

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
April 3, 2019
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall
557 Main Street, Becket**

Attendees

Board of Selectmen: William Elovirta, *Chairperson*; Michael Lavery, *Vice Chairperson*

Staff: William Caldwell, *Town Administrator*; Bev Gilbert, *Administrative Assistant*;

Others: Bob Gross, Cathy DeFoe, Chris Swindlehurst, Al Blake

1. Call to order

Bill called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Bill led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Approval of Minutes

No meeting minutes were presented.

4. Broadband Update

Bob Gross discussed the status of the Town's agreement with Comcast, obtaining estimates for underground utilities vs. short-poles to present to several communities, and cash flow. The Broadband Ad Hoc Group is asking the Town Treasurer and Town Accountant to provide information about bond anticipation notes.

The BOS agreed it would be sensible for the town to have letters of agreement with towns providing service to Becket properties. Ken Lew had proposed that Washington's MLP will send a letter to Becket's MLP.

5. Possible vote and signing of an agreement between Becket and Comcast to provide broadband service to several residents who reside on the Chester border

This item was tabled in order for Town Counsel to address insurance concerns.

6. Cathy DeFoe and Bob Gross to discuss Athenaeum septic and well issue and potential Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article for an easement.

Cathy DeFoe and Bob Gross discussed Athenaeum septic and well issues. Due to space limitations, the Athenaeum is proposing to share a well and septic system with the Mullen House and Art Center. (The Board of Health will ultimately need to furnish permits for the well and septic systems.) They discussed Hill Engineering drawing number CX101 with the Town Administrator and BOS. The Town Administrator will contact Town Counsel to request language for an ATM Warrant Article to ask that permission be granted for the BOS to approve an easement that will enable the Athenaeum and Mullen House and Arts Center to tie into and share their septic system and well. Bob Gross suggested that perhaps the wording of the easement may allow for a general area to be listed since the precise locations will later be identified as the plan is developed.

The BOS stated that the Highway Department may use its equipment to allow for viewing of the septic and well.

7. **Review and BOS possible vote on Henry A. Scarpo's Appointment Application to serve on the Conservation Commission (appointment would be effective through 6-30-21)**
Michael moved to appoint Henry Scarpo to the Conservation Commission effective through 6-30-21. Bill seconded. Motion carried.
8. **BOS to select two more Representatives to vote on the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC).**
Bill Caldwell advised that currently the Building Inspector and Assistant Building Inspector are representatives to vote on the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). It was agreed that Michael and Bill Caldwell will also serve as representatives.
9. **BOS to consider voting to appoint Madelaine Elovirta Inspector of Animals for a term commencing May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020**
The BOS asked the Town Administrator to send a letter to the Department of Agricultural Resources specifying that due to discussion with the Office of the Attorney General, the Becket Board of Selectmen will wait until after the Annual Town Election before nominating an Inspector of Animals when the BOS has three members. In the past, Board of Selectmen member William Elovirta has recused himself from discussions and votes relating to the nomination of his wife Animal Inspector Madelaine Elovirta to avoid a Conflict of Interest. Bill C. will inquire if the current Animal Inspector may continue serving until the appointment occurs after the town elections in May.
10. **BOS to review the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation's letter dated 3-28-19 with Exhibit A.**
 - **BOS to announce that The Dept. of Conservation and Recreation might acquire an interest in a parcel of land located in Becket as shown on attached locus map marked as "Exhibit A."**
 - **BOS to consider voting to waive the 120-day notice period as required by Massachusetts Regulations Chapter 301 Section 51 et seq. as to two parcels of land of approximately 225 acres in the Town of Becket as shown on Exhibit A which the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation is considering acquiring an interest**
Bill read the above captioned letter. The property referenced in the letter is at the edge of October Mountain. The BOS indicated that although they cannot stop the state from purchasing the property, they will go on record to state that they, in fact, oppose the state purchasing additional land in our Town which does not offer the community an advantage, and removes property from our tax rolls. Moreover, the state's PILOT has been reduced in recent years and does not keep up with the Town's public services expenses relating to land in the state-owned programs. The BOS will copy this letter to Rep. Pignatelli and Senator Hinds. Bill moved to approve the 120-day waiver required by Massachusetts Regulations Chapter 301 Section 51 et seq. as to two parcels of land of approximately 225 acres in the Town of Becket as shown on Exhibit A which the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation is considering acquiring an interest
Michael seconded. Motion carried. Michael signed the Certification of announcement form.
11. **BOS to respond to Town of Chester's inquiry: Does Becket wish to continue participating in the Agreement for shared Vocational Transportation Services. The new contract is for Fiscal Years 2020, 2021 and 2022.**

Michael moved to continue the Town's intention to remain in the Agreement for shared Vocational Transportation Services (Smith Vocational High School) for the new contract period for Fiscal Years 2020, 2021 and 2022. Bill seconded. Motion carried.

12. BOS to review and vote on Seasonal Licenses:

- **Old Inn on the Green LLC (Manager: Peter Randolph Platt) dba The Old Inn on the Green at the Pillow, to operate at 358 George Carter Road (Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Inc.) – Seasonal All Alcoholic Beverages Restaurant, and Common Victuallers licenses**
- **M.D.A., Inc., d/b/a Berkshire Berries (Manager: David Graves) dba Berkshire Berries, to operate at 650 Jacobs Ladder Road – Seasonal All Alcoholic Beverages Package Store licenses**

Michael moved to approve the licenses listed above as read by the BOS Chairperson. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

13. BOS to acknowledge Citizens' Petition for Warrant Article received on 3-28-19 To see if the Town will vote at the Annual Town Meeting to amend Article 17, Section 24 of the Town of Becket Bylaws by adding Thin-film Plastic Bags. The purpose of adding the language is to reduce the use of thin-film plastic checkout bags by all retail and grocery stores.

The BOS acknowledged the above captioned Citizens Petition and will forward it to the Town Clerk to check the required signatures.

14. Annual Town Meeting Draft Warrant

Bill discussed the draft ATM Warrant. Bill made a motion to change the Town Clerk's position into an appointed position subject to Town Meeting vote, Ballot Vote and Charter Change. Michael seconded. Motion carried.

15. Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Discussion

Bill Caldwell will provide a final draft Fiscal Year 2020 Budget to the BOS tomorrow. Bill C. will list \$16,800 for Summer Highway Department help (for the North Becket Village).

16. Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements

There were no comments and announcements.

17. Town Administrator's Report

Items discussed:

- Route 20 Spring – It will be made inaccessible within the next week or two.
- Collins Center at UMASS Boston – working on Budget presentation. The BOS may decide after the ATM whether it makes sense to pursue GFOA certification.
- Town buildings light upgrades. Per Chris Swindlehurst's inquiry Bill C. will look into replacement of the lighting (converting to LEDs) and attic insulation for Fire Station #1.
- Bill C. completed his MCPPO training on 3-27-19 (Procurement)
- DEP's boil water order for Arts Center – Bill advised that Berkshire Engineering will present a plan for remedy to DEP. This may delay the opening of the Arts Center.
- Ambulance – The BOS and Bill C. agreed that it will be useful to invest approximately \$3,000 in the retired Police Cruiser for the Ambulance Department's

use. EMTs may respond to calls and the Ambulance Department may use the vehicle to attend trainings or for other town related business.

- Ambulance – Bill C. will ask the Town Accountant about setting up a revolving fund for the Ambulance Department in conjunction with a potential Ambulance detail agreement at Jacob’s Pillow, and for community first aid/CPR/AED trainings.

18. Public Input

Al Blake initiated a discussion regarding a Baby Town Meeting. The BOS agreed to potentially schedule a Baby Town Meeting and Meet the Candidates night at the Town Hall (Community Room) on the evening of Monday, April 29th. This will be an informational meeting to discuss items that will appear on the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for May 11th. All candidates who will be on the ballot for the Annual Town Election on May 18th are invited to attend to make a statement about their candidacy and answer questions. Beverly will send an e-mail to ask about the availability of the candidates, and Town Moderator .

19. Any other business to come before the Board

The BOS signed a letter of support for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant Application.

20. Correspondence

- **3-28-19 Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing scheduled on 05-08-19 re: Tami and Robert Scott’s Special Permit application to operate a seasonal ice-cream food truck and to host a seasonal vendor show on weekends at Papa Bob’s located at 71 Chester Rd (Map 414, Lot 38).**
- **3-11-19 Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. re: Massachusetts Environmental Disclosure for the period of July 2017 – June 2018**
- **3-15-19 Eversource Energy re: Western MA’s 2019-2023 Five Year Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) for power line rights-of-way, and attached letter dated 3-5-19 from Mass. Dept. of Agricultural Resources approving the VMP**
- **3-29-19 Dept. of Environmental Protection re: Becket Arts Center Public Water Supply ID #1022033, Boil Enforcement Order #00004152 –DEP must receive and approve the town’s corrective plan prior to resuming operations.**
- **Fire Chief Mark A. Hanford’s notification received 03-26-19 specifying that he will not seek reappointment to the position of Fire Chief this July 2019.**
Bill read Mark Hanford’s letter. The BOS agreed that due to increased responsibility and time requirements relating to OHSA and standard operating procedures, they will discuss this appointment after the Town Election when the BOS has a third member.

21. BOS to review and sign payable warrants

The BOS reviewed and signed the payable warrants.

22. BOS to adjourn the Meeting

Michael moved to adjourn. Bill seconded. Motion carried. Bill adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Date Approved 4-17-19

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, *Administrative Assistant*


William Elovirta, *Chairperson*

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- Town Administrator's Report
- Hills Engineering Drawing CX101 for Athenaeum
- Bob Gross memo re: Becket Athenaeum and Town of Becket Shared Septic and well project
- 03-29-19 Document re: Becket Athenaeum and Town of Becket shared septic system and well project
- Ann Bruzzi (Kulig)/Berkshire Engineering re-mail dated 4-2-19 re: water
- Henry A. Scarpo Appointment Application to serve on the Conservation Commission
- E-mail dated 4-1-19 from Town Administrator re: Becket Primary Representative for IECC vote
- Department of Conservation and Recreation as listed under agenda item 10
- Seasonal License Renewals for Operation during 2019 check list form
- Citizen's Petition
- Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant
- Letter of Support for the MVP Grant
- Correspondence as listed above