



**Town of Becket  
Board of Health  
557 Main Street  
Becket, Massachusetts 01223  
(413) 623-8934 ext. 22 (413) fax 623-6036**

## **Meeting Minutes for September 5, 2018**

**Board Members Present:** Gale LaBelle and I. David Krawet

**Board Members Absent:** Laurel Burgwardt

**Health Agent:** Jayne Smith

**Administrative Assistant:** Jessica Perotti

**Public Present:** Brent White, Ofer Zaarur, Michael McCaul and Gail Kusek

### **Call to order**

Gale LaBelle calls the meeting to order at 5:12 PM and reads the rules of the meeting.

### **Board to review meeting minutes of May 2018**

Ms. LaBelle says these minutes will be reviewed at the end of the meeting.

### **Reports from the Health Agent, Jayne Smith:**

Ms. LaBelle asks Ms. Smith if she would like to discuss these reports after **Old Business**. Ms. Smith agrees and this item is temporarily tabled.

### **Old Business**

- a. **3417 Main Street – update on septic installation:** Ms. LaBelle recognizes Michael McCaul and asks him to give the Board an update on his septic installation. Mr. McCaul reports that the leach field is part way in now. Barry Searles, the engineer of the septic design, was at the property last night and advised that the leach field needs to come up another six inches (6") to comply with Title V code. The treatment pod is scheduled to be delivered tomorrow and is expected to be installed over the weekend. Ms. LaBelle asks if the septic tank was pumped. Mr. McCaul confirms it was pumped twice and the new 1500 gallon tank was installed on Saturday. Ms. Smith lets Mr. McCaul know that once everything has been installed, it will need to have a final inspection before it's covered again. Mr. McCaul says he will contact the office when it is ready to be inspected.
- b. **29 Chester Road:** Ms. LaBelle recognizes Ofer Zaarur and asks him to update the Board regarding the septic system at the motel. Mr. Zaarur says he contacted many companies to find a solution to the problem here. He was advised that the leach field should be cleaned. Ms. Smith refers to the Title V inspection that was done at this property which found there are three (3) septic tanks that are in poor condition or need to be replaced. Ms. Smith reminds the Board of the enforcement letter that was sent to Mr. Zaarur regarding the replacement of the septic system. Ms. Smith explains that she asked Mr. Zaarur to attend today's meeting to explain to the Board why the septic system replacement has not been addressed. She lets the Board know that she advised Mr. Zaarur to contact an engineer or registered sanitarian to develop a plan that could be reviewed for approval by the Board. Ms. Smith informs Mr. Zaarur that none of his suggestions can be approved since they are



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not being proposed by an engineer or registered sanitarian qualified to make such a recommendation. Ms. Smith advises the Board that if they want to grant an extension to Mr. Zaarur to get a septic plan drafted that the plan be ready for review by the next meeting. She defers the submission deadline to the discretion of the Board. The Board has a brief discussion regarding the time it would take Mr. Zaarur to find an engineer and have a plan drafted. They decide to give Mr. Zaarur sixty (60) days to get this information together for review. Ms. LaBelle makes a **motion** that Mr. Zaarur have a septic plan to review within sixty (60) days. Mr. Krawet **seconds the motion**. All in favor. **Motion passes**.

#### **Reports from the Health Agent, Jayne Smith, con't:**

**Well application for 168 Greenwater Drive:** The Board recognizes Brent White. Mr. White is representing Daniel Henry of 168 Greenwater Drive. Mr. White explains that Mr. Henry owns two (2) lots here and he proposes to drill a new well and update the septic system. Several percolation (perc) tests have been performed to decide where a future system could be placed. Currently, both lots have cesspools and the source of water is the lake. The location of the proposed well would be more than one-hundred feet (100') away from the proposed septic area and neighboring septic areas. Currently, Mr. White is only seeking permission to drill a well at 168 Greenwater Drive. Ms. LaBelle questions if there will be one (1) well for each lot or one (1) well shared for both lots. Mr. White confirms there will only be one (1) well drilled for both lots. Mr. White explains further that eventually, the house will either be torn down to be reconstructed completely or an addition will be put on the house. This is when the septic system upgrade will be introduced. At some point, a septic system will be introduced on the other lot owned by Mr. Henry.

Ms. Smith says she has reviewed the plan and doesn't see any sources of contamination. She feels it was wise to do percolation tests to confirm where that will be placed and will not be contaminating the well in that regard. There may be some encroachment to the neighboring property but not critically as it has already been pushed back. Ms. Smith recommends approval of this application to the Board.

Ms. LaBelle makes a **motion** to approve the well application for 168 Greenwater Drive. Mr. Krawet **seconds the motion**. With no further discussion, Ms. LaBelle calls the motion to a vote. All in favor. **Motion passes**.

**413 Surriner Road:** Ms. Smith says this is a simple tank and d-box replacement. Ms. Perotti is still verifying the paperwork on this application.

Ms. Smith informs the Board of other projects she is working on currently.



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- 133 Brooker Hill Road: This was previously a bed and breakfast or inn and it had seven (7) bedrooms. It has been changed to four (4) bedrooms. New plans are expected to be submitted for this property.
- 3417 Main Street: A septic installation inspection was done.
- 116 Otis Road: Deep-hole percolation tests done.
- 12 Maple Street/Becket School: Kitchen inspection done.
- 11 Big Bass Lane: Percolation tests.
- 9 Needle Lane: Title V inspection witnessed.

#### **New Business**

- Board to discuss suspected sewage discharge:** Ms. Smith tells the Board that there was a report of sewage smells coming from a trailer in North Becket near Carter Road. There appears to be drainage going into the river. Ms. Smith says this needs to be followed-up with a letter to request an inspection. Ms. Smith says it may not be sewage and that cannot be assumed until there is an inspection.
- Beaver Permits:** Ms. Perotti lets the Board know that beaver permits were issued to Becket Woods and Indian Lakes.
- Board to determine status of COC for a septic system at 3192 Main Street:** Ms. Smith says this system was split under the road with the system on one (1) side and the leach field on the other side. The system was designed by Tom Fitzgerald. When the system was excavated, Mr. Fitzgerald came out to ensure it was scarified. When Ms. Smith went out, she looked at the bed and the septic tank. Ms. Smith assumed that since they had been in touch with Mr. Fitzgerald that it was alright to go ahead and cover things again because they looked good but realizes she should have had them wait until Mr. Fitzgerald was able to look again too. Mr. Fitzgerald required the end of the system to be dug up again so he could inspect it before signing off on it. After it was dug up, everything looked good and Mr. Fitzgerald signed off on the COC. Erosion controls were also in place.
- Board to determine status of COC at 33 Chippewa Drive:** Ms. Perotti reports that the COCs were signed by Laurel Burgwardt. Ms. Smith says that the COCs should not be signed out in the field because payments need to be verified as well as sieve analysis and an as-built sketch of the system. Ms. Smith feels that Ms. Burgwardt should be reminded to call the office to check on this information before signing things in the field. Ms. LaBelle asks Ms. Smith to follow-up with Ms. Burgwardt to discuss this protocol. Ms. Smith agrees to call Ms. Burgwardt and recommends to Ms. Perotti that she follow-up to get the sieve analysis and as-built sketch of the system before filing it.
- Board to determine status of COC at 1054 County Road:** The circumstances of this COC match that of 33 Chippewa Drive; both were discussed together.



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- f. **Board to determine status of Title V inspection at 186 Old Abby Lane West:** Ms. Smith reads an email dated August 17, 2018 from Ms. Perotti to Charlie Kaniecki. In the email, Ms. Perotti lets Mr. Kaniecki know that the homeowner was told that the Title V didn't pass because the septic was too close to the well and wanted to discuss the inspection with Mr. Kaniecki. When Mr. Kaniecki spoke with the homeowner, he found out the inspector's office told him the well was within fifty feet (50') of the leaching area. Mr. Kaniecki saw where both of these were and knew it was not correct. He measured the area on google earth and found the distance to be ninety-nine feet (99'). The conclusion was that the well water may need to be tested and the tank would need to be replaced. Ms. Smith recommends a conditional pass until the water test is good and the tank is replaced. Once a good water test is received and the tank is replaced, the Title V will be considered a pass.
- g. **Board to address no-shows for scheduled percolation tests and inspections:** Ms. Perotti explains this was put on the agenda because Mr. Kaniecki was scheduled for a percolation test and rescheduled but the person doing the test didn't show-up on either occasion. Ms. LaBelle suggests a fifty dollar (\$50.00) fee when people don't call to say they won't be to a scheduled inspection or percolation test.

#### **Correspondence**

The Becket Arts Center has been issued a boil water order until further notice. Ms. LaBelle says the Arts Center also feeds the Mullen House so they are also under this order and signs have been put up accordingly to let everyone know about it.

Ms. LaBelle adds that the library is having some septic issues and wants to tie into the septic system that serves the Becket Arts Center and Mullen House. There is a brief discussion regarding the fact that one is public and one is private and if that will cause an issue. Ms. LaBelle says that town council will need to decide how it should be handled. Ms. Smith says the library will need to hire their own engineers to present a plan for approval.

Ms. Smith talks about a round table discussion that will be held in October for board members to give input about any type of trainings they may be looking to get to improve the way things are handled.

Ms. Perotti reports the invoice for Full Circle, in the amount of \$2370.00, was received and she will be sending it to Mark Malloy for their portion of payment. There is a discussion regarding how much of the invoice will be paid and how much Becket will need to pay. Since Full Circle is not fully functional, she would rather not pay very much at all. Ms. LaBelle says she will call Full Circle to see if the cost can be adjusted before sending it for payment.



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Ms. Perotti presents two (2) invoices from Housatonic Basin:

- \$325.00 for water testing at the town beach
- \$259.00 for water testing at the spring on Route 20.

Ms. LaBelle says there will be a fall dinner meeting on Monday, October 22, 2018 at a cost of \$35.00 per person to attend. Ms. LaBelle says she will be going and asks Mr. Krawet if he would also like to attend. Mr. Krawet says he will need to check his schedule.

### **Budget**

This item is tabled.

### **Any other business to come before the Board**

- Mr. White has another project he would like to discuss with the Board. It's at 436 Hamilton Road. A septic plan was approved for this lot approximately four (4) years ago but has not been installed. The homeowners are currently looking to complete this project and would like to use the same plan previously approved. Mr. White informs the Board that he revised the plan with a more current date. Ms. Smith says that she did not review the plan again but since it was previously approved, she recommends that the Board approve it without charging additional fees; the permit should be issued when the installer is ready to install the system. Ms. LaBelle makes a **motion** to re-issue the DSCP at 436 Hamilton Road. Mr. Krawet **seconds the motion**. All in favor. **Motion passes**.
- The Board recognizes Gail Kusek. Ms. Kusek says she would like to know if there are any updates regarding the spring on Route 20 at the Becket/Chester town line. Ms. LaBelle lets Ms. Kusek know she will be going to the Select Board meeting to see what is happening with the spring. Ms. Kusek lets Ms. LaBelle know that she has been working to try and keep the spring open and gives a brief description about what she is doing. This includes looking into getting a water operator license, learning about water pumps and starting a non-profit organization to collect donations.
- Ms. Smith reports she witnessed a Title V inspection today at 9 Needle Lane. The inspection was a pass but there is an open well that needs to be decommissioned. She reports that it goes directly to static water. It should be decommissioned because animals and small children could fall into it and it leads directly to groundwater. After reviewing Becket's Well Regulations, she recommends that this well be decommissioned and suggests that a letter be sent to the homeowners. She notes that the well has been out of service for at least three (3) years and a new well has been drilled. Rodents can also get in there causing contamination. Ms. Smith asks the Board for permission to follow-up on this well being decommissioned.



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- Ms. Kusek tells the Board about another well where the well goes into a tank and then into the water system itself. She isn't sure of the name of this type of well. It is across the street from the Robinson Farm on Route 8. Ms. Smith says since the Board is complaint based, she will look into it if the Board wants her to. She agrees these types of things can be a health hazard.

Ms. LaBelle makes a **motion** for Ms. Smith to check out these two (2) wells at 9 Needle Lane and across from the Robinson Farm on Route 8. Mr. Krawet **seconds the motion**. All in favor. **Motion passes**.

- Mr. White returns to the meeting with Mr. Zaarur. Mr. White says he reviewed the last Title V inspection done. Mr. White says the ultimate goal would be to make the tanks water tight. This could possibly be done with chemical sealant or hydraulic cement. He would also look into installing an alternative, remedial system approved by the state.

Ms. Smith reviews the order and points out to Mr. White that because this facility serves the public, it needs to be brought up to code right away instead of the usual two (2) years generally given to homeowners. Mr. Zaarur was given until October 15, 2018 to get the system up to code. Mr. White says the remedial systems need time to function. These types of systems need to be fed wastewater constantly to give them the opportunity to develop the biological activity it needs to perform as designed. He says it would probably need more than ninety (90) days to function and suggests coming up with a timeline to install the components. Since this business is seasonal, it may not get as much wastewater to the system that it needs to function properly.

Ms. LaBelle says she is willing to work with them but she wants to see a plan by November 5, 2018- sixty (60) days from now.

- **116 Otis Road:** Ms. Smith reviewed a septic plan for this location. She questions the condition of the septic tank that is there currently. If the condition of the current septic tank is good then she feels it is okay to issue the permit. Ms. LaBelle asks if anyone from Berkshire Engineering has been contacted about this. Ms. Smith says she will contact someone from Berkshire Engineering to find out the condition of the tank. Ms. LaBelle makes a **motion** to approve provided that the tank is in good condition. Mr. Krawet **seconds the motion**. All in favor. **Motion passes**.



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- Ms. LaBelle talks about the mosquitos that tested positive for the West Nile Virus from the Becket area. There are no reported cases of anyone being bitten. Ms. LaBelle says almost every county in Massachusetts has infected mosquitos. Ms. Smith says she spoke with a concerned citizen that wanted to know the threshold of public health emergency. Ms. Smith let her know she could not speak on behalf of the Board and asks Ms. LaBelle to call her back. Ms. LaBelle confirms there will not be any spraying.
- Ms. LaBelle reports the kitchen downstairs was inspected and it appears to be not cared for by those that use it. There were very outdated items in the refrigerator that were disposed of and the counters have been wiped clean. Ms. LaBelle suggests that the entire Town Hall should be cleaned professionally.
- Ms. Smith says a complaint was received regarding the type of food that is being served at Papa Bob's. People are aware that their kitchen isn't finished and want to know how they are preparing the type of food that is being served. Ms. Smith says on the permit, there isn't a restriction on the type of food that can be served there. Ms. Smith says an inspection will need to be done here.
- Ms. Perotti reports there was a surprise inspection done at the Becket General Store. It was recommended that they have a dishwasher installed because right now they are using a three (3) bay sink for food preparation and hand-washing. During the inspection, one of the bays was clogged. Ms. Smith says some more managerial control is needed here.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2018 at 5:00 PM.

#### Adjournment

Ms. LaBelle makes a **motion** to adjourn. Mr. Krawet **seconds the motion**. All in favor. **Motion passes**. Meeting is adjourned at 6:47 PM.

**Meeting Minutes reviewed and approved on February 13, 2019 by:**

  
Gale LaBelle, Chair

  
I. David Krawet, Clerk