

To our Washington neighbors:

December 2017

We estimate that nearly 1000 people attended the Pumpkin Walk. Thanks to all the volunteers who made it work and special thanks for the three wooden figures carved from large timber sections that added interest to the bonfire!

Get your skates out - the Parks Commission is planning to set up an ice skating rink on the soccer field this winter.

The first step in transferring 5 acres of Pittsfield watershed property to the Town is to provide a survey of the property to their City Council. We located the firm that did the work and are waiting for the copy we ordered.

We expect our broadband system design from Westfield Gas and Electric this month. We have also learned that the legislature may make additional funding available to us if costs exceed expectations.

We hope everyone saw the special section in the November 5<sup>th</sup> *Berkshire Eagle* detailing the dire need for help on the failing bridges and culverts throughout the Berkshires. It is gratifying to see publication of the issues we have repeatedly raised to our legislative delegation.

Jim Barry of the MA Department of Energy Resources presented to the Select Board and attendees on November 13. The Board is considering placing an article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant for Green Communities.

- The stretch building code is far less stringent than it was the last time this was considered and the required inspectors more available.
- The Town would receive a grant of at least \$125,000 which we would use to put solar panels on the Town Hall and reduce the Town's electrical bill to near zero.
- Individual homeowners would benefit from reduced electric rates from renewable sources and subsidies for energy efficiency upgrades to their property.

The Board and the Finance Committee have started a committee to plan the future of our Town. We will review all of the information we can get, generate any additional data we think would be useful (especially from our residents!) and develop a vision for the Town's future plus projects to get us there. Anyone interested in joining this committee please contact Jodi.

Road & Bridge:

- Thanks to our Highway Superintendent we have been able to auction off surplus equipment for \$3385 – quite a bit more than we had hoped.
- We have not yet heard whether the Small Bridge grant for the Middlefield Road bridge over Coles Brook will be increased to \$500,000.
- Other projects for 2018: the deep culvert on upper Frost Rd and paving lower Frost.

The annual Tree Lighting at the Town Park will be Saturday December 2. Please come and enjoy the refreshments and caroling. Safe and happy holiday season to all!

Jim Huebner  
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand  
Select Board Clerk

Dick Grillon  
Select Board