

To our Washington neighbors:

December 2016

We mourn the passing of our eldest resident, Ralph Simmons, at 93. Ralph, along with his wife, Barbara, served for many years on the Town's Historical Commission.

- The Commission is the custodian of Washington's memorabilia and memories from the past two hundred and thirty-nine years. If you are interested in our Town's past you can get a copy of The History of the Town of Washington by Mrs. Louise Elliot from Jan Nelson.

Central Berkshire is considering replacement or renovation of Wahconah Regional High School which would be partially funded by the state. The first phase requires a vote from the towns next spring to fund a Feasibility Study to develop a long term solution for the school. A tour of Wahconah will be held Nov. 30, 2016 from 6-8 pm; Child Care will be available.

- Congratulations to Selectman and School Committee representative Mike Case on his lifetime appointment to the MA School Board Association.

Thanks to our Road Crew for helping do a clean up and office rearrangement at the Town Hall; our Board of Health has moved into what was the Treasurer's office; our Treasurer, Glen Grogan now occupies what was the Building Inspector's Office and our Building Inspector, Paul Greene will work out of the conference room.

- All of the Town's files are being brought into the newer file cabinets donated to the Town by Williams College; the older, surplus cabinets may be available after all the files are moved.
- The Town Hall locks are also being re-keyed and new ones will be distributed when ready.

Road & Bridge:

- Washington Mountain Road has been re-paved. Remaining detail work will be completed by June.
- The new Cross Place culvert should be completed very soon.
- DER has turned down our grant request for funds to remove the Eden Glen dam largely because of our voters' ambiguity towards the project. The Board is working with other agencies to fund a thorough engineering study that will include hard costs for removal.
 - We are still pursuing the possibility of expanding the Eden Glen culvert work scope but in no event will any work be done without voter approval.
- Although we were denied a MassWorks grant for the Middlefield Road bridge we continue to pursue funding under the new Small Bridge program. Thanks to Jodi Lampro for researching pre-fab bridges that cost a small fraction of what custom built ones cost.

MBI continues to be opaque as to its support and intentions for bringing us high-speed internet; nevertheless the first actual work – a pole survey to prepare for the installation - is ongoing.

- MBI seems to be pushing for a private-sector solution in an apparent refusal to recognize many towns' – including Washington's preference for the WiredWest cooperative.
- No word yet on whether Charter Communications, or any other commercial supplier, will present to us; we'll keep you posted.

Syncarpha Solar is constructing solar-photovoltaic installations in Hancock and is soliciting individual homeowners to sign up for solar-generated power at a 10% discount from Eversource rates. Anyone interested will need a credit score of over 680 and sign up for a minimum of 10 years.

- Syncarpha VP Matt Preskenis will be at the Town Hall on Monday December 12 at 7 to present the program and answer any questions so please come by.

We hope everyone had a safe and happy Thanksgiving. Best wishes to all for a happy holiday season and a prosperous and healthy New Year!

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board