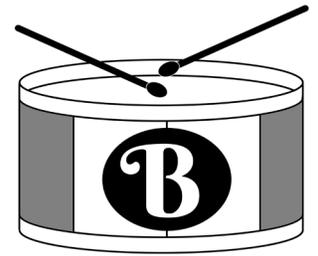


Becket Beat



Keeping neighbors connected

Vol. 1, No. 7 - November 2022

Bear in Mind

by Marilyn Fish

Did you happen to see Smoky, Winnie, or Teddy at the barbeque last night? No, not those friendly guys from the pub! I mean the American black bears that have been frequenting your stretch of the road. This species, often seen in the forests, farms, and neighborhoods of Becket, is so wide-spread and well-known, that it served as a model for Smoky the Bear, Winnie the Pooh, and your favorite childhood toy. But when it comes to scaring them off or hunting them down, we can't be all misty-eyed and sentimental.

Whether shoeing or shooting bears, it's a good idea to know as much as you can about them. Their primary habitat is hardwood and coniferous forest typical of our town. Small swampy areas also provide excellent cover. Strong swimmers and climbers with no natural predators in the region, bears also possess powerful eyesight, hearing, and a sense of smell that is about seven times more sensitive than that of a domestic dog. Active night and day, their primary aim is finding food. While their diet changes seasonally, it consists mostly of new grasses, fruits, berries, nuts, and insects. Near human settlements they will also open trash cans, destroy barbeque grills, raid bird feeders, decimate corn crops, snatch small pets, and occasionally enter cars and houses if they smell food. They are hungriest and fattest in October and November, just before they begin to hibernate. By then males can weigh as much as 500 pounds, females as much as 300. Females produce litters of 1 to 3 cubs in January and are fiercely protective of their young until they reach maturity at 5 years.



Photo courtesy of Art Alpert

When confronted by people, American black bears rarely attack. They make mock charges, emit blowing sounds and swat the ground with their forepaws. If a bear approaches you, stand still, make loud noises, and spread your arms to look bigger. When walking or hiking, bring an air horn, a stick, and bear spray.

Hunters have pursued bears for safety, sustenance, and profit throughout American history. The roasted flesh was once commonly eaten and is still popular in some circles. Manufacturers rendered fat for use in cosmetics and prepared skins for sale as rugs and coats. Today, environmentalists consider controlled bear harvesting a form of conservation that benefits the ecosystem.

continued on page 2



VOTE! It's Your Civic Duty

There are 3 more opportunities to early vote in the State Election at Town Hall:

- **Tuesdays, November 1**, 10am to 12pm
- **Wednesday, November 2**, 6pm to 8pm
- **Thursday, November 3**, 4pm to 6pm

Mail-in voting application requests must be received by **Tuesday, November 1**

Mail-in ballots can be dropped off or delivered to Town Hall in the drop box or inside by 8pm on **Tuesday, November 8**; those mailed in must be received by 5pm on **Friday, November 11**

Election day is Tuesday, November 8, in-person voting will be held at Town Hall from 7am-8pm

Get all the details you need at: www.townofbecket.org/town-clerk/pages/voter-registration
www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleupcomingelections/upcoming-elections.htm

Table of Contents: Bear in Mind P1 / Letter from the Editors P2
Community Preservation Committee P3 / Three New Becket Businesses & BWCP News, P4

Letter from the Editors

by Kathy Baugh & Marilyn Fish

Dear Readers,

Thank you for your positive comments on the publication in our October issue of Sheffield Drewry's letter concerning Indigenous Peoples' Day to Central Berkshire Regional School District Superintendent, Leslie Blake-Davis. As a result, we are considering ways to include more youth voices in the Becket Beat in 2023 - stay tuned. People also indicated that they would like to know a little bit more about Sheffield, so she provided us with this bio:

Sheffield Drewry is a senior at Wahconah Regional High School. She plans on studying political science and environmental science in college. Sheffield has been a lifeguard at the Becket Beach and captain of her swim team. She has also served as president of the Green Umbrella Environmental club and the Best Buddies club. In her free time, Sheffield loves to snowboard and see her friends.

In other news, we want to inform the community that we will not be publishing a January issue of the paper but will instead resume publication in February with an issue that will cover both January and February. We will use the break to review feedback from our first year and set goals for the coming year. So, fear not, the *Becket Beat* will continue in its mission, of keeping neighbors connected, well into the future. Finally, I'd like to welcome Marilyn Fish, my new Co-Editor.

Bear In Mind, continued from page 1

Black bears are abundant in Massachusetts and bagging them is permitted, although stringent laws and detailed restrictions govern the process. For important details, please read "Massachusetts Fishing and Hunting, 2022," more than 50 pages that can be viewed and downloaded at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/2022-massachusetts-fishing-and-hunting-guide/download>. In Massachusetts Zone 2, which includes Becket, we have three seasons (see sidebar) during which a changing variety of weapons...from bow and arrow to rifles... are allowed. Licenses, permits, and particular items of gear are among the many things required of every hunter.

Begin looking for a likely hunting spot in mid-August, searching for locations near bear trails, natural food sources, and old and new scat.

Carefully observe trees with claw marks, snapped fruit trees, and well-worn paths near the fringes of corn fields. Always ask landowners for permission to hunt on their land and offer them a share of the harvest. On the day of the hunt, reduce your human scent and place your stand downwind. If



Photo courtesy of Marcia Parnell

possible, come into position during hours of darkness from a direction not used by the bears. Wait silently until there is enough light to see well. While this might waste a half hour of your hunting time, you will avoid scaring off the animals. If you are successful in bringing down your prey, be ready to field dress it immediately. Pack the body cavity with ice and transport it to a cooler or game processing facility. Report your harvest as soon as possible according to Massachusetts law.

Remember that your safe return from the hunting trip is the most important outcome. Always be respectful of the strength and intelligence of these imposing animals. Remain alert, calm, and cautious at all times.



Photo courtesy of Adele Levine

2022, Zone 2 Bear Hunting Seasons

First season:
Sept. 6 - Sept. 24

Second season:
Nov. 7 - Nov. 26

Third season:
Nov. 28 - Dec. 10

All dates inclusive

Hunting is
prohibited on
Sundays.

Hunting Hours
1/2 hour before
sunrise until 1/2
hour after sunset

Community Preservation Committee

by Al Blake



The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a state law that allows cities and towns to create a dedicated fund for open space, historic preservation, senior housing and recreation. The decision to adopt the CPA is made by each community in the Commonwealth.

Any town can enact a surcharge of 1.5%-3% on property tax bills to create the Community Preservation Fund. The money is spent in three core areas: open space preservation, affordable housing, and historic preservation. Each of these areas must receive a minimum of 10% of the total fund each year, but the remaining 70% can be spent or reserved for future spending in any of the three core areas as well as an additional area of public recreation.

In 2008, the voters of Becket passed the CPA proposal for 1.5% of the annual real estate levy against real property, and the town voted to accept the following exemptions to the CPA: property owned as a domicile by any person who qualifies for low-income housing, low- and moderate-income senior housing, class 3 commercial, class 4 industrial, and \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential real property.

The CPA provides a dedicated funding source for desirable and innovative projects that the community wants. The CPA also brings state funds to local projects. The state funds are raised through fee surcharges at the registry of deeds in every county in the Commonwealth. The CPA is a very flexible funding mechanism. The types of projects it can be used for are very broad, and can include many projects that are hard to fund through other means. CPA funds can be used to: purchase open space or conservation restrictions; broaden housing opportunities for residents; help senior citizens repair their homes; build playgrounds, athletic fields, trails, or restore historic buildings and landscapes. The CPA funds can also be used as local leverage for state and federal grants. Communities can issue bonds in anticipation of future CPA proceeds. Each community has control over how the money is spent, since disbursement of CPA funds needs to be approved by a town meeting.

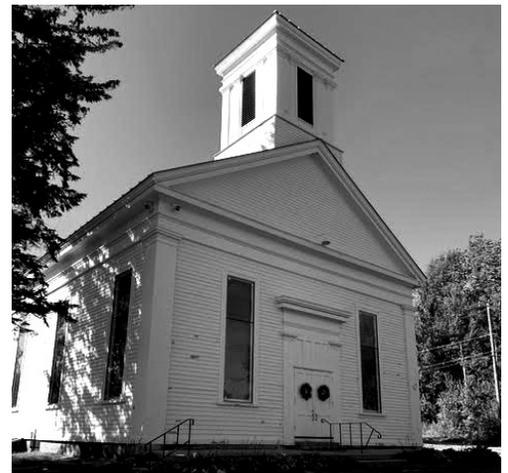
Recent projects that were approved at Becket's Town Meeting were: Esau's Heel Trail work for the sum of \$10,000.00; First Congregational Church for the rebuilding of the belfry which houses a Paul Revere bell for the sum of \$100,000.00 and the Becket Arts Center to continue efforts to insulate the building owned by the town for the sum of \$21,887.00.

Anyone interested in funding a project through the CPA, should contact the committee and follow up by attending a Community Preservation Committee (CPC) meeting, where they will receive information regarding funding criteria and procedures. Proposals should be submitted well in advance of February 28th, which is the due date for the submission.

More information can also be found at <https://www.townofbecket.org/community-preservation-committee>.

Members of this committee are: Cindy DelPapa, at large member; chairperson, Rita Furlong, represents the Parks and Recreation Committee; secretary/treasurer, John Garvey represents the Historic Commission; James Levy represents the Planning Board; Douglas Bessone represents the Conservation Commission; and Larisa Shpitalnik is a member at-large.

If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact a member or submit a letter of interest to the Becket Select Board.



Three NEW Becket Businesses

by Amy Attias

In a time of empty stores and wistfully remembered gathering spots around town, Becket residents have yearned for more. That is about to change. From north to south and in between, Becket will soon welcome three new businesses to our beautiful hills.

In the far southern reaches of town, Mike Goodenough will be opening Himalayan High, at 3235 Main Street, Becket, at the intersection of Routes 8 and 20. Although this will be a recreational cannabis dispensary, Mike plans to teach people about the ancillary uses of cannabis, such as help with issues like insomnia, anxiety, and physical aches and pains. Mike is excited about becoming a part of the Becket community, and hopes to be opening his doors for business by early winter.

In Town Center, Ryan Eley has been working hard to renovate the old Becket Country Store. He plans to open it as both a convenience store and diner, with seating for 20 people. Ryan will be serving up breakfast and lunch, to start. An outdoor summer ice cream stand is also in the works. Ryan, a contractor by trade, is finding that starting up this new business is a fulfilling project. He hopes to be in operation later in the winter and looks ahead to people once again patronizing this beloved spot.

And last but certainly not least, we excitedly await the opening of the Neon Newt in the northernmost end of town, in the former home of the Becket General Store, at the corner of Route 8 and High Street. The newest project of Olivia Pattison, it will open in early winter by selling baked goods and expects to be serving breakfast and lunch shortly thereafter. Prior to this, Olivia had a bread and bakery business on Martha's Vineyard.

By Spring, our Hilltown oasis will be back to being the vibrant community it once was, with welcoming storefronts and gathering spots for all.

BECKET WASHINGTON COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (BWCP) NEWS

Becket Arts Center - Gift Shop Open for the Holidays

When you shop at the Becket Arts Center, you are choosing quality gifts, supporting artists and contributing to the local economy. You can shop online and pick up your items in the store, or you can shop in person select Saturdays and Sundays in November and December!

**Open Saturdays 10am-4pm & Sundays 12-4pm
November 12-December 18**

Complimentary gift wrapping available for in-store purchases.

Don't forget to fill out the BAC 2022 Survey - available at becketartscenter.org



Becket Athenaeum - Silent Auction: November 14-28

Becket Athenaeum is holding an online silent auction, starting November 14, ending on November 28. Many wonderful items will be available to bid on, including theater tickets, dance tickets, paintings, and photography. Many gift certificates for local restaurants and stores, will be offered, along with some specialty items such as an oyster and wine pairing, and a CRA 3-month membership!

The auction will be entirely online, and bidders will be notified by text or email concerning the status of their bids. A dedicated link will go up on the athenaeum website: www.becketathenaeum.org on November 14. Come join in the fun and support your local community!



Becket Beat

Business Manager
Adele Levine

Editors
Kathy Baugh
Marilyn Fish

Technical Editor
Aaron Beatty

Photo Editors
Amy Alpert
Shelley Chandler

Calendar Editor
Aaron Beatty

Facebook Administrator
Jeanine McAdam

Advertising Manager
Shelley Chanler

Circulation Managers
Amy Alpert
Shelley Chanler
Ann Krawet
Marcia Parnell

Reporters/ Writers
Amy Attias
Al Blake
Tommie Hutto-Blake
Ann Krawet
Marcia Parnell

Contributing Writers
Marilyn Fish

Photographers
Art Alpert

Acting Treasurer
Amy Alpert

The Becket Beat is published monthly. Submission guidelines and more at: www.BecketBeat.org

Community Calendar November 2022

see other side
for more >>



Full listing & details: www.BecketBeat.org/Community-Calendar

ARTS, CULTURE & MUSIC

PAPA BOB'S

Thursdays, Nov 3, 10, 17: Open Mic / 7pm

Fridays, Nov 4, 11, 18, 25: Karaoke / 8pm

ROUTE 8 PUB

Tuesdays, Nov 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Darts / 6pm

Wednesdays, Nov 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Open Jam / 6pm

Saturdays, Nov 5, 12, 26: Karaoke / 6pm

Saturday, Nov. 19: Misty Blues / 6:30pm

Saturday, Nov. 12: Holiday Pie Sale and Craft Sale /
First Congregational Church of Becket Guild Hall /
9am-3pm

MORE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Tuesdays, Nov 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Preschool
STEAM / Becket Athenaeum / 10:30-11:30am /
Preregistration required

Tuesday, Nov 1: Book Club-Go Set a Watchman @
1:30-2:30pm / Becket Athenaeum / Free

Tuesdays, Nov 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Yoga with Rima Sala /
Washington Town Hall / 9am / Free

Wednesdays, Nov 2, 9: Yoga / Becket Town Hall /
9am / \$3

Fridays, Nov 4, 11, 18, 25: Tai Chi / Qi Gong /
Washington Town Hall / 10am

Friday, Nov 4: Free Dinner @ Federated Church /
5-7pm

Saturdays, Nov 5, 19: Food Pantry / Becket
Federated Church / 9-11am

Saturdays, Nov 5, 12, 19, 26: Storytime &
craft for kids / Becket Athenaeum / 10:30-11am

Mondays, Nov 7, 14, 21, 28: Chair Yoga
Washington Town Hall / 11am / Free

Your Ad Could Appear Here!
\$35/month (print & online)

Email: ads@BecketBeat.org
for more information &
multi-month discount packages

JEFF WILKINSON

(413) 269-4500

Jeff@StoneHouseProperties.com



STONE HOUSE PROPERTIES LLC

35 Railroad Street

Great Barrington, MA 01230

www.StoneHouseProperties.com



413-447-5846

Ginger Conner, The Becket Connection

RED HORSE REAL ESTATE

www.RedHorseRealEstate.com

PO Box 111 Becket MA 01223

Ginger@RedHorseRealEstate.com



CORMIER LANDSCAPING

Lawn Service
Excavation
Retaining Walls
Decks

Driveways
Patios
Mulching
Custom Property Design

Clean Ups
Tree Work
Plowing
Stone Work

Proprietors:
Gerry Cormier
Randy Cormier

PO Box 148
Becket, MA 01223
413 822-0739
gerrycormier@yahoo.com



Cormier Tree Service

Tree Removal
Tree Topping
Wood Chipping

Excavation
Driveways
Patios
Mulching

Plowing
Stonework
Land Clearing

Proprietors:
Gerry Cormier
Randy Cormier

PO Box 148
Becket, MA 01223
413-822-0739
gerrycormier@yahoo.com

Community Calendar November 2022

see other side
for more >>



Full listing & details: www.BecketBeat.org/Community-Calendar

TOWN GOVERNMENT

Tuesday, Nov 1: Historical Commission / Becket Washington School / 3pm

Wednesday, Nov 2: Board of Health / 5pm

Wednesdays, Nov 2, 16: Select Board / 7pm

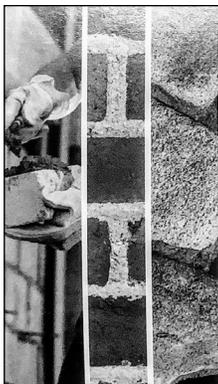
Tuesday, Nov 8: State Election / 7am-8pm

Wednesday, Nov 9: Planning Board / 6pm

Tuesday, Nov 15: Parks & Recreation Committee / 9am / Becket Town Hall

Tuesday, Nov 22: Conservation Commission / 6pm

Photo courtesy of Robert Watroba



TOM SERMINI
Owner

SERMINI MASONRY
Masonry Repairs and Restorations

1820 Jacobs Ladder Road
Becket, Ma. 01223

413-274-0115
serminimasonry@gmail.com

MORE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Monday, Nov 14: Cookbook Club-*Lidia's A Pot, A Pan, and A Bowl* / Becket Athenaeum / 6pm

Thursday, Nov 24: Turkey Dinner / First Becket Federated Church / 1-3pm / FREE

Saturday, Nov 26: All You Can Eat Breakfast
Becket Federated Church / 8-10:30am / \$8

Weekdays after school (2:55-5:30pm):

Kids Club After-School Care at BWS.

Contact Jon Yetto at the Dalton CRA (413-684-0260 or jyetto@daltoncra.org) for information and to sign up.

Photo courtesy of Robert Watroba



Café & Country Store / 413-623-2338
Open Wed-Sun 8am - 7pm
Kitchen closes @ 3pm / Pizza til 6pm

PAPA BOB'S

Where friends Meet...

Food • Drinks • Entertainment

FREE MUSIC

Sat 4-7pm Sun 3-6pm

WED: 4-10pm

THUR: 4-11pm

FRI: 4pm-12am

SAT: 1pm-12am

SUN: 1-8pm

Sat/Sun: Ice Cream Cart

71 Chester Rd, Becket
413-623-8777

www.route8pub.com

Open 11am-9pm

Full Bar

Live Music
Saturdays

**ROUTE
8
PUB**

Open Jam
Wednesday

3235 Main Street, Becket MA 413*623*6026