

To our Washington neighbors:

July 2015

The Town plans to contract with Pittsfield to provide veterans' services. Details of how to use the service will be forthcoming. Thanks to Peter Blake for serving as our Veterans' Agent over the past two years and for making this transition go smoothly.

The backers of the proposed gas pipeline have specified where compressor stations and other infrastructure will be located and have contracted to supply Berkshire Gas. A key part of the federal approval process is determining whether there is a need for it, so each domestic contract makes them more likely to succeed. On a more positive note the Pipeline Working Group that we have been engaged with has agreed that our legal firm act as our representative rather than merely an advisor. This means we will speak with a united and more powerful voice.

- The group now includes affected New York State municipalities which both strengthens our position and dilutes the cost – which has been minimal so far.
- All of the participating municipalities have taken a stand against the pipeline, but our course is to make its construction as difficult as possible by raising environmental, economic, and other objections.

By the time winter rolls in on us the Town's roads should be in the best shape ever:

- DOT has resurfaced Route 8;
- We expect Washington Mountain Road to be completely reconstructed later in the year;
- Our highway department will resurface Blotz Road this summer and we are told that Hinsdale plans to redo their portion of the road as well;
- Our highway crew is making use of the new vibratory roller to improve our gravel roads.

Work continues on our bridges and culverts:

- Although the firm we engaged for the Cross Place design has not lived up to their timetable we still expect to have the culvert in place before winter.
- We are exploring one or more MassWorks grants to pay for the planned replacement of the Middlefield Road/Coles Brook and other culverts.
- A change of leadership at DOT's District One has given us some small hope that the Summit Hill bridge over the CSX tracks might be replaced before the winter.
- Work is proceeding in Eden Glen towards construction of the new culvert next year.

As part of the Eden Glen project:

- We have determined that the Town does not own all of the property within the area of the former pond. We will start discussions with the property owner.
- We hope to use help from the Sheriff's Department under the supervision of the Highway Department to clear out the debris at the base of the dam.
- The condition of the dam itself still needs to be determined.

Thanks to Selectman Lennon for soliciting the Sheriff's help; it will also be used to fix up the Old Town Hall and do other maintenance projects under Ed Bond's direction

With all of the road projects being done in Town, Mike Case has insisted that we use our residents as a flagmen (or women!). If you are interested, contact Chief Breen or Jodi Hostetter. Mike and Shaun Lennon will provide training.

Don't forget there's music in the Town Park Sunday evenings – weather permitting.

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board