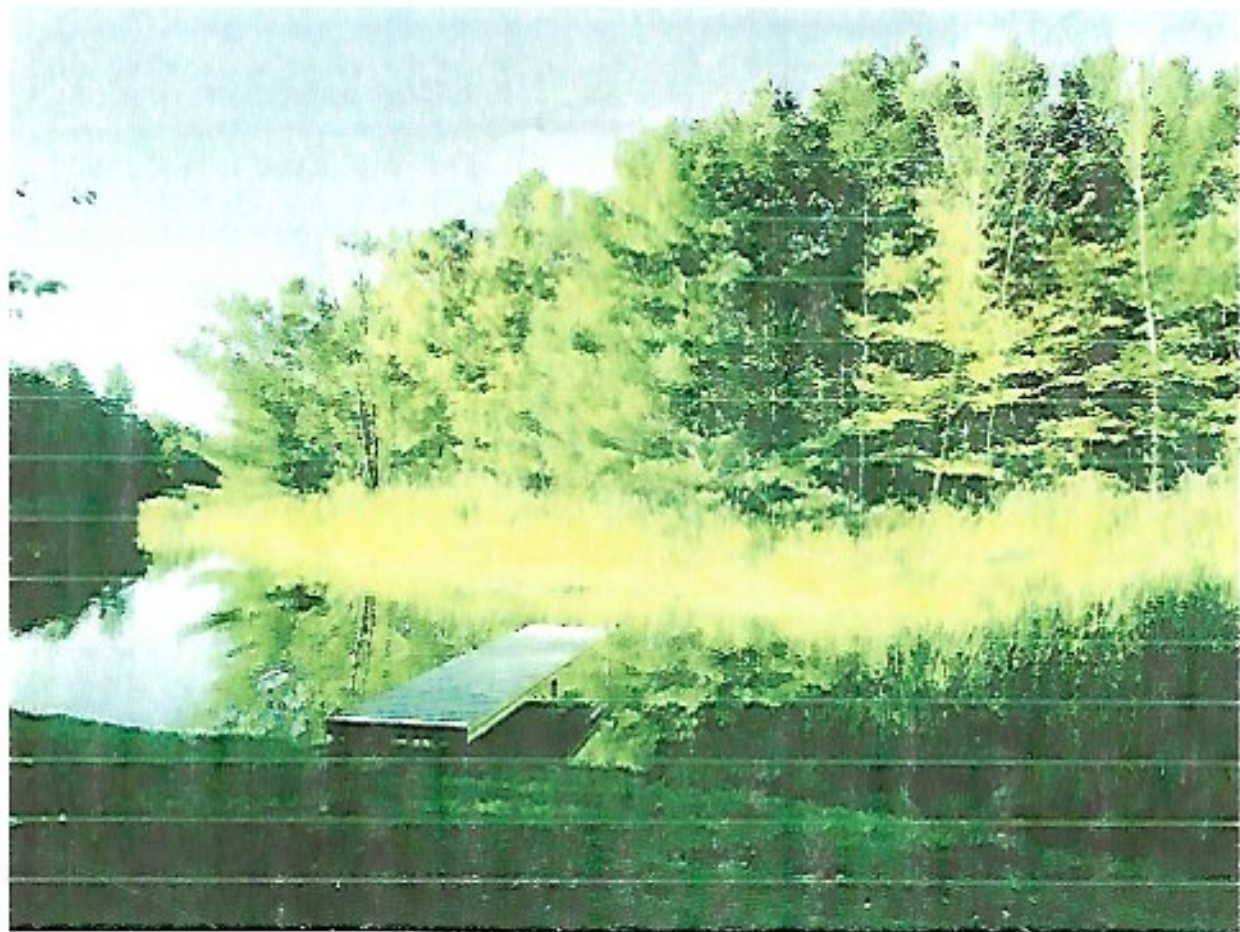


Sherwood Greens Road Improvement and Maintenance District



**Annual Report
2021 - 2022**

2021-2022 Sherwood Greens Prudential Committee Report

Welcome to the 2021-2022 Sherwood Greens Prudential Committee annual meeting. The Prudential Committee members for the past year (2020-2021) were Terry Hayden, Chair, Marc Shultz, Vice Chair, Dean Lagrotteria, Bruce Lipton, Lake Manager, Joe Hanrahan, Emily Pfeiffer (former resident) and Karen Brodie (resigned earlier in the year). Working closely with us were Kathy Borden, Treasurer, Laurie Martin, the District Clerk (recently resigned) and Robert (Bob) Moore the District Superintendent. Today, we need to fill six positions: four vacant seats on the Prudential Committee and the vacancies for the District Clerk and District Treasurer. I sincerely thank each participant on the Board, together with the treasurer, district clerk and superintendent, for their contributions to maintain the roads and fiscal health during this challenging year of COVID19. Instead of meeting in Town Hall, we continued to navigate the technology of conference calls and Zoom meetings. Special mention and thanks to our Sherwood Greens resident, Jane Hanrahan. Jane, without hesitancy, agreed to step in as District Clerk (Appointed Temporarily) to assist us in any way possible. It has been a pleasure to work with Jane since May 1st. Please know we have other residents who offered their time to stuff and stamp envelopes so today's meeting occurs without any glitches. **THANK YOU!!!**

The official address for Sherwood Greens is 1439 Jacobs Ladder Road, Becket, MA, 01223. Our telephone number is 413-274-2374. Use this number to contact the District Superintendent and the Chair. This number accepts both calls and text messages (be sure to include contact details). We continue to maintain a homeowners list, which includes names, addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers. As a courtesy, this list is solely used for Sherwood Greens communications and is never shared with anyone outside of the community by the Board. We maintain strict confidentiality and strongly encourage you to confirm your contact information is current. Last year, we used the list throughout the year to keep homeowners informed of town notices (i.e., related to COVID 19 and Broadband), reminders for Prudential Committee meetings and policy updates. While we communicate using emails, official SGRD information is posted on our webpage under the Town of Becket website. We welcome all to be part of this communication network. In addition, please note the Town of Becket has an online communication system for public notices, which you should sign up for if you have not done so already. To subscribe to the Town of Becket meeting agendas and public notices, please visit <http://townofbecket.org/subscribe>.

Special thanks to Marc Schultz who graciously took on the additional role (external to the Board) to prepare lake reports for the Becket Conservation Committee and assist residents with ordering benthic mats for their respective lakefront properties. His presence on the Board has been valuable, often asking questions to get to the root of any issue. My appreciation is extended to Emily Pfeiffer for her years of excellent service to SGRD. Emily has been instrumental to the Greens in many capacities, establishing our Google accounts for the district's telephone and email communications, managing SGRD's Berkshire Mosquito Program, and assisting the Lake Management Program (i.e., the purchasing of benthic mats, implementing lake surveys and reporting to the Berkshire Conservation Committee). She will be sorely missed by many in the community. I would also like to thank Virginia and Michael Lavery for personally purchasing a benthic mat for Golden Fawn lake.

District thanks also to Karen Brodie, who contributed to the Board in SGRD. Karen resigned earlier in the year. Much appreciation and thanks to Laurie Martin, who recently resigned effective April 3rd. Laurie had two stints with SGRD as District Clerk beginning in 2018. She traveled an hour each month to assist the Greens in our administrative duties. Laurie with her breadth of experience was very involved in keeping the Prudential Committee compliant with the laws of Massachusetts when face-to-face meetings were furloughed from Town Hall. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

Kathy Borden submitted a summary Budget Report detailing expenditures over a three year period, compared to the proposed budget for the next fiscal year. Since joining the Sherwood Greens Road District in 2014, Kathy has been our connective link to the Department of Revenue and several

departments in Becket's Town Hall (i.e., the Tax Collectors office, Assessor's office and the Administrative Team). In addition to keeping us fiscally sound, Kathy is a pleasure to work with!!

Bob Moore's report as Road Superintendent, is included. Bob discusses the issues encountered on the roads, in the ditches, and required culvert repairs in Sherwood Greens. In general, we were pleased with the conditions of the roads in SGRD throughout the year. However, snow through the month of April, the winter thaw and persistent rainstorms delayed pothole repairs and postponed the grade, rake and rolling of main roads until mid-May (weather permitting). Under the management of Bob Moore, the services of Gary J. O'Brien were diligent in monitoring the roads in our community. Bob has not only been in constant contact with Gary O'Brien and his crew, but has also kept a watchful eye on related road expenditures, he has canoed to inspect beaver dams, chopped down trees, does a daily inspection of the roads and has helped many residents with their personal and ad hoc requests. Our gratitude and thanks are extended to Bob Moore.

Also attached is the second Lake Report from Bruce Lipton. Through Bruce's skillful management, Bruce has re-established and secured Sherwood Greens' lake permit from the Berkshire Conservation Committee. We were approved for a variety of options. We are working with Ken Wagner of Water Resources Services to develop and implement a lake management plan over the next five (5) years. Ken joins us today to elaborate on the plans which will commence next year.

We all benefit from the maintenance of the beauty and health of our four lakes (i.e., Longbow Lake (25 acres), Little Longbow Lake (3 acres), Silver Shield Lake (11 acres) and Golden Fawn Lake (3 acres)) and the surrounding areas including our common beach.

Emily Pfeiffer's final Mosquito report is attached. Participating in the Berkshire Mosquito Control Program (BCMCP) of the State of Massachusetts, SGRD had seasonal monitoring and control of identified mosquito species in the community. Please see Emily's comprehensive report over the last three years

(2018, 2019, and 2020). Under the larvae management by the BCMCP, the mosquito population diminished, requiring only one spraying event last season, similar to the SGRD spraying in 2019. In April 2021 the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health decided to table their review of mosquito spraying in Sherwood Greens Road District pending further review. There was concern that SGRD was approved as a separate entity by the State of Massachusetts for spraying when the Town elected to cease funding the program in 2010 and again in 2012. The Selectmen wanted to seek legal Opinion from the Town's counsel and the Board of Health is pending investigations regarding the original complaint of container leaching PFAs into chemicals USED for mosquito spraying. We are, however, permitted by the Board of Health to continue with larvicide treatment and testing of mosquito traps as a District. The BOH has tabled their decision again until June 2021 since the results were pending for the review of PFAs. Chris Horton has recently provided statements made at the legislative briefing by the DEP and MDAR. Please see the email dated May 28, 2021 attached. In addition, an email request has been sent to the Town Administrator, William Caldwell, for a copy of the legal Opinion upon receipt by Town Hall. An early decision was made by Joel Bard of KP Law that the Town of Becket can opt out of the BCMCP program for town properties, but he could find no court precedent to restrict individuals or districts from spraying. The Selectmen, with encouragement of some SGRD residents, are looking for ways to restrict SGRD from participating in the BCMCP program. Please see the Select Board Minutes dated May 5th included for further details under item 7. Chris Horton of the BCMCP joins us today and is available for any questions on the BCMCP program that continues today.

High-speed internet service in Becket, moving closer yet is still on the horizon. Please refer to the Town of Becket website (www.townofbecket.org) for additional information.

The monthly meeting schedule for the fiscal year 2021-2022 is enclosed and has been submitted to Town Hall. We welcome all residents to attend. Effective July 6, Governor Baker has reinstated Open Meetings at Town Hall and is working to amend the Open Meeting regulations to include Zoom Meetings for the

Prudential Committee. Currently the Board (i.e., a quorum) is required to meet in person and shall decide whether guests can join via Zoom. We will ensure the status is communicated via public postings and informal emails as mentioned above.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Terry Hayden, Chair
Sherwood Greens Prudential Committee

Prudential Committee Meeting Schedule

2021 - 2022

As of July 6th, All Meetings are Held at the Becket Town Hall
at 9:00 AM

July 10th

August 7th

September 11th

October 2nd

November 6th

December 4th

January 8th

February 19th

March (TBD)

April 2nd

May 7th

June 4th Annual Meeting

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

SHERWOOD GREENS ROAD IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE DISTRICT
1439 JACOBS LADDER ROAD, BECKET, MA 01773

Berkshires.

Greetings:

To the Clerk of the Sherwood Greens Road District,

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said District who are qualified to vote in District affairs to meet at the PRIVATE BEACH OF SHERWOOD GREENS ROAD IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE DISTRICT, on Shuttlecock between Long Bow Lane West and Long Bow Lane East, Becket, MA, on the 5th Day of June, 2021 at 9:00 o'clock A.M., (bring personal chairs or blankets) for the following purposes:

ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

The moderator who presided at the previous Annual District meeting, or in the absence of that moderator the District Clerk will preside, shall call the meeting to order and determine if a quorum of the proprietors are present in person or by proxy. If the presiding moderator or in his absence the District Clerk determines that a quorum is present, the Annual District Meeting shall proceed to:

Article 1: Election of Moderator for a one-year term, ending at the Annual Meeting of calendar year 2022.

Article 2: To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate and/or use other available funds the sum of money needed for the operating budget for FY 2022 and to fix the salaries and compensation of all elected offices as follows:

Account	Amount
1. Lake Maintenance	\$48,756.00
2. General Road Maintenance	\$10,000.00 GRR/Tree removal/Culverts
3. Winter Road Maintenance	\$17,800.00 Fixed rate/Under contract
4. Major Road Improvements	\$10,000.00
5. Annual Maintenance	\$10,000.00 Ditch cleaning/potholes
6. Mosquito Control	\$ 1,800.00
7. General Reserve Account	\$ 3,000.00
8. Superintendent's Salary	\$ 6,000.00
9. Superintendent's Expenses	\$ 600.00
10. Treasurer's Salary	\$ 3,800.00
11. Clerk's Salary	\$ 3,000.00
12. Clerk's Expenses	\$ 300.00
13. District Office Expenses	\$ 700.00
14. Insurance, Bonding and Withholding	\$ 2,000.00

16. Entrance Way and Beach Maintenance	\$ 2,800.00
17. Tax Collection (Billing Company)	\$ 2,000.00
18. Prudential Committee Expenses	\$ 300.00
19. Attorney's Fees	\$ 300.00
	\$ 3,000.00
Total	\$126,156.00

Prudential Committee recommends

2/3 vote required

Article 3: To see whether the proprietors will vote to transfer from the Stabilization Account the sum of \$13,000 for the payment of lake expenses under Sherwood Greens Lake Management program for fiscal 2022.

Prudential Committee recommends

2/3 vote required

Article 4: To see whether the proprietors will agree to amend the by laws of the District by deleting the existing Article III Section 4 and replacing it with the following:

SECTION 4. Elections of District officers (including the Prudential Committee Members) and the District Moderator shall be conducted in the following manner:

- (a) The District Moderator shall be elected as the first order of business at each annual district meeting. The then District Meeting moderator shall entertain nominations from the floor for each separate office to be filled at the meeting.
- (b) All votes to elect the new moderator and the District officers shall be by secret paper ballot which ballots shall be tallied in the presence of the meeting by tellers designated by the moderator for that purpose, unless there is only one nominee for such position in which case the vote shall be by voice vote at the discretion of the Moderator. Voting by paper ballot shall be as follows: the proprietor shall write on the ballot the names of candidates of their choice equal to the number of vacancies. After the tally of votes, the winners would be the persons with the highest number of votes. For example, there are two vacancies and four candidates. Proprietors would be instructed to vote for two candidates by writing two names on their ballot. When the votes are counted the two candidates with the most votes would be the winners, provided that each has at least a majority of proprietors voting in support of that candidate. The voting will continue, dropping the candidate with the least votes, until every vacancy is filled by a candidate who was elected by a majority of the proprietors.
- (c) A majority vote of the meeting shall be required to elect the new moderator and the District officer(s). The Members shall be furnished with a number of paper ballots equal to the number of voting cards issued by the District Clerk to such Member prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Prudential Committee Recommends

2/3 vote required

ARRANGING TO UNIFORM INSTITUTIONS AND LAST VOTES IN THE District election to fill vacancies of district officers individually as follows:

- 1 Member Prudential Committee, three-year term (Vacant)
- 1 Member Prudential Committee, three-year term (Vacant)
- 1 Member Prudential Committee, two-year term (Vacant)
- 1 Member Prudential Committee, one-year term (Vacant)
- 1 District Clerk, three-year term (Vacant)
- 1 District Treasurer, three-year term (Vacant)

Prudential Committee Recommends

Majority vote required

And you are further directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies at the usual places designated by the District at least fourteen (14) days before the time of holding said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 4th day of May 2021

<u>Jerry Hayden</u> Becket, Massachusetts	5/6/2021
<u>Bruce Lipton</u> Becket, Massachusetts	5/6/2021
<u>Dean LaGrotteria</u> Becket, Massachusetts	5/6/2021
<u>Mari F. Schultz</u> Becket, Massachusetts	5/6/2021
<u>Joe Haurahan</u> Becket, Massachusetts	5/6/2021

Members, Prudential Committee

I have served this warrant as directed above.

Attest Jane Haurahan
Becket, Massachusetts
District Clerk (Date) 5/6/2021

Becket, Massachusetts _____

OPERATING BUDGET	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021			FY2022
						PROPOSED
DISCRETIONARY	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	SPENT	BALANCE	
Major Improvements	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$6,400	\$8,600	\$10,000.00
GR&R AND MATERIAL TRAIL CIRCLE				\$2,300		
GR&R AND MATERIAL OLD ABBY INC				\$3,200		
GR&R TO ROBIN WOOD EXT				\$900		
Annual Maintenance	\$11,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$9,060	\$2,940	\$10,000.00
GR&R 2 loads material				\$600		
Roadside mowing				\$1,360		
Clean Ditches				\$5,600		
Ditching and Fall Maint				\$1,500		
General Road Maintenance:	\$11,500	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$1,075	\$9,925	\$10,000.00
Pothole Upkeep Roads				\$900		
Fall GRR						
Spring GRR						
Spring Clean Up				\$175		
Culverts/Miscell						
Super Expenses	\$600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$438	\$161	\$6,000.00
Office Expenses:	\$3,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$491	\$509	\$700.00
Supplies				\$11		
Storage Unit				\$480		
Phone						
Prudential Comm Expenses	\$300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$100	\$200	\$300.00
Clerk Expenses	\$600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$38	\$562	\$300.00
Attorney's Fee	\$1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$2,291	-\$1,291	\$3,000.00
Insurance, Bonding, W/H	\$3,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$1,791	\$209	\$2,000.00
Insurance				\$961		
Bonds						
Withholding Tax				\$830		
FIXED COSTS			\$ -			
Winter Road Maintenance	\$17,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 16,800	\$16,800		\$17,800.00
Town Mailing Costs	\$300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$300		\$300.00
Town of Becket Services	\$2,800	\$ 2,800	\$ 2,800	\$1,468	\$1,332	\$2,800.00
Super Salary	\$5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$4,500	\$1,500	\$6,000.00
Clerk Salary	\$2,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$2,250	\$750	\$3,000.00
Treasurer Salary	\$3,800	\$ 3,800	\$ 3,800	\$1,900	\$1,900	\$3,800.00
General Reserve Account	\$3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000		\$3,000	\$3,000.00
Entrance & Beach Maintenance	\$2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$1,050	\$950	\$2,000.00
Mosquito Control	\$1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800		\$1,800	\$1,800.00
Lake Maintenance	\$31,000	\$ 15,900	\$ 15,900	\$9,490	\$6,410	\$48,756.00
Water Resource				\$5,355		
Beaver Solutions				\$2,240		
Mats				\$483		
Huazatonic Testing				\$585		
Dues/Fees/NOI				\$827		
TOTAL OPERATING	\$115,200	\$ 98,100	\$ 98,900	\$59,442	\$39,458	\$126,156.00
				Less Stabilization		-\$13,000.00
				Net effect on Taxes		\$113,156.00
Respectfully Submitted,						
Kathleen Borden, District Treasurer						

SGRD Road Superintendent's Report
Annual Meeting June 2021

Due to the late Spring thaw in 2020 and the pandemic, 0020we got a late start with the Spring grade, rake and roll as well as the mowing on the sides of the road. The grade, rake and roll were done late Summer so we did not do the Fall grade, rake and roll year. The mowing of the sides of the road wasn't done until Fall. We will be back on schedule this 2021 season.

A little more extensive work was done with gravel aided on Trail Circle, Robinwood West and Old Abbey. When Gary Obrien did the grade, rake and roll for us he took it a step further and did all our roads at no cost to us. This helped us out immensely. Quite a few of the roads needed the extra care and Gary's crew did a great job.

We had quite a bit more snow this year than in the past. Gary and his crew were in the Greens early in the morning plowing and sanding. The crew plowed enough to make the roads passable and when the storms were over, they came back in and widened the roads for us. There were times when I called to get more sanding done and Gary sent his people out to take care of it. We had some ice this year as well which required sanding. Gary used a ground gravel mix this year for sanding which worked out a lot better than just the sand.

The Spring thaw left us with a lot of ruts. I had Gary come in and grade the entranceway and put some stone down. When Gary comes to do the Spring grade, rake and roll, he and I will access the roads and see what care will be needed.

Between snow, ice and wind, we had a few trees that came down throughout the winter and early spring. I took care of the ones that weren't on wires and called the electric company for the ones that were on wires.

We have a couple of culverts that are concerning for our roads. The issues will be addressed and any road damages will be the responsibility of the homeowners. All in all, it's been a good year with very minimal issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Moore
Road District Superintendent

Lakes Report
Annual Meeting June 2021

Beaver Control

We have re-engaged Beaver Solutions for their annual maintenance of fencing and flow pipes. In addition to that they will do some needed repair work at 3 sites, for which we received grant money to cover 75% of that cost, which is separate from the usual maintenance.

Ecoli Testing

We have also re-engaged Housatonic Basin and Testing to perform ecoli tests on a weekly basis. This season we have increased the number of testing sites to include all of the lakes.

Residents who wish to have their own sites individually tested are free to contact the Prudential Committee and sign up for that. The cost to the individual would be \$32/test and should be pre-paid to SGRD. Any individual test will be performed the week after sign-up.

Barrier Mats and Manual Pulling

At the end of last season Dr. Ken Wagner helped us to get permission from the Becket Conservation Commission for the use of barrier mats and manual pulling to help control nuisance aquatic vegetation along the shorelines of each lake. Residents were able to purchase up to 2000 sq. ft of mats at their own expense to install at their own properties thus making access to a lake much easier.

Residents were also granted permission to do some manual pulling covering the same amount of area or to hire someone to do it. About 20 residents signed up for the mats, manual pulling, or both. Because this program started very late last season, residents overall were unable to determine its efficacy.

This part of the lake management program is still in play for the coming season and residents are free to purchase additional mats up to the legal limit and residents who did not participate last year are free to do the same. This is also true for manual pulling.

Emily Pfeifer was kind enough to organize a bulk purchase and delivery of the mats as well as design a Google Doc for people to sign up and a survey of efficacy which was and will be reported to the Becket Conservation Commission. Residents participating from the beginning of this season will have a much better idea by late season whether or not the mats and manual pulling were helpful in controlling some of the nuisance vegetation along their own shorelines.

One of our residents was kind enough to purchase for SGRD several mats at the access point on Golden Fawn and SGRD itself purchased several for the common beach on Long Bow Lake.

Pond Weed and Invasive Common Reed (Phragmites)

At the same time, we were seeking approval from the Becket Conservation Commission (BCC) for the use of barrier mats and manual pulling of weeds, Ken Wagner was compiling all of the data and information required for a new Notice of Intent (NOI) for the treatment for nuisance aquatic vegetation and invasive Phragmites in around our 4 lakes. Basically, this is an application put before the BCC and the MassDEP for their approval as required under the Wetlands Protection Act.

Our application was submitted in September 2020, approved in October, and we were issued an Order of Conditions (OOC) in November 2020 which outlines what and what is not permitted for management of pond weeds and Phragmites in Sherwood Greens. The OOC is good for 3 years and must be renewed by November 2023.

We are permitted to use mechanical harvesting and herbicides as well as continuing the use of barrier mats and manual pulling which are suitable for shoreline management but impractical for maintaining 'open water' conditions on the 4 lakes.

Because mechanical harvesting avoids the use of chemical treatments the Prudential Committee decided to first solicit several proposals from companies that do this kind of work. What came back proved to be enormously expensive, well beyond our financial means without raising taxes or taking out a loan.

To better understand the cost difference between mechanical harvesting and herbicidal treatments we solicited 3 more proposals from the same companies. Herbicidal treatments are significantly cheaper than mechanical harvesting and within our budget. In addition to that, there are some years where herbicides are reduced or not used at all depending on conditions of a particular lake. This is not true for mechanical harvesting, which, unlike herbicides, does not get to the root of the problem and would have to be staged every year.

The Prudential Committee is aware that for some residents the use of herbicides is unpopular. To that end, we would like a vote on their intermittent use to control pond weeds as well as invasive Phragmites. We have used them with great success in past seasons and the herbicides themselves are approved by the MassDEP and the BCC.

However, we cannot start this season. We have been advised by Ken Wagner and the representatives from the 3 companies that starting herbicides in mid-June is too late. Normally this type of treatment begins in mid May before the vegetation is emergent.

If approved by the residents today, we will solicit 3 proposals from the same companies in the Fall for herbicidal treatment to begin in season 2022. They have kept all of our information on file so the bidding process should be much easier this time.

We have re-engaged Ken Wagner not only to be our adviser but also to perform some monitoring of our lakes this season. His work on water quality analysis and plant survey will serve as a blueprint for any company taking on the project, of which monitoring and reporting are an integral part.

For this season 2021 we are trying to engage some divers/pullers/rakers to make some headway on nuisance vegetation, particularly in Golden Fawn and Silver Shield.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce Lipton
Lake Manager

Re: BCMCP: PFA Review

From: Chris Horton (chris@berkshiresmosquito.org)

To: haydent1@yahoo.com

Date: Friday, May 28, 2021, 02:22 PM EDT

Hi Terry,

Here is the statement made at the legislative briefing last week by Commissioner Suuberg (DEP) and Commissioner Lebeaux (MDAR) that gives results of analysis concerning PFAS in mosquito products.

- 5) Similar to our takeaway from Anvil testing, the key takeaway from the analysis is that the PFAS levels in the products don't present health concerns in the communities in which it was applied.
- a. We note that toxicologists from the agencies are still working on their analyses and we can continue to learn more
 - b. But, for drinking water in particular, would like to add that:
 - i. Under the "worst case scenario" for VectoBac, use would add less than 0.005 nanograms of the PFAS per liter to a water body. This level isn't detectable using the most advanced analytical instruments available and is 5,000 times lower than the drinking water standard of 20 ng/L.
 - c. This modeling matches what we've seen from our tests out in the field as well – in drinking water bodies in southeast MA where Anvil was administered, the results do not indicate higher PFAS levels within the spray zone



Overview of PFAS

- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a family of man-made chemicals used since the 1950s to manufacture a variety of stain-resistant, water-resistant, and non-stick products used throughout the world
 - PFAS substances have been used extensively as surface coatings (e.g., "fluorination treatment") to protect various product packaging
 - PFAS are used as protectants for paper and cardboard packaging, carpets, leather products, and textiles that enhance water, grease, and soil repellency, as well as firefighting foams and nonstick coatings on cookware and sporting goods
- PFAS may be detected in all environmental media including air, surface water, groundwater (including drinking water), soil, and food
- Because these chemicals have been used in many consumer products, most people have been exposed to them





Overview of Mosquito Control Pesticides and PFAS

- In August of 2020, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) notified DEP and MDAR that samples of the mosquito control pesticide Anvil 10+10 contained PFAS
 - This has been used by SFW/CSB for aerial spraying in areas where CEE is deemed to present a public health threat
- U.S. EPA initiated a national investigation, in close collaboration with MassDEP, to request samples of pesticide product for analysis
- In September of 2020, DEP initiated sampling and confirmed PEER's findings
 - However, manufacturer confirmed that no PFAS are used in Anvil 10+10
 - Fluorination treatment used to strengthen the containers for safer pesticide shipment and storage was identified by DEP/MDAR as potential PFAS source
- In December 2020, EPA confirmed that fluorinated containers leach PFAS
- Throughout the remaining Winter 2020 into 2021, the manufacturer recalled the fluorinated containers and supplied MA with Anvil 10+10 in non-fluorinated metal containers
 - MassDEP samples have confirmed this Anvil 10+10 does not contain measurable PFAS
 - Manufacturer has switched to all non-fluorinated containers

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Overview of Mosquito Control Pesticides and PFAS, cont.

- Through Spring 2021, DEP/MDAR initiated sampling of additional pesticides from the MCDs
 - In the interim, MCDs were instructed to continue their operations, until results from samples were provided and reviewed. Three factors drove this decision:
 - The screening assessment for Anvil 10+10 indicated that use of the pesticides would not lead to detectable levels of PFAS in drinking water
 - CEE presents a severe risk to public health, particularly in anticipation of the third year of a virus cycle
 - There is a short window of time in which foridding at CEE hotspots can occur, which is a key to in mitigating the threat of arbovirus
 - Preliminary sample results came in, identifying PFAS in a portion of sampled products
 - PFAS were detected in four sampled products, only one of which has been used this season: VectoBac 12AS containers of 2.5- and 30-gallon size
 - No PFAS were detected in six of the sampled products, including VectoBac 12AS containers of 265-gallon size
 - Results are still being analyzed and reviewed by toxicologists at the agencies
 - MCDs immediately stopped use of the VectoBac 12AS packaged in 2.5- and 30-gallon containers
- While PFAS was detectable in some samples, the level of exposure does not present a health concern in the communities where they have been applied

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If you need any other information please let me know.

Thanks,

Chris

Mosquito Control Report Update
Annual Meeting, June 2021

Introduction

Please see official documentation below from the 2019 community meeting for that year's report, which thoroughly explains the Berkshire Mosquito Control project, and provides research around treatments, and the mosquitoes themselves. The goal of this report is to outline the history of this effort over the previous year, and to help all interested parties get very clear on the factual realities of the situation so that they can make an informed decision together that reflects the wishes of the majority.

Treatments in Sherwood Greens for the 2020 Season

- The community voted at the yearly meeting in 2020 to continue to fully participate in the Berkshire Mosquito Control Program, which includes spraying as appropriate.
- The community made the same decision the previous year, in 2019.
- Unlike 2018, when the community did not fully participate in these mitigation strategies, there were no diseased mosquitoes found during the 2019 or 2020 season.
- Spraying only occurred once in 2020, on July 8, as a result of testing. The specific results and recommendation were:
 - The CO2 baited CDC light trap at SGRMD yielded 253 Cq. perturbans mosquitoes on the night of 6/29/20. These mosquitoes are now emerging from cattail areas. This species is a potential vector for WNV and EEE. I would recommend a ULV treatment which we could perform 7/8/20, weather permitting.
- The spray happens only as needed, based on mosquito populations (because more mosquitoes, especially of vector species, increases disease risk) and on results of disease testing (when mosquitoes test positive, spraying is recommended in particular).
- Spraying usually occurs very early in the morning (4-5:30am).
- Early season larvicide treatments have continued, beginning in early April. They help reduce the population that is available to continue to breed over the course of the season.
- Spraying will only happen if/when traps within the Greens show either a high population of mosquitoes (which increases the likelihood of mosquito-borne illness becoming present) or trapped mosquitoes test positive for those illnesses (such as Eastern Equine Encephalitis or West Nile Virus).
- The BMCP also provides clearing of ditches to help alleviate standing water where mosquitoes breed. However, this is an additional service and we do not currently budget for it with them.

Notification of Treatments and Opting Out

- As a courtesy, Chris Horton of the BMCP, alerts Terry Hayden, who sends an email via the unofficial Google group for the Greens. Please contact Terry if you are a property owner in the Greens and would like to be added to that group. This is not an official board communication.
- Any resident that does not wish to have their property sprayed, may opt out, at this link: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/request-for-exclusion-from-wide-area-application-of-pesticides>
- Any resident that wishes to expressly have their property treated at the time of any spraying, may contact Chris Horton at chris@berkshiresmosquito.org and request so.

Mosquito Control Report Update
Annual Meeting, June 2019

Resources:

Chris Horton

Superintendent of the Berkshire County Mosquito Control Program

Matthew Osborne, MPH

Zoonotic Project Coordinator & Arbovirus Surveillance Program Manager

Division of Epidemiology and Immunization, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Juan Carlos Gutierrez

Massachusetts State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board Program Coordinator

Introduction

The question of whether to treat to reduce the mosquito population is a hotly contested topic within our community, and there are people who feel very strongly in opposing positions. The goal of this report is to help all interested parties get very clear on the factual realities of the situation so that we can make an informed decision together that reflects the wishes of the majority.

West Nile Positive Results within Sherwood Greens & End of Season Update

On 8/30/18 the Becket Board of Health announced that there was a positive result for West Nile Virus found in mosquitoes in Becket.

Notice came from Chris Horton shortly before that announcement that the positive result was in the Sherwood Greens community. He recommended spraying at that time. The board reviewed this report at the next meeting and voted to delay any spraying. The season came to an end.

About the Berkshire County Mosquito Control Program, and our participation in it:

1. The Massachusetts Mosquito Control Program has 12 districts in MA, and ours is the Berkshire district. Chris Horton is the superintendent of this district.
2. It is important to understand that Chris has very limited help, with just two field technicians, running the entire Berkshire region for this program. Most districts have multiple people, administrators who can answer calls and emails, and sometimes even scientists who can speak to specific questions about the treatments used. But the Berkshire district is very underfunded, we primarily have Chris, and he is the one checking the traps and doing the majority of the field work, which takes him out on the road most days and limits the amount of time he is available to communicate or even support these efforts. The funds we pay for this service are especially minimal. It is not ideal, but it's the reality, so keeping communications organized and through a single channel is very much preferred, especially considering our financial contribution to the effort. Emily Pfeiffer was designated as the official contact from the SGRD board.
3. The program uses the Integrated Mosquito Management system, which informs mosquito control methods. It is not a "willy nilly" approach, but its guidelines dictate best practices based on findings, so response adjusts to data. The system's goals are source reduction, larval control, and adult control (spray), and it includes monitoring mosquito populations for disease.
4. Most of what we know about modern practice for insecticide use comes from the 100 years or so of mosquito population management and research. This is a large and well-funded effort.
5. Until last August, there have not been positive findings for mosquito borne disease in our community, but spraying had been occurring, and the program works to keep mosquito populations in control to mitigate the risk of developing and amplifying infection in the mosquito and bird populations. This effort calls for the use of adulticides at some point.
6. Last season included larvicide treatments and did not show large breeding events, but there was a seasonal emergence of Cq. Perturbans (a particular mosquito species) that would have

6. There are different types of traps because there are many species of mosquitoes, and they have different habits. 14 species spread WNV but there are 2-3 main players and about 5 others related that spread it – and most of these are container breeding species. That means that the larvicide, which is effective for mainly wetland breeders, is not as effective at knocking down WNV carrying species.
7. By the time of the positive reading, larvicides would have been almost useless. That time of year, most breeding is container, not wetland. (The earlier season treatments were more for nuisance species and those that carry Eastern Equine Encephalitis.) The EEE and WNV species have different types of traps and we have historically gathered more data for the EEE ones. Last year was more even. Larvicides might still have helped, but they would have had no effect on the current adult population.
8. The good news is that container breeding species are most effectively managed by the residents themselves. Even half a cup of standing water – a small puddle in a tarp for instance – is enough to form a mosquito breeding ground for these species. Mosquitoes also don't travel far (about 200 yards in their lives) so if someone's property has a high number of mosquitoes it means they are likely breeding on that property. (It's the birds that transport the disease so far.) But note that container breeding species can also move into swampy areas with pockets of standing water (so container elimination isn't 100% effective, but it does make a big impact).
9. The virus starts from a bird, though, and then goes back and forth from birds to mosquitoes and back again – and birds can fly hundreds of miles in a day. So while a mosquito doesn't go far, the virus does.

About site selection for testing:

1. There are many factors considered, including where it's least likely to be vandalized, and where it will get the best access to the mosquito population.
2. They take samples, do test runs, and make sure it's the right type of habitat. They should also use gis and aerial mapping, and rotate if it seems necessary.
3. In our community, there is one site with 2 traps. They moved it to a location that will capture as many insects as possible. Having found a better site may be why they got a positive result.
4. Having a single site is good for year over year comparisons in data, but it is a limited set.
5. One trap is general and attracts any species that would bite a mammal by releasing carbon dioxide, which is what they're attracted to.
6. The other trap captures mainly WNV mosquitoes, which will have already bitten a mammal, and are trying to lay eggs in the trap.
7. There are also about 15-20 sites within our community that are treated with larvicide, at least 4 times each, earlier in the season. (There are 600 similar sites all around the Berkshires in participating communities, so it's impossible to hit every one whenever it rains a lot.)

The Decision – To Spray or Not to Spray

1. This is a decision we need to make as a community. There is no right answer.
2. Spray is generally effective, but the factors that limit its effectiveness are:
 - a. Mosquitoes need to be in flight and directly hit to be killed.
 - b. Trees and underbrush significantly diminish the efficacy and limit the coverage area. Best case, it goes into the tree line up to 300 feet, but it could be only 50 feet in dense cover. (In a wide-open field, depending on wind and other factors, it can drift much farther.)
 - c. Spraying happens from a vehicle so without excellent road penetration, it is further limited, as in our community.
 - d. If many residents opt out, coverage will be spotty for the remaining area.
 - e. The larvicide has a good kill ratio with very little non-target activity (it's great at killing mosquitoes without killing other things) but the spray is less effective, with more risk.
 - f. When temperatures dip below 55 degrees, spraying is forbidden (mosquitoes don't fly).
3. It is an exceedingly small droplet size and only 0.4 to 0.65 ounces are used per acre of coverage, but it doesn't take much to be effective IF it hits mosquitoes in flight.
4. The risk of WNV:
 - a. Please see separate MA Dept of Public Health statement on WNV.

- b. The virus can be very dangerous, especially in the elderly.
 - c. About 1 in 150 succumb to the disease, and it can be very serious if acquired, with a 10% mortality rate for those who contract serious illness related to WNV.
 - d. Statistically, the risk was extremely high last year for acquiring WNV, and that may be repeated this year.
5. The harm of the spray:
- a. It is an insecticide and it will kill insects it comes into contact with.
 - b. Some bigger insects may survive a single contact, but not cumulative.
 - c. It does degrade in sunlight, and time of day is selected to minimize impact on other types of insects, but there are non targets affected, for sure.
 - d. At this volume, with this application method, risk to humans is not really a consideration according to official statements.

The Decision Not to Spray Last Year

The Integrated Mosquito Management program is effective in limiting (but not eliminating) the mosquito population in participating communities. It had been decided earlier in the season to delay spraying, so we did not fully participate in the program.

The reasons for the decision not to spray after the positive finding were:

- 1. The above items that would limit the effectiveness of the spray.
- 2. The trap levels were not finding massive numbers of insects in general.
- 3. Earlier treatments would have limited this population so that even a less effective treatment at that time might have been enough to have a significant impact, but without the earlier treatments, it would have had less impact.
- 4. Treating then would not eliminate the mosquito population or the threat, nor would it prevent further breeding and spreading of WNV in our community that season.
- 5. The season was almost over, and we knew we'd have the community gathered to consider all of the details for the annual meeting. We agreed to make the decision as a community to fully participate or not in 2019.

Other options for controlling the problem on our own properties:

- 1. Controlling breeding
 - a. The mosquitoes that are spreading the disease in particular, are associated with human activity. They are mainly breeding on residents' properties.
 - b. Empty anything that holds even the smallest amount of standing water and keep it empty. That is where they are breeding. A single mosquito can lay 150 eggs in a dish of water the size of an ash tray.
 - c. This will not control the adults who were already out there.
- 2. Controlling adults
 - a. Every resident has the option to treat their own property, if they choose. There are a number of commercially available products – but note they should not be used where they can readily enter the lakes.
 - b. The most effective way to prevent people from getting WNV from mosquitoes is to dress and treat each person appropriately. DEET is a very effective repellent, and clothing that fits loosely, and has good coverage (long legs/sleeves) is best. Clothing and shoes can also be treated with Permethrin, which is very effective (can be purchased this way or treated later).

Respectfully Submitted
Emily Pfeiffer

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

7:00pm, May 05, 2021

Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket

Attendees

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

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

Others: Bob Ronzio, *Planning Board Chair* **Remote participation:** Terri Hayden, *Dean Lagrotteria*, Shelby Macri (*Country Journal*), Meredith Babcock, Amy Perlmutter, Kirsten Miller, Marc Schultz, Michael Rhein & Michael Thomas: both from Crystal Pond Homeowners Association

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. Board to discuss and possibly vote on Crystal Pond road closure options.

Michael Rhein, President of the Crystal Pond Homeowners Association, explained Crystal Pond's road closure request. Years ago, the town authorized Crystal Pond to close Big Bass Lane from through traffic at the intersection of Wade Inn Road annually. Crystal Pond has been using a chain connected to two barrels to close the road and Crystal Pond furnished chain cutters to the public safety departments. To date they have expended 2/3 of their 2021 budgeted funding allotted for road repair. Mr. Rhein pointed out that Crystal Pond's privately maintained roads are unpaved. Because some of the drivers have knocked over the barrels with their trucks to get through and in order to reduce damage to their roads, Crystal Pond would like permission to substitute the barrels with two Jersey Barriers (to connect the chain) at the intersection at Wade Inn and Big Bass Lane year-round. When funding becomes available, Crystal Pond would like permission to replace the Jersey Barrier/chain system with a swinging lockable metal gate. BC indicated that the Police and Ambulance Departments are amenable to this request. Before voting on this matter, the SB wants to receive comment from the Fire Department and Planning Board and they agree with Bob Ronzio's suggestion that approval of this request would be contingent upon Crystal Pond's creating a hammerhead turnaround on Big Bass Lane. Bob Ronzio will place this matter on the Planning Board's agenda. ML moved for the SB to table this matter for May 19, 2021; CS 2nd; unanimous.

4. Broadband Update and Select Board to discuss and possibly vote on policies and decisions relating to the Broadband Project

Municipal Light Plant Manager Bob Gross had submitted the following written update to the SB:

1. Construction is moving along. The first FSA, 02, has been tested by the contractor. Westfield is in the process of confirming that it can be turned over to the town and does not expect any problems.
 2. We expect FSA02 to be turned over to the town next Monday/Tuesday.
 3. Whip City Fiber will begin scheduling the beta testers and have them connected the end of next week or the following week.
 4. Working on connecting Town Hall to the network ahead of schedule since it is next door.
 5. A pod will be used by TriWire and we will determine the location shortly. It will possibly be next to the shed behind town hall.
 6. Expect to receive one last check from a homeowner this week and can then arrange for the utility poles to be installed on William Holmes Road and Becket West Road.
 7. Still waiting to arrange to get a flagger to do the CSX work.
 8. Homeowner at 240 High Street is arranging to have a utility pole removed and run the network and his drop underground. Any extra costs are his responsibility.
 9. The billing process, handled by Whip City Fiber, can be confusing. We are writing up an explanation of the process to minimize confusion.
 10. The network design includes the town connecting its fiber with both Washington and Otis. The details are being worked out.
 11. Becket Woods is in the process of finalizing the second phase of its project and should know shortly when the work will start.
5. **Approval of the 4/21/21 Meeting Minutes**
ML moved to approve the 4/21/21 minutes, CS 2nd: unanimous.
6. **Public Input (limited to 3 minutes per person, 20 minutes total for this agenda item).**
 None.
7. **To discuss and potential vote re: whether to opt-out of the mosquito control spraying program conducted by SRMCB under MGL Chapter 252 Section 2A through calendar year 2021, and listen to public comments.**
 BE read BC's e-mail message regarding BC's conversation with Attorney Joel Bard (Town Counsel) regarding mosquito spraying:
 "He will have something more formal in the coming days but is having difficulty finding the court case that better makes a determination. His current opinion is that the Town can vote remain opted-out of a spraying district, however, that does not stop a private owner whether it is one's house or a district from choosing to spray.
- We have the two articles from previous ATMs in 2010 and 2012 that had us opt out and also refuse to rejoin.
- Essentially, with a vote to opt-out there will be no change in how things currently operate."

The SB received comments at tonight's meeting:

- The SB agreed with Dean Lagrotteria's request for the Town to look into whether Sherwood Greens has the legal authority to join the Berkshire County Mosquito Control Project. He questions whether paying for Mosquito Control falls under the powers granted to SG under legislation.
- ML spoke as a resident of Sherwood Greens to convey he favors opting out. ML referenced the July 12, 2016 Meeting minutes of the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board (SRB) which shows discussion and the SRB's vote to allow Sherwood Greens to join the Berkshire County Mosquito Control Project. He would like this to be forwarded to Town Counsel.
- Meredith Babcock favors hanning spraying throughout the town. Scientific documentation supports that spray travels, its toxins cannot be contained and endangers the environment.
- Amy Perlmutter supports opting out due to environmental concerns. She had provided information to the SB about the opt out process. She will test the PFAS levels in her well. ML will send her information on the free water testing program.
- The SB fielded Marc Shultz's questions re: opt out and its process (which is for spraying only and requires submitting a plan for alternative mosquito control along with the application by May 15, 2021). Marc Shultz indicated that the Sherwood Greens Road District Prudential Committee is concerned about the safety of the community and protecting the environment.
- At the Select Board's April 21, 2021 meeting, ML relayed that the Board of Health voted to prohibit Mosquito control spraying due concern about PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl substances).

ML moved to opt-out of the mosquito control spraying program conducted by SRMCE under M.G.L. c. 252 § 2A through calendar year 2021 and submit the application with alternative methods of control for the Town of Becket. CS 2nd; unanimous.

8. **BOS to approve the award of Assessing Services contract to Regional Resource Group pending negotiation.**
BC advised that the town received one response for the Assessing Services Contract Request for Proposal. Per BC's recommendation, ML moved to award Regional Resources Group the contract for Assessing Services pending negotiations, CS 2nd; unanimous.

9. **Select Board to review Departmental Reports**

♦ TBA

The SB reviewed the Highway Department's April 2021 Report and the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office Call Analysis through March 2021 (Police Chief).

10. **Town Administrator's Report**

Below is an update of several items that BC has been working on:

- Complete Streets – Tier 2 – prioritization plan – BC anticipates receiving the list of projects/pricing from the engineers. Complete Streets will not cover projects along Route 8.
- ADA Grant – will be going through all town buildings
- Lease with Camp Greylock – draft received
- American Recovery Act – BC awaits guidance from the state
 - o 502k to Becket in direct and county funds
 - o Will see what is required
- Grow Boys – Tanglewood Circle – HCA. BC sent draft. No response yet
- Vacation carryover – 7 days? – Due to COVID-19, the SB agreed to allow employees to carryover 7 vacation days.
- Werden Rd Culvert Grant – received an extension until 12/22
- BE and BC will attend tomorrow's Mass Highway Annual Meeting, West Boylston, MA
- Library – BC indicated that the library budget listed on the ATM Warrant should have been \$248 higher. BC will provide a letter to the library indicating that the town supports a 2.5 percent increase in the library's budget.
- Town Hall reopening – The SB agreed that effective 7/6/2021, Town Hall will return to full-time hours (Monday through Friday – 8:30am till 4:30pm) and Meetings for Town of Becket Committees/Boards may occur in person. The SB agreed that effective 8/1/2021, outside groups (Road/Lake Districts, Homeowners Associations) may use the Town Hall meeting rooms. In the future, the SB will discuss remote attendance of town board/committee meetings.
- Andrus – received a quote. Need to get two more 32K for generator 60kw
- 44 Pleasant Street (apothecary): Owner looking to donate to town or will be given a raze order. Because the Building Inspector intends to issue a raze order due to the building's dilapidated condition, the SB Members are not interested in acquiring this property. BC will advise the Historical Commission.
- ATM – 5/8 at BW School
- ATE – 5/15 12-4 Community Room – voting reduced hours

11. Select Board's Comments and Announcements

CS inquired about the Road Assessment Study and stated that his preference is to fix one or fewer roads rather than fix small sections of many roads.

CS recommends investigating purchase of speed feedback signs to move around in various locations in town including Werden, Quarry and Algeria Roads.

ML advised on the status of the Esau Trail Grant application. Conservation Commission conducted a site visit. RDA is not required.

BE inquired about Memorial Day. BC advised due to COVID-19, Bill Mulholland will arrange for a ceremony only.

12. Any other business to come before the Board

BE moved to approve the Town Administrator's recommendation to appoint Trevor Clemens Assistant Electrical Inspector effective 5/5/2021 through 6/30/2022. ML 2nd, unanimous.

The SB signed a letter of appreciation to David Weiler who retired from the USPS. For the past thirty years, David was the Postal Carrier for the Becket Washington community

13. Correspondence: 0

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The SB did not have correspondence items at tonight's meeting.

14. Select Board to review and sign payable warrants.

The Select Board reviewed and signed payable warrants.

15. Select Board to adjourn the Meeting

CS moved to adjourn: ML 2nd, unanimous. BE adjourned the meeting at 8:27pm

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Administrative Assistant

Signed by:

 / May 19, 2021
William Elovirta, Chairperson Date Approved

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- ✚ Agenda Item 4: 2021.05.05 e-mail MLP Manager's update
- ✚ Agenda Item 5: 2021.04.21 Select Board Minutes
- ✚ Agenda Item 7: July 12, 2016 Meeting minutes of the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board
- ✚ Agenda Item 7: 2021.04.21 Dr. Joan Boccia e-mail re: mosquito spraying
- ✚ Agenda Item 7: 2021.04.08 e-mail from Michael Lavery re Mosquito Control opt-out of spraying; e-mail Re Becket MA mosquito control opt out (Sent by Fran Fortino flortino79@gmail.com); 2021.09.18 SB Minutes - page 2 Mosquito discussion section. application-for-municipality-opt-out-of-smcbs-spraying
- ✚ Agenda Item 7: 2021-04-30 e-mail Amy Perlmuter Re Opt out of state mosquito spraying in Becket; 2021-04-13 e-mail Kirsten Miller; 2021.05.03 e-mail Mary Stucklen, Becket Conservation Agent; ATM Minutes (May 8, 2010 and May 12, 2012) sections re: Mosquito Control
- ✚ Agenda Item 12: SB Letter of Appreciation to David Weiler re: retirement from USPS
- ✚ Agenda Item 9: Highway Department's April 2021 Report; Berkshire County Sheriff's Office Call Analysis through March 2021 (Police Chief).
- ✚ Agenda Item 10: 2021.05.21 Town Administrator's Report