

To our Washington neighbors:

July 2016

Most of the Town's current appointees have agreed to serve for FY2017 with the notable exception of Jeff Sawtelle. Jeff has done a great job with the Council on Aging and will continue to help Steve DeLoye who has stepped forward to lead the Council. Steve will also get help from Barbara Keyes, Jane Pytko, Jodi Hostetter and Jan Paxton-Huebner. Thanks to all for their service to our Seniors.

The reconstruction of Washington Mountain Road continues on schedule for completion this summer.

- Thanks again to Carol Lew, Ed Bond and Ed Neumath for working on the restoration of the Old Common; the site has been restored and the contractor, Baltazar, has offered to install granite posts and chains to mark the parking area which will give it the same look as the Old Town Hall.

The existing abutments to the Middlefield Road bridge were examined and found to be structurally sound so the cost of a replacement span will be significantly reduced.

- DOT still has to accept the analysis before further design work is done.
- Jan Nelson is preparing a MassWorks grant application to pay for the new bridge.

We have received bids for two other projects: the resurfacing of Blotz Road and the replacement of the Cross Place bridge. The Board expects to choose contractors for these projects within the next two weeks and for all the work to be complete by fall. Both projects are fully funded by Chapter 90.

Installation of fiber optic cable in the Town may finally be moving forward. A technical representative from MBI met with Jim Huebner, Steve Nelson, and Kent Lew (who has taken over the role of alternate delegate to WiredWest) to fill out all needed technical and financial forms so that a survey of the Town's utility poles can be taken. MBI will pay for the work and provide over a quarter million dollars towards construction of the network which may begin as early as this fall.

A bid package for the construction of the new Eden Glen culvert and widening of Frost Road should be out soon and we expect the work to be done before winter. An informational meeting to present the planned work and timetable will be scheduled within the next few weeks.

- At the ATM the voters did not approve borrowing authority for the restoration of the dam and the recreational area behind it. Given the prevailing sentiment against dams within the ecological and conservation community outside funding is extremely unlikely.
- On the other hand funding for the dam's removal and restoration of Depot Brook may be found from a variety of sources. The Board has applied to the MA Division of Ecological Conservation for a grant. Please keep in mind that even if such a grant is obtained, the voters – not the Select Board - have the final word on whether to go forward.

For those looking for a swimming hole there is Becket beach which the Town helps Becket to maintain and there is a recreational area maintained by DCR on Washington Mountain Lake on West Branch Road.

We hope everyone's garden survived the unexpected cold and rain. Lettuce know!

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board