

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
7:00pm, June 17, 2020
Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket**

Attendees

Board of Selectmen: William Elovirta (BE), *Chairperson*; Michael Lavery (ML), *Vice Chairperson* and Chris Swindlehurst (CS), *Clerk*

Staff: William Caldwell (BC), *Town Administrator*; Beverly Gilbert (BG), *Administrative Assistant*;

Others via remote participation: Neil Toomey, *Community Preservation Committee Chairperson*; Gale Labelle, *Board of Health, Chair*; Benjamin Zach

Other: Rita Furlong

1. Call to order

BE called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. He specified that the BOS was recording the meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

BE led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Discussion and possible vote on the Reorganization of the Board of Selectmen

ML nominated BE to serve as the Chairperson. CS seconded. Motion carried with BE recusing himself. CS nominated ML to serve as the Vice Chairperson. BE seconded. Motion carried with ML recusing himself. BE nominated CS to serve as the Clerk. ML seconded. Motion carried with CS recusing himself.

4. Broadband Update and BOS to discuss and possibly vote on policies and decisions relating to the Broadband Project

BC provided an update on the Broadband Project:

- ◇ Make-Ready is Progressing: Eversource has installed the final pole which allows Verizon to perform their related work. After that is done, Pike can perform the remedial make-ready work.
- ◇ The Board of Selectmen's letter to ask for assistance with continued focus on the Make Ready to make construction possible has been sent to the Governor and Lt. Governor.
- ◇ It is expected that the town will soon be in a position to focus on FSAs.
- ◇ With the exception of three, all underground areas have signed easements.
- ◇ It is anticipated that construction at Becket Woods will commence by the end of July.
- ◇ The Broadband hut is almost completed.

5. Approval of the June 3, 2020 Meeting Minutes

ML moved to approve the June 3, 2020 meeting minutes. CS seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

6. Public Input (limited to 3 minutes per person, 20 minutes total for this agenda item).

Neil Toomey, Chairperson of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC), discussed Annual Town Meeting (ATM) Article 14 Community Preservation Funding for Affordable Housing. Neil Toomey rescinded his resignation that he had emailed to the BOS. Neil's reappointment to the CPC will appear on the BOS July 1st 2020 agenda. It was agreed that the BOS and CPC will initiate communication with each other prior to ATMs. Neil stated that it is necessary for the BOS to appoint additional CPC members and for arrangements to be made to provide an administrative assistant (paid through CPC Administration fees). Neil will seek an administrative assistant position description and guidance from the state's Preservation Coalition Executive Director

Gale Labelle, Board of Health Chairperson, responded to an email Michael Lavery's had sent relating to Camp Greylock. Gale advised that to date, Camp Greylock has not provided plans to open this year and she pointed out that camps, prior to opening, must acquire Board of Health permits. BE advised that he ran into Lucas Horn, co-owner of Camp Greylock, who conveyed they are monitoring and will adhere to the Governor's guidelines.

Gale mentioned a septic system matter on West Becket Road.

7. Update on Ipswich Pharmaceutical Associations, Inc.'s new ownership and a potential vote to acknowledge the transfer.

In accordance with Section 15 (Successors/Assigns) of Ipswich Pharmaceutical Associates, Inc.'s (IPA) host community agreement for the Siting of a Medical Marijuana Treatment Center and an Adult-Use Marijuana Establishment in the Town of Becket, IPA may not assign or transfer any interest or obligation under this agreement without the prior written consent of the Municipality. The BOS has been asked to send a letter to Joseph McCarthy, President and CEO of IPA to permit Conditional Consent to new assignment of the Host Agreement. Benjamin Zach, one of the proposed owners, introduced himself, fielded questions and discussed this matter with the BOS. After the BOS outlined conditions that must be met before the Board of Selectmen will entertain signing the aforementioned letter, Benjamin Zach agreed that he will provide the following items to the BOS:

- a copy of a notarized acquisition agreement/application to the CCC signed by the current owners
- an agreement with the Tax Collector to repay back taxes owed on Becket property located at 2727 Jacob Ladder Road

The BOS tabled this agenda item for the July 1, 2020 meeting.

8. Vote of BOS to Cancel the Caucus.

ML moved to cancel the Caucus. CS seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

9. BOS to acknowledge Letter of Retirement from Geri Walter / Assessor effective July 23, 2020.

The BOS acknowledged Assessor Geri Walter's notification that effective July 23, 2020 she will retire from her position in the Assessing Department. BC clarified that she will continue serving on the Board of Assessors. ML moved to acknowledge Geri Walter's resignation from the Assessing Department and to send her a letter of appreciation. CS seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

10. BOS to review and vote on employees' request to carry-forward unused vacation leave balances.

CS moved to approve the list of employees' requests to carry-forward their unused vacation leave balances into fiscal year 2021. ML seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

11. BOS to consider voting on the Tax Collector's Recommendation to reappoint David Shorey Deputy Tax Collector and Nina Weiler Assistant Tax Collector effective 7-1-2020 through 6-30-2021

CS moved to approve the Tax Collector's recommendation to reappoint David Shorey to serve as Deputy Tax Collector and Nina Weiler to serve as Assistant Tax Collector effective 7-1-2020 through 6-30-2021. ML seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

12. BOS to consider voting on the Treasurer's Recommendation to reappoint Kenneth Bilodeau Jr. the Assistant Treasurer effective 7-1-2020 through 6-30-2021

ML moved to approve the Treasurer's recommendation to reappoint Kenneth Bilodeau Jr. as the Assistant Treasurer effective 7-1-2020 through 6-30-2021. CS seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

13. BOS to Review and consider voting on appointments effective 7-1-2020:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>End</u>
Kristopher Massini	Agricultural Commission Member	June 30, 2021
Neil Toomey	Agricultural Commission Member	June 30, 2021
Guy McKay	Agricultural Commission Member	June 30, 2021
Susan Purser	Alternate Member of the Energy Committee	June 30, 2021
Alvin Blake	Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Alternate Member	June 30, 2021
William Elovirta	Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Designee	June 30, 2021
Henry Hagenah	Conservation Commission Member	June 30, 2023
Lorraine Dean	Council on Aging Member	June 30, 2023
Roberta Goldman	Cultural Council Member	June 30, 2023
Cathy DeFoe	Energy Committee Member	June 30, 2023
Steve Rosenthal	Harbor Master	June 30, 2021
Katherine Hoak	Historical Commission Member	June 30, 2023
Robert Gross	Municipal Light Plant Manager	June 30, 2023
Rita Furlong	Parks & Recreation Committee Member	June 30, 2023
Madeline Elovirta	Parks & Recreation Committee Member	June 30, 2023
Kenneth Bilodeau Jr.	Tax Collector	June 30, 2023
Robert Gross	WiredWest Alternate Delegate	June 30, 2022
Jeffrey Piemont	WiredWest Delegate	June 30, 2022
Alvin Blake	Zoning Board of Appeals Associate Member	June 30, 2021
Katherine Warden	Zoning Board of Appeals Associate Member	June 30, 2021

BE asked that a hold be placed on his and his wife Madelaine Elovirta's above listed appointments.

CS moved to appoint the above individuals as per the above captioned listing with the exception of William and Madelaine Elovirta's positions. ML seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

ML moved to reappoint BE Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Designee through June 30, 2021, and Madelaine Elovirta to the Parks & Recreation Committee through June 30, 2023. CS seconded. Motion carried with BE recusing himself.

14. BOS to acknowledge Resignations:

- **Jennifer Avery - Cultural Council effective 6-10-2020**
- **Neil Toomey – Community Preservation effective 6-6-2020**

The BOS acknowledged Jennifer Avery's resignation from the Cultural Council effective 6-10-2020 and signed a letter of appreciation.

Neil Toomey withdrew his notice of resignation (agenda item 6).

15. BOS to review Departmental Reports

- **TBA**

The BOS reviewed the Building Inspector's May 2020 report

16. BOS's Comments and Announcements

CS mentioned that BC, the contractor and he are working to finalize the replacement of the Town Hall heating system. CS provided an update on the status.

ML brought up summer camp operations. BC indicated that the state is generating regulations for camps. Camps Watitoh and Lenox plan to offer family style camps during this summer.

BE advised that Meredyth Babcock requested BOS feedback on the draft Municipal Vulnerability Report. Each member of the BOS will comment individually to Meredyth.

17. Town Administrator's Report

BC provided an update of several items that he has been working on:

- ◇ Highway Superintendent Committee – BC provided an update on the recruitment, and he anticipates presenting the selected candidate to the July 1st meeting.
- ◇ Athenaeum septic – met with White Wolf, finishing easement with Athenaeum
- ◇ Yokum Pond Rd – changing culverts, over the next couple weeks and begin construction. BC will include information about this project in the next Becket Bulletin.
- ◇ Ambulance Garage – quote received from Witch Enterprise, getting price for concrete portion of the project. CS will talk to Frank Avale to obtain a quote on re-pouring the concrete floor. BE asked CS to also inquire with Mr. Avale about submitting a quote to expand the concrete flooring of the Town Park Pavilion (near the Town Hall), and

whether the quote he submitted in Fall 2019 to the Parks & Recreation Committee for the North Becket Park project from for the concrete work still holds.

- ◇ Town Hall HVAC
 - Should be starting demolition/installation
 - Removal of underground tank
 - Purchase of new propane tanks
- ◇ Discussion ensued to generate a plan to reopen the Town Hall to the public. The BOS and BC agreed that for now, outside groups including Lake and Road Districts are not allowed to hold meetings in the Town Hall. Only Town Boards and Committees may re-enter the building for their meetings. The public will still access meetings remotely. Starting immediately, individuals are allowed to enter Town Hall by appointment only. The Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen will reassess the opening of Town Hall as we get closer to 7/1 and phase 3. As suggested by the BOS, the idea of opening the Town Hall with limited public hours (10am till 2pm) is likely to happen at that time.
- ◇ Working on 2019 audit
- ◇ Closing out 2020 budget – BC will present his recommendations for account transfers to the BOS on 7/1/2020 and transfers from the reserve funds to the Fin Com during their July meeting.
- ◇ CARES Act Reimbursement – \$152K eligible, request for \$2,800K
- ◇ Setting up order for cruiser, organizing USDA grant
- ◇ Completing work for MVP/Hazard mitigation portion
- ◇ Working on contract with RRG for one year extension – has questions – training for Jessica and staff that comes in we will be all right\
- ◇ After discussion, it was agreed that the Town will commence COLA for Town employees effective July 1, 2020.
- ◇ Broadband hut and project moving forward -
 - Installation of vault, flooring, electrical, and generator

18. Any other business to come before the Board

The BOS authorized the Becket Scholarship Foundation tax stuffer.

The BOS signed a letter to thank Alison Dixon for serving on the Conservation Commission. Alison had declined reappointment because she has moved to another community.

19. Correspondence:

- **5-26-2020 Board of Assessors re: Vote to release Overlay to Overlay Surplus FY2013 (\$10,000) & FY2014 (\$7,500)**
The BOS reviewed the above correspondence.

20. BOS to review and sign payable warrants.

The BOS reviewed and signed the payable warrants.

21. BOS to adjourn the Meeting

ML moved to adjourn. CS seconded. Motion carried 3-0. At 8:27pm, BE adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Gilbert, Administrative Assistant

Signed by:


William Elovirta, Chairperson

/ 7/1/2020
Date Approved

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- ◆ Town Administrator's Report
- ◆ Board of Selectmen June 3, 2020 Meeting Minutes
- ◆ Correspondence as listed in agenda item 19
- ◆ Becket Scholarship Tax Stuffer
- ◆ Letters of appreciation to Geri Walter, Alison Dixon and Jennifer Avery
- ◆ Tax Collector's letter of recommendation for Assistant and Deputy Tax Collector appointments
- ◆ Treasurer's letter of recommendation for Assistant Collector appointment
- ◆ Geri Walter letter to announce retirement effective 7-23-2020
- ◆ Jennifer Avery e-mail notification to resign from the Cultural Council
- ◆ Neil Toomey e-mail notification to resign from the Community Preservation Committee and email to attend the Selectmen's meeting
- ◆ Ipswich Pharmaceutical Associates, Inc.'s (IPA) host community agreement and potential BOS letter re: Conditional Consent to new assignment of the Host Agreement