



April 2014



2014 Dog Licenses Available

Dog licenses for 2014 are now available. Please see the Town Clerk on Monday evenings between 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM with the following:

- Current rabies certificate
- Proof that your dog is spayed or neutered, if applicable
- Appropriate fee. \$4 if dog is spayed or neutered, \$10 if not
- You may also mail the above to the Town Clerk, 8 Summit Hill Road, Washington, MA 01223 and a license and tag will be mailed to you.

The current dog licenses expired on March 31, 2014. Any questions please call the Town Clerk 413-623-2185.

COA "POT LUCK" dinner

"Come one Come All" Bring your favorite dish.
We have a special treat, Live music performed by youngsters making a 2 1/2 hour trip that are sponsored by one of Our Cultural grants.

DATE: April 18, 2014
TIME: 5:00 PM
Place: Washington Town Hall

Please remember to return your completed dinner invitations
for our COA annual dinner at OZZIE'S

to: COA
8 Summit Hill Road
Washington, MA 01223

We need them back no later than April 5, 2014 so you may participate.

Becket Athenaeum, Becket-Washington's Community Library, receives \$2264 grant to fund weekly story time for children ages 0-5.

The Becket Athenaeum, Becket-Washington's Community Library, has received a \$2264 grant from Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation to fund **iListen iRead iLearn**, an enhanced weekly story time for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers that will also introduce children to the latest technology as it relates to reading, storytelling and learning.

The Becket Athenaeum is the nonprofit community library that serves the residents of Becket, Washington and beyond in Berkshire County. It abides by a strong, community-centered focus and tradition of offering educational programs and resources to patrons of all ages. The Athenaeum is pleased that this new and improved program will extend its program offerings to its very youngest patrons.

The Berkshire Taconic grant will be used for story time staffing, supplies and to purchase an iPad and educational apps to be used in conjunction with the storytelling activities. This program will run the rest of the school year, this summer and into the fall of 2014.

Becket Athenaeum Trustee, Aaron Beatty noted, "This program represents a natural and organic expansion of the Athenaeum's programs to a younger demographic. Many young children in our community face socioeconomic conditions that make the latest technology or educational resources unavailable. This project would help to bridge that gap. We are very grateful to Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation for their support in helping to make this program a reality."

The program will commence on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 from 10:00am-12:00pm and will run weekly on the school calendar and then will continue through the summer. For more information, please contact the Becket Athenaeum at becketathenaeum@gmail.com or 413.623.5483.

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation builds stronger communities and improves the quality of life for all residents of our region. Each year, the foundation distributes over \$7 million through grants and scholarships, helping thousands of donors achieve their philanthropic goals and hundreds of nonprofits carry on their good work. Berkshire Taconic is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charity.

Established in 1888 "to maintain a library, reading room, and to promote good education...good citizenship, and the general welfare", the Becket Athenaeum is the community library for the towns of Becket and Washington in Berkshire County, Massachusetts. We have a sizable collection of diverse, up-to-date fiction and non-fiction books, 1500 movies, 300 books on CD, 300 music CDs, 20 magazine subscriptions, passes to area museums, video games, board games and much more. For more information, visit: BecketAthenaeum.org.

To our fellow Washington residents:

April 2014

Our Town has many attractive sites for the development of wind power. (A wind map has been posted on the website (<http://www.washington-ma.com/>.) Given this possibility, the Select Board, Planning Board and Finance Committee have jointly agreed that the development of a commercial-scale wind facility is not in the best interests of the Town. The Planning Board, working with Berkshire Regional Planning, has proposed a change to our by-laws to ban commercial wind power. There will be a Public Hearing April 8 at 7 pm at the Town Hall and any proposed change will be on the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) Warrant.

- In this *Tracks* there should be a letter requesting information about any business being conducted at your address along with a postage-paid envelope to return it to the Town Hall. We need this information so that your business can be protected from any changes to our by-laws. Please respond by April 15. If you have any questions contact Jodi Hostetter at 413-464-6656 or washingtonboardofselectmen@gmail.com.
- We have also explored the adoption of MGL 131 39A ("Scenic Mountain Act") which regulates any activity "likely to have a significant adverse effect on watershed resources or natural scenic qualities" above certain elevations as a way of keeping our ridgelines clear of wind towers. Although this law is in force in many other towns in the Berkshires, its provisions are vague and do not seem to offer any significant change to the authority of the Conservation Commission which would be the rule-making and regulatory body. The Board does not intend to pursue this further.

Other Annual Town Meeting discussions:

- The Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approved a FY2015 budget which represents only a modest (2.06%) increase over FY2014. Thanks to our delegate and School Committee chair, Mike Case, for guiding these many weeks of difficult discussion.
- Purchase of a new large plow truck and/or a new smaller plow truck. Our loan on the Town Garage has only two years remaining. Our other indebtedness is the school bus, the police cruiser, the Becket-Washington School and several smaller CBRSD projects.
- Municipalities that have adopted Green Community status have experienced additional inspection costs and expensive construction delays; the Select Board does not recommend a re-vote on this issue and it will not be on the ATM Warrant.
- We are still considering the adoption of the Community Preservation Act. This would provide us with matching funds from the Commonwealth for preservation and improvement of historical sites and records, open space and recreation. These funds could, for example, be used to refurbish St Andrews, the Old Schoolhouse and/or the Old Town Hall. The funds could also be used to preserve our records, the Town Cemetery, the memorial at the Old Town Hall, to acquire private lots in North Lake for a Town recreational area or to improve our Town Park. Any project would have to be recommended by a separate committee and approved at Town Meeting. The funding would be from a 3% surcharge on our property tax with the first \$100,000 of assessed value exempt and a full exemption for low income residents. The average additional property tax is estimated at less than \$50 per household.

This winter continues its ill winds: we mourn the passing this March of two of Washington's citizens: Ron Adams and Peter Borgnis. They will be missed.

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board



Washington Tracks
Town Hall
8 Summit Hill Rd.
Washington, MA 01223

www.washington-ma.com

Support Our Local Businesses

The Becket General

30 Washington Street
Becket, MA 01223
Heather Anello, owner
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(413)623.5535
The Bucksteep Pub will be open with light fare
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Saturday 11am-4pm
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Po Box 772 Becket Ma. 01223. Phone
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Hilltowns Veterinary Clinic

Dr. Sharon Lynch, MVB
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Phone: (413)623-5329
www.hilltownsvetclinic.com

Pampered Chef Consultant

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carolandfranksr@carolandfrank.com
By appointment only

Summit Hill Campground

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Washington, Ma. 01223
413-623-5761
Great Family Camping
Tents, R.V.s Motor Homes
Full Hook Ups
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Events scheduled May through sept

Please send your Tracks
info by 25th of the month
_mrsabeski@mac.com
put TRACKS in the subject