

To our fellow Washington residents:

October 2011

A few updates:

- Anyone who experienced a loss from Hurricane Irene can apply to FEMA; likewise the Town has applied for about \$30,000 for our costs from the storm. Residents can go to <http://www.fema.gov/assistance/index.shtm> or phone 800-621-3362.
- The new boiler and hot water heater in the Town Hall are fully operational. The condition of the catwalk in the utility room raised some safety concerns and we plan to add railings to the landing and stair.
- We still have not gotten a yes or no from the MA Department of Energy (DOER) on whether we will be able to use the remaining EECB Grant funds for new energy efficient doors and windows at the Town Hall.
- We are applying for FEMA grant to upgrade the bridges and dam on Depot Brook (Eden Glen).
- The Ad Hoc Committee should have a better idea by the end of next month about needed improvements to the Town Hall. Any ideas or concerns you may have can be directed to Committee Chair Shaun Lennon or committeewoman Jodi Hostetter.
- The RFP for the re-use of the former Mapleview Nursing Home has generated some interest with several prospective bidders attending the walk-through on Saturday 9/17. A number of bid packages have been requested.
- We appear to have finally gotten CSX's attention to the flooding on Upper Valley Road. We expect to have either a permanent solution or a lawsuit this coming month.

September brought us two events that make us proud to be Washington residents for the spirit of community, charity and volunteerism represented:

- The Sons & Daughters Reunion on September 11 is a celebration of our Town's past and it was gratifying to see such a great crowd despite the inclement weather. Good food and good music, friends and neighbors – what could be better?
- The Hilltown Hoot on September 18 brought out an enthusiastic crowd to hear great music and see some interesting vendors. All the proceeds support our schools. Special thanks to the Guthrie family and please, yes, more than one event per year would be wonderful!

Don't forget another one of Washington's signature events – the Pumpkin Walk on Saturday October 29! Donations can be made at the Transfer Station, and, as always, volunteers welcome.

It was with great regret that the Board learned that the Reverend Lyle Larson plans to move from Town for health reasons. The Reverend has been a regular attendee at Select Board meetings for many years and we have come to think of him as the conscience of the Town for his guidance. He will be missed and we wish him well.

Jim Huebner,
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board