



TOWN OF BECKET
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
557 Main Street, Becket, MA 01223-3252
TOWN HALL – (413) 623-8934 Ext. 113
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RE: COVID-19 Reopening Update and Other Town of Becket Announcements

May 18, 2020

Dear Community,

As you have likely been awaiting, Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Polito announced the plan for reopening Massachusetts. Last week, a four phase program was announced. More details were released today. Each phase will last at least three weeks.

Today, they announced replacing the Stay at Home Advisory with the Safer at Home Advisory. This remains very similar to the Stay At Home Advisory. The Safer at Home Advisory continues to recommend wearing a mask when social distancing is not possible, regular hand washing, and maintaining a safe social distance. The Safer at Home Advisory encourages not visiting high-risk family and friends and we should remain home when not going to work, out for healthcare, shopping or recreation.

Phase 1:

- **Phase 1, beginning today**, allows for the opening of construction sites and manufacturing. Additionally, houses of worship are allowed to reopen. All sectors allowed to immediately reopen have significant mandatory restrictions.
- **Beginning next Monday, May 25th**: hair salons and barbers, pet grooming, car washes, and lab and office space may reopen with significant mandatory restrictions.

Phase 2 and Phase 3

- Moving into **phases 2 and 3 no earlier than June 8th**: retail establishments, restaurants, nail salons, day spas, lodging, day programs, dentists, elective medical procedures may reopen.
- Those that will be able to open with guidelines in phase 2 or 3 include: campgrounds, playgrounds, public and community pools, athletic fields and courts, and limited youth sports.
- Bars, casinos, gyms, museums, and many others **will not be allowed to reopen before June 29**.
- Parks, fields, beaches and most boating and fishing in the state **can reopen on Memorial Day, May 25th**.

Locally, we must make some decisions regarding reopening of Town Hall and other Town facilities.

As mentioned earlier, please remember to wear a mask when in public and unable to socially distance. Take precautions to stay healthy. We now have a plan for reopening and hope that it can move forward with limited problems. Please go to www.mass.gov for more information on the reopening Massachusetts plan.

Outside of COVID-19, the Town has several projects and announcements.

If you have not, please help the Town of Becket and the State of Massachusetts by filling out your 2020 census forms. Valuable funds come to the state and cities and towns based on an accurate population count.

The Municipal Vulnerability Plan listening session will be online tonight via Zoom. See the Town's website, www.townofbecket.org for more information.

This summer three segments of Yokum Pond Road will be repaved. Prior to and during repaving, work will likely cause traffic delays and detours. Once we have a more detailed timeframe, more information will be available.

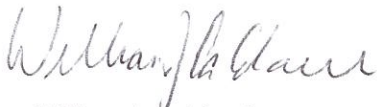
Copies of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant were mailed. The warrant focuses on the essential functions of government for the FY2021 year. We are moving forward with the budget presented although some cuts during the year are possible contingent upon the state's budget and local aid. The Town Meeting will be held in the field adjacent to the Town Hall on June 6, 2020 at 3:00pm.

The Annual Town Election will be held June 13, from 12:00pm to 4:00pm in the Community Room of Town Hall.

We are beginning the process of interviews for a new Highway Superintendent. The following members are part of the Highway Superintendent Screening Committee: Bill Elovirta from the Board of Selectmen, Ron DeFoe from the Finance Committee, Bert Goodermote from the Highway Department, Kathe Warden a resident, and Curt Wilton who is the Public Works Director for West Stockbridge. We have several applications and look forward to the Screening Committee providing recommendations for strong and suitable candidates.

Please check www.becketbroadband.org for information regarding the Broadband project. We are waiting on Verizon and Eversource to complete the original Make Ready and the remedial Make Ready phases so that construction can begin.

Sincerely,



William J. Caldwell
Town Administrator