

To our Washington neighbors:

September 2015

Congratulations to Ralph Simmons on the award of the cane that honors the Town's oldest long-time resident. We hope Ralph owns the cane for a long, long time.

As high-speed internet comes to the Town it will be increasingly easy to operate a home business. While this is a positive development, we have to make sure that the character of the Town is preserved. Accordingly, the Select Board, Planning Board and Finance Committee agreed on an addition to the Town's by-laws at our joint meeting on August 17. The proposed new by-law would require anyone with a home business to register annually to make sure that all business activity conforms to our zoning.

- We also agreed on a course of action for Eden Glen. Phil Clark is developing more detailed costs for either the removal of the dam or the restoration of the site for swimming and recreation.
- The voters will be asked to decide on both of these issues – approval of the by-law and what to do in Eden Glen - at a Special Town Meeting (STM) we will schedule this Fall.

Update on our road and bridge projects:

- The contractor awarded the complete reconstruction of Washington Mountain Road will not complete the project before next spring. They may do the drainage basins this fall.
- Holden, the contractor for the Cross Place culvert design, now has promised to complete their work in time for construction this fall. We have told them that if they fail the Town will seek recovery of the money we have paid them.
- DOT's plans to go out for bids to replace the Summit Hill bridge over the CSX tracks next spring.
- Hinsdale has reconstructed Kirchener Road between the Town line and Dalton; our resurfacing of Blotz Road – which is in far better shape – may wait until next spring.

Thanks to Mike Case for agreeing to act as our Veterans' Agent while the details of Pittsfield taking over are still being worked out.

Tennessee Gas has announced that they will formally file for the proposed pipeline on October 23rd. The filing triggers a 20 day time period which interested parties may file as "interveners". We expect most of the municipalities directly affected to file. Meanwhile the group hosted by Berkshire Regional Planning (BRPC) continues to develop areas of concern to be submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding the potential impact of the pipeline.

- The legal counsel engaged by BRPC has sent a draft agreement which we expect to sign as part of our current participation.
- Since we do not expect the pipeline to directly affect us, we will also ask the voters at our next STM whether the Town should continue to participate in – and fund – this effort.

See you all at the Annual Sons & Daughters Reunion at the Old Town Hall on Sunday the 13th!

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board