

To our Washington neighbors:

January 2017

As we move into the New Year we are constantly reminded of our good fortune in living in Washington. We are a town of volunteers and neighbors helping neighbors. We know all of you will continue to reach out and support one another and to bring that spirit of community to the rest of the Berkshires, the Commonwealth and beyond. We are only as strong as the strength we bring to others.

Sandi Cameron, our elected Tax Collector resigned as of the end of 2016. The Board is looking for someone to appoint on an interim basis, so if you are interested and have some background in finance or accounting please let Jodi Hostetter know.

- If we cannot find a Washington resident to run for Tax Collector next spring, we may need to ask the voters to change it to an appointed position.
- Our Assistant Tax Collector, Sue McGrath, was also assisting our Treasurer, Glenn Grogan and since her departure a few months ago both Sandi and Glenn have been missing her support. The Board is considering hiring a part-time financial support person. Please let Jodi know if you are interested.

Thanks to Jodi, many of the Town's files have been consolidated in the conference room and the long-term project of shredding documents no longer required to be kept by statute complete.

- As part of the clean-up and consolidation there are a number of file cabinets, a table and chairs and a couple outmoded computers that we can dispose of. There is a list elsewhere in Tracks today. If you are interested in any of the items they can be seen at the Town Hall.

The Council on Aging Christmas dinner on the 16<sup>th</sup> was very well attended. Thanks to all who brought food, especially Heather Anello for the delicious hams!

The Tree Lighting on December 17 was well attended and was even enjoyed by some of our Becket neighbors! Thank again to Jodi Hostetter for organizing this annual even.

Road & Bridge:

- A new, much larger culvert was put across lower Johnson Hill Road where we have had ice dams in previous years. This should alleviate the problem, but the new culvert area will remain gravel until the asphalt plants open in the spring.
- The new Cross Place culvert is finally in place.
- Work on Eden Glen, the Summit Hill bridge and the Middlefield Road bridge will need to be scheduled next year.

The survey to determine what, if any, work needs to be done to ready the existing utility poles for fiber optic cables should be complete by the end of the year. We are still waiting for MBI to outline the next steps in the process of bringing high speed internet to every address in Town.

The presentation by Syncarpha Solar VP Matt Preskenis was rescheduled from 12/12 to 12/19 due to the snow. Syncarpha 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.

Stay safe, stay warm and start reading those seed catalogs!

Jim Huebner  
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand  
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case  
Select Board