

To our Washington neighbors:

May 2016

Don't forget – Town Park Clean-up May 14 from 9 to 4. Everyone more than welcome!

Washington works because of the number and quality of our citizens who volunteer to serve on our various boards and committees. Anyone interested in serving on the Chapel Commission, Conservation Commission, Council on Aging, Cultural Council, Historical Commission, Parks Commission or any other Town function or activity please let Jodi or the Select Board know.

This summer Central Berkshire plans to form a building committee to apply for state construction funding for Wahconah. Anyone wishing to volunteer please let Jodi or the Select Board know.

Flu season has come with a vengeance for all too many town residents. The strains of greatest concern are crossovers from birds. Anyone observing sick, dying or dead birds should report the incident to the MDFW (MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife) at 508-389-6300 and/or the US Department of Agriculture at 413-253-2403. Residents who keep chickens should also take precautions to isolate their flocks from wild species.

Thanks to Carol Lew, Ed Bond and Ed Neumath for volunteering to work with Baltazar on the restoration of the Old Common and surroundings after its use as a staging area is complete. Baltazar has met with the group and is cooperating fully. The reconstruction of Washington Mountain Road is a large project and, however smoothly things go, residents should expect some glitches:

- At least one mailbox was knocked over. Baltazar was quite responsive to fixing it, but there are a number of mailboxes that the contractor will be moving as part of the work as well. Baltazar is working with the Becket PO to avoid any interruption in mail delivery.
- The DOT engineers in charge of the project met with a number of residents on April 13 and agreed to make improvements to what had been planned for drainage along the road.
- We have an ongoing dialog with the contractor regarding the steps they are taking to assure the safety of the Town's citizens. Please let the Board know of any specific concerns or incidents.

The Board authorized funds to determine if the existing abutments to the Middlefield Road bridge can support sufficient weight to be used for a replacement span. If so, the cost will be significantly lower than if we need new abutments. If we need new abutments the project may be delayed.

The Board sent a letter to the Governor demanding that the funds already allocated by the Broadband Act of 2008 – eight years ago - for the construction of a broadband connection for all of our citizens be released immediately, either through MBI to WiredWest or directly to WiredWest. The Town's future economic viability depends on this project.

The replacement of the Frost Road/Eden Glen culvert is on track for completion this year. We are working to incorporate the restoration of the dam and recreational area into the project to get some economy of scale. Although the voters overwhelmingly supported the dam restoration, no funding has been appropriated; there will be an item on this year's Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

We hope to see all of you at our Annual Town Meeting on Wednesday May 11 at 7 pm and we hope all of you turn out to vote in our Annual Town elections on Saturday May 21 at the Town Hall between 12 and 4. Your participation is what makes government work for you.

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board