

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen's Working Meeting
November 2, 2016
10:00 AM
Town Hall, Becket Room
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, Town Secretary; Heather Hunt, Clerk to the Board of Health, Charlie Kaniecki, Becket Health Agent

Board of Health: Gale Labelle, Chairperson; David Krawet & Laurel Burgwardt

Others: Bob Ronzio, Ann Krawet, Colleen O'Connor, Julia Bell Andrus - General Counsel at Office of the Inspector General of Massachusetts, Kara Cunha - Assistant Attorney General

Call to Order

Bill called the joint Board of Selectmen and Board of Health meeting to order at 10:00 AM. 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. The Board of Selectmen, Board of Health and Bob Ronzio were recording the meeting.

Presentation/Discussion: AG's program dealing with abandoned properties and receiverships

Kara Cunha and Julia Belle Andrus, both of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, described the mechanics and fielded questions relating to the AG's abandoned properties and receiverships program charged with helping towns to remedy the issues of residential (not commercial) properties that threaten public health and safety, and consequently result in declining property values.

Ms. Andrus advised that she is transitioning out of the program, and that her replacement, Ms. Cunha, is the town's contact.

They provided and discussed the below listed items:

- Summary of the Attorney General's Office Abandoned Housing Initiative
- Preparing for collaboration
- Sample Demand letter
- Potential Receiver Questionnaire

- Frequently asked questions

The only cost to the town for partaking in this this program is the cost of the town's Health Agent's time.

Jeanne stated that she would like the Bylaw Review Committee to include this program under its discussion relating to its development of the Vacant Property Bylaw.

Charlie stated that the beauty of this program is that when the AG sends a demand letter oftentimes owners (speaking from his experience with dealing with this program in other municipalities) the property owners take corrective action when they receive the demand letter and it does not need to go into receivership.

Charlie Kaniecki provided an update on the status of the 676 Main Street, Becket, MA. Although he is scheduled to inspect this property tomorrow, he is not optimistic that the property will be in compliance with Massachusetts Health Code. He recommended that the town seek assistance to refer 676 Main Street's to the AG's receivership program.

David Krawet moved that the Board of Health refer 676 Main Street, Becket to the AG's Receivership program for enforcement action to deal with this property, Laurel seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeanne moved that the Board of Selectmen refer 676 Main Street, Becket to the AG's Receivership program for enforcement action to deal with this property. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Laurel moved to authorize the Town of Becket Health Agent to work with the Attorney General on properties for the receivership program. David seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

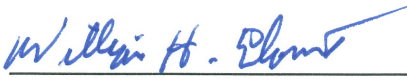
Jeanne moved to authorize the Town of Becket Health Agent to work with the Attorney General on properties for the receivership program. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill thanked Charlie Kaniecki, Julia Bell Andrus, and, Kara Cunha for attending today's meeting.

Selectmen to Adjourn Meeting

Jeanne made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nicole seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved 3 votes in favor and 0 votes opposed. The Board of Selectmen's Meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Recording Secretary


William Elovirta, Chairperson