

To our Washington neighbors:

November 2015

The results from the October 26 Special Town Meeting:

- The voters closely rejected an amendment to our by-laws regarding the registration of Town businesses. We will continue to find alternative ways to protect the character of the Town.
- The voters endorsed the restoration of the Eden Glen recreational area. Next steps will be to get hard cost estimates, install the gate and clean out the dam.
- The voters approved the Town's ongoing participation and financial support for the Pipeline Working Group sponsored by Berkshire Regional Planning to respond to the many issues raised by the proposed pipeline through the Berkshires.

We hope that everyone will turn out for the special election on Saturday November 14 between 12 to 4 in the afternoon at the Town Hall. The only question on the ballot is approval for a debt exclusion for the Town's share of the funding and construction of the high-speed internet system we are participating in through our membership in WiredWest, MA Broadband Institute (MBI) is requiring this even though no such requirement was made prior to last spring's Annual Town meeting when a record voter turnout overwhelmingly approved our participation in WiredWest. However, MBI is the conduit for the state's share of the funding and also has construction oversight. The good news is that, if the debt exclusion is passed, the Town keeps its place in line for the network. We will continue to lobby to be among the first towns on the new system.

Road and bridge updates:

- It is now too late in the year to bid the Cross Place bridge replacement. The only question is whether we will have anything from Holden – who was hired to engineer the project with the understanding it would be completed before now – that we can use in the spring. We are considering whether to take legal action against Holden.
- The contractor hired for Washington Mountain Road has said that the two major culverts will be replaced before winter; this may require a brief detour around the construction.
- The Select Board voted to endorse the salting of our roads in anticipation of a storm to minimize icing.

The electricity aggregation that the voters signed up for through Hampshire County Council of Governments will not happen in January as promised. The Board is looking into some other ideas for lowering the electric rate for everyone in Town.

We hope everyone got to the Pumpkin Walk!

Jim Huebner  
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon  
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case  
Select Board