

**Town of Becket  
Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
September 26, 2018  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall  
557 Main Street, Becket**

Attendees:

Board of Selectmen: William ("Bill") Elovirta, *Chair*; Michael Lavery, *Vice-Chair*  
Nicole Ledoux, *Clerk*

Staff: Robert Markel, *Interim Town Administrator*  
Beverly Gilbert, *Recording Secretary*

Others: Cathy DeFoe, Purr McEwen, Bob Gross, Julia Kay Grace, Rob Grace

**1. Call to order**

Bill called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. He indicated that the BOS was recording the meeting.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Bill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Michael moved to approve the 09-05-18 meeting minutes. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. BOS to discuss Hill Engineering's report of its feasibility study of the Becket Athenaeum's septic system with recommendations for repairs/improvements**

Cathy DeFoe, Director of the Becket Athenaeum, and Purr McEwen, Board of Library Trustees member, discussed Hill Engineering's feasibility study of the Becket Athenaeum's septic system. The existing septic system must be replaced with a system that meets the current code within the Athenaeum's existing footprint. Of the three potential recommended options listed in Hill Engineering study, the most cost-effective choice (estimated \$15,000 up to \$25,000) includes tying in with the septic system shared by two town-owned buildings (the Becket Art Center and Mullen House). The septic system would be adequate for all three buildings. To compensate for its usage of the system, the Athenaeum would pay ½ of the costs for pumping and ½ of cost for maintenance. The library will contact the Conservation Commission for a Request for Determination. The library has secured most of the funding required for this capital project and asked that the Town of Becket pay for the legal expenses (creating contracts). Michael moved to allow the Becket Athenaeum to connect its septic system to the shared septic system of the Mullen House and the Becket Arts Center on the condition that town counsel indicates that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to grant this approval.

**5. BOS to review and consider voting to approve the following One-day Wine & Beer license applications:**

- **Wandering Star Brewing Com LLC / Shannon Post**  
**Event: "Gravel Grinder" Post-Bike Race; Date: October 13, 2018, 11 a.m. till 6 p.m.;**  
**Location: Canterbury Farm, 1986 Fred Snow Road**

- **Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival/Pamela Tatge**  
**Event: Dance Party; Date: October 13, 2018, 7 p.m. till midnight; Location: Perles Family Studio, 358 George Carter Road**

After reviewing the applications, Michael moved to issue One-day Wine & Beer licenses to Wandering Star and Jacob's Pillow as listed above. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## 6. **Broadband Update**

Bob Gross provided an update:

- On Monday, Bill and Bob Gross will meet with Howard Buxbaum, Head of the Becket Woods Road District.
- Town Counsel drafted a response to Becket Wood's attorney's letter to the town re: Broadband.
- The Broadband Ad Hoc Group suggests providing updates to the community through written communication. Michael discussed plans for the town to begin an e-newsletter (Bob Markel produced a draft format of the e-newsletter for the BOS to review) and he offered that MailChimp may be used to help achieve this. As of today, Michael has 681 subscribers.
- Westfield Gas & Electric expects the design work to exceed the budgeted amount. Bill Ennen agreed that he will review and identify items he thinks the state will pay for through the grant. Once the amount of shortfalls may be more closely estimated, the Broadband Ad Hoc Group will ask the Selectmen to determine policies.
- Costs and debt relating to town-owned vs. Matrix-owned will need to be clarified.
- The Broadband Ad Hoc Group will identify aspects of Broadband financial policy that require BOS vote, and the Broadband Ad Hoc Group will determine when these decisions must occur.
- On Friday the Broadband Ad Hoc Group expects to find out if Westfield Gas & Electric still thinks the design work costs will exceed the budgeted amount in which case the town will need to confirm from Bill Ennen whether the state will provide use of state funds for the differential. Until this is clarified, the town will not proceed with additional work on the project. If Bill Ennen provides confirmation that the state will pay for the differential, the design phase will be completed, and the Broadband Ad Hoc Group will meet with Bill Ennen and will be able to identify with a high level of certainty what make-ready costs the state will allow and which ones they will not allow. After that is known, the Broadband Ad Hoc Group will help the BOS decide what the logical process is to evaluate town-owned vs. Matrix-owned Broadband system. The Broadband Ad Hoc Group had discussed scheduling an informational meeting as a mechanism to update the community. Part of the informational session may include discussion relating to a town-owned vs. a Matrix-owned broadband system. The BOS support the idea of the Broadband Ad Hoc Group hosting an informational session.

## 7. **BOS to discuss and vote on possible revisions to the Code of Conduct Policy**

The BOS tabled voting on approving revisions to the Code of Conduct Policy. They directed Bob Markel to ask Town Counsel to review the following changes (bold) to page 2 of the Code of Conduct Policy:

Additionally, all individuals shall be prohibited from using tobacco products, drinking alcohol or being under the influence of **alcohol, marijuana and/or illegal substances** ~~is prohibited~~ on Town property or while conducting Town-related business off Town property.

Visitors who are found to be in violation of this **Policy Code** will be promptly removed from the building.

8. **BOS to acknowledge receipt of the following Cultural Council member resignation:**
- **Tracy Wilson effective 09/17/18 due to that her work schedule conflicts with the Cultural Council's daytime meetings.**
- The BOS signed a letter of appreciation to Tracy Wilson for serving on the Becket Cultural Council. Ms. Wilson resigned from the BCC effective 09/17/18 due to a change in her work schedule.
9. **Town Administrator Recruitment Update**
- The Town Administrator's Search Committee will invite candidates to interview with the BOS on October 4, 2018. The TASC provided the BOS with a draft listing of questions they may consider during their interview of the finalists. It was agreed that the Selectmen will forward to Beverly their comments pertaining to these questions.
10. **Route 20 Spring Update**
- Bob has been following up with the engineering firm. Housatonic Basin advised that it had submitted the plan to remedy Route 20 Spring to DEP for preliminary approval, and it intends to provide a plan and estimates to him during the week of October 1<sup>st</sup>. Upon discovering that Housatonic Basin has been communicating with Gale Kusek (Friends of the Becket Spring) about the Route 20 Spring, he conveyed to Housatonic Basin that she has no authority to deal with them on this matter.
11. **Discussion of potential Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles**
- The BOS tabled this agenda item.
12. **Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements**
- Bill had advised at a prior meeting that the town does not have any federally designated roads. Bill reported that Chris Bouchard indicated that McNerney Road is a federally designated Road. Nonetheless, due to the weighted voting system, the town would be very low on the priority of Transportation Improvement Projects compared to other higher populated communities such as Pittsfield and North Adams.
13. **Town Administrator's Report**
- Bob Markel reported on and discussed the following topics with the BOS: Town Hall Cleaning, Painting of Fire Station #1, Energy audit of Town Hall, completion of vocational high school transportation contracts, attendance at the Statewide Conference for Municipal Officials and Staff on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, Broadband meeting held on 08-28, Town Hall Wi-Fi, Community Compact Application (submitted), Fire House Heating, DOER Municipal Energy Technical Assistance Grant, Jacob's Pillow PILOT payment, Community Compact Program (ClearGov presented their database at the Finance Committee meeting,
- The Tax Title Custodian submitted for Selectmen review and prioritize a preliminary list of town-owned properties for auction. After she receives the feedback, she will adjust the listing and submit it to the Auctioneers.
14. **Public Input**
- There was no public input at tonight's meeting.
15. **Any other business to come before the Board**
- Police Chief McDonough sent the Town Administrator an e-mail to advise that unless the Selectmen object, the new cruiser will be black with white lettering due to that blue cruisers are a

special order and would not be available until at least December. The current SUV cruiser is pushing 145,000 miles and Police Chief McDonough does not recommend beginning the winter with this vehicle. The BOS indicated that they are amenable to Police Chief McDonough's suggested cruiser colors.

**16. BOS to review and sign payable warrants**

The Bos reviewed and signed payable warrants.

**17. BOS to adjourn the meeting**

Michael moved to adjourn. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously. At 8:37 p.m., Bill adjourned the meeting.

Date Approved: 10-3-18

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary

  
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William Elovirta, Chairperson

**Documents discussed at this meeting:**

- E-mail dated 09-26-18 from Police Chief McDonough re: Cruiser Color
- Town Administrator's Report dated 09-26-2018
- Christine Bleau's letter to BOS dated 09-26-2018 re: Preliminary of town-owned properties for auction
- E-mail from Cathy Defoe dated 09-19-2018 re: Becket Athenaeum Assessment
- BOS draft list of Interview Questions for the Town Administrator position
- One-day Liquor License Application – Shannon Post – Wandering Star Brewing Company
- One-day Liquor License Application – Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival/Pamela Tatge
- Draft Code of Conduct Policy
- E-mail from Tracy Wilson dated 09-27-2018 to resign from the Cultural Council
- Letter of Appreciation to Tracy Wilson for serving on the Cultural Council
- Draft e-newsletter format
- STAM Conference Attorney Brian Maser presentation handout – An Act to Further Define Standards of Employee Safety