

To our Washington neighbors:

June 2017

We had a solid turnout for the Annual Town election. By a two vote margin, the voters recalled Dick Grillon to service on the Select Board after an absence of nine years. We thank Mike Case for his six years of service as a Selectman and look forward to his continued work on behalf of the Town as a member of the Education Task Force and the Wahconah Building Committee. Our appointed Tax Collector, Melissa Martinetto, has now been elected to the position and former Selectman Shaun Lennon has been elected to the Planning Board.

Thanks to all of you who took the time to participate in the Annual Town Meeting on May 10. All of the warrant articles passed by unanimous vote, including the two new by-laws: "Revolving Funds", which formalizes how the Town's various revolving funds and fund-raising activities are managed; and "Right to Farm" now assures that any Town resident can pursue farming but precludes commercial farming.

- The voters also approved changing the position of Tax Collector from elected to an appointed position which has to be ratified at next year's Annual Town Election.
- Next year we are planning to have an informational session a week prior to the ATM to give voters more time to review and understand all aspects of the warrant.

Moderator Ed Bond, who has done so much for the Town, is entering a long-delayed and much deserved retirement. His efforts as Moderator, on the Parks Commission, and on the Zoning Board of Appeals will be missed.

June is when the Select Board makes appointments for our many non-elected positions as well as vacant elected spots. We always need volunteers. We need a Building Maintenance coordinator (paid \$500 per year) to take over from Ed Bond; the Parks Commission, Cultural Commission, Historical Society, Council on Aging, Chapel Commission, Scholarship Funds, and *TRACKS*, can always use more help; and there are open slots on some of our Boards. If you are at all interested please step forward. The more help, the easier the work!

Road & Bridge:

- We have received proposals for the design of a bridge or culvert to replace the Middlefield Road over Coles Brook. We will award the work as soon as possible.
- Work on the Summit Hill Road bridge over the CSX tracks has been delayed due to the lack of a CSX flagman. We are working with DOT, the contractor, the Becket PO, CBRSD and the Town of Hinsdale to make sure that school bus service and mail delivery don't involve excessive hardship and that East Washington Road is suitable as a detour.
- The Eden Glen project has finally gotten started. We expect Frost Road to be interrupted at Eden Glen for at least three months. We will update you as the work proceeds.
- We are planning to contract with Street Scan to assess our road for maintenance planning and help us document problems with Washington Mountain Road for correction.

We are also planning to use County Ambulance for emergency service under a no-cost contract.

Kent Lew and Steve Nelson are putting together our grant request for design and construction funding of our high speed internet system. Once we have that in hand we expect to contract with Westfield Gas & Electric (WG&E) to get the work started.

It stopped raining and summer finally arrived! Now we can start battling the weeds....

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand
Select Board Clerk

Dick Grillon
Select Board