



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

July 17, 2020

Dear Community,

The State of Massachusetts has moved into Phase Three of reopening. This has allowed for additional business openings and available opportunities. In the Commonwealth, we are moving in the right direction, there are many other states that are not. Continue to wear a mask, practice social distancing, and follow the state and federal guidelines.

In mid-June, the Annual Town Meeting was held outside at the Town Hall. The 16 warrant articles passed including the operating budget, capital items and two articles to change the name of the Board of Selectmen to Select Board.

The Board of Selectmen recently decided to keep the Transfer Station closed on Thursdays this summer. Regular hours will be maintained on Tuesday and Saturday from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Some changes were made in what can and cannot be recycled. Signage will be installed soon. For more information visit the Springfield MRF website where recyclables are brought at <http://springfieldmrf.org/>.

On July 20th, we welcome a new Highway Department Superintendent to the Town of Becket after Chris Bouchard accepted another position. Edward Pickert will join the Becket team as Superintendent. He comes to us highly recommended with many years of municipal experience from the Town of Sheffield where he currently serves as their Superintendent.

As you may or may not have noticed, Yokum Pond Road/Becket Road has been closed over the last couple weeks. We have been doing work in preparation for an upcoming paving project.

At Wednesday's Board of Selectmen meeting, the Board voted to keep Town Hall and other town buildings closed until September. The Board will review this measure at their first meeting in September. All staff are working regular hours and are accessible via phone or email. Please contact the appropriate office for assistance.

Additionally, please be sure to complete your census. Becket's response rate is much less than other municipalities in the county and assistance is available to complete this. The US Census is an important indicator for how many people live in a city, town, state, and region which greatly effects federal and state funding and grants.

We are pleased to note we have received our final four licenses from Verizon for the Make Ready portion of the Broadband project. Ride-outs are being done daily to see what may need to be remediated to allow construction

to commence. We all hope that this can be done as expeditiously as possible. COVID-19 has once again shown us how important and needed high-speed internet access is in rural areas.

Lastly, the Governor has recently signed legislation to allow mail-in voting in the upcoming elections in September and November. As required by the new law a Vote by Mail application will be mailed to every person who was registered to vote by July 1 and who had not already requested an absentee ballot for the State Primary or for all elections this year. A second mailing will be sent out in September. More information can be accessed at the Secretary of State's Office online www.sec.state.ma.us.

Stay safe,

William J. Caldwell

Town Administrator