

To our fellow Washington residents:

April 2015

Thanks to all of our citizens who turned out for the Special Town Meeting on March 16 and unanimously approved the replacement of the culverts on Middlefield Road/Coles Brook, Cross Place Road/Depot Brook and Frost Road/Depot Brook; 75% of the Frost Road project is funded by a FEMA grant of up to \$788,350.

- We have petitioned DOT to do a one-to-one replacement of the Middlefield Road culvert; this would mean a significant savings over a new design/construction.
- We are working with FinComm, our Treasurer and our Road Superintendent to determine how much of the Chapter 90 funding we receive each year can be put towards these projects without jeopardizing other road maintenance.
- BRPC is applying for a grant to fund a study of the entire Depot Brook drainage basin.
- From an engineering perspective removal of the Eden Glen Dam makes sense but there will be no decision until we do a cost-benefit analysis and get more input from residents.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is looking for volunteers and comments on the trail system and trail planning for Pittsfield State Forest and October Mountain State Forest. If you are interested email [paul.jahnige@state.ma.us](mailto:paul.jahnige@state.ma.us) or [DCRUpdates@state.ma.us](mailto:DCRUpdates@state.ma.us).

We fought hard to get the complete rehabilitation of Washington Mountain Road back on the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for 2018, but, even better, we found out that DOT has just put the project out for bid! We are told that construction will start in August, but, given the opacity and capriciousness of DOT we will wait to celebrate until it actually happens.

- Our biggest issue with DOT remains the bridge that spans the CSX tracks on Summit Hill Road. We continue to demand its immediate replacement.

As a corollary to our ongoing loss of young adults we have an aging population. A group headed by Berkshire Regional Planning wants to make Berkshire County "Age Friendly". As a start they are conducting a survey for residents age 50 and over. We have hard copies at the Town Hall or use the link on the Town's website [www.surveymonkey.com/s/BerkshireAgeFriendly](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BerkshireAgeFriendly).

All available municipal flags hang in a hall in the Statehouse in Boston. Several residents are concerned that the Town's is, well, dated. The Select Board is looking for a new design. Anyone interested please let us know.

Mike Moro of Frost Road has proposed to hold informal jam sessions on Summer Sunday evenings in the Town Park. We think this is a great idea in keeping with our rich musical – and volunteer - tradition. Anyone wishing to comment or help, please let us know.

Jeff Sawtelle has done a great job with our Council on Aging, but he needs more volunteers. Please contact Jodi or Jeff if you can help.

We hope everyone is signing up for signing up for high speed phone and internet service with WiredWest either by mail or through <https://register.wiredwest.net/>. There will be an informational session from 9 am to 1 pm Saturday April 18, and a ballot question at the Annual Town Meeting.

- The Annual Town Meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY** May 5th at 7 pm. We made the change in order to allow more of our residents to attend, so we hope to see you there!
- And don't forget to vote! The Annual Town Elections are Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Is it spring yet.....

Jim Huebner  
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon  
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case  
Select Board