



THE BECKET BULLETIN

INFORMATION ON TOWN GOVERNMENT ISSUES
AND ACTIVITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF BECKET

Becket News

The Town has been busy working on several projects including the installation of an EV charging station Town Hall and expanding the parking lot at Town Hall, renovating the Town Hall kitchen, replacing the septic tank at the Mullin House, and replacing a cemetery lawn tractor. Other projects will be moving forward this summer, fall, and winter.

If you noticed the various utility trucks around Town, they are preparing utility poles to receive a new fiber attachment as part of the Broadband project. The project is progressing well and we are looking to bid the construction phase in the fall. Another Broadband Information Session will be held on August 6th. Please see page 3 for more details.

I also want to take a moment to note retirements of a few Town employees. I would like to thank them for their many years of dedicated service to the Town of Becket.

Fire Chief Mark Hanford, 40+ years of service
Bob Cooper, Highway Department—40+years of service
Bert Goodermote, Animal Control Officer—12 years of service.

Download the complete newsletter in PDF form from the Town website:

https://www.townofbecket.org/sites/becketma/files/uploads/the_becket_bulletin_august_2019.pdf

William J. Caldwell, Town Administrator

To subscribe to the Town of Becket meeting agendas and public notices, please visit: <http://townofbecket.org/>

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- Becket Athenaeum Events
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August Meetings (Subject to change)

- 1th : Finance Committee
- 3rd: Sherwood Greens Road District Prudential Committee
- 6th: Broadband Info. Session & Update
- 6th: Zoning Board of Appeals
- 7th: Board of Health
- 7th: Board of Selectmen
- 10th: Sherwood Forest Lake District
- 10th: Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District
- 13th: Historical Commission
- 14th: Planning Board
- 20th: Energy Committee
- 21st: Board of Selectmen
- 24th: Energy Committee Info. Session
- 27th: Conservation Commission

THE SELECTMEN'S COLUMN

It's August already! The summer has fairly flown by. Town hall has undergone a transformation with the parking lot expansion which was budgeted and approved at the Annual Town meeting. Also new are four electric vehicle charging station parking spots. Eversource has a program for municipalities to completely reimburse them for installation of EV parking spots. The infrastructure work has been completed and we await the actual equipment installation. The spots will be open to town residents and employees and will have a nominal charge to cover the electrical costs. These improvements will allow more parking and give EV travelers a place to fill up.

It's almost back to school time. Have a great rest of the summer.

Your Board of Selectmen, Michael Lavery, Chris Swindlehurst and Bill Elovirta.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Lavery, Vice Chairman

BECKET ARTS CENTER SUMMER ACTIVITIES:

Becket Arts Center's Member Show

Opening Wine & Cheese reception: Saturday, August 3,
2-4pm

On Display: August 3-18

25 artists displaying their work in the air-conditioned
Philip Barber Gallery.

Lecture Presentation:

Criminal Justice Reform: At a Crossroads

with Berkshire DA Andrea Harrington

Tuesday, August 6, 7:30pm

Let's hear what the DA has to say about drug-related crimes, domestic abuse, the bail system, navigating the judicial process and much more. A FREE *Explorations* program, held in our air-conditioned upstairs gallery. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome.

Lecture Presentation: The Legacy of W.E.B. DuBois

Tuesday, August 13, 7:30pm

Lecture Presentation: How Kids are Leading the Climate Protests

Tuesday, August 20, 7:30pm

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Questions about Medicare?

Contact Becket SHINE:
413 623-8934 Ext. 141

Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone

**Free counseling by
a trained volunteer.**

Becket Broadband

Informational Sessions and Update

The Broadband Ad Hoc Group will hold the second of two informational sessions this summer to report on the high-speed Internet fiber network (broadband for short) project's status and projected timeline. Residents will have an opportunity to ask questions and voice their concerns.

Starting in June we hope you noticed that work has commenced to install new utility poles wherever replacements are required. This is the first stage of the make-ready process, which will involve moving the existing electric and telephone wires where necessary to accommodate our new fiber. It is impossible to know when the utility companies (Eversource and Verizon) will complete the make-ready work. After this work is completed construction of the network will begin. The final phase will consist of connecting individual homes. We are hoping to have broadband service available in the first quarter of 2021.

The State has been very helpful and increased their funding to offset a significant increase in make-ready costs. Hopefully, this will allow us to offer residents who contract for service during the early-sign-up campaign a subsidy to cover some, if not all, of the cost to connect to the Internet via our network.


As the project moves along, each homeowner who contracts for service will have an opportunity to review how the connection to the house has been designed as well as to learn about any available options and what the estimated cost will be.

When: Tuesday, August 6 at 4pm

Where: Town Hall Community Room, 557 Main Street, Becket MA 01223

RSVP: Bev Gilbert (413) 623-8934 ext. 100 or adminasst@townofbecket.org

Please let us know which session you will attend. *Walk-ins welcome.*



Bring Broadband
to Becket

Becket Athenaeum News for August 2019

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math
Pre-school Group

Tuesdays, August 13 and 27

1-2pm

FREE PROGRAM

Becket Athenaeum

Did you ever think that some things are too hard to do at home with your kids? We will give you fun, easy, and not too messy ways to practice STEAM at home with your child/children. Join Wendy Provencher for an hour of great fun! This is an opportunity to inspire your kids to engineer, create, design, explore, and build!

The program does not meet on the first Tuesday of the month.

This program is funded by the Central Berkshire Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant which is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

Summer Story Time

Ages 0-7

FREE PROGRAM

Saturdays, 10-11am

At the Athenaeum

3367 Main St

Becket

Join us for a book and craft each Saturday of the summer! Pre-registration encouraged, but not required.

Monthly Book Club

All are welcome to join us at the Athenaeum on **Tuesday, August 6th at 1:30pm** to discuss Less by Andrew Sean Greer.

On Tuesday, September 3rd, we will be discussing The Music Shop by Rachel Joyce.

We meet at 1:30pm on the first Tuesday of the month to discuss the book over tea/coffee and make our next selection.

Regular attendance is anywhere between 6 and 16 people. We generally wrap up by 2:45 or 3pm. We read fiction and non-fiction.



Energy Committee Informational Session

Saturday August 24, 2019

10:00am-12:30pm

Learn about recent renewable energy legislation and other topics relevant to all of us as energy consumers.

Free coffee and doughnuts

Becket Town Hall Community Room

Please RSVP: call Beverly (413) 623-8934x100

Topics:

Green Communities Grant, CET Solar Access Program, MA Dept. of Energy Resources, Mass Save, Community Aggregation, Electric Car and Charging and more!



Zoning Board of Appeals Seeks New Member

The Zoning Board of Appeals is searching for two new members. This Board meets as needed on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm at Becket Town Hall. The Zoning Board of Appeals reviews land use issues that pertain to Becket zoning ordinance. In 2018, the Board met three times. If you would like more information, please contact Jessica at zba@townofbecket.org



BECKET ARTS CENTER SUMMER ACTIVITIES:
Lecture Presentation: The Musical Magic of Cole Porter
Tuesday, August 27, 7:30pm

Arts Exhibition 3
Opening Wine & Cheese Reception: August 24, 2-4pm
On Display: August 24-September 8

Featuring the work of John Clarke (photography), Michael Bufis (photography), Lee Sproull (quilting), and Bryan Powers (sculpture).

3rd Annual Benefit Bash Concert
With Misty Blues Band

Saturday, August 24, 7pm

Join us for a fun evening of music, food, dancing, and more, with the best blues rock band in the area!

Held at: Papa Bob's, 71 Chester Road, Becket
Tickets: \$20/individual or \$30/couple
For tickets: call 413-623-6635

**REGULARLY SCHEDULED TOWN OF BECKET
COMMITTEE AND BOARD MONTHLY MEETINGS:**

Board of Health 1st Wednesday, 10 a.m.
Board of Selectmen:..... 1st and 3rd Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Conservation Commission..... 4th Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
Energy Committee..... 3rd Tuesday, 4:00p.m.
Finance Committee 1st Thursday 5:30p.m.
Historical Commission..... 2nd Tuesday, 3 p.m.
Planning Board: 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals 1st Tuesday, 7 p.m. as needed

For the most updated schedule, please see the calendar section of the town website:
www.townofbecket.org

TOWN OF BECKET

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Becket, MA 01223

Phone: (413) 623-8934