



TOWN OF BECKET
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
557 Main Street, Becket, MA 01223-3252
TOWN HALL – (413) 623-8934 Ext. 113
FAX – (413) 623-6036

May 1, 2020

Dear Community,

We have seen many changes in our daily lives over the last couple months. As you may be aware, Governor Baker has extended the stay-at-home advisory until May 18, 2020. Please abide by this order. In the coming weeks, more information will be released regarding how things may begin to reopen in the Commonwealth. Also, remember that while it is not required, it is advised that people wear a mask in public when social distancing is not possible. We welcome back our second homeowners. Please be mindful that there is an advisory to self-quarantine for fourteen (14) days upon arrival from another state.

Becket had 11 documented COVID-19 cases in the Town. Several of these include multiple individuals within one household. Currently, there is only one person in town actively testing positive for COVID-19. We hope that everyone is recovering quickly. We all owe a debt of gratitude to frontline employees. There are too many to list, but a special thank you must go to all healthcare workers during this unprecedented time.

In my last note, we had updated information regarding the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election. The Town Meeting will be held outside in the field adjacent to Town Hall at 3:00pm on June 6th. The Town Election will be held from 12:00pm to 4:00pm on June 13th. In addition to the candidates running for office, there is a ballot question regarding the new Wahconah Regional High School project. This is not a question on its approval - that has happened. It is a question on the funding of it in the form of a debt exclusion which briefly means that unlike an override which is permanent, the debt for this project will disappear after the final payment. Currently, the Becket Washington School is debt-excluded and will be paid off in FY2025.

The Legislature has given some relief by way of expanding reasons for utilizing an absentee ballot. Town Clerk George Roberts will send a copy of the absentee ballot application along with an enclosed letter explaining the process to every voter in Town. For your safety and the safety of the election workers, using an absentee ballot is encouraged.

Decisions on the Town's parks and beaches are forthcoming. Guidance from the State as well as the local Board of Health will be considered in making the decision. The Town's parks and beaches are closed. A plan will be developed for the reopening of Town Hall.

Finally, due to increased costs and changes in staffing, the Town will not open the Transfer Station on Thursdays until, at the earliest, July.

I understand that it is difficult, but please follow the state and federal guidelines regarding COVID-19. It is our hope that everyone remains healthy and we can return to some semblance of normalcy soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William J. Caldwell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

William J. Caldwell
Town Administrator