

To our Washington neighbors:

August 2017

Our friends in Becket were concerned that some non-residents of Washington were showing up at Becket Beach. From now on beach stickers will only be given out at the Town Hall by our Town Clerk or Administrative Assistants.

We have written to the owners of Bucksteep that their claim of tax-exempt status for the property is flawed because of ongoing non-compliance to Board of Health and ADA requirements since they bought the property over three years ago. This precludes use of Bucksteep for any public purpose, tax-exempt or otherwise. Our Assessors will follow up.

We have received a \$490,000 grant from the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development to begin design of our fiber optic high speed internet system. We have contracted with Westfield Gas and Electric to begin the work. We expect the system to be up and running in 2018!

32 years ago our voters narrowly rejected a petition from Petricca to put a cell tower on Washington Mountain Road. Pittsfield's then-Mayor Smith made an appeal and a promise to the Town: 5 acres of Pittsfield's watershed property across from Ashley Lake would be given to the Town to use as a cemetery if the cell tower was approved. Our voters accepted the proposal, the tower went up, but the 5 acre parcel was never transferred. Successive Boards have tried to get this done through a succession of Pittsfield Mayors: Wojtkowski, Reilly, Hathaway, Ruberto, and Bianchi (with apologies if we missed anyone.)

- Our current Board had a very cordial meeting with current Pittsfield Mayor Linda Tyler last month and our hope is that we will finally get resolution of this matter.

We are still looking for:

- A Virginia Lakes property owner or abutter to work with the group for Virginia Lake Estates; and
- A Maintenance Coordinator to keep up our Town Hall and historical buildings.

Road & Bridge:

- We have received two proposals to design a bridge or culvert to replace the Middlefield Road over Coles Brook after our re-issue of an RFP. We are still hopeful to get the work done this year.
- Work on both the Eden Glen culvert and the Summit Hill Road bridge over the CSX tracks is proceeding but we do not yet have a projected completion date for either project.
- The punch list for Washington Mountain Road remains open; likewise, the punch list for completion of the Cross Place Road culvert remains open; we are pressing to make sure both projects are complete before fall.
- We have applied for grant funding to engineer a new culvert on upper Frost Road and are submitting a MassWorks grant for the reconstruction of a mile of Lovers' Lane.

We hope to see everyone at the Sons & Daughters Reunion in September!

Jim Huebner  
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand  
Select Board Clerk

Dick Grillon  
Select Board