

To our Washington neighbors:

April 2017

Our schools are the most important civic institution binding our communities together. Educating and developing the next generation is our greatest responsibility as citizens. After ten years of petitioning for funds from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Central Berkshire has finally gotten on their list. This means that MSBA will fund more than half of the long overdue and badly needed upgrade of Wahconah.

- The first step is for a majority of the seven towns' voters to approve a Feasibility Study to determine the best way to address the deterioration of Wahconah's systems and its outdated and inadequate facilities. The vote will be held on April 8 at the Washington Town Hall from 10-4. For more information see the flier enclosed in today's TRACKS and go to www.cbrsd.org and take a virtual tour to see the sad shape of the school.
- MSBA will fund more than half of the study. Whatever plans are developed will need to be approved by both the School Committee and the voters.
- The Select Board strongly supports taking advantage of this opportunity and urges that you vote to approve the Feasibility Study.

Thanks to the voters who turned out for the March 20th Special Town Meeting to clean up some overdue bills and close out loans that are no longer needed.

Road & Bridge:

- The culvert at the top of Frost Road has been stabilized for two-way and through traffic; we are investigating the most cost-effective way of fixing it.
- We will be developing a design for the Middlefield Road Bridge and expect to have a new span in place before winter thanks to our Small Bridge grant of \$250,000.
- The Eden Glen project is finally getting underway; details and a construction schedule should be available this month.
- We are concerned that Washington Mountain Road is already showing signs of wear; DOT has not yet signed off on the project and we are documenting the deterioration and communicating both to DOT and the contractor.
- The Summit Hill Road bridge over the CSX tracks will be closed later this month and should reopen August 29. The Board will work with Hinsdale and DOT to ensure that the detour route is and remains acceptable.

It appears that MBI has finally decided to do their job and assist us in getting a high speed internet connection to all of our households. They are releasing funding appropriated over eight years ago. Our course of action now is to use the money to engage a design firm, most likely in coordination with our sister communities in Wired West. Construction will proceed as soon as humanly possible.

Please exercise your most important civic responsibility! Vote:

- To approve the Wahconah Feasibility Study on Saturday April 8 from 10 to 4;
- At the Annual Town Meeting, Wednesday May 10 at 7; and
- For your local representatives in our Town elections Saturday May 20 from 10 to 4.

The calendar says spring. The seed catalogs are here. The snow is almost gone. Summer can't be that far off, can it?

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board