



March 2014



To our fellow Washington residents:

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We are pleased to welcome Greg Viner as the newest member of the Town's staff. Greg joins us as an Assessor and brings a wealth of experience in finance and insurance. We also want to thank the other three Washington residents who applied and hope that they will consider applying for other Town positions in the future.

Many residents shared their knowledge and concerns during the presentation at the February 3 Select Board meeting by representatives of Peru Concerned Citizens. The potential impact of the five 500-foot tall wind turbines proposed for Garnet Hill includes revenues, health issues, effect of property values and overall quality of life.

- The Select Board is working with the Planning Board to develop a commercial wind by-law that must restrict tower height, noise, and set decommissioning bond requirements in order to protect the Town from unwanted commercial development.
- We also continue to push for a by-law both recognizing and regulating business activity in Town. We want to protect the many businesses that provide our citizens with a livelihood and also protect the Town from unwanted development.
- Please let us know of your concerns or ideas regarding these proposed by-laws.

The Town was awarded a MA Community Innovation Challenge Grant – one of only 37 granted - for the development of information technology to benefit Massachusetts municipalities. We were the lead Town on the application, but our interest and involvement will be limited to the creation of accounting software that will not only streamline Town operations but save us from spending thousands of dollars annually on purchased software. Thanks to our Town Accountant, Dan Parnell for his hard work!

This month the Board will work with the Finance Committee to prepare the Town's budget for the fiscal year beginning on July 1 (FY 2015). Other issues that are being considered for inclusion on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant:

- Purchase of a new plow truck;
- Recommendation that the Town adopt the Community Preservation Act which would allow us to get matching funds from the Commonwealth for such projects as refurbishing the Old Town Hall, acquiring the private lots in North Lake, preserving open space, and upgrading our Town Park.
- Reconsidering applying for Green Community status for the Town;

Please let us know if you have questions, comments or concerns on these – or any other - issues.

Infrastructure:

- Signage restricting vehicle weight on Blotz Road will be placed at its intersection with Route 8 (Pittsfield Road in Hinsdale) and at the intersection with Washington Mountain Road (Kirchner Road in Dalton).
- Phil Clark is following up on our proposals for Eden Glen and Cross Place.
- Phil is also working with Dave Fish to develop a long range maintenance plan for our roads, culverts and bridges which will help us not only avoid unpleasant road conditions but also control costs.

Stay warm – Spring must be on the way soon!

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board

High school seniors who will be furthering their education next fall are eligible to apply for a Washington Scholarship. Applications must be submitted by May 1 and available by contacting Linda Levernoch 623-8309.



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

www.washington-ma.com

Western Massachusetts Master Gardeners' Association Berkshire county symposium, Lenox High and Middle School, 197 East St. Lenox, MA. Pick three classes from twelve offered gardening topics: Session 1, Ten Natural Ways to Garden, Pollinators in your Backyard Garden, Small Fruit for the Home Garden, Using Cover Crops for the Garden Beds, Section 2. Container Gardening, Lesser Known Woody Shrubs, Bringing Back the Chestnut Trees, Compost for the Home Gardener, Section 3, Rock Gardens, Daylilies, Cheapskate Gardening, Bulbs. Registration includes lunch and breakfast snacks, \$30. Saturday, April 12. 8:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m. Reservations: Marilynwiley8@gmail.com or call 413 623 5859. Registration after March 31, \$40. Includes Book sales from Storey Publishing and Timberlake Press at a discount, plant sale of early vegetables and flowers from Blossoming Acres, Southwick, MA and raffle.

Used Clothing Drop-Off Shed

Sponsored By:
Becket Federated Church

Location:
**3391 Main St.
Becket, MA 01223**

Items Accepted:

All clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, drapes and stuffed toys.
(Your donations **will not** be cut up or shredded)

(Please...NO rags, fabric scraps, pillows, toys or household goods
please understand that the above unwanted items are a hardship and expense to dispose of.)

- Send clothing to people who can use it all over the US and World. 1, o cdd Is t n -eed
- Help the environment by keeping your clothing out of the landfill.
- Receive a tax deduction for your donation. Receipts are on the shed.

** Help us keep your donation clean and dry. **
If possible, please put in tied or closed bags. Thanks.

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