dunn, <i>Alternate Delegate</i>	2024
Jeffrey L. Piemont, <i>Alternate Delegate</i> <i>resigned Sept. 20th</i>	2024

Zoning Board of Appeals

Victoria Bleier, <i>Chair</i> <i>resigned Oct. 18th</i>	2024
Sarah Hoecker, <i>Vice Chair</i>	2026
Robin Mathiesen, <i>Clerk</i>	2024
Mary Canty	2026
Thomas Salzer	2026
Jeff Wilkinson	2024
Alvin Blake, <i>Assoc. Member</i>	2024
Christopher Milenkevich, <i>Assoc. Member</i>	2024

Zoning Enforcement Officer

Paul Greene	2024
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Town Administrator's Appointments:

Accountant

Margaret McClellan	2024
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Ambulance Director

Raymond Ferrin <i>resigned effective July 31st</i>	2023
Lisa Michaud, <i>Interim Co-Director</i>	2024
Max W. Koivisto, <i>Interim Co-Director</i>	2024

Animal Control Officer

Nicole Miller	2024
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Animal Inspector

Madelaine Elovirta	2024
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Inspector of Buildings/Trench Inspector

Paul Greene	2024
Gary Danko, <i>Asst. Building Inspector</i>	2024

Emergency Management Director

Raymond Ferrin, <i>resigned July 31st</i>	2023
Katherine A. Warden	2024

Fire Chief/Fire Warden

Paul Mikaniewicz	2024
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Highway Superintendent/Pest Control/Tree Warden

Edward Pickert	2024
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Plumbing/Gas Inspector

Mark Levernoch	2024
Brian Middleton, <i>Assistant Plumbing/ Gas Inspector</i>	2024

Police Department Full-Time

Matthew Virginia, <i>Sergeant retired July 9th</i>	2023
Michael Hunt, <i>Sergeant</i>	2024
Charlene Auger	2024
Nicolas Beauchemin	2024
Dominic Crupi	2023
Nicole Miller	2024
Daniel McClellan, <i>resigned Apr. 11th</i>	2023

◆ *Town Officers and Town Employees* ◆

Police Department Part-Time

Matthew Virginia, *effective July 23, 2023* 2024

Veterans' Agent

Doug Mann 2024

Veterans' Grave Officer

William Mulholland 2024

Wiring Inspector

Trevor Clement, 2024

Dana Spring, *Assistant Wiring Inspector* 2024

Police Chief

Kristopher McDonough

Planning Board Clerk

Susan Crossley

Transfer Station

George Crochiere

Robert Cooper

Robert Will

Maurice Vandesteene

Town Employees

Administrative Assistant

Beverly Gilbert

Ambulance Department

Mark Brouillette

Assessors' Clerk

Jessica Perotti

Board of Health/ZBA Clerk

Terese Lundberg

Building and Grounds Technician

Robert Scolforo

Building & Grounds Custodian

Albert "Bert" Goodermote

Conservation Agent

Nicolas Pietroniro

Highway Department

Michael Butler

Thomas Dean

Christopher Isner, *resigned Oct. 20th*

Joseph Haskell, Jr.

Matthew Larson, *resigned Feb. 9th*

Donald Murray

Troy Phelps

Volunteer Fire Department

Paul Mikaniewicz, *Chief*

Kris Massini, *Deputy Chief*

Bob Healey Sr., *Captain*

Chris Isner, *Lieutenant*

David Furlong, *Lieutenant*

Mark Hanford, *Retired Chief/Support Personnel*

Jan Elovirta, *Firefighter*

Jessica Giarolo, *Firefighter/EMT*

Bob Healey Jr., *Firefighter*

Darien Houlihan, *Firefighter*

Jay Morande, *Firefighter*

Troy Phelps, *Firefighter*

Chris Swindlehurst, *Firefighter*

Zachery Cochrane, *Probationary Firefighter*

Adelyn Furlong, *Junior Firefighter*

Ivan Healey, *Junior Firefighter*

Everett Massini, *Junior Firefighter*

Vinny Vigilante, *Probationary Firefighter*

Town of Becket, Massachusetts
2023 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** ◆

Governor

Maura Healey

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, 617-565-3170 (Boston), 413-788-2690 (Springfield)
www.warren.senate.gov

Edward J. Markey

255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

TEL: 202-224-2742, 617-565-8519 (Boston), 413-785-4610 (Springfield)
www.markey.senate.gov

Congressman

Richard E. Neal

Federal Building, 78 Center Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201

TEL: 413-442-0946 (Pittsfield), 413-785-0325 (Springfield), 202-225-5601 (Washington)
www.neal.house.gov

State Senator

Paul Mark

Mass. State House, 24 Beacon Street, Room 279
Boston, MA 02133

TEL: 413-464-5635, 617-722-1625 (District Office)
paul.mark@masenate.gov

State Representative

William “Smitty” Pignatelli

Lenox Town Hall
PO Box 2228 • Lenox, MA 01240

TEL: 413-637-0631
Rep.Smitty@mahouse.gov

Annual Town Meeting

Second Saturday of May

Annual Town Election

Third Saturday of May

◆ ***FACTS ABOUT BECKET*** ◆

Incorporated	June 21, 1765
Location	Western Massachusetts
Population	1,785 (as of 12/31/2023)
Registered Voters	1,550 (as of 12/31/2023)
Form of Government	Select Board/Town Administrator Open Town Meeting
Tax Rate	\$10.76 per 1,000 - Fiscal Year 2023
Public Schools	Central Berkshire Regional School District
Police Department	Full-Time Chief, Fulltime Sergeant, Four Full-Time Police Officers, and One Part-Time Police Officer Non-Emergency Telephone: 623-6010
Fire Department	Fire Chief Non-Emergency Telephone: 1-413-207-1602 Burning Permits: 1-413-623-2185 (January 15 – May 1 weather permitting) To apply for a burn permit online please go to the following link: http://www.bcburnpermits.com/
Ambulance Department	Fire Station #2 Non-Emergency Telephone: 623-5027
Public Library	Becket Athenaeum 3367 Main Street, P.O. Box 9, 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>
Select Board's Office/Administrative Asst.	#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* ◆

It has been my privilege to serve the Town of Becket as Town Administrator during 2023. 2023 was a very busy year. This includes the following accomplishments:

- We negotiated a two-year community aggregate program to assist in lowering electric bills.
- Mass Works McNeerney Road and Small Bridge Werden Road projects were completed. Unfortunately, road projects never cease. We will continue to seek additional grant opportunities. Securing more grants equals more projects.
- At the Annual Town Meeting, the residents voted to pass a Short-Term Rental Tax. This will produce revenue for the Town and ease the burden on our property owners.
- In June, we implemented the TextMyGov notification system to keep subscribers updated on emergencies and important happenings in Town. I strongly encourage all residents to sign-up. The homepage of the town website www.townofbecket.org lists sign-up information.

- In September, we welcomed a Farmers Market hosted by Berkshire Grown. It was well attended and we are looking forward to hosting another market during the summer of 2024.
- The Town updated its Open Space Plan.
- Rewired CAT cabling throughout the Town Hall and purchased new computers through the generosity of Town meeting allocation and a grant from the state.
- We are fortunate to be able to provide 24/7 365 Police and Ambulance coverage. This continues to be a struggle throughout the region for many.

Becket's image as a leading community in the Berkshires is due to the dedication and diligence of the Town staff, and the countless hours of volunteers. With our collective efforts, Becket will continue to move forward and thrive.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine A. Warden,
Town Administrator



Town Hall Halloween Fun. Left to right: Kathe Warden, Jessica Perotti, Bev Gilbert, Sue Crossley, Chris Bleau

◆ *REPORT OF THE SELECT BOARD* ◆

2023 was a busy year in Becket. The biggest accomplishment was the completion of our high speed Broadband program this past summer. This project had been in various stages of construction for the past few years. We thank Bob Gross, Municipal Light Plant Manager (MLP) and the volunteer Broadband Ad Hoc Group that devoted many hours to achieve this milestone. From all reports, the citizens are very pleased to have high speed internet. The best thing is that it came in under budget. How often does that happen?

Because the Broadband hut used part of the Town Hall Park Pavilion, Broadband funding paid to add twenty-foot by twenty-four foot to the Pavilion. This addition will help with the Parks and Recreation summer program and for other activities throughout the year.

Two other big ticket items completed were repair of the Werden Road culvert and reconstruction of McNerney Road. These were costly projects but fortunately we had secured grants for most of the expenses.

Last year we reported that we had entered into an agreement with the Town of Otis to share our Police Chief, with Otis paying half the salary and expenses. This worked out well and the contract has been extended. We also reported that because of police reforms voted into law by the state legislature, all police officers in the Commonwealth must now become full-time certified officers. This could be done by the part-time officers' completing a "bridge program" to augment their part-time training certificate or by attending a full-time academy. All officers in the Becket Police Department are full-time certified.

In cooperation with Eversource, most of the streetlights in town were switched to LED to save money and improve the lighting. Some streetlights were also removed.

May town elections saw Interim Town Clerk, Robin Mathiesen, elected to that position and Jeff Piemont was elected to a three-year term on the Select Board to replace

Michael Lavery who did not seek re-election after serving two terms. In keeping with tradition, after the May town elections the Select Board reorganized and William Elovirta remained Chairperson, Chris Swindlehurst remained Vice Chairperson and Jeff Piemont was named Clerk.

The Annual Town Meeting in May was quiet with few major items to be decided. The citizens voted to accept MGL Chapter 64G, Section 3A to authorize the town to impose a six (6) percent local excise tax upon the transfer of occupancy of any room or rooms in a bed and bath establishment, hotel, lodging house, short term rental or motel located in Becket.

Ambulance Director Ray Ferrin resigned to accept a position with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. He was replaced by Co-Directors Lisa Michaud and Max Koivisto who are both Becket Ambulance employees.

Town Administrator Kathe Warden is in her second year and doing a good job. She was proactive in finalizing the grants for the McNerney Road reconstruction and repair of the Werden Road culvert. She has also written and received multiple grants during the past year that have saved the town from the use of our tax dollars.

In December, we received notification from MassDOT that our share of the Fair Share Amendment "Millionaires Tax" was \$152,417.00 that can be used along with our yearly Chapter 90 allotment. Our roads can use this extra money.

We reactivated the Bylaw Review Committee by appointing three (3) people. The Town Clerk and Moderator are ex-officio members. Their charge is to review the Town of Becket Bylaws and make recommendations for modifications, changes etc.

We want to thank our Administrative Assistant, Beverly Gilbert, who does an excellent job of keeping the

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

Select Board and Town Administrator up to date with Select Board minutes, correspondence, agendas, etc. To all the town employees, elected officials, volunteer committee members, volunteer firefighters: thank you for your service.

We thank the taxpayers, and voters, for putting your trust in us to administer the workings of the town for you. We urge all registered voters in Becket to attend the Annual Town Meeting and vote in the Annual Town Election in May where your vote counts. If you have any

questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the town office, Town Administrator or any Select Board member.

Respectfully submitted,

Select Board

William H. Elovirta, ***Chairperson***
Christopher Swindlehurst, ***Vice-Chairperson***
Jeff Piemont, ***Clerk***



◆ *REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT* ◆

The Becket Fire Department responded to 129 calls during the 2023 calendar year.

- 32 Fire/smoke alarm activations. These calls include false alarms due to detector malfunction/faulty detector, smoke from cooking or other non-fire issues.
- 7 CO (carbon monoxide). Most of these calls are false due to sensor issues.
- Included in this number was 1 response to the Town of Washington.
- 1 Structure fire.
- 1 Vehicle fire.
- 2 Chimney fires.
- 3 Brush/wildland fires.
- 8 Wires down/wires on fire.
- 20 MVAs (motor vehicle accident)
- Included in this number were 3 responses to the Town of Washington.
- 1 Smoke/odor condition.
- 4 Propane leak/odor of gas.
- 35 EMS. These calls include lift assistance, CPR, first aid, ambulance assist.
- Included in this number were 19 responses to the Town of Washington.
- 2 Search/rescue [lost hiker(s)].
- Included in this number is 1 response to the Town of Washington.
- 5 Mutual aid responses.
- These responses are to towns other than Washington. The Town of Becket has an agreement to provide Fire Protection Service to the Town of Washington.
- These responses included; I-90 (MA Pike) vehicle fire, Lee, Otis, structure fire, MVA, Becket has also received mutual aid from surrounding towns.
- 8 Miscellaneous/service.
- These responses/calls include: basement pumping, bathroom vent fan fire that was extinguished before VFD arrival, imaging house due to possible electrical issue, etc.

Fire Department inspections/permits:

- 60 Smoke/CO inspections (includes 2 follow-ups).

- 25 Propane tank installation inspection permits.
- 4 Oil tank/furnace removal/install inspections/permits.
- 3 Liquor license inspections.
- 4 Camp inspections.
- 1 Blasting permit.
- 1 Verizon building tank inspection/storage permit.
- Becket Washington Elementary School inspection (before students returned for the new school year).

Miscellaneous:

- The Chief attended Berkshire County Fire Chiefs meetings when available, follow-ups on fire related projects, smoke/CO consultations, and answered fire related inquiries.
- Conducted fire drill at Becket Washington Elementary School.
- Firefighters participated in weekly training/drills.
- The Fire Department hosted one of the Becket Washington Elementary classes at Fire Station 1 for a fire safety presentation and tour.
- Members took vehicles and participated in Becket's annual Memorial Day parade and ceremony.
- Members took Engine 2 and Rescue 6 to the Washington Town Park for the annual Pumpkin Walk; provided coverage for the bonfire, handed out candy and provided photo ops.
- Brought Rescue 6 to the Washington Town Park for the Becket Police sponsored Cops and Rodders Auto show fundraiser.
- Members used Engine 4 to transport Santa to the annual Children's Holiday Party hosted by the Becket Police Association.
- Members participated, along with other town service personnel, in a show of support for the family, and to honor the sacrifice of a fallen Berkshire County Airman Staff Sergeant Jacob Galliher of Pittsfield, MA. Members and apparatus staged on I-90 (MA Pike) overpasses.
- The Becket Volunteer Firefighters Association purchased a used cascade (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus aka SCBA air-tank filling station) system for use in filling the newly purchased SCBA units.

◆ **REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT** ◆

~ Continued ~

- The Fire Department put new SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) into service. These units replaced aged/outdated units. This also gives each Firefighter their own mask. These units were purchased after Annual Town Meeting approval.
- I would like to thank all the Fire Department members for their dedication and professionalism. I also extend this gratitude to the families of our Firefighters who sacrifice their time together so that they may respond to calls.

Thank you for the opportunity to continue leading the department. It is an honor to serve our residents and those passing through our communities.

I would like to thank, as would the Fire Department members, the community for its continued support of the Fire Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Mikaniewicz, *Fire Chief*



◆ **REPORT OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER** ◆

The Animal Control Officer (ACO) is responsible for responding to complaints about, or problems with, nuisance dogs and cats. This involves investigating the complaints.

This is a reminder that, in keeping with the provisions of Section 137 of Chapter 140 of the Massachusetts General Laws, all dogs housed within 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.

I receive many complaints regarding 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:	83	10	24	18
Transferred Calls			11	6
Assisted Calls	25	8	13	6
Surrender	2			
Lost/ Found	53	2		6
Cruelty/Neglect Inv.	3			

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



The year 2023 saw many changes here at the Ambulance Department with Director Ray Ferrin resigning to accept a position at the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. We would all like to thank him for his dedication and devotion over the last five years. His positive presence cultivated a culture to always strive to improve the department. We wish him the best of luck in his endeavors.

As of July 10, 2023, Lisa Michaud, who has served as the assistant director for the last three years, and I, Max Koivisto, an advanced EMT who has been with the department for the last six years, became Co-Directors. Lisa and I certainly have our work cut out for us as we endeavor to continue the momentum Ray Ferrin created.

2023 was our second busiest year (2022 was the busiest), to date, with a total call volume of 372 patient contacts. We received our new EMS utility vehicle Squad 25 and the addition of a new cardiac monitor with improved diagnostic features. Both were funded through the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Health Care grant. The new cardiac monitor features more accurate diagnosis of cardiac rhythms and the ability to detect carbon monoxide. In keeping with our goals, this will enhance our ability to provide the highest level of care to our community.

I would like to thank our staff for all that they do for our community. They are always ready to go the extra mile to help as the EMS industry still suffers from a nationwide staffing crisis. We have been fortunate our personnel are willing to sacrifice time with their families and holidays to ensure the ambulance is always ready to respond 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. I would like to extend my thanks to the Fire Department, Police Department, Highway Department, our Buildings and Grounds Technician, and mutual aid partners whose efforts helped to ensure the effectiveness and safety of our line of work. I would also like to praise the Friends of Becket Ambulance for providing funding toward continuing education and creature comforts here at the station to make the environment, we call home for many hours at a time, the best it can be. Additionally, I would like to thank the Town Hall staff, Kathe Warden (Town Administrator) and Lisa Michaud (Co-Ambulance Director) for mentoring and guiding me in my new position of Co-Director. Their help has been invaluable. I would like to thank the Select Board as well as each member of the Town of Becket community. We could not do what we do without your funding and support.

Our door is always open for anyone wishing to stop by and chat, offer suggestions or to learn more about our department and industry. Regular office hours are Monday through Friday 8AM – 1PM.

Dispatch Incident	# of Runs	% of Runs
Assault	3	0.8%
Air-Medical Transport	1	0.3%
Choking	1	0.3%
Psychiatric Problem /		
Abnormal Behavior / Suicide Attempt	8	2.2%
Back Pain (Non-Traumatic)	2	0.5%
Chest Pain (Non-Traumatic)	18	4.8%
Abdominal Pain	14	3.8%
Unknown Problem / Person Down	10	2.7%
Cardiac Arrest / Death	4	1.1%
Hemorrhage / Laceration	2	0.5%
Pandemic / Epidemic / Outbreak	1	0.3%
Fire	2	0.5%
No Other Appropriate Choice	27	7.3%
Traumatic Injury	14	3.8%
Medical Alarm	5	1.3%
Unconscious / Fainting	19	5.1%
Well Person Check	6	1.6%
Diabetic Problem	3	0.8%
Overdose / Poisoning / Ingestion	1	0.3%
Animal Bite	1	0.3%
Convulsions / Seizure	5	1.3%
Drowning / Diving / SCUBA Accident	1	0.3%
Sick Person	76	20.4%
Stroke / CVA	11	3.0%
Altered Mental Status	6	1.6%
Assist Invalid	1	0.3%
EMS Special Service	1	0.3%
Allergic Reaction / Stings	5	1.3%
Breathing Problem	28	7.5%
Falls	50	13.4%
Standby	1	0.3%
Traffic Accident	45	12.1%
Total: 395		Total: 100.00%

Town / City	# of Calls	% of Runs
Becket	205	55.1%
Blandford	7	1.9%
Chester	24	6.5%
Hinsdale	2	0.5%
Huntington	2	0.5%
Lee	49	13.2%
Middlefield	4	1.1%
Washington	11	3.0%
Otis	57	15.3%
Stockbridge	3	0.8%
Tolland	3	0.8%
Tyringham	5	1.3%
Total Calls: 372		100.0%

Respectfully submitted,

Max W. Koivisto, Ambulance Co-Director

◆ **REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT** ◆



The 2023 yearly breakdown of the Police Department shows 75 criminal offenses have been logged since January 2023 and 35 arrests have been made. The offenses may become arrests, criminal applications, or remain open and under investigation. Officers also responded to 44 motor vehicle accidents for the year. In addition to the activity breakdown, officers also issued 124 citations for civil motor vehicle violations, criminal motor vehicle violations, arrest motor vehicle violations, and written warnings.

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

I want to reiterate that I have an open door policy for anyone wishing to speak to me in regards to any issue. This year license to carry or firearms identification card renewal applicants can 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, and the Buildings & Grounds, Fire, Ambulance, 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 Select Board. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Becket Town Hall. Additional meetings are scheduled on an as-needed basis.

The Planning Board would like to acknowledge Ms. Ann L. Krawet for her re-election to the Board in May of 2023. As part of the Planning Board's reorganization after the Annual Election, Ms. Krawet was nominated and re-appointed as the board's Clerk. Additionally, Ms. Krawet served as the Board's representative on the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission as the alternate delegate until December when she became its representative to the Community Preservation Committee.

Ms. Susan A. Crossley is the board's Administrative Assistant. She deserves special recognition for her invaluable assistance as she quickly acclimated herself to the complexity of the tasks, adeptly dealt with individuals who needed assistance, direction and guidance in zoning matters and relevant application requirements for special permits. Moreover, her office management skills and computer mastery are exemplary and has resulted in a very efficient workflow.

Dr. James P. Levy, the board's Vice-Chair, who had served on the Planning Board since 2017, resigned his position in October. During his tenure, Dr. Levy used common sense, fairness, and objectivity in his desire to balance the public good while protecting the private rights and interest of individuals. Additionally, he served as the Board's liaison to the Becket Community Preservation Committee until December when Ms. Krawet took over this assignment.

I would like to recognize the following members: Mr. Alvin V. Blake, the board's new Vice-Chair; Ms. Ann L. Krawet, the Clerk; Diana U. Mott, the Clerk Pro-Tem and Berkshire Regional Planning Commission alternate delegate, and Dr. Howard G. Lerner. Ms. Gale LaBelle was reappointed as the board's Associate Member. The Associate Member attends all board meetings and if designated by the Chair, may assume the duties of a regular member, who is absent, has a conflict of interest or recuses oneself.

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 and Becket's Master Plan.

In 2023, the Becket Planning Board convened fourteen times for regularly scheduled and additional public meetings. The board complies with the Governor and Attorney General's rules and requirements relating to COVID-19, and the Open Meeting law. Meetings are held both in person and by remote access. Although the board offers remote access, many applicants have expressed a desire to present their applications in-person because of some limitations in sharing related documentation, making changes to the same, and obtaining board signature approval.

Five (5) Approval Not Required (ANR) Form A plans were submitted. Applicants were informed that plans of this nature do not constitute a subdivision within the meaning of the Subdivision Control Law but must be endorsed by the Planning Board for filing at the Registry of Deeds. ANRs generally enable applicants to create new conforming building lots or redraw existing boundary lines that do not affect frontage or existing acreage requirements. Owners who wish to combine smaller adjacent parcels into a larger lot with no new building lot being created, need to have a Registered Land Surveyor prepare a plan and formally submit it for the Planning Board's endorsement. A majority of the full board needs to vote to approve not a majority of those present.

An ANR Form A plan was presented to make property at **74 and 78 Washington Street** less non-conforming as the first step-in the two-part process. The owner returned after purchasing property at 52 Lyman Street to complete the requirements.

A second ANR Form A plan was presented for property on **Tyringham Road** that had been subdivided into compliant parcels (including map/lot 404/48). The Planning Board approved and signed the plan as it complied with the town's minimum two (2) acre lot size and two hundred (200) foot frontage requirement.

A third ANR Form A plan was presented for Becket Hills Preserve LLC property at **377 Loose Tooth Road** that combined three (3) conforming parcel (map/lots 404/22 and 23 and 24) into one larger lot. The Planning Board approved and signed the plan as the new parcel easily complied with the town's acreage and frontage requirement.

A fourth ANR Form A plan was presented for Becket Hills Preserve LLC property at **377 Loose Tooth Road** that creates a rear lot for a second dwelling in compliance with

◆ **REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD** ◆

~ Continued ~

section 7.3 of the Zoning Bylaws. The Planning Board approved and signed the plan as the new parcel complied with the town's acreage and reduced rear lot frontage requirement.

A **fifth ANR Form A plan** was presented for a property located on **Nottingham Court** (map/lots 216/754.1 and 755). The Planning Board approved and signed the plan combining the two (2) lots into one (1) making it less non-conforming.

Several Special Permit applications were presented for review and approval. Interested parties, including abutters, and members of the public remotely attended the hearings. In some cases, abutters informally inquired about Special Permit requirements, formally voiced concerns, gave testimony and provided endorsements for projects under consideration. Some, but not all informal discussions about Special Permit procedures, led to application submittal.

A **Special Permit application** was presented for **50 Dawn Drive** (map/lot 204/80). The Planning Board determined that no Special Permit was needed, and the project had approval of the Board of Health, the Conservation Commission, the Select Board, and abutting neighbors.

A **Special Permit application** was presented for **32 Williams Road** (map/lot 211/55) seeking relief from sections 3.4.3 and 3.4.4 of the Zoning Bylaws to build a small 396 square foot extension on an existing structure. A site visit revealed that the proposed addition did not encroach of the sideline setbacks, nor did it add any new rooms. The Special Permit was approved by unanimous vote with conditions: no abutter opposition to the project, and the structure needed to be consistent aesthetically with the surrounding neighborhood structures.

A **Special Permit previously** issued to **609 Main Street** for the new Becket Country Store was revisited regarding a two-year extension to the required registered land survey requirement. The board unanimously granted the applicant an extension to facilitate opening the store. The owner stated he wanted to install four (4) electric charging stations and would submit another Special Permit application for this project.

The Planning Board held several **informal discussions** regarding redrawing or changing property boundaries - 3411 Main Street (map/lot 206/84), Wade Inn Road (map/lot 413/44 and 413/45.2) and Fred Snow Rd (map/lot 407/96 and Gentian Hollow Road (map/lot 407/120). The property owners were informed of the requirement to provide a Registered Land Survey with an ANR Form A which upon Planning Board approval needs to be submitted to the

Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds.

The Planning Board held a **second informal discussion** regarding a grandfathered non-conforming Sherwood Greens property parcel on Long Bow Lane East (map/lot 214/3). The prospective buyer was told that properties which are non-conforming should be brought before the Planning Board, Board of Health, and the Conservation Commission to discuss the procedures that should be employed before purchase. If the property is in a private development, the applicant should bring it before the private development's local governing authority as well.

A **third informal discussion** was held with the prospective owner of a property on 0 Woodmere Road (map/lot 407/47) in Becket Woods to see if it met the existing road frontage requirements. That lot has thirty-two.one (32.1) feet of road frontage. The Planning Board stated that minimum frontage requirement is two-hundred (200) feet and when the development was created the state minimum requirement for road frontage was fifty (50) feet. The Planning Board, by unanimous vote, referred the matter to Town Counsel.

A **fourth informal discussion** was held regarding the retail marijuana Special Permit issued by the Planning Board to Spencer House LLC d/b/a Cana Corner (CCC final license MR281885). The permit allowed the business to operate as a cannabis retail facility as long it maintained and renewed its CCC license annually. Since the business announced its closure through a public posting on the establishment's front door, has not renewed its CCC license and is in arrears with the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, the Planning Board is prepared to revoke the Special Permit because it deprives town residents of the opportunity to purchase the product because of the limited number of licenses available. Once revoked the special permit can be issued to another entity that wishes to do business in Becket.

A **fifth discussion** was held regarding 168 Greenwater Drive. This matter was referred to the Planning Board by the Building Inspector because there appeared to be issues surrounding the approval of the project because of its non-conformity status. The Building Inspector was called to answer board members questions and concerns. The board unanimously decided the matter settled.

A **sixth discussion** was held regarding a ten-acre parcel (map/lot 214-121) located in Sherwood Greens that has no usable road access due to lack of maintenance. Sherwood Greens stated that if the owner was going to develop the

◆ **REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD** ◆

~ Continued ~

property, then Sherwood Greens was obligated to provide road access. A question arose about the grandfathering of the original lot. The board explained that once the smaller lots were combined, they individually no longer retained grandfathered status. The current ten-acre parcel could be subdivided up to five (5) two-acre parcels, provided each new lot had at least 200 feet of road frontage.

A seventh discussion was held regarding 706 Main Street (map/lots 212/24 and 23 and 23) to create a café and bookstore. The Planning Board explained that the project is possible, but a Form A site plan prepared by a Registered Land Surveyor would be needed given there are non-conformity issues. Additionally, the project would require Board of Health and Conservation Commission review and approval. Lastly, the driveway curb-cut falls under the jurisdiction of MassDOT because the property residential access driveway is on a state highway.

Additional Actions:

The Planning Board continued to discuss the option needed regarding the town's Master Plan. Discussions centered on the high cost of the recently completed Town of Washington Master Plan. The cost issue was presented to the Town Administrator and Select Board, but nothing was done given the lead time needed to place an article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. The plan is on hold pending discussion with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission regarding funding through the District Local Training Assistance program.

On March 17, 2023, the Planning Board entered into Executive Session under MGL Chapter 30A, § 21 (a) 3, to discuss strategy with respect to litigation of a special permit appeal since an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Planning Board and the chair so declares. Although the outcome of this case has been resolved, the meeting minutes have yet to be released on the advice of counsel.

The Planning Board reviewed a proposal to construct a canvas tent secured to a concrete pad with the intention of hosting wedding venues on Route 20 Jacobs Ladder Road (map/lot 217/1). The Planning Board reviewed the requirements for a Special Permit including the Board of Health regulations regarding health and safety of the site and the Conservation Commission requirement for determination of wetland compliance. A second proposal for this parcel was informally discussed regarding constructing a commercial water bottling facility. The Planning Board responded in the

same manner as it did for the wedding venue.

Two residents, in conjunction with Blue Wave Energy, continue to engage and have informal discussions with the Planning Board regarding locating commercial solar photovoltaic arrays on their lots located on two parcels, one on Algeria Road and another on Quarry Road. One individual wanted information on indoor and outdoor cannabis cultivation on private property.

A few other residents were interested in property requirements and restrictions regarding tiny homes, modular homes, manufactured homes, and mobile homes. A property owner on Leonhardt Road (map/lot 204/24) wanted to place a mobile home on his lot given that he considered it a manufactured home, not a mobile one. The Planning Board directed the owner to the Building Inspector since mobile homes are not allowed in Becket.

One complaint was lodged regarding a camping trailer on Bonney Rigg Hill Road (map/lot 416/29). Another complaint was brought before the board regarding properties that were in violation of Zoning Bylaws or health and sanitation issues. The board discussed the remedy which included formal writing to the Zoning Enforcement Officer who by statute as provided in MGL Chapter 40A, § 7 is required to reply within 14 days to the complainant as to the disposition of the case. If unsatisfied, the complainant may appeal the Zoning Enforcement Officer's decision to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

A few others were interested in the possible establishment of a zoning district within the town for commercial and industrial sites.

Others sought guidance on setting up their own guest lodging style sites on private property akin to the Hit the Road's (HTR) Glamping model, but on a much smaller scale. The Bonny Rigg Campground commended the Planning Board for its guidance on this issue and was especially pleased with the support the board had given them and their management team regarding the town's Zoning Bylaws even though their facility's own internal bylaws are more restrictive.

The Planning Board continued discussions pertinent to Short Term Rentals (STR) because individuals throughout the town continued to question the lack of regulations for this growing business model or industry. Several residents wanted the board to incorporate language that would ensure the health, safety and well-being of town residents including STR visitors. Some expressed that the bylaw needed language to

◆ **REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD** ◆

~ *Continued* ~

protect primary owner-occupied residential properties while limiting the number of days a STR could be utilized annually if the owner is not living on the premises.

The Planning Board spent time reviewing the Board's existing "Rules and Regulations", but no changes were finalized and or approved by the end of December.

The Planning Board, in a joint meeting with the Select Board, filled a mid-term vacant Planning Board position. Three (3) candidates applied and were interviewed. Both boards unanimously chose Diana Mott. She will serve in this position until the May 2024 Annual Town Election.

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

www.townofbecket.org.

The Board wishes to thank those town officials and members of the various boards, commissions, and departments, who provided technical assistance and expertise. This year we wish to especially recognize Jessica Perotti, in the town's Assessor Office. Please feel free to contact the Planning Board Office via phone at 413-623-8934 ext.120, send correspondence via USPS or email planning@townofbecket.org with any questions, concerns, thoughts, or ideas.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert T. Ronzio, *Chair*



◆ **REPORT OF THE OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE** ◆

The Open Space & Recreation Plan Advisory Committee has been working from Spring 2022 to Spring 2023 to develop an updated version of its Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP). Our Committee is composed of volunteers who were appointed by the Select Board.

The purpose of the OSRP is to identify ways to maintain Becket's scenic beauty and protect the Town's treasured natural resources and parks. The OSRP notes existing resources and describes the impact of trends and issues regarding open space conservation and outdoor recreation. Becket can use this document to guide growth in a manner consistent with open space preservation tenets while addressing the necessity of increasing the tax base.

During 2022-23 the Open Space & Recreation Plan Advisory Committee accomplished these main tasks:

- Conducted a public survey to gather data about the community's opinions and vision for open space and recreation. The survey received 309 responses, of which 93% identified as full or part time Becket residents.
- Met with members of the Planning Board, Parks and Recreation Committee and Conservation Commission to draw upon their experiences and understand the needs that they see come before their committees and boards for open space conservation and outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Held two interactive public forums where we explored the concepts of conservation and outdoor recreation and asked attendees for their input. At the second public forum we presented the major findings of the planning process and asked attendees to provide input on the recommendations that we had drafted.
- In December 2022 we posted the draft Becket OSRP and asked for public feedback on the plan and its recommendations. We reissued the draft plan for further public review in March 2023.

The revised OSRP, reflecting residents' comments and input, was submitted to the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services for formal approval. In December 2023, the Town of Becket received final approval of the Plan and will now be able to apply for funding from a series of grant programs that are only open to those towns that have approved plans.

We thank all our fellow residents and neighbors who gave their time and offered us support and such great input during the planning process. Without you we would not have been able to develop a plan that reflects the needs of the citizens of Becket. We invite you to read the OSRP online by visiting the Town of Becket's website or in paper form at the Becket Athenaeum.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Blake, Co-chair (Planning Board)

Ken Smith, Co-chair (Becket Land Trust)

*Meredyth Babcock (Westfield River Wild & Scenic Committee,
Municipal Vulnerable Preparedness Committee)*

*Cindy Delpapa (Community Preservation Committee, Westfield
River Wild & Scenic Committee)*

Karen Karlberg (Resident and former municipal board member)

Larisa Shpitalnik (Community Preservation Committee)

Jeffrey Wilkinson (Zoning Board of Appeals)



◆ **REPORT OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR** ◆

Activity January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023:

Number of Building Permits: **203**

Fees Collected: **\$155,296.00**

Here are the statistics for the year 2023:

Type	Number	Type	Number
New Homes Construction may not be completed during 2023	8	Siding / Windows / Doors	28
Renovations	24	Other Ductwork	10
Solar	15	Additions	22
Tents	9	Wood Stoves	17
		Accessory Buildings	24
		Decks/Porches	28
		Insulation	18

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Greene, *Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer*

◆ **REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT** ◆

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

The spring season had some challenges. It began with a storm yielding three-feet of heavy wet snow, which brought down trees and branches. This was followed by mud on gravel roads. We also experienced an early thaw that allowed for a timelier beginning of our springtime pursuits: grading, hot patching of asphalt roads, ditch cleaning, road side mowing, brush chipping and roadside clearing.

The summer months were extremely wet. It was a challenge to keep all the drains open and the gravel roads graded. The town also had a paving project, a complete reconstruction of McNerney Rd. A special thanks to Northeast Paving for a great job.

Our winter season started off normally with a few small events. We had a slightly above normal snow fall. The Highway Department cleared fallen trees, and brush on the sides of our roads after several substantial ice storms. We also

have found that the warmer than average temperatures presented challenges re: gravel road maintenance.

I would like to take this time to thank Tom Dean, Chris Isner, Don Murray, Troy Phelps, Mike Butler, and Joseph Haskell for their hard work and dedication to the Town of Becket.

I would also like to thank Kathe Warden Town Administrator, Buildings and Grounds Technician Robert Scolforo, Town Hall Maintenance Employee Albert "Bert" Goodermote, the Select Board, 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 6:00am to 2:30pm at (413) 623-8988.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Pickert,
Highway Superintendent

◆ *REPORT OF THE BECKET LAND TRUST* ◆

The Becket Land Trust owns and protects two properties in the Town of Becket, and we continue to work with landowners who share the interests of land conservation and protection of our natural resources.

We receive inquiries each year about land conservation from Becket land owners and offer our expertise and community connections to assist residents in determining the best course of action to protect their land in perpetuity.

The Land Trust Board of Directors is grateful for the tremendous community support we receive from Becket residents and visitors. We depend on your generous donations to continue doing the conservation work we have been doing for the past thirty years.

The Becket Land Trust was founded in 1990 by several Becket families. Ten years later, Becket Land Trust purchased the Becket Historic Quarry and Forest property when the town's Board of Selectmen exercised their right of first refusal, under Chapter 61, to the trust. For those who were in town then, it was an exciting time for a major land conservation effort. 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 320 acre quarry property, now known as the

Becket Historic Quarry and Forest. The funding came from a community deeply concerned about having a major industrial operation in town with an estimated twenty loaded tractor trailers an hour rumbling down its rural roads.

The Land Trust opened the quarry property to the public and built miles of hiking trails and established a wildlife habitat reserve and an oak regeneration forestry area.

In the spring of 2020, the BLT Board of Directors determined that management of the property would be better with a larger, more experienced organization. After discussions between the Becket Land Trust and Trustees of Reservations ("TTOR"), and a successful joint fundraising campaign that created a \$270,000 stewardship fund, TTOR acquired the Historic Quarry and Forest in October 2021, along with responsibility for managing and maintaining it as a public recreational and protected area.

We are pleased with improvements made by TTOR on our former property. They have upgraded trails and signage. They have seen a steady stream of visitors.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Smith,
President, Becket Land Trust



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

The Board of Assessors is responsible for the valuation of real estate and personal property subject to taxation. The Registry of Motor Vehicles is responsible for motor vehicle valuations and supplies the data for excise bills. Assessed values for Real and Personal Property are based on “full and fair cash value” as of January 1st preceding each fiscal year.

As always, if you have questions regarding any assessing issues, please contact Jessica Perotti - Administrative Assistant or Christopher Cozzaglio - Associate Assessor, at (413) 623-8934 extension 118 Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or anytime by email at assessors@townofbecket.org. Additionally, you can find Assessors Maps, parcel information, various applications and other useful information about the department online at: <https://www.townofbecket.org/board-assessors>.

Fiscal Year	FY23	FY24
Appropriations from Town Meeting	8,607,758.24	10,195,932.86
Cherry Sheet Offset	3,987.00	4,458.00
Overlay Deficits	0	0
Cherry Sheet Charges	2,467.00	2,997.00
Overlay Allowance	34,682.18	45,451.92
Total Amount to be Raised	8,652,423.04	10,255,105.80
Total Local Receipts	868,576.24	1,024,263.00
Estimated Cherry Sheet State Receipts	277,925.00	290,065.00
Free Cash	508,803.00	965,232.86
Other Available Funds	0	826,613.00
Total Receipts	1,655,304.24	3,106,173.86
Tax Levy		
<i>Town Valuation By Class</i>		
Residential	588,972,445	664,615,381
Open Space	0	0
Commercial	19,688,610	20,862,954
Industrial	1,924,045	1,964,265
Personal Property	39,704,752	44,280,219
Exempt Property	40,334,900	43,735,100
Net Growth	62,937	21,413.00
Tax Rate	10.76	9.77

This past year the Board of Assessors has processed:

- 33 Exemptions
 - o Elderly (Clause 41/Clause 17) - 17
 - o Veterans (Clause 20a-e) - 15
 - o Blind (Clause 37) - 1
- 36 Real Estate and Personal Property Abatements

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Assessors:
Geraldine Walter, ***Chair***
Jessica Perotti, ***Vice Chair***
Beverly Gilbert, ***Clerk***

Regional Resource Group:
Harald M. Scheid, ***Regional Tax Assessor***
Christopher Cozzaglio, ***Regional Associate Assessor***

◆ *REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH* ◆

The Board of Health (BOH) is responsible for all aspects of public health as governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the regulations of the Department of Public Health and some rules promulgated by Department of Environmental Protection. Specifically, the BOH has responsibilities in each of the designated areas listed below:

Wells – The BOH issues well drilling permits. The major purpose herein is to ensure that all wells are the appropriate distance from septic systems, property lines, foundations etc. and, most importantly, provide adequate potable water to the premises.

Septic Systems – Another major responsibility has to do with the treatment of wastewater. A health agent or board member is required to be present at percolation tests. The BOH approves Soil Absorption Systems (SAS) plans and oversees the installation in order to issue a Certificate of Compliance. When a property in Becket is sold or transferred, a Title V Inspection must be completed. All inspection reports are reviewed and approved by a majority vote of the BOH.

Food Inspections – Wherever food is served or manufactured for sale, that facility must be inspected and licensed annually by the BOH.

Camp Inspections – Camp dining, sleeping and recreational facilities, as well as health centers are inspected annually by the BOH for basic first-aid safety, and adequate treatment areas under the care of medical professionals to include licensed doctors, nurses, and aides.

Public and Semi-Private Beaches – All beaches serving more than one family are required to have water testing at least 15 times a year. The BOH oversees and monitors the testing program to ensure the water is safe for bathing and swimming.

Beavers/Muskrats – The BOH is charged with the responsibility to issue a 10-day Emergency Permit when needed to remedy animal threats that endanger human health and safety.

Transfer Station – The BOH has the overall responsibility for the health, safety, and well-being of the facility with daily operational management delegated to the Highway Department.

Visiting Nurses – The BOH manages a visiting nurse program via the Berkshire Health Alliance, who provides direct services to the Becket Community on an as needed basis.

Renter/Owner/Landlord – Health and sanitary issues within rental properties that have not been attended to in a timely manner can be addressed and even resolved via BOH action.

The BOH consists of three elected members each of whom serves a three-year term. The terms of office of each member are staggered with one member elected each year. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Becket Town Hall. Additional meetings are scheduled on an as-needed basis.

In 2023, the Becket BOH contracted with two agencies in Berkshire County that had full-time professional personnel to assist communities with much needed expertise. The BOH would like to acknowledge three highly qualified Berkshire Health Alliance health agents: Ned Saviski, Colin Sykes and Ed Fahey. Other alliance members worked with Tess Lundberg, the BOH's well qualified Administrative Assistant in using the innovative online technology service to track applications from beginning to completion. Ms. Lundberg has been invaluable in managing BOH monthly Zoom meetings.

With COVID appearing to be a less novel and more manageable virus, we observed many of our residents walking, riding and hiking in our community with increased vigor. The libraries, schools and camps reopened. It was nice to see the many smiles while talking to families and friends without masks. We continue to recommend frequent hand-washing, which we regard as the most beneficial strategy to prevent contracting many flus and viruses.

There were four health clinics held this year free of charge to the residents of Becket. The Community Health Program (CHP) Mobile Health Unit visited twice this year for child and adult vaccinations, and assigned residents to see a healthcare provider. The Berkshire Health Alliance held two clinics for flu and COVID shots. Next year, the Berkshire Health Alliance hopes to also offer balance and exercise classes to the Council of Aging and other residents of our town.

The Becket Board of Health with the Health Alliance had a very busy year:

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

- approximately 58 Title 5 Inspections
- approval of 61 new septic systems designed, reviewed, and installed
- 20 percolation tests
- 16 new well permits
- 21 septic installer and septic haulage permits

The Berkshire Health Alliance also dealt with several complaints of properties regarding housing issues which required the issuance of direct legal notices.

The Becket BOH appreciates and encourages public attendance at its meetings and welcomes citizens who wish to offer constructive comments that address health and safety concerns. BOH meetings are posted in Town Hall, and for informational purposes, on the town website, www.townofbecket.org. For your convenience, Becket BOH current and past minutes are posted on the town website.

Lastly, the BOH wishes to thank those town officials and members of the various boards, commissions, and departments, who provided technical assistance and expertise. This year we wish to recognize the town's Administrator, Katherine A. Warden, for her delightful, warm and positive attitude.

Please feel free to call the Becket BOH Office at 413-623-8934 ext.122, send correspondence via USPS or email health@townofbecket.org with any questions, concerns, thoughts, or ideas.

Respectfully submitted,

Gale LaBelle MSN, **Chair**
Robert T. Ronzio, **Vice Chair**

Laurel Burgwardt, **Clerk**
Tess Lundberg, **Administrative Assistant**



◆ *REPORT OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE* ◆

This committee has been unusually busy this year gardening, clearing brush, and scheduling lifeguards, gate attendants, and other summer park program employees. This committee also oversaw the yoga class every week at the town hall.

We, along with the Highway Department, and volunteers Deb Toomey and John Vachula, cleared the brush around the tennis court in preparation for the resurfacing of the court. After the leveling, tennis and pickleball lines were painted, and a new net was installed. The court is now ready for use.

Maddy Elovirta and Shirley Vachula cleared brush along the perimeter of North Becket Village Park. They, along with members Dave Weiler and Rita Furlong, cleared brush at Becket Center Park next to the Becket Country Store. Volunteer Bill Elovirta and his tractor helped. We then cleared roadside brush and trimmed trees by the Parade Ground at YMCA Road and Route 8. This gives viewing access to the historic parade grounds.

We voted to locate a year-round handicapped porta-potty at the North Becket Park, Becket Center Park, and Town Beach for our citizens and visitors. Ice fishermen appreciate this amenity at Town Beach during the winter. Both of our Town Parks are used throughout the year.

In spring 2024, we will address the need to repair the dugout roofs at the Becket Center Park ball field. We plan to paint all Parks and Recreation buildings a dark green. A net and lines for pickle ball will also be added to that area in the spring of 2024. During 2023, a basketball pole was permanently installed at the Becket Center Park playground. Thank you to Frank Avalle for the donation of his time and supplies for this.

The Summer Parks Program ran for nearly seven weeks. Approximately twenty children from Becket and Washington attended. Young people hired to be counselors were: MacKenzie LaBier, Adelyn Furlong, DaJuan Merenda, and substitute Jonah Rawson. They did a wonderful job. Campers spent Mondays and Wednesdays at the Becket Center Park and Tuesdays at North Village Park, the Becket Arts Center and/or the Becket Athenaeum. Campers and staff went on a field trip to Wing and a Prayer in Cummington to write, draw, and learn about perennials and pollinators. Thursdays were usually spent at the Town Beach if the weather was suitable. The campers conducted acid rain tests on some of the water sources in town. We ended the season with a pizza party at the beach for all the summer campers and workers.

The Becket Center Park Pavilion extension project was completed and once again has ample space to house picnic tables

for gatherings and summer camp activities. Steps were added on the playground side to add sitting spaces. Certified playground chips were added under the equipment there and spread by committee members and volunteer Bill Elovirta and his tractor.

This committee is responsible for the weekly water testing at the Town Beach. Results of each test are posted in the beach shed porta potty area in a small red cabinet made and donated by former committee member Eila Bell and her husband Dean Williams. The committee would like to thank Eila Bell for her time and care that she gave to the committee and town.

Jillian Cote and Sheffield Drewry were again hired as lifeguards and swimming lesson instructors for the summer. Their responsibilities include tidying up the beach area, checking the area for trash, filling in erosion washouts, and during the daytime, life guarding the swimmers. They also remind beach goers of the posted rules for safe and enjoyable use of the beach. Both are local residents who truly appreciate having a summer job here.

REMEMBER swim lessons are for all ages. If you do not know how to swim, sign up with the lifeguards next summer.

Ethan Magner and Evan Strout were gate attendants. Maddy Elovirta and Dave Weiler subbed when needed.

Reminder to all who plan on using the Town Beach: Town Beach vehicle permits for the following season are available after January 1st. The beach permit **MUST HANG FROM THE REARVIEW MIRROR OF YOUR VEHICLE DURING YOUR VISIT THERE.**

And finally, the yoga class held at the Town Hall every Wednesday at 9:00 AM has room for you. The cost is \$3.00 per session.

We would like to hear from Becket and Washington citizens regarding interest concerning after school basketball and pickleball or tennis lessons. Please contact any member of this committee if you are available to teach any of these activities or would like to participate in them if volunteer teachers become available.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Furlong, *Chair*.
Eila Bell, Maddy Elovirta, Shirley Vachula, Dave Weiler

◆ **REPORT OF THE HARBOR MASTER** ◆

We could have used more nice days in the summer of 2023, and hope more are on the way for the 2024 season. Rafts or mooring anchored in our Great Ponds must be permitted annually by the Harbor Master. Please have them attached to the float or mooring. I will mail renewal applications during the spring. All docks attached to the shore are required to have the Becket Conservation Commission and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection approval, and the issuance of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 91 License.

Please boat responsibly, respect other boaters, swimmers and land owners. Please check your safety equipment on board. Use those lifejackets: they save lives! This is a reminder to boaters to register your boats with the state.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Fogarty
Harbor Master



◆ *REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION* ◆

It is the mission of the Becket Conservation Commission to protect, promote and enhance the quality and quantity of natural resources, wetlands, wildlife, and water resources. We do this through planning, acquisition, land management, regulations, research, and public education for the maximum benefit of all residents. Becket has a wealth of wetlands, streams, forests, and 21 lakes and ponds. All these water resources provide important habitat, recreation, and a significant financial contribution to the Town of Becket. We are fortunate to have these wonderful resources, which makes Becket one of the great gems of the Berkshires.

It is the responsibility of the Conservation Commission to adhere to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, and its regulations 310 CMR that specifies the Conservation Commission's authority, jurisdiction, and responsibility for administering the following eight interests of the Act:

1. protection of public and private water supply
2. protection of groundwater supply
3. flood control protection
4. storm damage prevention
5. prevention of pollution
6. protection of land containing shellfish
7. protection of fisheries
8. protection of wildlife habitat

Over the last four years, the Commission has been committed to being approachable and helpful to people submitting applications who appear before us. It is our intention and promise to create cooperative and friendly working relationships with all applicants, consultants, and contractors. In 2023 we continued to receive a lot of positive feedback from those appearing before us as being very professional, respectful, and helpful in reviewing applications during the deliberation process.

Staff and Accomplishments:

The following individuals serve on Commission: David Johnson (chair), Henry Hagenah (vice chair), Henry Scarpo, Jim Schaefer, Doug Bessone, Chris Clapper, John Verity, Nic Pietroniro (Conservation Agent).

In October of 2021, we hired Nic Pietroniro as our new agent. He is a graduate of Westfield State where he earned a B.S. in Environmental Sciences. Nic has developed a great understanding of the Wetlands Protection Act and its applications. He is a valued resource of information to the Commissioners. Nic assembles all the applications and required documentation from the applicants and provides them to the Commission for deliberation at a posted public meeting. He continues to provide outstanding service in working with applicants, answering their questions, being kind, and helping them through the application process.

The Commission scanned about 60% of their applications into

an electronic filing system and re-organized their paper filing system. Any paper copies discarded was done in accordance with the Massachusetts Municipal Retention Schedule.

The Commission hosted a public forum on May 24, 2023 for people interested in the long sustainability and viability of our lakes, ponds, streams, drinking water, and wetlands. The forum focused on best practices for treatment and strategies to protect our valued water resources. There were two intended outcomes: 1) to provide education about the issues affecting our water resources, and 2) to create a sharing group of concerned residents that would aggregate all the various issues regarding protection water resources. Both outcomes were achieved.

Dave Johnson (chair) presented a morning workshop at the MA Conservation Commission conference in Devens MA on October 18th, 2023. It was designed to share strategies and practices for running an effective Commission.

Goals for 2024:

The commission is working on three projects for the 2024 year:

- Complete the digitalization of our document storage
- Make our website more user-friendly and to provide useful information about the Wetlands Protection Act, including ways to help mitigate the impact of climate change on our precious water resources
- Continue work on cross training and sharing Chair's duties and responsibilities with the Commissioners to create a balanced team

Our activities for 2023:

16 Commission Posted Meetings
43 Requests for Determination of Applicability
9 Notices of Intent Applications
4 Orders of Conditions extensions
2 Order of Conditions amended
32 Continuances
7 Emergency Certifications issued
9 Enforcement Orders issued
16 Certificates of Compliance
82 Site visits

If you have any questions about the Wetlands Protection Act and how it may relate to your property, please call Dave Johnson at 978-424-5752 or Nic Pietroniro at 413-623-8934 Ext 129.

Respectfully submitted,
David Johnson

Chair of Becket Conservation Commission

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

The Becket Arts Center's mission is to ensure that creative expression is a vital and vibrant part of the everyday lives of the regional community.

As a membership organization that supports the cultural and artistic needs of the Hilltowns, the Center offers diverse experiences that serve the full spectrum of artists, from the professional to the avocational, and arts appreciators, to inspire, educate, and enrich their lives.

The BAC aims to continue to build on more than 50-year legacy of providing a unique and valuable asset to the local community and its visitors. Memberships, donations, and grants are what make what the BAC does possible. Please join us as we connect our community through arts and cultural experiences by becoming a member or making a contribution to the BAC.

We are grateful to our grantors: Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Feigenbaum Foundation, and the local cultural councils of Becket, Blandford, Chester, Hinsdale-Peru, Lee, Otis, Sandisfield, Tolland, Tyringham, and Washington funded by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. We also received support from local business sponsors through advertising and donations for our annual silent auction.

BAC Gift Shop: Local artists, crafters and specialty items in the gift shop made for a record-breaking year in sales. We are open year-round and offer a unique collection of cards, gifts, and more.

Our year-round schedule included:

Speaker Series: Funded by Berkshire Bank, the BAC Explorations lecture program offered the community a diverse exploration of seven topics in 2023 from gardening and conservation to politics and anthropology.

Yoga, Dance: Rima Sala returned for another season of yoga at the BAC on Thursday mornings. Returning for 2023, we offered four sessions of "Dance With Me" hosted by Louise Heit. Open to all abilities, this movement class incorporated movement and music in a fun, and welcoming environment. New for 2023, Diane Firtell hosted Nia on Friday afternoons for all abilities.

Visual Arts

Art Exhibits: We hosted seven group shows in the upstairs gallery of Seminary Hall (five juried shows and one member show showing 39 artists' works.) and six curated shows in our newly formed art lounge. The opening show for 2023 was the Becket Washington School K-5 Art Show. Thank you to the PTO and the BWS art teacher, Mrs. Clark.

All shows are free and open to the public and are now supported in part by Mass Cultural Festival grants.

Artist-in-Residence Sean McCusker: Our artist-in-residence hosted weekly live art demonstrations that he also live-streamed, exploring the artistic process and answering questions from attendees.

Art Classes: BAC hosted two art classes in 2023, Marsha Edell led a decoupage class in April where participants made their own tile coasters and Lorraine Klagbrun led a collage class in August where participants used stencils and paper to make their own collage boards.

Youth Programs

Partnership with Parks and Recreation Summer Program: For the second year in a row, we partnered with the Town of Becket Parks & Recreation Committee who runs a free summer camp for Becket and Washington children ages 6-12. These children spent one day a week in North Becket and the Becket Arts Center provided afternoon art enrichment programming.

Music

Music Brings Communities Together: Funded by the local cultural councils of Becket, Blandford, Chester, Hinsdale-Peru, Lee, Otis, Sandisfield, Tolland, Tyringham, and Washington, the Becket Arts Center offered free outdoor music on select Saturday evenings throughout the summer:

- Brian Conway with Brendan Dolan
- Louise Mosrie
- Dirty Cello
- Criollo Clasico
- Benny Kohn and Joanne Redding
- Simon Guthrie and Sample the Cat
- Bobby Sweet with Abe Guthrie, Pete Adams, and Lara Tupper

Monthly Music Circles: For the summer, BAC hosted open music circles where musicians and music-lovers came together to perform together or alone, building community amongst the talented musicians living in our area.

BUTI Performance: Returning to Becket after four years, BAC hosted an afternoon performance by young and talented musicians from around the globe. BUTI (Boston University Tanglewood Institute) is a program of Boston University College of Fine Arts. It is recognized as one of the nation's premiere summer training programs for aspiring

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

~ Continued ~

young musicians ages 10-20 and is the only program of its kind associated with one of the world's great symphony orchestras.

Music is My Story: Kicking off in November of 2023, we hosted Bernice Lewis for a concert and then she returned to teach a wonderful songwriting workshop. Four more are scheduled for 2024 with musicians Chris Merenda, Johnny Irion, Louise Mosrie, and Cliff Eberhardt.

Live Theater Performances

Now that Seminary Hall has heat once again, we are taking full advantage of our upstairs stage.

The Show: Starting in March, we hosted a new work by the talented Douglas Williams when he presented his one-man show entitled, "The Show." It was thought-provoking and hilarious and was presented to a sold-out audience.

Gone Before, Con't: Next in April, we hosted Michael Hammond with David Remidos for his tributary work about his late friend and musician, Steve Haferbier. The performance was followed by a Q & A with the performers.

The Thanksgiving Play: In the fall, our performances returned with a reading of Larissa FastHorse's "The Thanksgiving Play."

Bakersfield Mist: Also in November we staged our first full production in many years: "Bakersfield Mist" by Stephen Sachs starring Paula Langton and Ken Cheeseman. Best of all, our set was designed by the community! Special thanks to Jane Pytko, John Mcelwain, Susie Ruiz, Skip Saville, and Sarah Pesina.

A Christmas Carol: In December, Ken Cheeseman gave two dramatic readings of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" accompanied by Amy Attias and Simon Guthrie.

Community Events

70s & 80s Dance Party: Who doesn't love a good dance party? In April, BAC hosted a pop-up dance party in our upstairs gallery and we danced the night away.

Garden Tour: Returning for 2023, four Becket Arts Center members opened their home gardens for a one-day event. Garden-lovers wandered the beautiful grounds while the tenders of these artful gardens shared their passion.

Poetry Reading: Peter Barton released his first poetry book and BAC hosted a wonderful reading. Accompanied by Gail Thomas, an accomplished poet, the afternoon reading delighted audience members young and old.

The Becket Bash: Hosted at Camp Watitoh, this sold-out fundraising event closed out the summer season and the crowd (hopefully) enjoyed an amateur staff and board skit, participated in our amazing raffle, and danced the night away to the music of Jack Waldheim.

Marketplace and Open Studio DriveAbout: This year we hosted an open marketplace for vendors to sell directly to customers in an open-air market. Held on the second Saturday in September, over 20 vendors participated and had the option to open their studios on Sunday for a tour of artist studios in Becket and surrounding towns.

Oysters, Wine & Good Times: The BAC held a fundraiser on October 1, outside at the BAC. East Dennis Oyster Farm provided oysters, while friends and neighbors enjoyed the music by Bernice Lewis and Amy Attias.

Ghost Stories: October is the perfect time to share scary stories! We invited the community to listen and share their favorite ghost stories before Robert Oakes, author of Ghosts of the Berkshires arrived and gave an audio visual tour of some of Berkshire County's most haunted places including The Becket Quarry.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Beatty, *Executive Director*

Board of Trustees:

Jim Petosa, *President*

Mary Manning Cohen, *Vice-President*

Lewis Popkin, *Treasurer*

Ann Morrison, *Secretary*

Alison Atlas

Amy Attias

Deborah Rivel

Ken Cheeseman

Marilyn Taylor

Paula Langton

Sheila Schectman



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

The town-owned building at 12 Brooker Hill Road continues to serve small businesses in town under the jurisdiction of the MHEC Board of Directors. Two writers, a business development consultant, the Becket Historical Commission, and the Becket Land Trust occupy the facilities. In return for renting spaces, tenants are obligated to offer some service to the town. There is another room available for rent. Broadband internet service is available.

The former home of the Mullen family was donated to the town years ago. After the VFW used the MHEC, the town leased the building to Becket Land Trust for a quarry museum. The town Historical Commission also uses the sheds of the building for a Becket Basket Museum. Summer visitor hours

are Saturdays from 12pm until 3pm. A docent oversees the facility and offers help and information to visitors. If you have never visited our town history museums, you are welcome to do so this summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Furlong,
Director

Board Members:

Ken Smith, Ann Smith, Dave Wiley, Cathy Halliday

◆ **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 involved with 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 2023, the Becket Energy Committee consisted of the following members:

Name	Title	Term
Garth Klimchuk	Chair	2024
Cathy DeFoe	Vice Chair	2023
Susan Purser	Secretary	2024
Robert Gross	Member	2023
Alvin Blake	Member	2025
Paul Green	Ex-Officio	
Katherine Warden	Ex-Officio	
Edward Pickert	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, advise them on energy-related issues and recommend specific initiatives.

The BEC met on or about every third Tuesday of each month throughout 2023 at 4:00pm in-person and via zoom. Meeting minutes and agenda were posted on the Town of Becket website.

Notable Accomplishments

- Continued assessment of town properties and rooftops for possible solar arrays in order to reduce the Town's energy bill and carbon footprint.
- Advanced review of installation of commercial-scale wind turbine on Town Hall property to reduce power purchases from Eversource including Eversource interconnection application submittal and engagement of site assessment consultant.

- Continued assisting Select Board in the assessment of Town's participation in a power aggregation program.
- Secured META grant (~\$9,000) funding for wind and solar site assessment engagements.
- Completed street lighting replacement program to reduce Town power costs.
- Completed seventh annual BEC Information Session August 26, 2023.
- Endorsed MA Power Forward initiative and other state organizations promoting renewable energy and state renewable energy legislation.
- Initiated discussions with other towns adjacent to Becket regarding possible collaboration on community solar and energy aggregation programs.
- Secured new Member Julie Craumer who replaced retiring Member Robert Gross.

Current Priorities

Short Term

1. Complete installation of wind or solar project facility on Town Hall property.
2. Continue to explore anchor participant role in community solar array.
3. Continue to identify community solar and other renewable energy projects for the Town and Town residents.
4. Organize eighth annual BEC Information Session to be held sometime in the summer of 2024 in conjunction with the Town of Washington.
5. Continue to assist Town Administrator with ongoing Green Community opportunities.

Long Term

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Energy Committee

◆ *REPORT OF THE BROADBAND AD HOC GROUP* ◆

In 2023, Becket realized the completion of our town-owned high-speed-Internet fiber network. Even better, the project crossed the finish line under budget. Surpassing our expectations, sign-ups for Becket Broadband included the vast majority of property owners, with over 71% of premises getting connected—carrying us well beyond our projected “break-even” point.

Special thanks to all who waited patiently as uncooperative weather and other obstacles conspired to slow construction progress, especially those in Becket Woods for whom unforeseen underground cable challenges took us well past the originally-planned completion date. Ultimately, it was by the end of summer that 21st-century broadband Internet access had finally reached all across our town.

Sign-up continues for anyone still wishing to be connected. High-speed Internet and digital telephone services await those who have yet to opt in. Also from the good-news department: the town-offered subsidy of up to \$750 toward your installation costs remains in effect until further notice. Sign up online at whipcityfiber.com/becket. Call 1-833-991-9378 if you have questions or need assistance.

Our website, your ultimate information resource on all things Becket Broadband, having served its inaugural mission, relocated early this year from its stand-alone presence to serving under our town's website. You can now

access it by going to townofbecket.org, hovering over Boards & Committees near the top of the page, and then clicking on Broadband Ad Hoc Group in the left column. Or you can take the shortcut: townofbecket.org/becket-broadband-internet. You will continue to find service options and pricing, a detailed FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) section, and a whole lot more. Should you need to dig even deeper, there is helpful contact information.

Again, the Broadband Hoc Group would like to thank everyone for your patience and support over these past few years. Working together, we did it. We brought modern-day broadband to Becket.

Respectfully submitted,

Your All-Volunteer Broadband Ad Hoc Group

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

Cathy Defoe

Vickie DeLorenzo

Jeremy Dunn, ***WiredWest Alternate Delegate***

Chuck Garman

Dave Labrecque

Dan Parnell

Jeff Piemont



◆ *REPORT OF THE BECKET CULTURAL COUNCIL* ◆

Cultural opportunities are abound in Becket! Why? Because not only does the Commonwealth take culture seriously with annual grants to 329 local councils (including Becket), so do all of you, the people of Becket.

At the 2023 Annual Town Meeting (ATM) you voted to allocate \$3,000 of town funds to support local cultural

activities. What a difference your support meant! We hope we can count on your vote at this year's ATM as well.

Together with funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Becket Cultural Council was able to fund the following groups. Requests marked with asterisks (*) indicate the groups we were able to FULLY FUND due to the addition of Becket funding.

Applicant

Becket Arts Center*
Becket Arts Center*
Becket Athenaeum*
Becket Athenaeum*
Becket Beat*
Becket Washington School*
Becket Washington School*
Berkshire Music School
Hostetter, Jodi
IS183*
Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival*
Miller, Nicole*
Picard-Lenski, Laurel*
Rogers, Scott
The Stockbridge Sinfonia
Tupper, Lara*
WAM Theatre

Project Title

Music Brings Communities Together
Community Arts Workshop (camp connection)
Museum Passes
Community Performances 2023
Training Students as Community Journalists
Hancock Shaker Village, Grades K-2
BTG Touring Production: Knight of Dawn
DRUM TO THE BEAT: A musical enrichment program
Music in The Park
ARTcentric at Becket Washington Elementary
On the Road – Becket
Cops and Rodders
Creative Movement & Body Language
Windsor Jazz-Blues Workshop
Intergenerational Community Orchestra of the Berkshires
Start Your Memoir
2023 Season and Community Engagement Program

We are so grateful to the Commonwealth, the Town of Becket, the Select Board, and all of you for making this happen. Thank you!

Volunteers are key to our mission. This year, I would like to thank Roberta Goldman, our membership-advocate extraordinaire, whose term on the council ended in June, Karen Ludington who joined us this fall, and all our continuing council members: Drea Pecor (Treasurer), Shelley Chanler (Secretary), Sarah Reedy (Publicity), Jane Markham, Lisa Rosier, and Carole Rivel. I am so grateful for all their preparation and hard work.

If you would like to learn more about our work or if you might be interested in joining the council, please email becketculturalcouncil@townofbecket.org. The time commitment and duties are light, but the rewards are great!

We hope to see you around town this year, taking advantage of all that Becket has to offer. For a list of 2024 grant recipients, see the press release on <https://www.townofbecket.org/becket-cultural-council>.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Terwedow, *Chair*

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

The Veterans' Services Office serves the Veterans of Becket and their families. We assist veterans in processing requests for Massachusetts Executive Office of Veterans' Services (EOVS) Chapter 115 benefits. Chapter 115 benefits are needs based, and include temporary financial assistance, medical reimbursement, and assistance in applying for aid from other state and federal agencies. Veterans with a dishonorable discharge are not eligible. Spouses and dependent children may also be eligible, if the veteran was eligible.

The Town of Becket assisted veterans this year with Chapter 115 benefits totaling \$17,681.22. Of the total benefits, 75%, or \$13,260.92, will be reimbursed by the state for an actual cost to the Town of \$4,420.31. This included regular benefits, heating assistance, and medical reimbursements.

The Veterans' Service Officer (VSO) also assists veterans and their spouses with federal Veterans' Administration (VA) requests. We advise veterans on what is available, and can assist in filling out and submitting the necessary paperwork. We do not have any input in the

approval process. This year we assisted a few veterans and widows in filing for VA benefits.

The caseload of Becket Veterans' Services was reduced at the beginning of the year, but has remained constant since then. The greatest need continues to be for senior veterans and their spouses, or their 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. This program reimburses co-pays, other medical costs, the cost of Medicare Part B and some supplemental insurances. Veteran Services does not pay the bills, but reimburses medical bills the veteran had paid. Becket Veteran Services has several on this Medical Only program.

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 as strong as ever. In 2023, we continued to provide outstanding library services as a result of appropriations received from the towns of Becket and Washington toward both operating and capital expenses along with vital, supplementary grant funding from Fairfield County's Community Foundation, the Feigenbaum Foundation, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, both Becket and Washington Local Cultural Councils, and more. Such support has allowed us to continue to offer a robust collection of books, movies, music, games, household objects, museum passes, digital books and audiobooks, and more. In addition to our diverse circulation collection, in 2023 the Athenaeum was able to expand and improve the other aspects of a public library that make it the heart of its community – widely accessible resources and reliable information; enriching and educational programming; and a safe, functional, and welcoming building. Please enjoy some of our 2023 highlights:

Collections & Resources

- 935 Becket and Washington residents had an active library card as of 12/31/23
- 10,869 physical and digital items were checked out from the library in 2023
- The Athenaeum joined CW MARS (Central and Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing) – the largest library consortium in the state. This has resulted in a significant increase in our community's access to shared collections – both physical and digital along with ease of access to nearby library neighbors; your Becket Athenaeum library card can be used at nearly every library in Central and Western Massachusetts.
- As CW MARS members, our community can borrow from the digital collections of eight library systems in the state.
- Our Library of Things has expanded to include such items as Gardening Toolkits, more games and puzzles for all ages, and a VHS to DVD recorder (to name just a few). Check out the entire collection at BecketAthenaeum.org/library-of-things

Programs

- 175 programs for children, teens, and adults were

held in 2023

- 1,893 community members were reached via library programming
- One-time programs for adults were offered at the library, over Zoom, and off-site and included a variety of topics ranging from a Calligraphy Workshop, to The Power of the Protest Song with Pamela Means, to a Wildflower Walk with Ed Neumuth
- Our recurring programs for adults remained quite popular in 2023 with both our Cookbook Club and Adult Movie Nights seeing growth in participation. Barbie won movie of the year at the Athenaeum with 28 community members in attendance.
- The library remains an important space and resource for local parents and caregivers to bring their children for such programs as our popular weekly Saturday Storytime & Craft, featuring Laurel Lenski once per month to guide the kids in creative movement.
- We also continue to maintain our strong partnerships with the Becket Washington School and the Becket Town Summer Camp. In 2023, we brought Storytime to the younger classrooms at BWS and hosted them at the library as well. Over the summer, the Town of Becket campers learned about agriculture, helped to plant the library's educational garden beds, and enjoyed a library-funded field trip to Wing & a Prayer Nursery.
- The Athenaeum continues to strive to reach all members of our community through programming and as such, received two grants from the Berkshire Taconic Community Fund to offer culturally-diverse events at both the Athenaeum and BWS. Just two examples include Tarcicio "Taz" Ramos Dos Santos' interactive performance of Brazilian music for the student body at BWS and a performance by Yo Soy Arte, a local Latin music band, to an appreciative crowd on a Sunday afternoon at the library.

Our Historical Building

- We welcomed 9706 visitors to our building in 2023
- 2023 saw the completion of the long-awaited well connection project resulting in the library's well being tied into that used by the Becket Arts Center and Mullen House. This simplifies the water treatment for the Athenaeum and reduces our overall utility costs. We truly appreciate this collaborative effort with the Town of Becket Finance Committee and administration.

REPORT OF THE BECKET ATHENAEUM

(Continued)

2023 Staff

Thanks to a grant from the Fitzpatrick Foundation, we were able to install new cabinetry in the Children's Loft to display some of the Library of Things collection and to store craft supplies in a more organized way, leading to more accessible collections and usable "people" space.

Jodi Shafiroff, **Executive Director and Programming Director**
(through August 2023)
Nicole Schulze, **Executive Director** (beginning August 2023)
Ellen Manley, **Head Librarian**
Dawn Greene, **Catalog Specialist**
Faith Bailey, **Library Assistant**
Drea Pecor, **Bookkeeper**
Madeline Beatty, **Intern**
Abigail Cobb, **Intern**
Julia Manning, **Intern**
Sara-Louise Oakes, **Intern**
Elianna Pow, **Intern**
Abigail Rodhouse, **Intern**
Anna Rodhouse, **Intern**
Colin Rosier, **Intern**
Sarah Thornton, **Intern**
El Walker, **Intern**

The Athenaeum thanks Jodi Shafiroff for her dedication and hard work for the past six years, including four years as the Executive Director. The Trustees, staff, and community have warmly welcomed Nicole Schulze as the Athenaeum's new Executive Director.

As an independent, non-profit organization, we rely on and so appreciate the many supportive individuals and groups who help us deliver the services and programs our community deserves from its library. Without town funding approved by Becket and Washington voters, plus the individual donors in our community, we could not serve as effectively as the community hub for our two towns. 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!

2023 Becket Athenaeum Board of Trustees

Cathy DeFoe, **Chair** (Becket Resident)
Lee Watroba, **Vice-Chair** (Becket Resident)
Robert Gross, **Treasurer** (Becket Resident)
Cheryl Cucinello (Becket Resident)
Sharon Davis (Washington Resident)
Lei-Anne Ellis (Becket Resident)
Jane Markham (Becket Resident)

The Board thanks 2023 outgoing Trustee Katherine Hoak for her important service and welcomes Phillip Geer (Becket) as the newest member of the Becket Athenaeum Board of Trustees.

◆ *REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE* ◆

The Becket Finance Committee is a five-member unpaid elected body, with each member serving 3-year terms. We work with the Select Board and Town Administrator to make financial decisions for the Town of Becket. This includes developing the annual operating and capital budgets, as well as evaluating and dealing with adjustments and exceptions throughout the year. Our goal is to keep our tax rate as low as possible while providing the multitude of services we all expect and enjoy.

The Broadband project is winding up, and due to state funding and the hard work of our Broadband Ad Hoc Group we anticipate borrowing substantially less than the \$3.81 million authorized by voters. The town-owned system is not only performing well technically, it is running cash positive due to the high number of subscribers.

Unsurprisingly, recent inflation and labor shortage issues have impacted our town's operating and capital budgets. Nearly all consumable goods and services we require to keep our town functioning have increased in cost – many dramatically. In addition, we have had to aggressively adjust town employee salaries to stay competitive. This has been especially true for our police, ambulance and highway employees. Nearly all local ambulance services and police departments are having trouble finding and keeping good, qualified people and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MASSDOT) has lured a number of our Highway Department workers away with higher wages (as of this writing, our Highway Department is operating at about 50% of normal staffing level). Therefore, we find ourselves in a position where we must continue to monitor our salary competitiveness and make (sometimes aggressive) adjustments. The inflated cost of goods and increased labor/insurance costs are unfortunately solely borne by all of us Becket taxpayers.

The current global supply chain challenges have also made purchase of large capital items (highway trucks/equipment, police cruisers and ambulances) more difficult. Not only have the prices for these items risen substantially, it is not uncommon to face build/delivery times of two to three years therefore making planning difficult.

Given the long lead time for many capital items, we are developing a database of all town assets (equipment, vehicles and buildings) to better anticipate these large investments. This will help us develop a long-term capital plan and assist us in securing grants that can substantially reduce or eliminate Becket's cost for these items. We were disappointed in 2023 not to have received a federal grant for a much-needed new fire truck. We had to fund this vehicle from free cash and borrowing. Once fully outfitted, this truck will cost nearly one-million-dollars.

We anticipate replacement our town ambulance in the next few years at a cost approaching half a million dollars.

The Finance Committee believes regionalization (shared services with other towns) has the best potential to help control capital and potentially operating costs. We are successfully sharing our Police Chief with Otis, and are in discussions to share ambulance services with both Otis and Washington. While the potential gains for regionalization are attractive, the path forward to make this happen is unclear. In 2024, we anticipate meeting with our state and local town leaders to determine potential next steps. Almost certainly the first phase is to initiate an independent study to separate the myths from the facts about both potential benefits (cost savings/better services) and drawbacks (loss of services/response time). A grant can likely cover the cost of this study and will hopefully facilitate the discussion of this potentially emotionally-charged issue. We anticipate that this study will provide invaluable information for facilities planning of a new highway/ambulance/police/fire complex to replace our aging and inefficient infrastructure.

Despite the wonderful efforts of our Highway Department, we continually find ourselves woefully underfunded to upgrade our many miles of roads and bridges. During 2023, Becket received \$234,226.04 MassDOT Chapter 90 funding (Road Repair). Our current level of state-provided annual MassDOT Chapter 90 apportionment covers the cost of completely rebuilding only about 1/3 mile of one paved road per year. We were fortunate to receive state grants for the Werden and McNerney Road projects in 2023. The Finance Committee would like to see a comprehensive analysis of the status of our current road system, ultimately determining the cost of bringing the whole network up to a higher standard. This plan would need to consider not only our paved roads, but also our many miles of dirt roads as they are increasingly challenged by climate change-induced severe wet weather events and are desperately in need of improved drainage and other upgrades. Once we have the scope and cost of the investment needed, we can consider if we should take out a bond for some/all of these improvements with the cost of the bond being at least partially offset by maintenance savings. In addition, a more robust road network will improve the quality of life and image of our Town.

On the income side, we were pleased that the Room Tax provision passed at the 2023 ATM which puts us on par with the vast majority of MA municipalities that already have a room tax. We believe it is reasonable for Becket visitors to contribute to the roads they use and ambulance, police and fire services they may need while visiting our community. We anticipate this to bring in about \$100k annually, thereby reducing the burden on Becket taxpayers.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

(Continued)

Becket is certainly not unique in facing the above issues and we are fortunate to maintain a competitive tax rate due to our strong tax base and growth. Our cash reserves are healthy and although we have challenges in front of us, we remain well poised financially to meet them.

In closing, we want to acknowledge the passing of former Finance Committee member Mark Karlberg. At a time when we could not find a candidate for an open position on the Committee, Mark stepped in and brought his expertise and knowledge from his previous service on the Select Board and

served three terms. He was a good committee member and fellow Becket resident who will be sorely missed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Parnell, ***Chair***
Ann Spadafora, ***Vice Chair***
Ron Defoe, ***Secretary***
Chuck Garman
Ellen Manley

◆ *REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK - 2023* ◆

One might underestimate how much work there is to be done at Town Hall each and every day and what it takes to keep even a simple “hilltown”, such as lovely Becket, functioning and so I would like to first warmly acknowledge all those who work as a team to keep things afloat every day: Kathe Warden (Town Administrator), Christine Bleau (Treasurer), Beverly Gilbert (Administrative Assistant), Jessica Perotti (Assessing Clerk), Ken Bilodeau and Nina Weiler (Tax Collectors). I also wish to acknowledge our terrific support group Sue Crossley (Town Clerk & Planning Board Administrative), Tess Lundberg (Board of Health & ZBA Administrative) and Nic Pietroniro (Conservation Agent) and all the wonderful residents who volunteer to be members of the Boards and Committees of this little slice of heaven. That said, I have been attempting to correct and update our residents and voters list – not an easy task when there is so much movement within the community – young people leaving, young families moving in, 2nd homeowners, “snow birds” and those we lose along the way.

The Town Clerk’s office maintains records for much of what goes on in Becket. This extremely time-consuming, and oftentimes challenging, responsibility warrants my attention every time I am at Town Hall. In addition, residents need time and attention as we accommodate their situations and issues – just wish we had more time in a day to do it all. I am a big believer in community and being there for one another - especially these days - so, please, stay in contact and let us know how you are doing.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin C. Mathiesen, *Town Clerk*

Board of Registrars:

Colleen Cox, Michelle Smith,	
Robin Mathiesen (Town Clerk)	
Voter Registration Sessions:	0
Candidate Voter Lists prepared	0
Sherwood Forest Road District –	
Voter Lists prepared	0

Census Results

Residents over 16	1,385
All Residents	1,785

Vital Records (Recorded in Becket)

Births	18
Deaths	7
Marriages	12

Fees:

Marriage Intentions filed: (12)	\$300.00
Certified copies prepared:	
Birth Certificates (18)	\$90.00
Death Certificates (33)	\$165.00
Marriage Certificates (11)	\$55.00
Burial Permits issued (0)	
Cemetery Deeds recorded (3)	<u>\$751.00</u>
Total Vital Fees Collected	\$1,361.00

Other licenses, Permits, Recordings

<u>Issued</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Fees:</u>
241	Dog Licenses (neuter & non-neuter)	\$1,299.00
0	Late Fees	
0	Utility Pole Recording	
7	Business Certificate Applications	\$140.00
5	Special Permits	<u>\$300.00</u>
	Total	\$1,739.00

Business Certificates recorded:

Robinson Construction
Neon Newt
Becket Country Store
Murray’s Excavation & Landscaping
Mach 1 Racing
Hopland Building Contractors
Berkshire Berries

Report of the Town Clerk
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, MAY 13, 2023

The meeting began at 7:03 P

Ethan Klepetar – Moderator
Kathe Warden – Town Administrator
Joel Bard, Esq. – Town Counsel
Michael Lavery – Select Board
Bill Elovirta – Chair, Select Board
Chris Swindlehurst – Vice Chair, Select Board
Robin Mathiesen – Town Clerk
Dan Parnell – Chair, Finance Committee
Chuck Garman – Finance Committee

Mr. Klepetar offered opening remarks and explained the rules of the meeting. Before the meeting started Mr. Klepetar recognized Adele Levine who wanted to speak briefly about the Becket Beat; that it is in its 2nd year; that they have now set up a website and that they are hoping for feedback from the community. She then thanked the town of Becket.
There were 63 registered voters and 81 people in attendance.

ARTICLE 1 COMPENSATION

Moved (Bill Elovirta) and Seconded.

No discussion was had. A vote was taken by a show of pink cards.

Vote was unanimous.

ARTICLE 2 FY 2024 OPERATING BUDGET – to raise and appropriate such sums as may be needed to defray expenses of the Town for 2024 Fiscal Year.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT		FY22 Actuals	FY 23 ATM Approved	FY24 Rec.	\$ Change	%Diff.
1	TOWN COUNSEL	11,915	20,000	20,000	0	0%
2	SELECT BOARD SALARIES	6,645	6,822	7,334	512	7.5%
3	SELECT BOARD EXPENSES	1,535	2,200	2,200	-	0.0%
4	TOWN ADMIN. SALARY	82,882	84,888	84,000	-888	-1.0%
5	TOWN ADMIN. EXPENSES	1,033	2,200	3,000	800	36.4%
6	TOWN ADMIN. ASSISTANT	48,452	49,663	55,390	5,727	11.5%
7	STAFF COVERAGE	87	3,500	0	-3,500	-100%
8	CLERK OF COMMITTEES	12,658	20,400	21,939,	1,539	7.5%
9	TOWN ACCOUNTANT SALARY	25,988	26,638	28,635	1997	7.5%
10	TOWN ACCOUNTANT EXPENSES	0	400	400	0	0%
11	AUDIT EXPENSES	5,000	23,000	23,000	0	0%
12	TOWN TREASURER SALARY	48,335	49,543	59,567	10,024	20.2%
13	TOWN TREASURER EXPENSES	2,655	5,000	5,150	150	3%
14	TAX TITLE EXPENSE	24,815	30,000	30,000	0	0%
15	OUTSIDE PAYROLL SERVIES	10,418	8,000	7,000	-1,000	12.5%
16	ASSESSORS SALARIES	40,783	65,000	58,636	-6,364	-9.8%
17	ASSESSORS EXPENSES	57,227	72,000	70,500	-1,500	-2.1%
18	TAX COLLECTOR SALARY	60,260	61,757	66,389	4,632	7.5%
19	ASSIST. TAX COLL. SALARY	50,133	51,398	55,252	3,854	7.5%
20	TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSES	9,795	8,280	8,700	420	5.1%

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

21	TOWN CLERK SALARY	25,901	31,279	38,948	7,669	19.7%
22	TOWN CLERK EXPENSES	2,098	2,245	1,000	-1,245	-55.5%
23	ELECTION-REGISTRATION	4,255	16,543	16,300	-243	-1.5%
24	TOWN MEETING EXPENSES	1,930	6,000	3,000	-3,000	-50%
25	ADVERTISING	1,903	4,000	3,000	-1,000	-25%
26	POSTAGE	12,861	12,000	12,000	0	0%
27	TOWN REPORTS	2,920	3,500	4,000	500	14.3%
28	FINANCE COMM.	135	600	250	-350	-58.3%
29	RESERVE FUND	0	50,000	50,000	0	0%
30	CONSERVATION COMM.	16,791	20,000	21,500	1,500	7.5%
31	PLANNING BOARD	2,789	2,500	3,750	1,250	50%
32	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	1,056	1,500	1,500	0	0.0%
33	HISTORICAL COMM.	1,078	2,000	2,000	0	0.0%
34	BUILDINGS & GROUNDS TECH.	51,763	52,576	56,520	3,944	7.5%
35	BUILDINGS JANITORIAL	0	17,225	16,770	-455	-2.6%
36	MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	43,287	55,000	55,000	0	0.0%
37	STREET LIGHTS	9,687	9,000	9,000	0	0.0%
38	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS EXPENSES	18,934	31,975	31,975	0	0.0%
39	BUILDINGS & GROUNDS REPAIRS	34,838	35,000	35,000	0	0.0%
40	BROADBAND-WIRED WEST	0	2,000	0	-2000	0.0%
41	BERK. REG.PLAN. COMM.	1,418	1,900	1,645	-255.00	-13.4%
	TOTAL - GENERAL GOVERNMENT	769,115	992,532	1,015,250	22,718	2.2%
PUBLIC SAFETY						
42	POLICE DEPT. SALARIES	400,065	457,837	528,340	70,503	15.4%
43	POLICE DEPT. EXPENSE	20,887	24,954	29,264	-6,690	-26.8%
44	EMER. MGMT EXP.	0	1,000	1,200	200	20.0%
45	EMER. MGMT. TRAINING	0	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
46	CONSTABLE STIPEND	241	300	300	0	0.0%
47	FIRE DEPT. SALARIES/ CHIEF	7,633	7,824	8,410	586	7.5%
48	FIREFIGHTER STIPENDS	10,500	14,000	20,000	6,000	42.9%
49	FIRE DEPT. EXPENSES	10,462	38,000	39,000	1,000	2.6%
50	E911 COMMUNICATION	13,456	13,860	14,275	415	3.0%
51	ANIMAL CONTROL SALARY	5,610	5,895	6,337	442	7.5%
52	ANIMAL CONTROL EXPENSES	2,483	2,500	2,500	0	0.0%
53	HARBOR MASTER	977	1,511	1,624	113	7.5%
54	BUILDING INSP. SALARY	56,760	55,000	39,774	-15,226	-27.7%
55	BUILDING & CODE INSP. EXPENSE	145	2,350	500	-1,850	78.7%
56	DEMOLITION FUND	105	25,000	25,000	0	0.0%
57	TOTAL - PUBLIC SAFETY	529,340	651,031	706,524	55,493	8.5%
EDUCATION						
58	CBRSD OPERATING ASSESSMENT	2,392,842	2,520,651	2,593,803	73,152	2.9%
59	VOCATIONAL TUITION	205,469	190,000	240,000	50,000	26.3%
60	VOCATIONAL TRANSPORT.	53,727	75,000	90,000	15,000	20.0%
61	TOTAL -EDUCATION	2,652,038	2,785,651	2,923,803	138,152	5.0%
FORESTRY						
62	TREE ACCOUNT	11,210	15,000	20,000	5,000	33.3%
63	FORESTRY	0	500	500	0	0.0%

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

64	TOTAL - FORESTRY	11,210	15,500	20,500	5,000	32.3%
	HIGHWAY					
65	SALARIES & WAGES	206,165	251,966	277,163	25,197	10.0%
66	GENERAL MAINTENANCE	131,966	183,150	204,439	21,289	11.6%
67	MACHINERY & FLEET MAINT.	64,605	85,000	91,100	6,100	7.2%
68	FUEL	91,798	925,250	107,450	15,200	16.5%
69	HIGHWAY GARAGE	15,945	16,500	17,000	500	3.0%
70	WINTER ROADS	288,372	259,763	302,790	43,027	16.6%
71	TOTAL - HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT	798,848	888,629	999,942	111,313	12.5%
	TRANSFER STATION					
72	Transfer Station Labor	39,473	43,845	47,600	3,755	8.6%
73	Rental Compactor		13,200	13,200	0	0.0%
74	Rental Open Container (2)		4,500	4,700	200	4.4%
75	Trucking Compactor		12,250	14,875	2,625	21.4%
76	Trucking Open Container		9,750	12,750	3,000	30.8%
77	Trucking Cans & Bottles		7,350	9,000	1,650	22.4%
78	Trucking Scrap Metal		4,900	6,000	1,650	22.4%
79	Trucking Paper Cardboard		5,250	6,500	1,250	23.8%
80	Trucking Rigid Plastics		3,600	4,500	900	25.0%
81	Trucking Fuel Surcharge		1,400	2,500	1,100	78.6%
82	Disposal Solid Waste		32,400	35,400	3,000	8.5%
83	Disposal Bulky Waste		18,620	22,420	3,800	20.4%
84	Recycling Cans, Bottles, Paper		11,500	12,500	1,000	8.7%
85	Disposal Haz Mat		10,500	10,500	0	0.0%
86	Chemicals		300	300	0	0.0%
87	Permits		1,850	1,850	0	0.0%
88	MRF education		100	100	0	0.0%
89	Maintenance		1,500	1,500	0	0.0%
90	Inspections/Testing		2,500	2,500	0	0.0%
91	S. BERK. SOLID WASTE MEMB.	2,052	3,260	3,260	0	0.0%
92	Total Expenses	120,749	141,470	161,095	19,625	13.9%
93	TOTAL - TRANSFER STATION	162,273	185,315	208,695	23,380	12.6%
	CEMETERIES					
94	BECKET CENTER CEMETERY	5,413	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%
95	NORTH CEMETERY	12,670	16,500	16,500	0	0.0%
96	WEST CEMETERY	849	800	800	0	0.0%
97	TOTAL-CEMETERIES	18,932	22,300	22,300	0	0.0%
	HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES					
98	BOARD of HEALTH SALARIES	1,172	9,500	2,000	-7,500	-78.9%
99	BOARD of HEALTH EXPENSES	35,392	33,500	36,000	2,500	7.5%
100	INSPECTOR of ANIMALS	364	373	401	28	7.5%
101	NURSING SERVICES	0	5,200	3,860	-1,340	-25.8%
102	COUNCIL on AGING	3,566	3,500	3,500	0	0.0%
103	OUTREACH	0	500	500	0	0.0%
104	VETERANS AGENT SALARY	2,194	2,249	2,306	57	2.5%
105	VETERANS BENEFITS	21,380	35,000	35,000	0	0.0%

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

106 VETERANS AGENT EXPENSE	-	100	100	-	0.0%
107 TOTAL - HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	64,067	89,922	83,667	-6,255	-7.0%
COMMUNITY SERVICES					
108 ATHENAEUM	52,838	54,160	55,514	1,354	2.5%
109 BECKET ARTS CENTER	10,000	0	0	0	0.0%
110 CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY	0	500	500	0	0.0%
111 PARKS & RECREATION	49,403	32,768	39,918	7,150	21.8%
112 WEED CONTROL CENTER POND	3,000	4,500	4,500	0	0.0%
113 MEMORIAL /VETERANS DAY	157.65	1,500	1,500	0	0
114 TOTAL COMMUNITY SERVICES	115,398	93,428	101,932	8,504	8.3%
BENEFITS					
115 HEALTH/LIFE INSURANCE	356,058	468,643	499,715	31,072	6.6%
116 COUNTY RETIREMENT	253,604	288,704	296,881	8,177	2.8%
117 PAYROLL TAX ACCOUNT	27,270	28,819	29,540	721	2.5%
118 UNEMPLOYMENT EXPENSE	3,465	5,000	7,000	2,000	40.0%
119 GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE	114,799	127,969	143,000	15,031	11.7%
120 OPEB LIABILITY	0	15,000	15,000	0	0.0%
121 TOTAL - BENEFITS	755,194	934,135	991,136	57,001	6.1%
122 TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	5,876,392	6,658,443	7,073,749	415,306	6.2%
FUNDED THROUGH WARRANT ARTICLES					
AMBULANCE					
124 From the General Fund	305,000	338,000	355,724	17,724	5.2%
125 TOTAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET INCLUDING WARRANT ARTICLES	6,181,392	6,996,443	7,429,473	433,030	6.2%

Moved (Chris Swindlehurst) and Seconded (Bill Elovirta).

Discussion from the floor regarding line items #11 (Audit), #58 (CBRSD operating), #68 (Fuel).

Jeremy Dunn steps to the mic and questions the tax rate, if this is possible. Dan Parnell, Chair of Finance, answered him. Diana Mott steps to the mic to question the audit costs as she was an auditor – says the fee went up 450% - Kathe Warden, Town Administrator, explained there hadn't been an audit in a couple of years. Jeremy Dunn stepped to the mic again to ask about the Municipal Light Plant which Dan Parnell answered. He then asked about the Town Treasurer and why if it's a salaried position does it indicate 4 more hours. Kathe Warden answered explaining that added to her raise was the extra 4 hours due to the amount of properties that needed to be done. Chris Swindlehurst said all town employees got a 7.5% raise. Bill Elovirta questioned line item #58 and why it was shot down in Hinsdale – was there an explanation. Leslie Blake-Davis, Superintendent, stepped to the mic saying the reason had more to do with the State. Windsor & Hinsdale – 4%. Mya Riemer stepped to the mic to alert everyone that there was a wrong amount in line item #68 – 925,250 as opposed to the actual number of 92,250. Cathy Terwedow stepped to the mic to question why the BOH salaries (#98 and #101) had decreased. Kathe Warden, Town Administrator, said they had spent very little and so she felt they had been overfunded. Kasha Mysliwiec stepped to the mic regarding the Animal Control salary #51. Kasha spoke of a dog at the dump in a kennel cage that didn't seem to be cared for. She had called a few times about it with no response from the Animal Control Officer.

Diana Mott stepped up to speak again regarding #62 Tree Account and she wondered what that was. Kathe Warden, Town Administrator, responded by saying it was for the cutting down of trees and the need to catch up after the big snowstorm that had caused many issues. Dan Parnell added that during the snowstorm he was following a plow and that the driver had to get

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

out and cut the trees out of the way. Joan Goldberg stepped to the mic to ask why Kathe Warden's salary had decreased. Bill Elovirta explained that she was being taken care of. Nancy Chassman spoke next and asked who the auditor was. Kathe Warden, Town Administrator, said it was Adelson & Co out of Pittsfield that had just come on board in January and would be finishing 2022 in August. Chris Swindlehurst asked about previous audits on the website. Phillip Gear got up to speak about line item #56 which is the Demolition Fund. It was explained to him that it is money used regarding properties that the town owns, have been condemned and abandoned and so might be needed for demolition purposes.

Vote was unanimous.

ARTICLE 3 DEBT SERVICE — To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$636,292 to fund debt service due in FY 2024 for previously approved borrowings.

Debt	FY2024 Amount	Maturity Date
Becket Washington School	\$89,874	FY2025
Wahconah RHS Doors	\$8,418	FY2029
Wahconah RHS New Construction	\$167,275	FY2047
High speed Broadband	\$262,045	FY2024
Highway Truck #2 <i>FY21approved</i>	\$62,520	FY2025
Highway Truck #5 <i>FY22approved</i>	\$44,660	FY2024
Interest on Short Term Debt	\$1,500	

Bill Elovirta moved and Chris Swindlehurst seconded it.

Jennifer Beasley got up and asked about the Broadband Project. Dan Parnell answered saying they have not yet spent ongoing debt expense.

Jeremy Dunn then went to the mic to ask how much money will actually hit the tax rate?

Vote was unanimous.

ARTICLE 4 – CAPITAL EXPENDITURES – To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including Free Cash (FC) of \$210,000 and Stabilization Fund (ST) of \$519, 613, or any other sum, to be used to fund the FY 2024 Capital Plan for the Town of Becket. Total being \$801,613.

Project	Amount
Ambulance – new radios	\$22,000 (FC)
Town Hall – upgrade and rewiring of CAT 6 ports	\$20,000 (FC)
Athenaeum - repairs	\$10,000 (FC)
Cultural Council – grant match with State allocation	\$3,000 (FC)
Parks & Rec – resurfacing and lining tennis court	\$35,000 (FC)
Highway – 19' Boom Mower	\$110,000 (FC)
Highway – Tree Work – additional 1 year	\$10,000 (FC)
Fire Dept – First payment of FY23 Fire Truck	\$381,613 (ST)
Fire Dept - SCBA packs	\$210,000 (ST)

Bill Elovirta moved and Chris Swindlehurst seconded.

Jeremy Dunn asked why the stabilization fund was being used and not free cash.

Cathy Terwedow asked for \$3,000 for Cultural Council. She says they get more requests than the money they have for cultural events. She is asking for all for us to consider it. Meredyth Babcock got up to say that maybe we're being a bit overzealous since we have a new "toy" for cutting trees and so asks us to please think about it.

Jen Beatty asked about capital projects. Jodi, the Director from the Athenaeum got up to say that plans for the money are afoot.

The motion passed with a 2/3 vote.

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

ARTICLE 5 – PURCHASE OF HIGHWAY TRUCK – To see if the Town will appropriate \$350,000, or any other amount, to pay costs of purchasing a Western Star 47X dump truck to be used by the Highway Dept, and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; to determine if this amount shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise provided, or take any other action thereto.

Robin Mathiesen moved and Bill Elovirta seconded.

No discussion.

No opposition.

Vote was unanimous.

ARTICLE 6 – TRANSFER TO THE STABILIZATION FUND – To see if the Town will transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$739,318 to be deposited into the Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto. 50% of Free Cash in Stabilization \$399,684 (per Town policy), returning of Storm Money \$165,900 (July 21), along with the remainder of Free Cash \$173, 734.

Bill Elovirta moved. Robin Mathiesen seconded.

Vote was unanimous.

ARTICLE 7 – FY 2022 UNPAID BILLS – To see if the Town will transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$15,914.86 for the following unpaid bills in FY 2022.

BOH - L. Burgwardt mileage	\$76.05
Highway - Morton Salt (3 inv.) not billed in FY22	\$15,703.00
Memorial Day parade- Dufour Tour	\$135.81

Robin Mathiesen moved. Dan Parnell seconded.

Vote was unanimous.

ARTICLE 8 – 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.

Bill Elovirta moved. Michael Lavery seconded.

Ethan Klepetar asks how much in Chapter 90 funds are we receiving? Kathe Warden answered that the State hasn't funded their budget yet.

Vote was unanimous.

ARTICLE 9 – ESTABLISHING A HIGHWAY STABILIZATION FUND – To see if the Town will vote to create a Highway Stabilization Fund for the purpose of funding the maintenance of public ways within the Town and purchase and repair equipment in accordance with Chapter 90 regulations. And to appropriate from Stabilization the sum of \$235,000 for the Highway Stabilization Fund.

Michael Lavery moved. Bill Elovirta seconded.

Vote was unanimous.

ARTICLE 10 – AMBULANCE BUDGET – To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$530,174 for the salaries and expenses of the Ambulance Enterprise; and to fund said appropriation, to raise and appropriate \$355,724 from General Fund, to transfer \$10,000 from Ambulance Sterilization, and to transfer \$164,450 from Fiscal Year 2023 Ambulance Receipts; or take any other action relative thereto.

Bill Elovirta moved. Chris Swindlehurst seconded.

Vote was unanimous.

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

ARTICLE 11 – AMBULANCE STABILIZATION -To see if the Town will transfer the ambulance retained earnings funds sum of \$15,000 to the ambulance stabilization account; or take any other action relative thereto.

Robin Mathiesen moved. Dan Parnell seconded.

No discussion.

Vote was unanimous.

ARTICLE 12 – 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 MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 provided however that said expenditures for the revolving funds shall not exceed the receipts for said fund or take any other action relative thereto.

Program or Purpose	FY 2024 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

Robin Mathiesen moved. Dan Parnell seconded.

No discussion.

Vote was unanimous.

ARTICLE 13 – FY 2024 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION AUTHORIZATION – To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from community Preservation Fiscal Year 2024 estimated annual revenues the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for Committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other expenses in Fiscal Year 2024, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation as set forth.

Appropriations:

Committee Administrative Expenses	\$500
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Reserves:

Historical Resources Reserve	\$7,049.00
Community Housing Reserve	\$7,049.00
Open Space Reserve	\$7,049.00
Undesignated Reserve	\$54,912.00

Bill Elovirta moved. Robin Mathiesen seconded.

Vote was unanimous.

ARTICLE 14 – COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING FOR RECREATIONAL LAND – Esau walking path extension & bridge building – To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$8,700 from Community Preservation Recreational Land Reserves for a trail extension and to build a bridge as part of Esau’s Heel walking path at Jacob’s Well; or take any other action thereto. Dan Parnell moved. Robin Mathiesen seconded.

Jeremy Dunn asked if language could be amended to say “Open Space” instead of “Recreational”. All in favor. Rita Furlong asked if \$7,000 could be put to future use for care of parks, affordable housing and historical preservation.

Vote was unanimous.

ARTICLE 15 - COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING FOR HISTORICAL PURPOSES – Town Hall Cupola

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

restoration – To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$20,000 from the Historical Preservation Funds and \$8,613 from the Undesignated Funds to restore and replace the cupola at Town Hall; or take any other action relative thereto.

Robin Mathiesen moved. Rita Furlong seconded.

Vote was unanimous.

ARTICLE 16 - COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING – COMMUNITY HOUSING – 50 DAWN DRIVE – To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Community Housing Funds the sum of \$25,000 to assist in funding of the Construct affordable housing project located at 50 Dawn Drive; or take any other relative action thereto.

Chris Swindlehurst moved. Michael Lavery seconded.

No discussion.

Passes by a majority.

ARTICLE 17 - COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING – UNDESIGNATED FUNDS FOR BECKET ARTS CENTER

– To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$8,000 from Undesignated Funds and \$2,000 from Historical Preservation Funds, to fund an engineering study to assess the water damage situation at the Becket Arts Center; or take any other action thereto.

Robin Mathiesen moved. Dan Parnell seconded.

Lee Ellis got up to ask since the building is owned by the Town how does this work with the water damage? Jen Beatty, Executive Director of the Becket Arts Center, wanted to thank the Town for the money given towards a new heating and cooling system. Also, water is seeping into the entryway which Bill Caldwell and the Finance Committee had been made aware of. The Finance Committee suggested the CPA for funds.

Vote was unanimous.

ARTICLE 18 - COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING – AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN LENOX, MA – To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$10,000 from Community Housing Funds, to support a regional affordable rental housing development in Lenox, MA requested by PennRose LLC; or take any other action thereto.

Robin Mathiesen moved. Kathe Warden seconded.

Dan Parnell wanted all to know, who were attending the meeting, that this was not recommended by the Select or the Finance committee. Cindy DelPapa stated that they had originally asked for \$100,000 but are now asking for \$10,000. It's on the warrant for affordable rental housing. Becket residents can't be favored but our businesses could be helped in that workers would have an affordable place to live. There would be 65 rental units. Other towns have given larger amounts of money. Barbara Wacholder got up to ask how this would benefit Becket? It's not a non-profit if people want to donate their own money. Mark Hanford said he doesn't understand how this ever got this far onto the warrant. Rita Furlong replied saying that because of a dire shortage of housing this was meant to be a token amount offered as a contribution to show that we accept the reality. Mark Hanford replied saying he understands that but feels we are all doing our part. Cathy Terwedow asked if this will incur other \$10,000 requests or was this a one time only request? Meredyth Babcock got up to say she was glad to see a collaborative effort in the Berkshires to provide housing. Dan Parnell stated that he echoed Mark Hanford's opinion and would like to see CPA funds go to rehabbing places in Becket with Construct.

Vote does not pass.

ARTICLE 19 – SELECT BOARD PETITION TO ESTABLISH A LOCAL EXCISE TAX ON SHORT TERM RENTAL PROPERTIES – To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 64G, Section 3A which will authorize the Town to impose a local excise tax upon the transfer of occupancy of any room or rooms in a bed and bath establishment, hotel, lodging house, short term rental or motel located within the Town of Becket by an owner/operator at a rate of six (6) percent of the total amount of rent for each such occupancy, or taken any other action relative thereto.

Chris Swindlehurst moved. Bill Elovirta seconded.

Diana Mott, who owns Lakeside Lodge, got up to say that she feels the tax is targeting certain people. It's a band-aid and okay, the Town needs the money and so is grasping for it but consider the real reason why we need this money for the Town. If the

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

Town was willing to bring in more business they should form a group to consider this. June Babcock got up and asked if the camps were included in this? Larry Goetz got up to say that State Law says camps are not included. Purr McEwan did research for Kathe Warden on this subject and read her results. Julia Grace got up to say that she owns 3 Air BnB's in the house she lives in. She is not in favor of this tax and feels it's unfair to the little people. Mark Hanford got up to say that Becket is playing catch up on this compared to other towns but did feel that some properties are not properly regulated. Wednesday Sorokin got up to say she has an Air BnB. She thinks the tax could be smaller than 6%. Children and other services are being charged for which only makes it cost more money. Julia Grace got up to ask why larger corporations are not getting charged and just the people using them get charged. Dan Parnell stated that the expectation is that there will be a tax. Dan was about to read a letter written by Bob Healey, who instead got up to say he has been involved with this tax issue for years, and has had no complaints from customers. Al Blake got up to say that he and Dan Parnell had done a lot of investigative work on this subject and wanted to note that there are a lot of BnB's we are not aware of. Dan stated that a 3% community impact fee could give us a whole list of things that will benefit Becket for all the things we spend money on and for all the things people want. Bill Elovirta backed what Dan said regarding the costs of services and so emphasized the Town could use the revenue.

Vote was unanimous.

ARTICLE 20 – CITIZENS PETITION RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT CHANGING THE STATE FLAG AND SEAL OF MASSACHUSETTS

Whereas the history of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is replete with instances of conflict between the European Colonists and the Native Nations of the region, who first extended the hand of friendship to the Colonists on their shores in 1620, and helped them to survive starvation during the settlers first winters on their land;

Whereas members of the Native Nation for whom the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is named were ambushed and killed by Myles Standish the first commander of the Plymouth Colony, at Wessagusett (now Weymouth) in April of 1623, barely two years after the Pilgrims arrived;

Whereas the Colonial broadsword held by a white hand above the head of the indigenous person on the Massachusetts Flag and Seal is modeled after Myles Standish's own broadsword, borrowed for that purpose from the Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth by the illustrator Edmund Garrett in 1884;

Whereas the belt binding the Native's cloak on the Flag and Seal is modeled after a belt worn by Metacomet known to the English as King Philip who was among the Indigenous leaders that resorted to a mutually destructive war in 1675-1676 in defense of Native lands against Colonial encroachment;

Whereas the proportions of the body of the Indigenous person on the Flag and Seal were taken from the skeleton of an Indigenous person unearthed in Winthrop; the bow modeled after a bow taken from an Indigenous man shot and killed by a colonist in Sudbury in 1665; and the facial features taken from a photograph of an Ojibwe chief from Great Falls, Montana, considered by illustrator to be a "fine specimen of an Indian" though not from Massachusetts;

Whereas the history of relations between Massachusetts, since Colonial times, and the Native Nations who continue to live within its borders includes the forced internment of thousands of so-called "praying Indians" on Deer Island, in Boston Harbor, where they died by the hundreds of exposure in the winter of 1675, the enslavement of Indigenous people in Boston, Bermuda, and the Caribbean Islands, the offering of 40 pounds sterling as bounty for the scalps of Indigenous men, women, and children in Massachusetts beginning in 1686 increased to 100 pounds sterling for the scalps of Indigenous adult males by 1722, half that amount for Indigenous women and children;

Whereas Indigenous people were legally prohibited from even stepping foot into Boston from 1675 until 2004 when that Colonial law was finally repealed;

Whereas the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Colonists at Plymouth Plantation, which gave rise to the long chain of genocidal wars and deliberate government policies of cultural destruction against Native Nations of the continent, occurred in the year 2020, affording every citizen of the Commonwealth a chance to reflect upon this history and come to an appreciation of the need for better relations between the descendants of the Colonial immigrants and the Native Nations of the Commonwealth;

Whereas the land area once now known as the Town of Becket, shares a rich Native History with modern tribal nations such as the Mohicans and the Abenakis, who lived there for thousands of years before the first colonial settlers arrived in 1740;

Now, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Becket hereby adopts this resolution in support of the work of the Special Commission on the Official Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth, established by a Resolve of the General Court in 2021 and appointed by the Governor to recommend changes to the current flag and seal of Massachusetts, and in support of a new flag

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

and seal for the Commonwealth that may better reflect our aspirations for harmonious and respectful relations between all people who now call Massachusetts home. The Town Clerk shall forward a copy of this resolution to Senator Paul Mark and Representative Smitty Pignatelli, with the request that they continue their strong advocacy and support for the work of the aforementioned Special Commission and a new flag and seal for the Commonwealth.

Robin Mathiesen moved. Michael Lavery seconded.

Al Blake, who submitted this petition, got up to read a statement about the history of the flag and seal.

Vote was unanimous.

ARTICLE 21 - CITIZENS PETITION RESOLUTION PROTECTING ADULT ACCESS TO PLANT MEDICINES & PRIORITIZING PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSES TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE POSSESSION –

WHEREAS: “entheogenic plants,” a term originally classified by anthropologists and ethnobotanists in 1979, are herein defined as the full spectrum of psychedelic plants, fungi, and natural materials containing indole amines, tryptamines, phenethylamines, including psilocybin mushrooms, ayahuasca, cacti, and iboga; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Becket hereby maintains that the use and possession of all controlled substances should be understood first, and primarily, as an issue of public health by town departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and all employees of the town; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Becket hereby believes that it should be policy of the Town of Becket that the arrest of persons for using or possessing controlled substances for personal, adult therapeutic, shall be amongst the lowest law enforcement priority for the Town of Becket; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Becket hereby recommends it should be the policy of the Town of Becket that the investigation and arrest of persons for planting, cultivating, purchasing, transporting, distribution by caregivers, engaging in practices with, and/or possessing entheogenic plants, for the purpose of therapeutic purposes, listed in Classes A-E of Chapter 94C § 31 of Massachusetts law or Schedules I-V of 21 U.S.C. § 812 of the Controlled Substances Act shall be amongst the lowest law enforcement priority for the Town of Becket; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution does not authorize or enable any of the following activities: commercial sale of entheogenic plants and fungi, cultivation for large scale distribution, possessing or distributing these materials on school grounds, use or distribution of these plants to individuals under 21 years of age, driving under the influence of these materials, or public disturbance; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Becket calls upon the town’s officials to work in support of decriminalizing entheogenic plants and approaching all controlled substances first and primarily through the lens of public health and restorative racial justice initiatives when representing the town in conversations with state and federal agencies as well as state and federal lawmakers; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Becket expresses support for HD 3829, An Act Establishing Task Force to Study Equitable Access to Entheogenic Plants, which will convene 21 experts in science, drug policy, economic and racial justice, and state government to recommend legislation to legalize entheogenic plants as well as expunge records and create equity initiatives for victims of the entire war on drugs. This task force requires the study to be done through the lens of racial justice, sustainability, and consideration for BIPOC, veterans, and people with disabilities; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Town of Becket shall send a copy of this Resolution to Representative William “Smitty” Pignatelli and Senator Paul Mark, Governor Maura Healey, Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell, Berkshire County District Attorney Timothy J. Shugrue, Berkshire County Sheriff Thomas Bowler and Becket Police Chief Kristopher McDonough. Michael Lavery moved. Robin Mathiesen seconded.

Michael Lavery spoke about magic mushrooms, PTSD and hospice care. He talked about the legalization in the states of Washington and Oregon. Cambridge, and other towns in Massachusetts, have decriminalized psilocybin – the lowest priority for our police force. The House and Senate have a bill for them right now regarding the possession of 2 grams of mushrooms.

Mark Hanford thinks Becket should step away from this until we have more information. Kris McDonough, Police Chief, opposes this petition feeling it puts undue decision making on the police. Michael Lavery responded saying that the Commonwealth has decided cannabis is legal which is a reason why it would not be a major problem for the police or the law. Jeremy Dunn stated he is neither for or against this petition but would like to hear legal counsels’ opinion – would there be any

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

risk to Becket? Joel Bard, legal counsel, stated it's not legalizing anything. It's just asking police to make it a lower priority and telling the police that the Town Meeting supported this idea. It doesn't violate any laws. Linda Benton got up to say she was sympathetic to helping people with this but wonders how the Police can determine the differences – she was confused as to the solution and missing the connection. Michael Lavery said he didn't think it was a huge controversial issue. Ethan Klepetar ended the debate and asked for any more questions.

The motion did not pass.

ARTICLE 22 - ANNUAL ELECTION – Requirement of notification and a warning to the inhabitants of Becket, who are qualified to vote in Town elections, that they meet at Precinct 1 in Becket Town Hall at 557 Main Street, Becket on Saturday, May 20th 2023 then and there to bring in their votes for the election of the following Town Officers.

Robin Mathiesen moved. Chris Swindlehurst seconded.

Motion passed.

1 Member, Select Board (3 yr term)
1 Member, Board of Health (3 yr term)
1 Member, Cemetery Commissioner (3 yr term)
1 Member, Cemetery Commissioner (2 yr term)
1 Member, Finance Committee (3 yr term)
1 Member, Planning Board (5 yr term)
1 Moderator
1 Town Clerk (3 yr term)

All of said officers to be voted for on the official ballots furnished at the polls. The polls will be opened at 10AM and closed at 7PM. It was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn to the Annual Town Election which will be held one week from today on May 20, 2023, starting at 10AM.

A vote was taken and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

The Tellers were Election Workers Lawrence Goetz and Alvin Blake.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin C. Mathiesen
Town Clerk

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION, MAY 20, 2023

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the State Election was held in the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street, on May 20th, 2023. The polling hours were 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Prior to the polls opening, the Ballot Box was publicly opened, examined and found to be empty; the register was set at zero. The results of the election are as follows:

Votes

Member, Select Board (Vote for One)

Blanks	0
Robert Ronzio	18
Jeff Piemont	176
Write Ins	1
TOTAL VOTES	195

Member, Board of Health (Vote for One)

Blanks	93
Robert Ronzio	63
Write Ins	39
TOTAL VOTES	195

Cemetery Commissioner (Vote for One)

Blanks	23
Dean Williams	169
Write Ins:	3
TOTAL VOTES	195

Member, Finance Committee (Vote for One)

Blanks	36
Ellen Manley	155
Write Ins	4
TOTAL VOTES	195

Moderator (Vote for One)

Blanks	22
Ethan Klepetar	173
Write Ins:	0
TOTAL VOTES	195

Member, Planning Board (Vote for One)

Blanks	4
Ann Krawet	112
Michael Lavery	58
Diana Mott	21
Write Ins:	0
TOTAL VOTES	195

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

Town Clerk (Vote for One)

Blanks	16
Robin C. Mathiesen	179
Write Ins:	<u>6</u>
TOTAL VOTES	195

Town of Becket, Total Registered Voters:	<u>1681</u>
Ballots cast:	<u>195</u>
% Percent Voting	12%

A total of 195 votes were cast. There were 0 absentee ballots, 32 early voting ballots, 0 provisional ballots, 0 spoiled ballots, and 0 Specially Qualified voters. The AutoMARK voter was never requested or used. Election Officials were Charles Francis (Warden), Sue Crossley (Clerk), Larry Goetz, Alvin Blake, Julia Kay-Grace, Tori Bleier, Susan Purser, and Chris Felker. The Constable was Bill Elovirta. The polls closed at 7:00 p.m. and the unofficial results were printed and posted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin C. Mathiesen, ***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.

In 2023, the Community Preservation Committee received four requests for funding. They include a request for additional trail work on the Esau's Heel Trail system, a request for engineering studies at the Becket Arts Center, an affordable house receivership on Dawn Drive, and a request for the restoration of the cupola on the Town Hall. The previous year's projects are substantially completed.

The news from the Commonwealth: due to the lower than usual home sales, the source of funding from the state, the amount Becket will receive is only \$13,553.00 and may not include a supplemental state budget amount.

Applications for a project must be received by the end of February each year. Guidelines and the application form may be found on the Town of Becket 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,

Rita Furlong, *Chair*



◆ COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT ◆
FY 2023 REPORT

FY 2023 Appropriated by Category	Community Housing	Historical	Open Space	Recreation	Budget Reserves	Committee Admin Expenses	Total Appropriation
Project:							
Committee Administrative Expenses Article 13						\$500.00	
Total Appropriated for Projects for FY 2023	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
FY 2023 Expenses against approved Projects: No projects							
Total Expended during FY 2023 against approved projects	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
FY 2023 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	\$7,133.57	\$7,133.57	\$7,133.57	\$0.00	\$49,934.96		\$71,335.67
FY 2023	Estimated	Actual	Actual vs. Budget				
FY 2023 Local Revenue CPA 1.5%	\$58,329.44	\$65,407.61	\$7,087.17				
FY 2023 State Percentage Match of Local Revenue	\$13,506.23	\$21,148.00	\$7,641.77				
Totals by Fiscal Year	\$71,835.67	\$86,555.61	\$14,719.94				

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

The Seniors always look forward to seeing each other during our regularly scheduled luncheon and bingo pursuits. Sometimes to mix things up, we order take-out food such as pizza or wraps. Here are a few highlights and items I would like to mention:

- We would like to thank Papa Bob's for opening early for us to serve us a great lunch. We also returned there for our Christmas party because last year everyone had a lovely time at this venue. They served codfish, prime rib and stuffed shrimp. Santa even paid us a visit. If you appreciate fine food and charming company, please join us next year. We hope to celebrate with you.
- During 2023, we combined a party with our senior luncheon to celebrate the holidays.
- During the summertime, five of us took a bus tour starting in Lee to venture out to the Foxwoods Casino. All we will say about our excursion, "What happens at Foxwoods stays at Foxwoods!"
- We heartily thank the Becket Ambulance Department for conducting monthly blood pressure clinics in the Community Room in conjunction with our gatherings.

Please join us for lunch at the Becket Town Hall, Tuesdays & Thursdays from 11AM till 2PM:

Lunch is served at 11AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Becket Town Hall's Community Room on the lower level. We play Bingo following lunch. Reservations are required so that enough meals are ordered. You may sign-up to attend lunch by calling (413) 623-8934 extension 127 or you may call my mobile cell phone at (413) 281-4697. 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 \$3.00 payable at the door.

Newcomers are welcome. We hope you can come out and join us during 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Bergeron,
On Site Director & Treasurer



◆ **REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS** ◆

West Becket Cemetery is in good condition with ongoing upkeep. We continue working on the maintenance of stones and will be looking into the possibility of accepting cremations for burial.

William "Bill" Cavanaugh, North Becket Cemetery Commissioner, passed away in February 2023. Michelle Smith and Dean Williams have been filling in as best as they can.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

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

In 2023, the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) continued to hold hybrid, virtual and in-person meetings in accordance with Section 20 of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 (An Act Relative to Amending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency (Section 20) which extended the provisions pertaining to Open Meeting Law to March 31, 2025). The ZBA met in February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, November, and December. Our Vice Chair Victoria Bleier resigned from the ZBA. As a devoted member for many years Tori's presence on the ZBA will be missed. The board welcomed new member Thomas Salzer.

In February, an application carried over from 2022 was dismissed without prejudice.

In March, the ZBA held a public hearing to review a Site Plan for 358 George Carter Road, submitted by Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Inc. The applicant sought relief from Section 3.1.3 of the Becket Zoning Bylaws to construct a new theater, fire protection structures, and above ground water tank and pump house. After discussion the ZBA approved the project.

In May, the ZBA held a public hearing to review a Special Permit application for 177 East Shore Road. The applicant sought relief from Section 3.4.5 of the Becket Zoning Bylaws to demolish an existing single-family home and replace it with a new single-family home. The proposed project reduced the amount of non-conformity on the lot. After discussion the ZBA approved the project.

In addition, many informal discussions took place to address questions from the public on a variety of topics. The ZBA would like to thank Tess Lundberg, for her dedication as the board's Clerk of Committees. The board would also like to thank Town Counsel and the Building Inspector for their support and guidance.

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. Please contact the board at zba@townofbecket.org for additional information. Meetings are held as needed on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 P.M. at via the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Hoecker, ***Chairman***

Board Members:

Sarah Hoecker, ***Chair***

Robin Mathiesen, ***Vice Chair***

Mary Canty, ***Clerk***

Jeffrey Wilkinson

Thomas Salzer

Alvin Blake, ***Associate Member***

Chris Milenkevich, ***Associate Member***

Tess Lundberg, ***Administrative Assistant to the ZBA***

◆ **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 (\$2.00 each) may be purchased at the Town Hall, through the town's website, or through businesses listed on the town's website. In addition, at the Transfer Station, bag stickers may also be purchased in \$20.00 increments payable by check to the Town of Becket. 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, box springs, stuffed chairs, couches, bulky waste and appliances containing Freon require a separate disposal fee (payable by check to the Town of Becket, cash is not accepted) at the Transfer Station. 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 oils.

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 work with the Tri

Town Health Department to arrange for our residents to participate in two hazardous waste collections per year.

This year the town has recycled, collected and processed 63.14 tons of paper, 56.22 tons of cans and bottles, 29.97 tons of scrap metals, 183.29 tons of bulky waste, 391.51 tons of solid waste, 491 fluorescent light bulbs, and 364 car and truck tires.

I would like to thank our Transfer Station Attendants Bob Will, George Crochiere, and Maurice Vandesteene for all of their hard work and dedication to the Town of Becket.

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 8:30am to 4:30pm) at 413-623-8934 or the Highway Department (Monday through Friday 6am to 2:30pm) at 413-623-8988.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Pickert
Highway Superintendent



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

The Becket Scholarship Foundation was pleased to award scholarships to eight Becket students: Ryan Adams, Shea Andrews, Angelina Artioli, Sheffield Drewry, Anna Fusco, McKenzie LaBier, MaKayla Schruer and Nicole Shanahan. We continue our partnership with Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation thus expanding the scholarship awards to Becket students. As part of this coordination, Sheffield Drewry was recommended by The Becket Scholarship Foundation to receive the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation scholarship. The total

amount of the awards was \$9,500.00 inclusive of the award from Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. The Becket Scholarship Foundation accepts scholarship applications for post-secondary training and college applicants. These scholarships are made possible through the donations of our generous supporters.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Rodhouse, *Secretary*

REPORT OF THE

◆ WESTFIELD RIVER WILD & SCENIC COMMITTEE ◆

Wild and Scenic is a designation given to a river based on National Legislation that passed in 1968, when Lyndon B. Johnson was the President. The Westfield river is one of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers (See: rivers.gov). With 30 years in the System and partnership with the National Park Service, the Committee meets to care for the river and the watershed, riparian life within the water and life in the surrounding environment. The Committee pays attention to the water resources, terrestrial resources, cultural and historic resources, as well as recreational integrity.

Our website was extensively updated, revised and we hope easy to navigate on the internet. (See: www.westfieldriverwildscenic.org).

Stream Crossing Upgrade program is continuing their support for replacement of culverts to meet current standards related to increase flood flows. The Committee funded and managed the \$153,000 project plus \$12,000 in technical assistance to complete initial design and engineering for culvert upgrades in nine Wild & Scenic towns. We are pleased to report two towns have already received additional state grants to continue to advance the design and permitting. Culverts are made from different materials depending on intended use and topographical environment. Common materials used to construct a culvert are concrete, aluminum, PVC or galvanized steel. A culvert is present beneath a roadway to allow water, wildlife and fish to pass freely.

Wild and Scenic Westfield River Committee engaged Action Research, a behavior change marketing firm, to develop an outreach plan to look into anti-icing on the roadways and invasive species management within the ten towns in the Wild & Scenic portion of the watershed. A river-friendly improvement using a community based social marketing scheme will be employed soon.

There are three major branches of the Westfield River. The Worthington section of the Middle branch is contiguous with that of the Town of Middlefield. Further south from South Worthington, is the Army Corp. of Engineers Knightville Dam, located in the Town of Huntington. This is a structure used to manage flood-ing. December 2023 saw a grand amount of water, as there was a great rain and unseasonably warm weather.

The Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee awarded grant funding to many conservation, river protection and stewardship projects. The River Conservation Grants are open to all ten of the Wild & Scenic towns and nonprofits working

within these towns to advance the mission of the Wild & Scenic program. The application is available on the website. This year the Committee awarded the following grants:

- Westfield River Watershed Association (\$1,975) for porta-a-potties for the Wildwater Race.
- Westfield River Watershed Association (\$1,550) for two puppet making workshops for youth followed by a puppet parade as part of the Watershed Association's Wildwater Race.
- Gateway Regional School District (\$3,600) to support a summer school program to teach students about river life and create murals at the playing fields. Additional support was provided by Wild & Scenic Out-reach Coordinator and Committee members.
- Wild & Scenic Westfield River Library Program (\$2,000) for a gift of river themed books for the ten Wild & Scenic town libraries.
- Town of Washington (\$16,000) for additional design refinements and permitting for a road-stream crossing replacement at Frost Road.
- Town of Becket (\$20,000) for additional design and permitting for a road-stream crossing upgrade on Benton Hill Road.
- Town of Chester (\$850) to help fund a beaver control structure to reduce flooding and erosion at Lyman Road.
- Massachusetts Audubon Society (\$11,330) for a Conservation Restriction on 175 acre parcel in Windsor.

Ongoing work is being done to improve Visitor Use at the many roadside spots along the Westfield River. The Committee had a visit at a monthly meeting from graduate students at UMASS who are specifically encouraging Women on the Land. (See: <http://masswoods.org/caring-your-land/women-land>). The libraries in the watershed will see books relating to environmental, ecological, and generally river-friendly literature. The Committee sponsored the purchase of the materials.

Our Outreach Coordinator worked with three Interns and the Watershed community to address the non-native plant population, native pollinator plants, and riverside clean-ups. Informative videos on a wide range of topics were created with experts who provide insights into the wilds of the river. The videos are available through the website. In May, the

◆ **WESTFIELD RIVER WILD & SCENIC COMMITTEE** ◆

(Continued)

Committee helped sponsor a Wilderness First Aid Training that occurred at Notchview Reservation in Windsor. The three interns and our Outreach Coordinator participated in this training.

While the town declined participation in the latest round of the road stream crossing program, the Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee was able to provide technical assistance and awarded a \$20,000 Conservation and Stewardship grant to the Town of Becket to continue work on the upgrade of the Benton Hill Road – Center Pond Brook crossing. This crossing was one of the pilot sites for the Committee's crossing upgrade program and has received state grant money for design. The crossing was significantly damaged by heavy rains in spring.

The Committee's Chair and Outreach Coordinator was pleased to be asked to present at the Becket Arts Center. The program included background on the National Wild & Scenic

Program, the Westfield River's designation and some of the recent work of the Committee.

Finding ways to care for the river is in part a reciprocity of action that gives humans a chance to be in Nature as an agent for the survival of the planet. If you are interested in more information regarding what this Committee is doing and how you can be involved, contact Mary Latham, the Becket representative for the Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee or email the Committee (info@westfieldriverwildscenic.org).

Respectfully submitted,

L. Schaff, *Secretary*
Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee



◆ *REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION* ◆

The Historical Commission (HC) meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m. in its Town Hall office. The commissioners are Sandra Jarvis (2024)-Chair, Rita Furlong (2025)-Treasurer, John Garvey (2024)-Clerk and CPC representative, Gail Kusek (2024) and Michael Lavery (2026). Welcome to new member, Michael Lavery, who joined the HC in June. There are still two more available positions for new commissioners.

Former commissioner W. Katherine Hoak continues to volunteer with the HC, aiding with office work from home. The Commissioners thank her for her continued support.

Actions

- The HC applied for CPA funds to rebuild and re-install the old grammar school **cupola** to the town hall roof. The grant was approved by the voters. The discovery of two broken roof truss members, the need for extra support beams in the attic and installation of lightning protection for the building have contributed to a delay. The Town Administrator has obtained a grant to cover the cost of the lightning protection and new cost estimates are being worked on.
- The HC is reinstating the **Historic Building Plaque** program that was started about 30 years ago. The new signs are on a white 9" x 15" plaque with black lettering. Recently the HC purchased 5 of the plaques for historic public buildings. New plaques have been installed on the Old Town Hall (Guild Hall), First Congregational Church, Seminary Hall (Becket Arts Center), North Congregational Church (Athenaeum) and the Dr. Brewster House. However, beginning in 2024 the vendor price has increased from \$90 to \$140 for each plaque and from \$15 to \$25 for shipping. The HC is looking for another vendor who can offer a better price for property owners who want to purchase the plaques. Program updates will be posted around town, in the Becket Community Forum FaceBook page and through the town electronic notifications and website.
- Commissioners renovated the **HC office** adding new storage shelves, wall paint and flooring. Rita hung several photos and maps on the office walls, grouped geographically.
- Site visit on **Leonhardt Road** to view an old foundation and hearthstone etched with "1791." The HC does not believe the foundation is of 1791 construction and is not aware of any historical significance.

- Sponsored the Becket **Baseball** display at Town Hall by Larry Moore, retired Physical Education teacher and Director of Baseball in the Berkshires, Inc.



- Site visit with **Ballou Basket** descendants, Alice Ballou Morse, and Ted Olmsted. Visited the Mullen House basket display, Ballou Memorial Park and Town Hall for more baskets and HC information including the Snow Genealogy.
- HC office visitation with a descendant of the Goodhind brothers who emigrated from England and worked in local paper mills. Two of the brothers were superintendents of the **Union Mill** in the **Bancroft** section of Becket and Middlefield. John shared the materials, including photos, we have on the mill.
- Research projects: location of **Dewey Tavern** (possibly on Hamilton Road) sign for Indigenous American grinding stone at **Ballou Park** and Michael and Gail continued documenting Revolutionary and Civil War veterans from Becket. HC is planning to pass along the names of any Becket residents who died in battle to the organizers of the annual Memorial Day observance.
- Revisited placing an interpretive sign for the closed **spring** on Route 20. This was previously discussed at the May 2022 HC meeting. No action was taken: 1) Research did not find a reliable, documented history, 2) the entire area is privately owned by two different parties and 3) permission would have to be granted from the parties and possibly by the Massachusetts Highway Department, who may not be in favor of anything that would encourage people to pull over at that location.
- Obtained a set of historic **Ephraim Walker** papers brought to the HC's attention by a *Becket Beat* writer. The papers will be digitalized and transcribed before archiving them appropriately.
- Gail completed uploading 200+ photos of the **1927 flood** to the HC computer and organized them so they can be easily researched in preparation for the 100th anniversary of Becket Flood in 2027.
- Met with **Jacob's Pillow** archivist to arrange future Town Hall exhibit of Jacob's Pillow artifacts.

Gifts

- **Photographs** from 1927-1928 received from Kathy Sandford who believes her grandfather Arthur Harvey, a

Report of the Historical Commission

(Continued)

railroad repairman, was in Becket to help after the **North Becket Flood of 1927**.

- Lydia Rosner has scanned many Becket **postcards** and given them to the HC on a thumb drive.
- Linda Bart donated a sign that was used during the campaign to purchase the **Becket Quarry**.
- Terry Rinaldi donated Boy Scouts of America items from **Troop 25**.
- Sandi donated computer **speakers**; primarily for the HC to participate in Zoom meetings with the office computer.
- David and Mary Fuller have donated numerous items to the town, including old town reports, news articles and voting records. These were donated in memory of **Charles D. Rice, former Becket Police Chief**
- **Military uniform** was left in the HC office, if you have any information about this gift please contact the HC.

Queries

- **State Historic Registry**, two ways to register a historic house: 1) list the historically accurate house separately on the National Register or 2) to expand an existing National Historic District. However, the Historical Commission would need to upgrade the documentation of the district to meet new standards. The state coordinator advised that the new standards usually require the hiring of a consultant. Independent of the State Historic Registry, the Historic Commission can submit a **MACRIS** (MA Cultural Resources Information System) application to the state for the house. Additionally, homeowners can apply for a Becket Historical Commission plaque.
- **Yokum Pond** name: According to the book, **The Berkshire Hills** published in 1939, the pond was “named for the Indian Chief Yokun (sometimes spelled Yokum), once a mighty landowner in Becket. Despite his real-estate activities and the wealth which must have been his, he is believed to have drowned himself in the waters of the pond.”
- **Chester and Becket Railroad** referred to the Historical Facts page provided by the HC at: <https://www.townofbecket.org/historical-commission/pages/historical-facts> and to the Chester Railroad Museum in Chester.

- **Becket Athenaeum** staff is looking for photos of the first library, a former saloon past Main Street just over the river and railroad tracks and the second, a house located on Pleasant Street which once displayed the large 12' x 2' sign “H. Cerelia Snow Memorial Library.” The sign is now at the Athenaeum’s third and present location on 3367 Main Street. No photos are known to exist of the original library, but the 1889 Panorama Map does provide a sketch of all 3 buildings.



- Burial site for Claus/Klaus **Timmermann/Timmerman** in North Becket Cemetery, he passed away on August 19, 1941. This burial is not recorded in any of our town records.
- Request for copies of **Greenwater Pond historic postcards** on display at Town Hall. The HC was able to share digital files for a dozen post cards of the area.
- Becket grave sites for ancestors **Stevens** (Horatio and Lucretia), **Meach** (Orrin and Orilla) and **Jarvis**, who were among the Becket residents who left in the early 1800s to settle in the Western Reserve in Ohio. Twenty burial sites of ancestors were found in Egremont and Sheffield, but none in Becket.
- Identity of **Rt. 20 ruins** at GPS coordinates 42.2646, -73.0423 and information on **Town Pound** on Main Street. Matt Adams, stone ruins investigator, has posted a video of the remains he believes to be a fulling mill off Route 20 on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/gWuDIwhnmYs>). He narrowed its construction down to a 40-year period between 1755 and 1795. The Pound, along RT. 8, was built 40' square by 6' tall in 1768 to contain roaming livestock.
- Berkshire Magazine staff were provided with historical information and pictures of the **Dream Away** site for their April/May article.
- Washington HC regarding the **Alvah Eames diary**. Eames was a First Congregational Church of Becket deacon and died in Becket about 1877. They have located a digital copy in Australia (<https://kentleu.com/uploads/AlvahEamesDiary.pdf>) and asked for assistance in transcribing the file. Becket HC shared a list of resources and tutorials on how to transcribe old scripts and an offer to use our large book scanner to create digital images that can be edited making them easier to read.

Report of the Historical Commission

(Continued)

- Request to verify various **Broga** family burial dates. HC shared information found in church records.
- A high school student researching the Revolutionary War asked about Rev. Ebenezer Martin, the first settled minister of the First Congregational Church of Becket, and his son, **Joseph Plumb Martin**, born in Becket. Joseph wrote a book about his war experiences, The Diary of Joseph Plumb Martin, A Revolutionary War Soldier published in 1830, considered by scholars as one of the best firsthand accounts of the war.
- Sentry Equipment in Forest, VA asked for photos of the **Golden Fleece** mill in Bancroft (former Union Mill) from the 1940s. They are working on a documentary on conveyors. John sent them our information and photos.
- Are our town **history books** available in PDF form? No, the decision was made not to disseminate the book in PDF form. Hardcopies may be purchased at Town Hall or from the town website.
- An inquiry regarding openings in the **West Becket Cemetery** was forwarded to the Cemetery Commissioners.
- Information on **Becket Fire Department** history from Mark Hanford. The HC provided a copy of the history written by former Chief Salvini, photos, and information, on a flash drive.
- Verification of a **Doc Houston** who lived on the east side of **Greenwater Pond**. The HC has not found a Doc Houston but did share an article, maps, and photo about former Houston residents and the Houston's Greenwater Pond Lodge located on the east side of Rt. 20 near George Carter Road.
- **Deer Inn** property on Jacob's Ladder Road at Fred Snow Road. HC shared information on the property and historic cairn. Also, information on the nearby property at the former Jacob's Well site.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra L. Jarvis, *Chair*



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

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

<u>Fiscal Year/Tax</u>	<u>Balance 07/01/2022</u>	<u>Commitments</u>	<u>Collected</u>	<u>Refunds</u>	<u>Abatements</u>	<u>Tax Title Transfers</u>	<u>Balance 06/30/2023</u>
2023							
Real Estate		\$6,569,909.59	\$6,272,842.34		\$36,101.49		\$260,965.76
Personal Property		\$431,231.62	\$427,916.92		\$269.07		\$3,045.63
Motor Vehicle		\$290,198.57	\$270,220.17	\$5,671.82	\$5,931.07		\$19,719.15
Fees			\$11,971.98				
Interest			\$18,898.50				
2022							
Real Estate	\$288,360.94		\$28,435.47		\$89,913.74	\$96,514.28	\$73,497.45
Personal Property	\$2,511.65		\$845.29		\$473.36		\$1,193.00
Motor Vehicle	\$23,322.18	\$31,324.01	\$48,496.09	\$2,526.72	\$2,498.71		\$6,178.11
Fees			\$11,100.45				
Interest			\$12,274.74				
2021							
Real Estate	\$110,551.99		\$46,615.23			\$13,387.98	\$50,548.78
Personal Property	\$2,995.72		\$600.88				\$2,394.84
Motor Vehicle	\$5,514.54		\$2,779.59	\$94.56	\$85.15		\$2,744.36
Fees			\$3,012.00				
Interest			\$12,937.28				
2020							
Real Estate	\$70,985.21		\$34,523.74	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,659.76	\$23,801.71
Personal Property	\$2,573.52		\$411.94				\$2,161.58
Motor Vehicle	\$1,011.39		\$82.75				\$928.64
Fees			\$741.00				
Interest			\$13,247.75				
Pre 2020 Years							
Real Estate	\$42,421.86	\$0.00	\$17,610.84	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,305.36	\$18,505.66
Personal Property	\$9,979.52	\$0.00	\$499.14	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,480.38
Motor Vehicle	\$12,776.87	\$0.00	\$396.98	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$0.00	\$12,379.89
Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,622.46				
Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,762.54				

◆ **TOWN OF BECKET FINANCIAL REPORT** ◆

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD.</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
01-118-5500 ADVERTISING		\$4,000.00		\$1,370.94	\$2,629.06	34.27%
118 - Total		\$4,000.00		\$1,370.94	\$2,629.06	34.27 %
01-122-5100 SELECTMEN SALARIES		\$6,822.00		\$6,822.00		100.00 %
01-122-5500 SELECTMEN EXPENSES		\$2,200.00		\$1,446.27	\$753.73	65.73 %
01-122-5500-5845 TOWN MEETING EXPENSE		\$6,000.00		\$2,743.00	\$3,257.00	45.71 %
01-122-5800-5015 PRINT AND BIND BYLAWS	\$5,000.00				\$5,000.00	0.00 %
122 - SELECTMEN Total	\$5,000.00	\$15,022.00		\$11,011.27	\$9,010.73	54.99 %
01-129-5100 TOWN ADMINISTRATOR SALARIES		\$84,888.00	\$-364.00	\$82,490.11	\$2,033.89	97.59 %
01-129-5500 TOWN ADMINISTRATOR EXPENSES		\$2,200.00		\$1,841.74	\$358.26	83.71 %
01-129-5100-5110 STAFF COVERAGE		\$3,500.00		\$1,615.91	\$1,884.09	46.16 %
01-129-5100-5111 CLERK OF COMMITTEES		\$20,400.00		\$17,290.26	\$3,109.74	84.75 %
129 - TOWN ADMINISTRATOR Total		\$110,988.00	\$-364.00	\$103,238.02	\$7,385.98	93.32 %
01-131-5500 FINANCE COMM. EXPENSES		\$600.00		\$138.00	\$462.00	23.00 %
131 - FINANCE COMMITTEE Total		\$600.00		\$138.00	\$462.00	23.00 %
01-135-5100 TOWN ACCOUNTANT SALARIES		\$26,638.00		\$26,637.66	\$0.34	99.99 %
01-135-5500 OUTSIDE PAYROLL EXPENSES	\$-1,172.24	\$8,000.00	\$1,172.24	\$9,065.22	\$-1,065.22	113.31 %
01-135-5500-5400 TOWN ACCOUNTANT EXPENSE		\$400.00		\$400.00		100.00 %
135-TOWN ACCOUNTANT Total	\$-1,172.24	\$35,038.00	\$1,172.24	\$36,102.88	\$-1,064.88	103.03 %
01-141-5100 ASSESSOR SALARIES		\$65,000.00	\$-7,985.64	\$45,728.32	\$11,286.04	80.20 %
01-141-5500 ASSESSOR EXPENSES		\$72,000.00		\$62,723.12	\$9,276.88	87.11 %
141-ASSESSORS Total		\$137,000.00	\$-7,985.64	\$108,451.44	\$20,562.92	84.06 %
01-145-5100 TREASURER SALARIES	\$-2.54	\$49,543.00	\$2.54	\$49,254.40	\$288.60	99.41 %
01-145-5500 TREASURER EXPENSES		\$5,000.00		\$2,799.68	\$2,200.32	55.99 %
145 - TREASURER Total	\$-2.54	\$54,543.00	\$2.54	\$52,054.08	\$2,488.92	95.43 %
01-146-5100 TAX COLLECTOR SALARIES		\$61,757.00	\$8.68	\$61,700.40	\$56.60	99.90 %
01-146-5110 ASST TAX COLLECTOR SALARIES		\$51,398.00		\$51,343.92	\$54.08	99.89 %
01-146-5500 TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSES		\$8,280.00		\$5,510.51	\$2,769.49	66.55 %
01-146-5800-5819 KVS SOFTWARE UPGRADE	\$4,045.00				\$4,045.00	0.00 %
146 - TAX COLLECTOR Total	\$4,036.32	\$121,435.00	\$8.68	\$118,554.83	\$6,925.17	94.48 %
01-147-5500 TAX TITLE EXPENSES		\$30,000.00		\$35,070.92		100.00 %
01-147-5800 TAX TITLE EXPENSES		\$30,000.00	\$5,070.92	\$35,070.92		100.00 %
147 - TAX TITLE Total		\$30,000.00	\$5,070.92	\$35,070.92		100.00 %
01-150-5100 TOWN SECRETARY SALARIES	\$-10.50	\$49,663.00	\$10.50	\$49,631.77	\$31.23	99.93 %
150 -TOWN SECRETARY Total	\$-10.50	\$49,663.00	\$10.50	\$49,631.77	\$31.23	99.93 %
01-151-5500 TOWN COUNSEL EXPENSES		\$20,000.00	\$-5,070.92	\$12,856.10	\$2,072.98	86.11 %
151 - TOWN COUNSEL Total		\$20,000.00	\$-5,070.92	\$12,856.10	\$2,072.98	86.11 %
01-155-5500 AUDIT EXPENSES	\$18,000.00	\$23,000.00		\$14,100.00	\$26,900.00	34.39 %
155 - AUDIT Total	\$18,000.00	\$23,000.00		\$14,100.00	\$26,900.00	34.39 %
01-156-5500 POSTAGE EXPENSES		\$12,000.00		\$12,000.00		100.00 %
156 - POSTAGE Total		\$12,000.00		\$12,000.00		100.00 %
01-157-5500 TOWN REPORT EXPENSES		\$3,500.00		\$3,338.40	\$161.60	95.38 %
157 - TOWN REPORT Total		\$3,500.00		\$3,338.40	\$161.60	95.38 %
01-161-5100 TOWN CLERK SALARIES		\$31,279.00	\$1,699.44	\$32,978.44		100.00 %

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD.</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
01-161-5500 TOWN CLERK EXPENSES		\$2,245.00		\$1,161.78	\$1,083.22	51.74 %
161 - TOWN CLERK Total		\$33,524.00	\$1,699.44	\$34,140.22	\$1,083.22	96.92 %
01-162-5500 ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION EXPENSES	\$1,074.48	\$16,543.00		\$16,401.85	\$1,215.63	93.09 %
162 - ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION Total	\$1,074.48	\$16,543.00		\$16,401.85	\$1,215.63	93.09 %
01-171-5500 CON COMM EXPENSES		\$20,000.00		\$19,800.68	\$199.32	99.00 %
171 - CONS COMM Total		\$20,000.00		\$19,800.68	\$199.32	99.00 %
01-175-5500 PLANNING BOARD EXPENSES	\$-288.24	\$2,500.00	\$288.24	\$931.20	\$1,568.80	37.24 %
175 - PLANNING BOARD Total	\$-288.24	\$2,500.00	\$288.24	\$931.20	\$1,568.80	37.24 %
01-176-5500 BOARD OF APPEALS EXPENSES		\$1,500.00		\$967.20	\$532.80	64.48 %
176 - ZONING BOARD Total		\$1,500.00		\$967.20	\$532.80	64.48 %
01-179-5500 BERK REGIONAL PLANNING COMM		\$1,900.00		\$1,603.83	\$296.17	84.41 %
179 - BRPC Total		\$1,900.00		\$1,603.83	\$296.17	84.41 %
01-192-5100 MUNICIPAL BLDG LABOR	\$-468.57	\$52,576.00	\$468.57	\$16,288.00	\$36,288.00	30.97 %
01-192-5200 MUNICIPAL BLDG UTILITIES		\$55,000.00	\$552.57	\$55,552.57		100.00 %
01-192-5500 MUNICIPAL BLDG EXPENSES	\$440.00	\$31,975.00	\$-2,587.68	\$19,723.23	\$10,104.09	66.12 %
01-192-5502 WIRED WEST MEMBERSHIP		\$2,000.00			\$2,000.00	0.00 %
01-192-5800 MUNICIPAL BLDG REPAIRS		\$35,000.00		\$28,111.48	\$6,888.52	80.31 %
01-192-5800-5018 TOWN HALL PARKING LOT	\$2,742.64				\$2,742.64	0.00 %
01-192-5800-5020 DRAINAGE - AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT	\$38,822.12				\$38,822.12	0.00 %
01-192-5800-5021 WELL AND SEPTIC	\$10,685.30				\$10,685.30	0.00 %
01-192-5800-5022 TOWN HALL RENO & HVAC	\$12,791.48				\$12,791.48	100.00 %
01-192-5800-5869 PAVILION - MAPLE STREET	\$5,000.00				\$5,000.00	0.00 %
01-192-5800-5870 TOWN HALL PAVILION EXTENSION	\$9,594.00	\$15,000.00			\$24,594.00	0.00 %
01-192-5800-5872 TOWN HALL EMER GENERATOR FY22	\$1,195.00				\$1,195.00	0.00 %
01-192-5801 TOWN HALL RENOVATION/FURNITURE		\$12,500.00		\$9,350.00	\$3,150.00	74.80 %
01-192-5803 TOWN BACKUP GENERATORS		\$50,000.00			\$50,000.00	0.00 %
192 - MUNICIPAL BLDG Total	\$80,801.97	\$254,051.00	\$-1,566.54	\$141,816.76	\$191,469.67	42.55 %
01-193-5800 COMP HARDWARE/SOFTWARE UPGRADES	\$-26.99		\$26.99			100.00 %
01-193-5800-580 TECHNOLOGY	\$3,081.09	\$45,000.00	\$-4,629.38	\$40,149.31	\$3,302.40	92.39 %
193 - MUNICIPAL BLDG ARTICLES Total	\$3,054.10	\$45,000.00	\$-4,602.39	\$40,149.31	\$3,302.40	92.39 %
01-941-5500 RESERVE FUND		\$50,000.00			\$47,700.00	0.00 %
941 - RESERVE FUND Total		\$50,000.00	\$-2,300.00		\$47,700.00	0.00 %
01-209-5800-5813 FY23 POLICE CRUISER		\$60,000.00		\$59,433.83	\$566.17	99.05 %
209 - POLICE ARTICLES Total		\$60,000.00		\$59,433.83	\$566.17	99.05 %
01-210-5100 POLICE DEPT SALARIES		\$457,837.00	\$7,985.64	\$465,822.64		100.00 %
01-210-5500 POLICE DEPT EXPENSES		\$24,954.00	\$-70.87	\$24,588.57	\$294.56	98.81 %
210 - POLICE DEPT Total		\$482,791.00	\$7,914.77	\$490,411.21	\$294.56	99.93 %
01-211-5500 EMERG MANAGEMENT EXPENSES		\$1,000.00		\$1,147.10	\$-32.39	102.90 %
01-211-5500-5401 EMERGENCY MGT TRAINING		\$1,000.00	\$-114.71	\$236.30	\$648.99	26.69 %
211 - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT Total		\$2,000.00	\$-114.71	\$1,383.40	\$616.60	69.17 %
01-212-5500 CONSTABLE EXPENSES		\$300.00			\$300.00	0.00 %
212 - CONSTABLE EXPENSES Total		\$300.00			\$300.00	0.00 %
01-220-5100 FIRE DEPARTMENT SALARIES		\$7,824.00		\$7,824.00		100.00 %
01-220-5111 FIREFIGHTER STIPENDS	\$18,200.00	\$14,000.00		\$17,500.00	\$14,700.00	54.34 %
01-220-5500 FIRE DEPARTMENT EXPENSES		\$38,000.00		\$7,570.09	\$30,429.91	19.92 %
220 - FIRE DEPARTMENT Total	\$18,200.00	\$59,824.00		\$32,894.09	\$45,129.91	42.15 %
01-221-5800-5802 DRY HYDRANT PARTS					\$7,000.00	0.00 %

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD.</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
01-221-5800-5816 FY23 FIRE TRUCK GRANT MATCH		\$38,000.00			\$38,000.00	0.00 %
01-221-5800-5860 FY19 TURNOUT GEAR	\$9,599.64				\$9,599.64	0.00 %
01-221-5800-5871 FIRE DEPT HOSE & SCBA EQUIPMENT	\$20,000.00				\$20,000.00	0.00 %
221 - FIRE DEPARTMENT ARTICLES Total	\$36,599.64				\$74,599.64	0.00 %
01-230-5500 E911 COMMUNICATIONS		\$13,860.00		\$13,858.91	\$1.09	99.99 %
230 - E911 COMMUNICATIONS Total		\$13,860.00		\$13,858.91	\$1.09	99.99 %
01-241-5100 BUILDING DEPARTMENT SALARIES	\$-211.54	\$55,000.00	\$-1,487.90	\$50,419.82	\$2,880.74	94.59 %
01-241-5500 BUILDING DEPARTMENT EXPENSES		\$2,350.00			\$2,350.00	0.00 %
241-BUILDING DEPARTMENT Total	\$-211.54	\$57,350.00	\$-1,487.90	\$50,419.82	\$5,230.74	90.60 %
01-292-5100 ANIMAL CONTROL SALARIES		\$5,895.00		\$5,744.67	\$150.33	97.44 %
01-292-5500 ANIMAL CONTROL EXPENSES		\$2,500.00	\$70.87	\$2,570.87		100.00 %
292 - ANIMAL CONTROL Total		\$8,395.00	\$70.87	\$8,315.54	\$150.33	98.22 %
01-295-5500 HARBOR MASTER EXPENSES		\$1,511.00		\$996.64	\$514.36	65.95 %
295 - HARBOR MASTER Total		\$1,511.00		\$996.64	\$514.36	65.95 %
01-931-5500 DEMOLITION FUND		\$25,000.00	\$-25,000.00			100.00 %
931 - DEMOLITION Total		\$25,000.00	\$-25,000.00			100.00 %
01-300-5500-5501 SCHOOL OPERATING BUDGET		\$2,520,651.00		\$2,520,651.00		100.00 %
01-300-5500-5503 VOCATIONAL TUITION		\$190,000.00	\$89,265.39	\$279,265.39		100.00 %
01-300-5500-5504 VOCATIONAL TRANSPORTATION		\$75,000.00	\$4,629.38	\$79,629.38		100.00 %
300 - EDUCATION Total		\$2,785,651.00	\$93,894.77	\$2,879,545.77		100.00 %
01-406-5500 TREE ACCOUNT EXPENSES		\$15,000.00		\$14,640.00	\$360.00	97.60 %
406 - TREE ACCOUNT Total		\$15,000.00		\$14,640.00	\$360.00	97.60 %
01-407-5500 FORESTRY		\$500.00			\$500.00	0.00 %
407 - FORESTRY Total		\$500.00			\$500.00	0.00 %
01-421-5100 HIGHWAY DEPT SALARIES		\$251,966.00	\$-31,260.31	\$219,953.37	\$752.32	99.65 %
01-421-5102 SUMMER LABOR		\$17,225.00			\$17,225.00	0.00 %
01-421-5500-5505 GENERAL MAINTENANCE		\$183,150.00	\$-50,000.00	\$127,935.60	\$5,214.40	96.08 %
01-421-5500-5506 MACHINERY ACCOUNT		\$85,000.00	\$-409.10	\$82,023.19	\$2,567.71	96.96 %
01-421-5500-5508 FUEL ACCOUNT		\$92,250.00		\$89,547.48	\$2,702.52	97.07 %
01-421-5500-5559 HIGHWAY GARAGE		\$16,500.00	\$409.10	\$16,909.10		100.00 %
421 - HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Total		\$646,091.00	\$-81,260.31	\$536,368.74	\$28,461.95	94.96 %
01-422-5800-5822 DER GRANT MATCH - BENTON HILL CULVE		\$21,814.00			\$21,814.00	0.00 %
01-422-5800-5874 FY22 F550 HIGHWAY TRUCK	\$-540.00		\$540.00			100.00 %
422 - HIGHWAY ARTICLES Total	\$-540.00	\$21,814.00	\$540.00		\$21,814.00	0.00 %
01-423-5100 WINTER ROADS SALARIES		\$173,938.00	\$31,260.31	\$205,198.31		100.00 %
01-423-5500-5509 WINTER ROADS		\$85,825.00	\$61,263.51	\$147,088.51		100.00 %
423 - WINTER ROADS Total		\$259,763.00	\$92,523.82	\$352,286.82		100.00 %
01-424-5500 STREET LIGHTING	\$-686.20	\$9,000.00	\$2,721.31	\$11,035.11		100.00 %
424 - STREET LIGHTS Total	\$-686.20	\$9,000.00	\$2,721.31	\$11,035.11		100.00 %
01-431-5100 TRANSFER STATION SALARIES		\$43,845.00		\$43,169.66	\$675.34	98.45 %
01-431-5500 TRANSFER STATION EXPENSES		\$141,470.00		\$112,490.61	\$28,979.39	79.51 %
431- TRANSFER STATION Total		\$185,315.00		\$155,660.27	\$29,654.73	83.99 %
01-491-5500-5510 BECKET CENTER CEMETERY	\$-113.12	\$5,000.00	\$495.02	\$5,597.05	\$-215.15	103.99 %
01-491-5500-5511 NORTH BECKET CEMETERY		\$16,500.00	\$-10,381.90	\$6,202.35	\$-84.25	101.37 %
01-491-5500-5512 WEST BECKET CEMETERY		\$800.00		\$769.58	\$30.42	96.19 %
491 - CEMETERY Total	\$-113.12	\$22,300.00	\$-9,886.88	\$12,568.98	\$-268.98	102.18 %
01-431-5500-5454 SO BERK SOLID WASTE		\$3,260.00		\$2,001.59	\$1,258.41	61.39 %

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD.</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
431-TRANSFER STATION Total		\$3,260.00		\$2,001.59	\$1,258.41	61.39 %
01-510-5100 BOARD OF HEALTH SALARIES		\$9,500.00		\$476.72	\$9,023.28	5.01 %
01-510-5500 BOARD OF HEALTH EXPENSES		\$33,500.00	\$2,300.00	\$31,919.53	\$3,880.47	9.16 %
510 - BOARD OF HEALTH Total		\$43,000.00	\$2,300.00	\$32,396.25	\$12,903.75	71.51 %
01-519-5500 INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS		\$373.00	\$364.00	\$737.00		100.00 %
519 - INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS Total		\$373.00	\$364.00	\$737.00		100.00 %
01-520-5500 NURSING SERVICES		\$5,200.00		\$3,858.75	\$1,341.25	74.20 %
520 - VISITING NURSE Total		\$5,200.00		\$3,858.75	\$1,341.25	74.20 %
01-541-5500 COUNCIL ON AGING EXPENSES		\$3,500.00		\$3,481.83	\$18.17	99.48 %
01-541-5500-5400 OUTREACH PROGRAMS		\$500.00			\$500.00	0.00 %
541 - COUNCIL ON AGING Total		\$4,000.00		\$3,481.83	\$518.17	87.04 %
01-543-5100 VETERANS AGENT SALARIES		\$2,249.00		\$2,249.00		100.00 %
01-543-5500 VETERANS BENEFITS		\$35,000.00	\$-4,265.39	\$26,047.14	\$4,687.47	84.74 %
01-543-5500-5400 VETERAN'S AGENT EXPENSE		\$100.00			\$100.00	0.00 %
543 - VETERANS Total		\$37,349.00	\$-4,265.39	\$28,296.14	\$4,787.47	85.52 %
01-601-5500-5848 BECKET ARTS CENTER - HEATING SYSTEM		\$18,500.00		\$18,500.00		100.00 %
601 - ARTS CENTER Total		\$18,500.00		\$18,500.00		100.00 %
01-603-5800 WOMEN'S AUX CHILDREN'S PARTY		\$500.00		\$500.00		100.00 %
603 - WOMEN'S AUXILIARY Total		\$500.00		\$500.00		100.00 %
01-610-5500 LIBRARY EXPENSES		\$54,160.00		\$54,160.00		100.00 %
01-610-5800-5831 ATHENAEUM REPAIRS & MAIN		\$10,000.00		\$1,564.50	\$8,435.50	15.64 %
610 - LIBRARY Total		\$64,160.00		\$55,724.50	\$8,435.50	86.85 %
01-634-5500-5447 WEED TREATMENT CENTER POND		\$4,500.00		\$4,500.00		100.00 %
634 - CENTER POND Total		\$4,500.00		\$4,500.00		100.00 %
01-640-5500 PARKS AND REC COMM EXPENSES	\$1,868.54	\$32,768.00		\$36,160.39	\$-1,523.85	104.39 %
640 - PARKS COMM Total	\$1,868.54	\$32,768.00		\$36,160.39	\$-1,523.85	104.39 %
01-691-5500 HISTORICAL COMM EXPENSES	\$1,635.28	\$2,000.00		\$2,575.82	\$1,059.46	70.85 %
691- HISTORICAL COMM Total	\$1,635.28	\$2,000.00		\$2,575.82	\$1,059.46	70.85 %
01-692-5500 MEMORIAL/VETERAN'S DAY EXPENSES		\$1,500.00		\$961.31	\$538.69	64.08 %
692 - MEMORIAL/VETERAN'S DAY Total		\$1,500.00		\$961.31	\$538.69	64.08 %
01-710-5500-5450 WAHCONAH RHS NEW CONSTRUCTION		\$140,343.00		\$140,343.00		100.00 %
01-710-5500-5513 BECKET WASHINGTON SCHOOL		\$95,063.00		\$95,063.00		100.00 %
01-710-5500-5536 CRANEILE ROOF		\$141.00		\$141.00		100.00 %
01-710-5500-5538 BROADBAND		\$65,000.00		\$64,999.38	\$0.62	99.99 %
01-710-5500-5541 DUMP TRUCK FY21		\$63,780.00	\$-1,050.00	\$61,890.00	\$840.00	98.66 %
01-710-5500-5545 INTEREST ON SHORT TERM DEBT		\$1,500.00	\$1,050.00	\$2,550.00		100.00 %
01-710-5500-5566 WAHCONAH RHS DOORS		\$7,063.00		\$7,063.00		100.00 %
01-710-5500-5618 HIGHWAY TRUCK #5 FY22		\$45,848.00		\$44,660.00	\$1,188.00	97.40 %
710 - DEBT Total		\$418,738.00		\$416,709.38	\$2,028.62	99.51 %
01-820-5500-5515 RMV SURCHARGES			\$1,620.00	\$2,120.00	\$-500.00	130.86 %
01-820-5500-5517 AIR POLLUTION			\$847.00	\$847.00		100.00 %
820- Total			\$2,467.00	\$2,967.00	\$-500.00	120.26 %
01-914-5175 HEALTH/LIFE INSURANCE		\$468,643.00	\$-61,263.51	\$383,305.83	\$24,073.66	94.09 %
01-914-5500-5521 RETIREMENT		\$288,704.00		\$288,704.00		100.00 %
01-914-5500-5522 PAYROLL TAXES		\$28,819.00		\$28,983.04	\$-164.04	100.56 %
01-914-5500-5535 UNEMPLOYMENT		\$5,000.00		\$2,694.00	\$2,306.00	53.88 %
01-914-5500-5540 OPEB		\$15,000.00			\$15,000.00	0.00 %

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD.</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM.</u> <u>BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
914 - EMPLOYEE BENEFITS Total		\$806,166.00	\$-61,263.51	\$703,686.87	\$41,215.62	94.46 %
01-945-5500 LIABILITY INSURANCE		\$127,969.00		\$130,209.12	\$-2,240.12	101.75 %
945 - LIABILITY INSURANCE Total		\$127,969.00		\$130,209.12	\$-2,240.12	101.75 %
01 - GENERAL FUND Total	\$167,245.95	\$7,306,255.00	\$5,995.62	\$6,876,814.78	\$602,681.79	91.94 %
18-220-5500 FIRE DEPARTMENT DONATIONS EXPENSE				\$7,956.29	\$-7,956.29	100.00 %
220 - FIRE DEPARTMENT Total				\$7,956.29	\$-7,956.29	100.00 %
18-231-5500 AMBULANCE GIFTS EXPENSE				\$1,197.33	\$-1,197.33	100.00 %
231 - AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT Total				\$1,197.33	\$-1,197.33	100.00 %
18-300-5500 SCHOLARSHIP EXPENSE				\$3,093.00	\$-3,093.00	100.00 %
300 - EDUCATION Total				\$3,093.00	\$-3,093.00	100.00 %
18 - GIFT'S AND DONATIONS Total				\$12,246.62	\$-12,246.62	100.00 %
21-122-5500-4519 CDBG 17 EXPENSES				\$12,000.00	\$-12,000.00	100.00 %
122 - SELECTMEN Total				\$12,000.00	\$-12,000.00	100.00 %
21-231-5500-5779 USDA AMBULANCE GRANT				\$69,600.00	\$-69,600.00	100.00 %
231 - AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT Total				\$69,600.00	\$-69,600.00	100.00 %
21 - FEDERAL GRANTS Total				\$81,600.00	\$-81,600.00	100.00 %
22-210-5500 K9 PROGRAM EXPENSE				\$1,540.78	\$-1,540.78	100.00 %
210 - POLICE DEPT Total				\$1,540.78	\$-1,540.78	100.00 %
22 - PRIVATE GRANTS Total				\$1,540.78	\$-1,540.78	100.00 %
24-122-5500-2737 ARPA EXPENSE				\$339,256.76	\$-339,256.76	100.00 %
24-122-5500-4034 COMMUNITY COMPACT EXPENSE				\$7,450.00	\$-7,450.00	100.00 %
122 - SELECTMEN Total				\$346,706.76	\$-346,706.76	100.00 %
24-171-5500-3773 OPEN SPACE GRANT EXPENSE				\$661.51	\$-661.51	100.00 %
171 - CONS COMM Total				\$661.51	\$-661.51	100.00 %
24-421-5500-4035 BRI GRANT EXPENSE				\$16,871.40	\$-16,871.40	100.00 %
421 - HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Total				\$16,871.40	\$-16,871.40	100.00 %
24-211-5500 EMERG MANAGEMENT GRANT EXPENSE				\$2,700.00	\$-2,700.00	100.00 %
211 - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT Total				\$2,700.00	\$-2,700.00	100.00 %
24-421-5500-4248 W.R.A.P. GRANT EXPENSE				\$184,240.00	\$-184,240.00	100.00 %
24-421-5500-4249 BENTON HILL RD				\$3,574.60	\$-3,574.60	100.00 %
421 - HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Total				\$187,814.60	\$-187,814.60	100.00 %
24-541-5500-5525 COA GRANT EXPENSES				\$3,965.47	\$-3,965.47	100.00 %
541 - COUNCIL ON AGING Total				\$3,965.47	\$-3,965.47	100.00 %
24-610-5500-5524 LIBRARY GRANT EXPENSES				\$3,094.54	\$-3,094.54	100.00 %
610 - LIBRARY Total				\$3,094.54	\$-3,094.54	100.00 %
24-699-5500 CULTURAL COUNCIL EXPENSE				\$4,200.00	\$-4,200.00	100.00 %
699 - CULTURAL COUNCIL Total				\$4,200.00	\$-4,200.00	100.00 %
24 - STATE GRANTS Total				\$566,014.28	\$-566,014.28	100.00 %
25-172-5500 CPA ADMIN EXPENSES		\$500.00		\$300.00	\$200.00	60.00 %
25-172-5800-5539 CREATION OF ESAU'S HEEL				\$500.00	\$-500.00	100.00 %
172 - CPA COMMITTEE Total		\$500.00		\$800.00	\$-300.00	160.00 %
25 - CPA FUND Total		\$500.00		\$800.00	\$-300.00	160.00 %
26-100-5500 INS REIMB <20K				\$8,678.55	\$-8,678.55	100.00 %
100 - GENERAL GOVERNMENT Total				\$8,678.55	\$-8,678.55	100.00 %
26-171-5500 CONSERVATION WETLANDS EXPENSES				\$6,803.00	\$-6,803.00	100.00 %
171 - CONS COMM Total				\$6,803.00	\$-6,803.00	100.00 %
26-177-5500 PLUMBING INSPECTOR EXPENSES				\$1,105.00	\$-1,105.00	100.00 %

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD.</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
177 - PLUMBING INSPECTOR Total				\$1,105.00	\$-1,105.00	100.00 %
26-178-5500 GAS INSPECTOR EXPENSES				\$3,900.00	\$-3,900.00	100.00 %
178 - GAS INSPECTOR Total				\$3,900.00	\$-3,900.00	100.00 %
26-180-5500 WIRING INSPECTOR EXPENSES				\$8,690.00	\$-8,690.00	100.00 %
180 - WIRING INSPECTOR Total				\$8,690.00	\$-8,690.00	100.00 %
26-210-5500 POLICE OUTSIDE DETAIL				\$85,486.50	\$-85,486.50	100.00 %
210 - POLICE DEPT Total				\$85,486.50	\$-85,486.50	100.00 %
26-231-5500 AMBULANCE OUTSIDE DETAIL				\$11,725.00	\$-11,725.00	100.00 %
26-231-5500-5401 AMBULANCE TRAINING EXPENSE				\$630.21	\$-630.21	100.00 %
231-AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT Total				\$12,355.21	\$-12,355.21	100.00 %
26- REVOLVING FUNDS Total				\$127,018.26	\$-127,018.26	100.00 %
30-422-5500 CHAPTER 90 EXPENSES				\$173,251.23	\$-173,251.23	100.00 %
422 - Total				\$173,251.23	\$-173,251.23	100.00 %
30 - CHAPTER 90 Total				\$173,251.23	\$-173,251.23	100.00 %
40-122-5500 BROADBAND EXPENSE				\$735,190.06	\$-735,190.06	100.00 %
122 - SELECTMEN Total				\$735,190.06	\$-735,190.06	100.00 %
40 - BROADBAND Total				\$735,190.06	\$-735,190.06	100.00 %
60-231-5100 AMBULANCE SALARIES		\$431,920.00		\$473,049.47	\$-41,129.47	109.52 %
60-231-5500 AMBULANCE EXPENSES		\$56,080.00		\$42,027.89	\$14,052.11	74.94 %
231-AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT Total		\$488,000.00		\$515,077.36	\$-27,077.36	105.54 %
60-232-5800-5009 USDA GRANT MATCH EQUIPMENT		\$23,214.57		\$24,249.01	\$-1,034.44	104.45 %
232 - AMBULANCE ARTICLES Total		\$23,214.57		\$24,249.01	\$-1,034.44	104.45 %
60 - AMBULANCE ENTERPRISE Total		\$511,214.57		\$539,326.37	\$-28,111.80	105.49 %
81-491-5500-5544 CEM PERP CARE EXPENSES				\$10,000.00	\$-10,000.00	100.00 %
491 - CEMETERY Total				\$10,000.00	\$-10,000.00	100.00 %
81- NON EXPENDABLE TRUST Total				\$10,000.00	\$-10,000.00	100.00 %
82-491-5500-5532 CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE INTEREST EX				\$3,175.00	\$-3,175.00	100.00 %
491- CEMETERY Total				\$3,175.00	\$-3,175.00	100.00 %
82 - EXPENDABLE TRUST Total				\$3,175.00	\$-3,175.00	100.00 %
83-199-5780-5529 SHERWOOD FOREST PAYMENTS				\$7,907.65	\$-7,907.65	100.00 %
83-199-5780-5531 SHERWOOD GREENS PAYMENTS				\$8,687.94	\$-8,687.94	100.00 %
83-199-5780-5549 SHERWOOD FOREST LAKE PAYMENTS				\$3,252.14	\$-3,252.14	100.00 %
199 - Total				\$19,847.73	\$-19,847.73	100.00 %
83 - ROAD DISTRICT AGENCY Total				\$19,847.73	\$-19,847.73	100.00 %
88-100-5325 RETIREE INSURANCE AND WITHHOLDINGS				\$69,233.06	\$-69,233.06	100.00 %
100 - GENERAL GOVERNMENT Total				\$69,233.06	\$-69,233.06	100.00 %
88-122-5500 BROADBAND CONSTRUCTION EXPENSE				\$47,790.20	\$-47,790.20	100.00 %
122 - SELECTMEN Total				\$47,790.20	\$-47,790.20	100.00 %
88-148-5500 DEPUTY COLLECTOR EXPENSE				\$1,785.00	\$-1,785.00	100.00 %
148 - DEPUTY COLLECTOR Total				\$1,785.00	\$-1,785.00	100.00 %
88-210-5500 PISTOL PERMIT EXPENSES				\$4,075.00	\$-4,075.00	100.00 %
210 - POLICE DEPT Total				\$4,075.00	\$-4,075.00	100.00 %
88 - AGENCY FUND Total				\$122,883.26	\$-122,883.26	100.00 %
89-145-5500-2800 FEDERAL WITHHOLDING						100.00 %
89-145-5500-2801 STATE WITHHOLDINGS						100.00 %
89-145-5500-2802 MEDICARE WITHHOLDINGS						100.00 %

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD.</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
145 - TREASURER Total						100.00 %
89-PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS Total						100.00 %
Grand Total	\$167,245.95	\$5,995.62	\$0.00	\$9,269,708.37	\$-1,278,497.23	115.99 %

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

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

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
ASSETS									
Cash	2,679,190.77	640,239.73	1,320,212.86	119,414.67	159,074.87	1,301,627.35	627,777.28	0.00	6,847,537.53
Property Taxes	406,338.47	2,828.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	409,166.91
Allowance for Abate & Exempt	-181,049.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-181,049.11
Tax Liens	1,573,609.45	316.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,041,099.49	0.00	2,615,025.12
Motor Vehicle Excise	54,185.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	54,185.58
User Charges/Liens	-12,836.49	15,435.10	0.00	0.00	172,953.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	175,552.60
Amts Prov for Pay of Bonds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,414,344.00	2,414,344.00
TOTAL ASSETS	4,519,438.67	658,819.45	1,320,212.86	119,414.67	332,028.86	1,301,627.35	1,668,876.77	2,414,344.00	12,334,762.63
LIABILITIES									
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	225,289.36	2,863.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	228,153.02
Def Rev Tax Liens	1,573,609.45	280.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,041,099.49	0.00	2,614,989.90
Def Rev MV Excise	54,185.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	54,185.58
Borrowing Authorized and Unissued	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1,730,000.00	-1,730,000.00
Def Rev User Charges/Liens	-12,836.49	15,435.10	0.00	0.00	172,953.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	175,552.60
Borrowing Authorized	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,730,000.00	1,730,000.00
Bonds Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,414,344.00	2,414,344.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,845,109.57	18,579.72	0.00	0.00	172,953.99	0.00	1,041,099.49	2,414,344.00	5,492,086.77
FUND BALANCES									
Reserved for Encumbrances	235,899.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	235,899.82
Reserved for Expenditures	965,232.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	980,232.86
Reserved for Appropriation Deficits	-5,325.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1,034.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	-6,359.46
Designated	0.00	95,492.71	0.00	0.00	145,109.31	1,281,789.94	0.00	0.00	1,522,391.96
Undesignated	1,478,521.44	544,747.02	1,320,212.86	119,414.67	0.00	19,837.41	627,777.28	0.00	4,110,510.68
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	2,674,329.10	640,239.73	1,320,212.86	119,414.67	159,074.87	1,301,627.35	627,777.28	0.00	6,842,675.86
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES	4,519,438.67	658,819.45	1,320,212.86	119,414.67	332,028.86	1,301,627.35	1,668,876.77	2,414,344.00	12,334,762.63

◆ **WAGES PAID IN CALENDAR YEAR 2023** ◆

Select Board

Elovirta, William H.	2,359.33
Piemont, Jeffrey L.	1,411.84
Swindlehurst, Christopher E.	2,359.33

Town Administrator

Warden, Katherine A.	89,733.61
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Board of Assessors

Walter, Geraldine L.	3,924.34
Gilbert, Beverly	600.00
Perotti, Jessica	600.00

Clerk of Assessing Dept.

Perotti, Jessica M.	43,640.56
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Treasurer

Bleau, Christine D.	54,726.70
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Tax Collector

Bilodeau Jr., Kenneth R.	63,684.00
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Assistant Tax Collector

Weiler, Nina M.	52,997.20
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Deputy Collector

Bean, Brian J.	1,870.00
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Emergency Management Director

Warden, Katherine A.	600.00
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Accountant

McClellan, Margaret A.	27,544.85
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Administrative Assistant

Gilbert, Beverly A.	52,301.61
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Constables

Elovirta, William H.	150.00
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Town Clerk/Elections

Mathiesen, Robin C.	36,269.31
Blake, Alvin V.	75.00
Bleier, Victoria T.	67.50
Crossley, Susan A.	6,183.54
Goetz, Lawrence J.	142.50
Kay-Grace, Julia W.	108.75
Purser, Susan M.	67.50

Police Chief

McDonough, Kristopher G.*	106,596.36
* Otis pays ½ salary and ½ benefits	

Police Department

Auger, Charlene F.	69,504.36
Beauchemin, Nicholas R.	64,416.18
Crupi, Dominick J.	35,418.13
Hunt, Michael	75,185.86
Miller, Nicole M.	66,577.74
Virginia, Matthew	57,300.90

Conservation Commission

Pietroniro, Nicolas J.	22,266.00
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Ambulance Department

Brooks, Logan V.	1,959.07
Brouillette, Mark S.	84,054.63
Ferrin, Raymond E.	46,481.75
Giarolo, Jessica	147.36
Hebert, John	6,163.32
Hoppe Jr., Dean H.	2,507.57
Kibbe, Frances J.	20,008.40
Koivisto, Max W.	46,471.34
Lucas, Christopher S.	33,888.05
Marino, Matthew J.	19,419.54
Michaud, Lisa J.	93,726.40
Mullany, Donna J.	2,707.75
Mullany, Michael J.	42,455.42
Robillard Jr., Leo O.	35,763.81
Stockley, Haylie R.	36,059.94
Taylor, Juli R.	23,951.72
Wiley, Peter H.	5,948.15

Building Inspectors

Greene, Paul S.	38,333.45
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Public Safety Inspectors

Clement, Trevor E.	9,770.00
Levernoch, Mark A.	3,000.00

Harbor Master

Tim Fogarty	\$ 800.00
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Highway Superintendent

Pickert, Edward C.	90,482.37
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◆ **WAGES PAID IN CALENDAR YEAR 2023** ◆

~ Continued ~

Highway Department

Butler, Michael V.	6,272.00
Dean, Thomas J.	67,515.84
Haskell, Joseph M.	1,330.00
Isner, Christopher A.	58,723.84
Larson, Matthew R.	8,556.14
Murray, Donald L.	67,690.84
Phelps, Troy A.	68,264.84
Scolforo, Robert L.	1,389.77

Building & Grounds Technician

Scolforo, Robert L.	36,188.00
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Custodian

Goodermote, Albert R.	16,819.00
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Board of Health

Burgwardt, Laurel L.	476.72
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Animal Control Officer

Miller, Nicole M.	6,528.59
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Veterans' Agent

Mann, Lloyd D.	2,256.48
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Cemetery

Smith, Michelle S.	869.38
Williams, Dean R.	8,887.00

Transfer Station

Cooper, Robert R.	1,223.04
Crochiere, George A.	14,010.48
Will, Robert R.	15,441.36
Vandesteene, Maurice O.	13,694.83

Clerk of Planning Board

Crossley, Susan A.	6,926.80
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Clerk of the Board of Health, ZBA

Lundberg, Terese	12,892.97
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Recreation Program & Lifeguards

Cote, Jillian R.	3,390.00
Merenda, DaJuan	1,980.00
Drewry, Sheffield M.	5,440.00
Furlong, Adelyn B.	2,277.00
LaBier, McKenzie L.	1,791.00

Strout, Evan M.	2,178.00
Weiler, David P.	216.00

Fire Chief/Chief Stipend & Fees

Mikaniewicz, Paul A.	8,117.00
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Fire Department Stipend

Furlong Jr., David F.	1,200.00
Giarolo, Jessica	1,200.00
Goebel, Gene R.	1,200.00
Hanford, Mark A.	1,200.00
Healey, Robert	1,200.00
Healey Jr., Robert	1,200.00
Houlihan, Darien D.	1,200.00
Isner, Christopher A.	1,200.00
Massini, Kristopher M.	1,200.00
Phelps, Troy A.	500.00
Swindlehurst, Christopher E.	1,200.00

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

