

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
7:00pm, June 21, 2023
Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket

Attendees

Select Board (SB): William Elovirta (BE), *Chair*; Chris Swindlehurst (CS), *Vice-Chair*; Jeff Piemont (JP), *Clerk*

Staff: Katherine A. Warden (KW), Town Administrator; Beverly Gilbert (BG), Administrative Assistant;

Others: Remote: Al Blake

1. The Chairperson will call the Select Board meeting to order.

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

BE led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of the 6/7/2023 Meeting Minutes

JP moved to approve the 6/7/2023 meeting minutes. CS 2nd: Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Input (limited to 3 minutes per person, 20 minutes total for this agenda item).

After discussion with Bob Ronzio, Planning Board Chairperson, the SB granted his request to contact Town Counsel to discuss Planning Board matters regarding 2325 Main Street and a parcel in Becket Woods (Map 407, Lot 47) on Woodmere Rd.

ML asked the Select Board if they would discuss his e-mail he had sent yesterday re: a potential town meeting to establish Esau's Heel trail as a recreational trail. The SB agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

5. Discussion with June Wolfe, Construct, Inc., and potential vote to sign the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities application for Local Housing Project – 50 Dawn Drive

Sammy Keeling from Construct, Inc., attended in place of June Wolfe. CS moved that the Select Board votes to authorize the Chair to sign the local Action Unit application to the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities on behalf of the Becket Receivership property at 50 Dawn Drive, and this application, when approved, will ensure that this unit counts toward Becket's affordable housing inventory . JP 2nd: Motion carried unanimously.

6. Select Board to vote on Town Administrator's recommended appointments effective July 1, 2023:

| Name | Position | Expiration Date |
|---------------------|---|-----------------|
| Edward Pickert | Highway Superintendent/Pest Control/Tree Warden | June 30, 2024 |
| Lisa Michaud | Interim Ambulance Director | June 30, 2024 |
| Katherine A. Warden | Emergency Management Director | June 30, 2024 |

CS moved to approve the Town Administrator's recommended appointments (listed in the above captioned), JP 2nd: Motion carried unanimously.

7. Select Board to vote on Tax Collector's recommended reappointments effective July 1, 2023:

| Name | Position | Expiration Date |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Brian Bean | Deputy Tax Collector | June 30, 2024 |
| Nina Weiler | Assistant Tax Collector | June 30, 2024 |

CS moved to approve the Tax Collector's recommended appointments (listed in the above captioned), JP 2nd: Motion carried unanimously.

8. SB to review and vote on approval of appointments effective July 1, 2023:

| Name | Position | Expiration Date |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Neil Toomey | Agricultural Commission | June 30, 2024 |
| Kristopher Massini | Agricultural Commission | June 30, 2024 |
| Ann Krawet | Planning Board Designee to the Community Preservation Committee | June 30, 2026 |
| William Elovirta | Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Designee | June 30, 2024 |
| Jessica Perotti | Board of Assessors | June 30, 2026 |
| Douglas Bessone | Conservation Commission | June 30, 2026 |
| Douglas Bessone | Conservation Commission Designee to the Community Preservation Committee | June 30, 2026 |
| Rita Furlong | Parks & Recreation Committee Designee to the Community Preservation Committee | June 30, 2026 |
| Henry Hagenah | Conservation Commission Member | June 30, 2026 |
| James P. Levy | Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Alternate Delegate | June 30, 2024 |
| Lorraine Dean | Council on Aging | June 30, 2026 |
| Cathy Terwedow | Cultural Council | June 30, 2026 |
| Shelley Chanler | Cultural Council | June 30, 2026 |
| Cathy DeFoe | Energy Committee | June 30, 2026 |
| Tim Fogerty | Harbor Master | June 30, 2024 |
| Robert Gross | Municipal Light Plant Manager | June 30, 2026 |
| Rita Furlong | Parks & Recreation Committee | June 30, 2026 |
| Madelaine Elovirta | Parks & Recreation Committee | June 30, 2026 |
| Kenneth Bilodeau Jr. | Tax Collector | June 30, 2026 |
| Sarah Hoecker | Zoning Board of Appeals | June 30, 2026 |
| Mary Canty | Zoning Board of Appeals | June 30, 2026 |
| Alvin Blake | Zoning Board of Appeals Associate Member | June 30, 2024 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Christopher Milenkevich | Zoning Board of Appeals Associate Member | June 30, 2024 |
| Michael S. Lavery | Historical Commission | June 30, 2026 |
| Paul Greene | Zoning Enforcement Officer | June 30, 2024 |

Per BE's request, the SB placed the following positions on hold before voting on appointment of the above listed positions: William Elovirta (Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Designee), Madelaine Elovirta (Parks & Recreation Committee Member) and Paul Green (Zoning Enforcement Officer). CS moved to appoint the above captioned positions, except for those on hold, JP 2nd: Motion carried unanimously.

BE expressed concern about zoning enforcement (non-permitted off-premise signs and other code violations). A discussion ensued about ideas relating to enforcement. BE stated the ZEO should initiate enforcement when he views a violation. CS stated he does not think the ZEO should look around for infractions, and should respond to written complaints. BE brought up that many are reluctant to contact the ZEO due to that anonymous complaints are not accepted and the complainant's identity may be exposed. CS moved to reappoint Paul Greene Zoning Enforcement Officer through June 30, 2024, JP 2nd: Motion carried unanimously. The SB would like KW to look into adding a mechanism to the zoning complaint process to protect the privacy of the complainant.

CS moved to reappoint Madelaine Elovirta Animal Inspector, and William Elovirta Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Designee, both effective through June 30, 2024. JP 2nd: Motion carried with BE recusing himself (Madelaine is his wife).

9. Select Board to approve FY2024 Employee Payrates

JP moved to approve the FY2024 Employee Payrates, CS 2nd: Motion carried unanimously.

During discussion, KW had advised on changes to payment frequencies. She changed annual to semi-annual and to save on payroll processing costs, she changed monthly payments to quarterly payments. Other actions: KW will explore shift differential pay for Police Officers, and on future payrate listings, she will include the employee's time commitment (full-time, part-time, percentage time worked, seasonal, etc.).

10. Select Board to approve Employee Vacation Carry Over Requests

CS moved to approve the list of employee vacation carry over requests from FY2023 to FY2024, JP 2nd: Motion carried unanimously.

11. Select Board to review and possibly approve The Becket Scholarship Foundation, Inc. Tax Bill Insert

CS moved to approve The Becket Scholarship Foundation, Inc. tax bill insert, JP 2nd: Motion carried unanimously.

12. Select Board to review Departmental Reports

- **Building Inspector - May 2023, and other departments tba**

The SB reviewed the Building Inspector's May 2023 report.

13. Town Administrator's Report

- The Transfer Station will be closed on the 4th of July and open on Wednesday, July 5th.
- TextMyGov is up and running.
- KW asked what should be done with the Town Hall air conditioners which are no longer needed due to the internal air conditioning system. The Select Board indicated that they may be offered to the public for \$25 (as-is condition, pickup required).
- The SB agreed KW may replace the meeting table in the Berkshire Room. A rectangle shape will more efficiently use the space in the room.
- KW discussed water/electrical arrangements for upcoming repairs (windowsill, fill in cement) at Fire House 1. CS said there is inside water and electricity availability. CS brought up replacement of the water heater (electrical to gas – vent through the attic) at Fire Station 1.

14. Select Board's Comments and Announcements

CS brought up replacing the Fire Station 1's roof. KW will carry forward the cost and obtain quotes.

CS followed up on the generator for Fire Station 1. KW will carry forward the expense and obtain quotes. KW will arrange to have an annual service contract for the Fire Station 1's generator. He stated that he would like to see the last twelve electrical invoices for Fire Station 1 to ascertain the electrical demand which will help assist with selecting the generator.

CS inquired about whether Eversource presented an herbicide spraying plan (near electrical wires) to the Town of Becket.

15. Any other business to come before the Board

The McNerney and Werden Road projects start on July 10th. KW received message boards from MassDOT, and she arranged to notify surrounding towns.

16. Correspondence/announcements:

- **2023.06.05 Eversource transmittal of copies of four notification letters Eversource sent to George Carter Road property owners who reside on or adjacent to Eversource transmission Right-of-Way where upcoming vegetation work will occur.**
- **2023.06.12 received VHB re : Requests for the 2023 Yearly Operational Plan for CSX's Railroad Right-of-Way Vegetation Management is available by e-mail shertzog@vhb.com or by mail VHB, attn. Stephen Herzog, 120 Front St., Suite 500, Worcester MA 01608**
- **2023.06.03 received BSC Group re: Conservation Commission Public Hearing scheduled 6pm on June 27th to review Notice of Intent (applicant: NSTAR d/b/a Eversource Energy)**
- **2023.06.06 MassDOT re: Project Development #61361 – Bridge Replacement, B-03-057 and B-03-058, Appalachian Trail over I-90**
- **2023.06.06 MassDOT re: Project Development #613212 – Bridge Preservation:**
 - B-03-061 (4FX) – Werden Road over I-90**
 - B-03-062 (4FW) – Johnson Road over I-90**
 - B-14-021(4G6) – Old Chester Road over I-90 in Blandford**
 - S-26-014 (4H3) Prospect Hill Road over I-90 in Stockbridge**

W-22-023 (4HG) – Baker Street over I-90 in West Stockbridge

W-22-026 (4HF) - Baker Street over I-90 in West Stockbridge

The SB reviewed the above communications.

17. Select Board to review and sign payable warrants

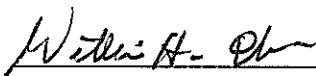
The SB signed the payable warrants.

18. Select Board to adjourn the Meeting

JP moved to adjourn the meeting, CS 2nd: Motion carried unanimously. At 8:42pm, BE adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, *Administrative Assistant*

Signed by:



William H. Elovirta, *Chair*

/ July 5, 2023

Date Approved

Meeting documents:

- Agenda
- June 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- Correspondence – listed agenda item 16
- Departmental Reports – listed agenda item 12.
- FY2024 Wages for the Select Board approval
- 2023.06.15 letter from Tax Coll. Re Assistant Tax Collector reappointment recommendation
- 2023.06.15 letter from Tax Coll. Re Deputy Tax Collector reappointment recommendation
- The Becket Scholarship Foundation tax insert
- Requests for Vacation Carry Over list
- 2023.06.020 e-mail from Michael Lavery re: Esau's Heel Trail conservancy