

To our Washington neighbors:

September 2016

Upcoming events:

- Primary elections are THURSDAY September 8 from 7 am to 8 pm; please make time - voting is our most important responsibility as citizens.
- We hope to see all of you at the Old Town Hall on September 11 for the Annual Sons & Daughters Reunion!
- The Becket Police Department will be holding a car show at our Town Park on October 1. Food and refreshments will be available.
- Free flu shots (yes, the season will soon be upon us) will be available from 5 pm to 7 pm on Monday October 3 at the Town Hall; bring your insurance card if you have one.

Massachusetts is unique in having a broad grassroots organization to distribute public funding for the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences through local cultural councils that serve every city and town in the state. Our own Washington Cultural Council, which receives and distributes grant funding annually for public benefit, is looking for new members and is always open to ideas for grants. If you are interested in joining or helping, contact Chair Denise Johns or Jodi Hostetter. For more information about the program, visit [https://www.mass-culture.org/council\\_basics.aspx](https://www.mass-culture.org/council_basics.aspx).

The Select Board is still looking for someone to head a committee to design and finance an expanded Veterans' Memorial either on the Old Town Common or at the Old Town Hall. This is a solemn responsibility we share to those who fought for us. Anyone interested please contact Jodi.

Road & Bridge:

- Washington Mountain Road should be paved between the Dalton line and Frost Road as you read this, and all the paving done by the end of the month.
- The surface of Blotz Road is being milled and, after a couple weeks to allow the roadbed to dry out and settle, will also be fully paved by the end of September. Some design changes were made to the drainage and our road crew did extensive prep work to reduce the overall cost of the project.
- The new Cross Place culvert should be in place by the beginning of November.
- Bids for the construction of the Frost Road culvert over Depot Brook will be opened September 12. Completion of the project before winter depends on both the weather and the contractor's schedule.
  - The work will require that Frost Road be impassable to through traffic for several months.
  - We expect to hear whether our grant request to DER (the Division of Ecological Restoration) for funding the removal of the Eden Glen dam has been approved within four to six weeks so that any work may still be integrated with the culvert construction. Please remember that any action taken about the dam will require voter approval at a Special Town Meeting.
- Replacement of the Middlefield road bridge will not be done this year which gives us additional time to seek funding through either a MassWorks grant or through the small bridge funding program newly signed into law by the Governor.

The pole survey to prepare the installation of fiber optic cables appears on schedule, but we have new suspicions about how MBI wants to handle the financing. We will keep you posted.

Jim Huebner  
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand  
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case  
Select Board