

**Town of Becket  
Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
September 21, 2016  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall  
557 Main Street, Becket**

**Attendees:**

Board of Selectmen: William Elovirta, *Chairperson*; Jeanne Pryor, *Vice Chairperson*;  
Nicole Ledoux, *Clerk*

Staff: Ed Gibson, *Town Administrator*; Beverly Gilbert, *Recording Secretary*;

Others: Colleen O'Connor, Rita Furlong (Historical Commission), Cameron Forest,  
Julie Forest, Thomas Forest, Sandi Jarvis (Chairperson – Historical  
Commission), Rob Grace, Julie Kay-Grace, Chris Post (Wandering Star  
Brewing Co LLC)

**Call to Order**

Bill called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. He stated that the meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Meeting Law and Guidelines for the Becket Board of Selectmen Meetings.

Bill asked if anyone was recording the meeting. Beverly for the Board of Selectmen indicated that she was recording the meeting.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Chairperson led those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Board to review minutes of previous meeting(s)**

Jeanne moved to approve the minutes for the 08/24/2016 meeting. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Historical Commission re: Possible Acquisition of two original paintings of the Deweys (photos of the Deweys are displayed in the Town Hall)**

Sandi Jarvis, Chairperson of the Historical Commission, discussed the possibility of the town acquiring two original portraits of the Deweys. Photos of the Deweys hang in the Town Hall. Will Blake contacted the Historical Commission to offer to sell a pair of portraits of the Deweys (one of Abel, and the other of Lydia) to the town for \$3,500. He specified he is willing to accept a payment plan in keeping with the Historical Commission's budget. Sandi described some of the historical significance of the Deweys regarded as a prominent Becket family during the 1700s. The Board of Selectmen agreed with the Historical Commission's idea that before considering this proposition further, they will ask Mr. Blake to provide an appraisal. Rita Furlong of the Historical Commission read Historical Commission member Katherine Hoak's letter stating that she recommends that the town procure these meaningful artifacts which would complement the Dewey Tavern sign.

**BOS to consider & possibly vote on Town Administrator's appointment of the Police Chief's recommendation of Probationary Part-time Officer (Cameron Forest)**

Town Administrator Ed Gibson conveyed that both he and Police Chief McDonough highly recommend appointing Cameron Forest as a Probationary Part-time Police Officer. Mr. Forest works as a part-time Police Officer for the Town of West Stockbridge. Jeanne moved to accept the Town Administrator's appointment of Cameron Forest as a Probationary Part-time Police Officer to commence 09/21/2016 through 03/21/2017. Nicole seconded. Motion carried. The Selectmen thanked Mr. Forest for attending the meeting.

**Bonny Rigg Hill Road Culvert Replacement Update**

Ed advised that the engineer recommended J H Maxymillian for the Bonny Rigg Hill Road Culvert Replacement project. Ed indicated that the town has funding for this project which he described in detail with a spreadsheet he provided.

Ed indicated that he will recommend placing a warrant article at a town meeting to ask the town to vote to appropriate the \$18,135 balance of funding remaining in the Yokum Pond Bridge project toward the Bonny Rigg Hill Road Culvert Replacement project which would be allowable since the Bonny Rigg Hill Road Culvert replacement project qualifies as a "like project".

The BOS Chairperson signed a letter of award, and notice to proceed, and all board members signed the contracts to J H Maxymillian.

The town awaits word from the Army Corps of Engineers. Although the town furnished information electronically to the Army Corps of Engineers on August 27<sup>th</sup>, they did not take action during their September meeting and it is hoped they will do so at their October meeting so that the town may proceed and complete the work before wintertime.

**Special Legislation Filing Request for May 2015 Warrant**

The BOS signed a letter (drafted by Bond Counsel Locke Lord) to State Representative Pignatelli and Senator Downing to submit a request to the Governor to file special legislation to validate the results of the Annual Town Election held in the Town of Becket on May 16, 2016. The BOS voted to approve this course of action on 09/07/2016.

**Resignation submitted – Roberta Goldman from the Cultural Council effective 09/13/2016**

The BOS acknowledged receipt of Roberta Goldman's letter of resignation from the Cultural Council effective 09/13/2016. The BOS signed a letter of appreciation to Ms. Goldman.

**Chris Post of Wandering Star Brewing Co. Request for One-Day Alcoholic Beverage Permit in conjunction with Gravel Grinder Cycle Race at Canterbury Farm, 1986 Fred Snow Road on 10/02/2016 NOTE: This agenda item was added on 09/20/2016 at 11:30 a.m. (The Selectmen did not receive the request prior to this date and time.)**

The BOS reviewed Chris Post of Wandering Star Brewing Co.'s request for a One-Day Alcoholic Beverage Permit in conjunction with Gravel Grinder Cycle Race at Canterbury Farm, 1986 Fred Snow Road on 10/02/2016. Ed reported that he had discussed this with Police Chief McDonough who indicated that the Police Dept. has had no problems with past Gravel Grinder Cycle Races, and he does not suggest requiring Police Department detail for this year's event. Jeanne moved to issue a one-day beer and wine permit to Chris Post of Wandering Star Brewing Co. in conjunction with Gravel Grinder Cycle Race at Canterbury Farm, 1986 Fred Snow Road scheduled on 10/2/2016. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Monthly Reports: Fire Department and others TBA**

The Board reviewed the monthly reports of the Fire and Police Departments

### **Zoning Board of Appeals request for comment on Mark Stoughton's application for a Dimensional Special Permit for property located at 21 Lady Lucille (Assessors Map 215, Lot 182)**

After reviewing Mr. Stoughton's application and plans for a Dimensional Permit for property located at 21 Lady Lucille (Assessor's Map 215, Lot 182), the Board of Selectmen directed Bev to send the ZBA a letter to convey that they do not have any comments.

### **Town Hall File Storage Discussion**

Ed discussed usage of the Town Hall storage shed, and the Buildings and Grounds Custodian's (Dave Shorey) office located at the lower level of the Town Hall. Dave will:

- 1) remove the garage door on the shed and store it at the Town Pavilion for other possible uses
- 2) transfer the garage door currently in Dave's office (which has better insulation) to the Town Hall Shed.
- 3) Dave will create a new wall to fill in the gap caused by the removal of the garage door in his office. This will entail framing, insulating, matching vinyl siding (as closely as possible), and painting.
- 4) The BOS suggested adding a small window in Dave's office.
- 5) Dave will install racks against the new wall for non-permanent storage.
- 6) The shed will store tools, a lawn mower, a backhoe, oils, gasoline, saws, and ladders.

The added storage in Dave's room will buy a few more years before the town will run out of storage space and need to explore other avenues.

### **Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements**

Bill brought up that due to the lack of a quorum, the Planning Board meeting scheduled on 09/14/2016 was cancelled without notice. Bill indicated that when this occurred, he felt embarrassed, as this reflected poorly on the town and he noted that this lack of courtesy inconvenienced not only the other Planning Board members who had appeared, but also an individual who had travelled for several hours with the expectation of going before the Planning Board. A discussion ensued about how agreeing to serve the town (whether elected or appointed) involves a mindset to be committed to fulfill the board and committee responsibilities. It was noted that the Associate Member to the Planning Board's position is vacant. On the town's website and local newspapers the BOS will post that the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board are seeking to appoint an Associate Member to the Planning Board.

### **Town Administrator's Report**

Girl Scout Gold Award Beach Cleanup: Michaela Defoe has completed her work at the Becket Beach for her Girl Scout Gold Award. There were thirty volunteers who showed up on 09/17/2016 to remove the stones from the beach area. The pile of stones which was removed by the volunteers was quite impressive. Ed publically thanked Michaela, and all those who volunteered (including Nicole Ledoux).

Becket Energy Committee Informational Session: The Becket Energy Committee will be sponsoring their annual information session at the Town Hall on 10/15/2016. This is posted on the town's website.

Town Hall Roof Replacement Project: There will be a pre-construction meeting on 09/22/2016 with the contractor, architect, David Shorey and Ed. After this meeting, Ed will provide a construction schedule of the roof replacement/additional attic insulation project.

Assessing Department Head Clerk: The BOS authorized Ed to advertise for the Board of Assessor's Clerk upcoming opening in the Assessors Department. Ed will update the job description title and duties for this position.

Town Ballfield Scoreboard Update: Ed advised that based on the costs, upgrading the scoreboard is not a practical solution. Ed offered two options: changing the light bulbs and having it re-lettered, or purchasing an entire new sign and installing it in-house. Ed provided a quote for the same style sign which does not include the installation of LEDs. The BOS will seek input from the Parks & Recreation Committee.

Meetings: Ed will attend "What's New in Municipal Law" sponsored by the DOR on 9/29, Holyoke; and the Hampshire County Council of Governments Selectmen's Association Meeting the eve of 9/29 to hear about funding options offered by the USDA for Municipal Infrastructure uses (Jeanne and Nicole plan to attend).

### **Public Input**

Colleen O'Connor stated that Housatonic Basin sent letters to residents residing in North Becket Village to abutters of the school in the North Becket Village advising that due to the drought, the wells are more at risk for contamination. She indicated that Governor Charlie Baker signed an Economic Development Bill, which includes a mix of funding for projects including those relating to infrastructure. Colleen suggested that this is an opportunity for the town to seek funding for a municipal water supply.

Julia Kay-Grace initiated discussion relating to her concerns about the ability of the Fire Department to respond to calls in more densely populated areas in town (Sherwood Forest, Route 20, Becket Woods). Topics of this discussion included response time, water supply, and dry hydrants. She stated that she hoped the town could request funding under the new economic development bill for a municipal water supply which she believes would be advantageous to the Becket Fire Department. Jeanne told Ms Kay-Grace about the town's water feasibility study which outlined in detail the costs of supplying a public water supply to the more densely populated areas in town (Sherwood Forest included). Bill stated that compared to towns with volunteer fire departments, towns that employ full-time firefighters (such as West Springfield) are able to shave off five to ten minutes of response time because their firefighters are already at the fire station when a call is received. Bill indicated that due to the volume of water in the Fire Departments tanker and Engine #4 (4200 gallons) at Station #2 and because towns providing mutual aid also have large tankers, he believes the town has sufficient water supply to respond to fires. Bill will look into the dry hydrant located at the Sherwood Forest Lake District dam which is not functioning properly and had been moved to a poor location for a truck hookup during construction that had occurred at the dam.

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

Ed and Jeanne provided the BOS with a draft Electronic Records policy to be discussed at a future meeting.

Review Correspondence (tba)

None

### **Board of Selectmen intends to go into Executive Session under MGL c. 30A, section 21 (a) (6) for: Sherwood Forest Parcels Surplus Property**

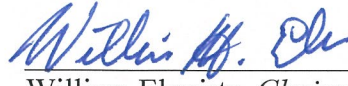
- **Approval of Executive Session Minutes: 08/3/2016, 9/7/2016.**

**Board to adjourn Executive Session. Board will not return to Open Session.**

Jeanne moved for the Board of Selectmen to go into Executive Session under MGL c. 30A, section 21 (a) (6) to discuss: Sherwood Forest Parcels Surplus Property, and approval of Executive Session Minutes for the 08/3/2016 & 9/7/2016 meetings, and that the BOS will not return to Open Session. Bill seconded. Roll call vote: Jeanne – aye, Nicole – aye, and Bill aye. At 8:43 p.m., the Board went into Executive Session.

**Reviewed Payroll/Expense Warrants.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary

  
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William Elovirta, Chairperson

**Documents discussed at this meeting:**

Town Administrator's Report

Historical Information re: possible Abel and Lydia Dewey portrait acquisition

One Day Liquor License Application – Chris Post / Wandering Star Brewing Co.

Becket Volunteer Fire Department August Report

Police Department August Report

Letter of Resignation from Robert Goldman (Cultural Council) dated 09/13/2016

Draft Policy on website Publication of Electronic Records

Letters to State Rep. Pignatelli and Senator Downing re: Special Legislation

Letter from Police Chief to request Probationary Part-time Police Officer appointment

Zoning Board of Appeals Notification of application for a dimensional special permit from Mark Stoughton, 21 Lucille

Assessors Job Descriptions

Quotation for Scoreboard

Bonny Rigg Hill Road Culvert documents: letter of award, notice to proceed, contracts to J H Maximillian, and Town Administrator's spreadsheet outlining funding