

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**7:00pm, October 20, 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 remote:** MLP Manager Bob Gross

**1. Call to order**

BE called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. 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:

The Broadband Ad Hoc Group continues to urge Westfield Gas + Electric to focus resources on Becket installations despite that WG+G has six towns that have Fiber Service Areas ready for connections.

The biggest concern is 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 Information Sessions scheduled on 10/28 and 11/6 will be Zoom only. So far, sixty-five have registered.

Many residents jump to unrealistic expectations when they see broadband related trucks around town. The Broadband Ad Hoc Group plans to send an update to the website subscribers to help clarify what is occurring.

The Broadband Ad Hoc Group may arrange to offer excess spools to residents.

CS confirmed he wants service, and he will contact Bob when he (CS) has prepared the underground.

**4. Approval of the October 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

CS moved to approve the October 6, 2021 Select Board Meeting Minutes, ML 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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 review and vote on One-Day Wine & Beer Permit Application**

- Becket Arts Center's Fundraising Event at 1986 Fred Snow Rd. on October 31st

ML moved to issue a one day wine & beer permit to Becket Arts Center in conjunction with its fundraising event at 1986 Fred Snow Rd on October 31<sup>st</sup> from 1pm till 4pm. CS 2<sup>nd</sup>: Motion carried 3-0.

**7. Select Board to acknowledge Part-time Reserve Officer Shaun Courtney's resignation from the Police Department effective October 7, 2021**

The SB acknowledged Part-time Reserve Officer Shaun Courtney's resignation from the Police Department effective October 7, 2021. BC will send Mr. Courtney a letter of appreciation on behalf of the Select Board and himself.

The SB acknowledged Meredyth Babcock's resignation (due to time constraints) from the Conservation Commission effective November 1, 2021 and they signed a letter thanking her for serving on the Commission.

**8. Select Board to review Departmental Reports (tba)**

BE asked BC to remind Department Heads to submit their reports.

**9. Town Administrator's Report**

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

- Received ARPA funds: Funds to be used for Broadband
- Streetlights: Working with a contract to get ES incentive and purchase of ours
- 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
- Massworks: McNerney Rd
- Leonhardt Road repairs: 50% complete
- Winter Roads – CS moved to accept the Highway Superintendent's suggested winter 2021-2022 road closure listing. ML 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried 3-0.
- BC reported that he sent a letter to the Blue Hills Regional Technical Principal to acknowledge that Benjamin Rossini performed community service at the Town Beach during 2021. This year Benjamin Rossini and his father Edward Rossini performed the community service at the Town Beach.
- The Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> agenda will include a sealed bid for a Tax Title property located on Pine Dale Circle.
- BC sent Town of Becket Departments notification to submit Capital Requests for Fiscal Year 2023.
- Tetrahydra Agtek LLC agreed to the language presented in the Host Community Agreement and will sign it this week.
- Jessica Perotti resigned as the Administrative Assistant to the Planning Board effective December 9, 2021. BC will review/determine the duties needed and will recruit for this vacancy.

**10. Select Board's Comments and Announcements**

ML brought up that there is a hunter's tree stand located on Esau's Heel Trail. The SB agreed that a sign will be placed by the stand indicating that if not removed within a week, the town will remove the stand.

BE initiated discussion about not requiring facemasks when entering Town Hall (from required to optional). No action was taken.

**11. Any other business to come before the Board**

BE reminded the SB that the MMA Conference and Trade Show will occur in person on January 21-22, 2022.

**12. Correspondence:**

- 2021.10.05, Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing to occur on November 10, 2021 to review proposed changes to Section 6.2, Mobile Home Regulations, Section 10.0, Definitions and the Table of Contents of the Becket zoning Bylaws submitted by the Becket Zoning Board of Appeals.
- 2021.10.12, Historical Commission letter reporting and expressing appreciation to those who contributed to the success of John Hanson's presentation entitled "Early Epitaphs in the Becket Center Cemetery" that occurred on October 2, 2021.

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, BE 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried 3-0. BE adjourned the meeting at 7:25pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Gilbert, *Administrative Assistant*

**Signed by:**



William H. Elovirta, Chair / November 3, 2021  
Date Approved

**Documents discussed at this meeting:**

- ✚ 2021.10.020 Select Board Agenda
- ✚ Agenda Item 4. 2021.10.06 Select Board Minutes.
- ✚ Agenda Item 6. Becket Arts Center's One-Day Wine & Beer Permit Application
- ✚ Agenda Item 7. 2021.10.21 memo from Chief of Police with attached letter of resignation from Officer Shaun Courtney dated Oct. 7, 2021
- ✚ Agenda Item 7. E-mail 2021.10.19 Meredyth Babcock notice of resignation from the Cons. Com
- ✚ Agenda Item 9. 2021.10.22 Town Administrator's Report
- ✚ Agenda Item 9. Highway Superintendent's recommended Winter 2021-2022 Road Closure Listing
- ✚ Agenda Item 12. Correspondence listed above