

To our fellow Washington residents:

May 2015

For the first time the Town's Board of Health will have non-Select Board membership. Thanks to Vera Cormier and Barbara Keyes for stepping up and volunteering. Both Vera and Barbara have attended training to help them get started.

Update on our highway projects:

- The Cross Place/Depot Brook culvert will be replaced this summer.
- Exploratory work on the Frost Road/Depot Brook bridge has begun but construction will not start until the summer of 2016.
- DOT has approved a one-to-one replacement of the Middlefield Road/Coles Brook culvert which means a significant savings over a redesign. Now that the span has a new deck the full replacement will probably not happen until next summer.
- DOT has told us it is preparing a design for the Summit Hill Road/CSX bridge for review this month but still offers no details or construction timetable. We have reached out to the new Secretary of Transportation to ask her to expedite the process.
- The bid opening for the complete reconstruction of Washington Mountain Road is scheduled for May 27. Once DOT awards the contract we will have a better idea of timing.
- The highway department took a recommendation from the BRPC study of our roads and used Chapter 90 funds to purchase a vibratory roller to better maintain our dirt roads.
- The Town received \$25,421 in supplemental funds for "pothole repair". We have also gotten additional Chapter 90 funding for a total of over \$500,000 available in FY2016.

Since we have hired Phil Clark for engineering support on virtually all our highway work he has decided to step down from the Conservation Commission to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest. Ken Walls will also be stepping down, We thank them both for their years of great service on the Commission. Any volunteers to take their place?

Congratulations to Kent Lew and our Finance Committee for securing a grant to help us develop a financial master plan for the Town! The plan will encompass infrastructure maintenance, explore and investigate how we can best address North Lake Estates.

Please plan to attend the Annual Town Meeting on **WEDNESDAY** May 6th at 7 pm. In addition to the budget we have four very important ballot questions:

- Should we adopt clarifying language for our home-based business by-law?
- Should we expand on the memorials at the Old Town Hall to honor Town residents who served in the Revolution, War of 1812, Civil War, Korea and Vietnam?
- Should we fix up or remove the dam on Depot Brook at Frost Road? Either way will require some expense. What do you think?
- Should the Town go forward with providing high-speed internet service to all our households through WiredWest? We need to approve borrowing authority to underwrite the installation with the expectation that user fees will cover the debt.

Above all, please exercise your most important civic duty and vote at the Town Hall on Saturday May 16 between noon and 4 pm!

It is finally Spring! We hope everyone gets to the Town Park Saturday May 2 to get it into shape!

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board