

To our Washington neighbors:

June 2016

We had a strong turnout of 123 voters for the Annual Town Election on May 21. Congratulations to all those who won re-election. Congratulations also to Tricia Drugmand who will succeed Shaun Lennon on the Select Board. Shaun stepped forward to run for Selectman six years ago at a time of rapid turnover and turmoil as the first member of the current Board. We thank Shaun for his service, especially his work to improve the appearance and utility of the Town Hall. Shaun will continue to serve the Town on the Conservation Commission and as Constable. We expect that the atmosphere of civility and consensus we have developed over the past five years will continue.

Over forty citizens turned out for the Annual Town Meeting. The only article not approved was the borrowing authority to restore the Eden Glen Dam and recreational area. The Select Board is exploring funding for the dam's removal. Replacement of the Frost Road culvert and widening of the road itself is unaffected and expected to be complete by fall.

- The voters approved a resolution to be sent to Governor Baker and our legislators reaffirming the Town's commitment to the WiredWest model and the vital importance of broadband for our future economic viability.
- The Governor has made significant changes to the management of MBI, notably naming former Pittsfield Representative Peter Larkin as Chairman of MBI. Peter will be based in western Mass and we expect to be in contact soon.

Thank to all who spruced up the Town Park on May 14. Community in action! We are fortunate in the number and quality of our citizens who volunteer for days like the park clean up and Sons & Daughters.

- During June the Select Board will be making appointments to our various boards and committees. Anyone interested in volunteering for 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.
- Mass General law allows municipalities to form a Commission on Disability to ensure regulatory compliance and provide advocacy for persons with disabilities. The Commission would need at least three members who are persons with disabilities. If you are interested in forming and serving on this Commission please let us know.
- Mike Case will be stepping down as our representative to the Central Berkshire Regional School District after 8 years of service, including 2 years as Chair. Washington will need a new representative to run for this elective office next fall.

Road & Bridge projects:

- The reconstruction of Washington Mountain Road continues on schedule to be complete by fall; both DOT and the contractor have responded to changes requested by residents.
- We expect to let bids for the rebuilding of Blotz Road and for the construction of a new culvert on Cross Place Road during June.
- We are waiting for the analysis of the existing abutments on the Middlefield Road culvert; before making further plans for its replacement.
- We have heard no further word from DOT about the Summit Hill Road bridge but the project remains on the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for 2016.

It's finally warm enough to get the gardens in! Enjoy.

Jim Huebner  
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand, Clerk  
Select Board

Mike Case  
Select Board