

To our Washington neighbors:

August 2015

Dr. Rob Putnam has stepped down as Superintendent for the Central Berkshire Regional School District. Dr. Putnam served our community very ably and will be missed. Our very capable Assistant Superintendent, Laurie Casna, will serve on an interim basis.

Thanks to Hinsdale's Ray Bolduc and Kathy Turner for presenting us with the range of Salvation Army services available. If you or one of your neighbors is struggling to make ends meet, pay for heat or need assistance for food clothing or shelter you can contact the Reverend Jennifer Kimball at (607) 434-5632. Help is typically provided on a one-time basis but for those in need, this should be the first call.

The formal application for the proposed pipeline is expected in October. The good news is that the route should be fixed then and at this time we have no indication that it will revert to any part of Washington. The bad news is that it appears that the project is moving forward.

- August 31 is the deadline for preliminary comments from us to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding the potential impact of the pipeline. In addition to the overall Berkshires environment, this includes such issues as property values, the effects of the construction, public safety, etc. Comments from all of the Pipeline Working Group's members will be aggregated into a single submission for maximum leverage.

Brush, downed trees and other organic debris constantly accumulates along the Town's 40+ miles of roads. Rather than pay to have it hauled away the Highway crew will chip it up and it will be available at the Transfer Station for anyone who wants to use it as mulch.

We have hit a couple of delays in our road and bridge projects:

- Although the contract for the complete reconstruction of Washington Mountain Road has been awarded, the project may not be complete until next spring. The good news is that the resurfaced road should continue to serve us well until then.
- Holden, the firm we engaged for the Cross Place culvert design, failed to complete their work according to our contract. Town Counsel is seeking a recovery of the money we have paid them. We are still determining how to proceed with the culvert which will not be completed before winter.
- DOT's preliminary design for the Summit Hill bridge over the CSX tracks has been completed; timing of the construction is still not known.

The Eden Glen dam has been inspected and found to be viable. We have also determined how to proceed with the abutting property owner. Next steps will include clearing out the debris at the base of the dam.

- Determination of whether to restore the area for recreation or remove the dam will be discussed at a Capital meeting among the Select Board, Planning Board and FinComm on Monday August 17 beginning at 7:30.

We have run into both regulatory and insurance problems with using residents as flagmen on road projects, so we are not proceeding with the idea.

Thanks to the Guthries for the many many years of great music we've had at the Town Park. We look forward to next year when we hope the Hoot will resume!

Jim Huebner  
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon  
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case  
Select Board