SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
7:00pm, October 6, 2021
Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket

Attendees
Select Board (SB): William Elovirta (BE), *Chair*; Chris Swindlehurst (CS), *Vice Chair;* Michael Lavery (ML), *Clerk*

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

Others: MLP Manager Bob Gross *remote:* Carl Goodman, Kathy Dickinson, Stan & Robin Wolkoff, Paul Aube, Paula Miller, Lynn Howard, Cindy Delpapa, Abigail Ostow, Howard Ware, Linda Burt, Stan and Robin Wolkoff, Adele Levine, Arthur Telegen, Laurie Friedman John Lambert, Fred Braun, Michele Cohen, Dana Shpitalnik, Mike Goodenough, Josh Siegel, Barbara Wacholder, Adrienne Metcalf, Jerome Schwartzbach, Lei-Anne Ellis, Brian Vincent, Andrew Wilkerson, Tommie Hutto Blake and Al Blake

1. **Call to order**
   BE called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. He indicated that the SB was recording the meeting.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
   BE led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Broadband Update and Select Board to discuss and possibly vote on policies and decisions relating to the Broadband Project**
   MLP Manager Bob Gross provided the following update:
   Redundancy: The Broadband Ad Hoc Group is working to arrange to have a second pathway as a backup for the broadband network.

   It is anticipated that FSA 9 will be released on November 1st with hookups to commence shortly after.

   Based on recent progress, the Broadband Ad Hoc Group is cautiously optimistic that before the ground freezes, the underground drops will be done in all FSAs that have been released for connections so that those connections can occur in the wintertime.

   The Town of Becket has started receiving monthly checks (MLP fees) from subscribers.

   The Broadband Ad Hoc Group will schedule Information Sessions on Thursday, October 28th at 7pm, and Saturday morning on November 6th. The Broadband Ad Hoc Group will ask if the Energy Committee will join along in November. Based on state COVID-19 guidelines, they will determine whether in-person participation is possible or whether in-person attendance will be capped.

   To date, with the exception of Police Detail costs, the budget is staying on course. Bob indicated that other towns are experiencing overages on their Police Detail expenses.

4. **Approval of the September 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes**
   ML moved to approve the September 22, 2021 Select Board Meeting Minutes, CS 2nd. Motion carried 3-0.

5. **Public Input (limited to 3 minutes per person, 20 minutes total for this agenda item).**
None.

6. **Select Board to Vote to appoint members to the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee effective 2021 through 12/31/2022: Cindy Delpapa; Larisa Shpitalnik, Meredyth Babcock, Al Blake, Michael Lavery**
BC indicated that upcoming grants require an updated Open Space and Recreation Plan. BC added Ken Smith (Becket Land Trust) to the above captioned names who represent various town factions to serve on a committee charged with reviewing and updating the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan. CS moved to appoint Cindy Delpapa, Larisa Shpitalnik, Meredyth Babcock, Al Blake, Michael Lavery, and Ken Smith to the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee effective October 6, 2021 through 12/31/2022. BE 2nd. Motion carried with ML recusing himself since he is included on the list.

7. **Discussion/potential vote on Host Community Agreement between the Town of Becket and**
   - **Tetrahydra Agtek LLC in conjunction with a Tier 11 Marijuana Cultivation Establishment solely for the cultivation, processing, packaging and transfer of marijuana for adult use, with approximately 2,000 square feet of administrative space, 90,000-100,000 square feet of cultivation space, 2,500 square feet of processing or manufacturing space, and 5,000 square feet of storage, administrative, and miscellaneous space, on a 5.6 acre lot at 0 Quarry Road, Becket, MA 01223**

Discussion ensued regarding odor, waste and water controls; typos, questions about property tax disposition for a legally separate marijuana entity in a CT municipality, interpretation of a legal opinion from the DOR, the addition of language relating to use of an olfactometer in the revised draft HCA presented at this meeting, questions and affirmation that the Planning Board may list conditions on its Special Permit, comments that this agreement may set a precedence, and annual payments.

ML moved to approve the Host Community Agreement between the Town of Becket and Tetrahydra Agtek LLC in conjunction with a Tier 11 Marijuana Cultivation Establishment solely for the cultivation, processing, packaging and transfer of marijuana for adult use, with approximately 2,000 square feet of administrative space, 90,000-100,000 square feet of cultivation space, 2,500 square feet of processing or manufacturing space, and 5,000 square feet of storage, administrative, and miscellaneous space, on a 5.6 acre lot at 0 Quarry Road, Becket, MA 01223 with the following change and corrections, with language to be vetted by Town Counsel. CS 2nd. Motion carried 3-0.

- Add to Section 13. Odor Control Technology: The Select Board or Town Administrator will designate a witness to accompany odor testing.
- Correction Page 1, paragraph 1: change Seaveiw to Seaview
- Correction Page 1, paragraph 2, line 5, 4th to last word: delete foot (should read 5.6 acre parcel)

8. **Select Board to review Departmental Reports (tba)**
None.

9. **Town Administrator's Report**
BC provided an update of several items that he has been working on:
   - Town Hall, Highway, FS1 Fiber connected. Ambulance and Fire Station 1 needs to be connected.

- Received ARPA funds
    - Funds to be used for Broadband
- Streetlights
    - Working with a contract to get Eversource incentive and purchase of ours. BC awaits reply from Eversource.
- MEMA/FEMA
    - Berkshire/Franklin met threshold but the Commonwealth did not. MA and Becket will not receive MEMA/FEMA disaster assistance.
- Community Compact Grant
    - Open Space and Recreation Plan (BRPC)
- MVP – Master Plan w/Climate resilience focus next year
- META Grant- Later GC competitive Grant
    - Wind Turbine – apply for green communities
- Procurement Class
    - Completed – will apply for MCPPO certification
- HCAs
    - Black Cat – Withdrew the HCA
    - Tetra Hydra – tonight (discussed above)
- Massworks
    - McNerney Rd – BC anticipates we will receive state funding for work to occur next summer.
- Leonhardt Rd. repair– Monday work will commence.

BC discussed repair to the Town Hall roof. The Building and Grounds Technician had advised that water is leaking into the Town Hall from the cupola. Portions of the cupola have rotted. The SB agreed that repair will involve removing the cupola so that the roof may be sealed. The cupola which originated from a former town school building will be stored and evaluated for the town's re-use.

BC advised that Jenn Beatty, Executive Director of the Becket Arts Center, had requested a meeting with him and the Chair of the Finance Committee. Adele Levine, Becket Arts Center Trustee, explained that the purpose of the meeting is to provide an update about the BAC's prior year and future plans for the upcoming year.

10. Select Board's Comments and Announcements

ML initiated discussion regarding the movement within the United States and in the Commonwealth to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day in place of the Columbus Day Holiday. ML moved to replace Columbus Day with the name Indigenous Peoples Day, CS 2nd. Motion carried with BE opposed.

CS reported that he arranged for locally sourced Hemlock timber donations [Bill Robinson (Robinson Farm), Barbara Goodwin (Goodwin Road), and John Lowell (Brooker Hill Road)] and he acquired logs from other areas of Becket to form the frame of the church bell tower at the First Congregational Church of Becket

11. Any other business to come before the Board

The SB agreed that the Town may resume Halloween Trick or Treating (October 31st, 5pm till 7pm). Due to COVID-19, 2020 Trick or Treating was cancelled.

BG advised the Fire Chief mentioned the Volunteer Fire Dept. will hold a drive-through Halloween event on Oct. 31st (time tba) and the Town of Washington will not hold its pumpkin walk this year.

12. **Correspondence:**
    - **2021.09.20, Planning Board Decision to approve John and Phyllis Hathaway's special permit application for construction of a new single story dwelling at 104 Alan A Dale Drive (Assessors Map 217, Lots 186 & 187)**
    - **2021.09.27 received, Wood Environmental & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. notification: CSX Transportation, Inc. Railroad Right-of Way herbicide treatment as indicated in the Yearly Operational Plan will commence on or after 9-28-2021 and conclude on or before 10-15-2021. Questions or to request a copy of the plan: stephen.herzog@woodplc.com**
    - **2021.09.29 Lei-Anne Ellis re: group of Indian Lakes & Skyline Ridge residents' suggested amendments to the Tetrahydra Agtek LLC Host Community Agreement**
    - **2021.09.29 Zoning Board of Appeals notice of Public Hearing on November 2, 2021 to review Alexander Rozenblum's Special Permit Application to seek relief from Section 3.4.5 of the Becket Zoning Bylaws, to encroach on property lines set back at 23 Nottingham Circle (Map, 216, Lot 808)**

    The SB received the above listed communications.

13. **Select Board to review and sign payable warrants**
    The SB reviewed and signed payable warrants.

14. **Select Board to adjourn the Meeting**
    ML moved to adjourn, CS 2nd. Motion carried 3-0. BE adjourned the meeting at 8:02pm

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, *Administrative Assistant*

Signed by:

William H. Elovirta / *October 20, 2021*
William H. Elovirta, *Chair* Date Approved

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- 2021.10.06 Select Board Agenda
- Agenda Item 4. 2021.09.22 Select Board Minutes.
- Agenda Item 7. Draft Host Community Agreement: Tetrahydra Agtek LLC
- Agenda Item 8. None
- Agenda Item 9. Town Administrator's Report
- Agenda Item 12. Correspondence as listed above and communications received after the agenda was posted:
    - 2021.10.05 received John and Beverly Lambert re: concerns about Tetrahydra Agtek LLC
    - 2021.10.05 e-mail from Michele Cohen re: Host Community Agreement - Tetrahydra Agtek LLC with attachments: 1) Michele Cohen's e-mail dated 2021.09.27 to MA DOR, 2) DLS Local Finance Opinion LF)-2018-3 dated 2018.09.24