



April 2015



Spring Parks Meeting

Wednesday, April 8, 2015

At the Town Hall

7:00 PM

Since the early eighties through today, we have built more than a park. We have built bonds of friendship, cooperation and respect within our communities.

Agenda

We, the present volunteers took over 30 years ago to update the park as it is today. Now is the time for some new energy from the next group of "The friends of the park"

We welcome any and all residence to attend this meeting, so that we could move forward to maintain our park for all to enjoy.

Thanks,
The Parks Commission



SAVE THE DATE!!!

We're having a summer Hoot this year...

Sunday, August 2nd

Annual Town Meeting

Wednesday, May 6, 2015*

7:00 PM

*Please note the new day of the week for the Annual Town Meeting.
This change was approved last year at a Special Town Meeting.

Annual Town Election

Saturday, May 16, 2015

12:00 PM - 4:00 pm

Voter Registration Deadline

The registration deadline for the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election is Wednesday, April 15, 2015. Any town resident, not currently registered to vote will need to do so before this deadline if they want to vote at these events. Registration forms are available from the Town Clerk and on the Mass.gov website: <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleifv/howreg.htm>. Questions: Contact Allison Mikaniewicz washingtontownclerk@yahoo.com or 413-623-2185.

Absentee Ballots for Annual Town Election

If you need an absentee ballot for the Annual Town Election, please contact the Town Clerk for an application. The application is also available on the Mass.gov website: <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleifv/howabs.htm>. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is Friday, May 15, 2015 at 12:00 PM. Questions: Contact Allison Mikaniewicz washingtontownclerk@yahoo.com or 413-623-2185.

Learn about the broadband project. Town Hall, Saturday April 18, 9-1

Have questions about how the fiber broadband network will work and what it means to Washington? Come by Town Hall to meet representatives from WiredWest who can help. See brief presentations at 10 am and noon. Light refreshments. Find out all you need to know about signing up for the fiber project and supporting the warrant article at the Annual Town Meeting on May 6 at 7 pm.

If you've read the WiredWest mailer you received and are ready to act, then don't wait. Send in your signup sheet and check, or go to wiredwest.net to sign up online by credit card. We must meet our goal of 40% of households in town signing up in order for Washington to become a "Fiber Town" on the network. We need you now. Some towns have already met their goal, so let's not be left behind.

We've been without high-speed internet for far too long. Now, together, we can bring broadband to Washington. So **sign up for service**, and **show up for town meeting**. It's up to you.

Steve Nelson, Washington Delegate to WiredWest, 413-623-2221, steve@wiredwest.net

To our fellow Washington residents:

April 2015

Thanks to all of our citizens who turned out for the Special Town Meeting on March 16 and unanimously approved the replacement of the culverts on Middlefield Road/Coles Brook, Cross Place Road/Depot Brook and Frost Road/Depot Brook; 75% of the Frost Road project is funded by a FEMA grant of up to \$788,350.

- We have petitioned DOT to do a one-to-one replacement of the Middlefield Road culvert; this would mean a significant savings over a new design/construction.
- We are working with FinComm, our Treasurer and our Road Superintendent to determine how much of the Chapter 90 funding we receive each year can be put towards these projects without jeopardizing other road maintenance.
- BRPC is applying for a grant to fund a study of the entire Depot Brook drainage basin.
- From an engineering perspective removal of the Eden Glen Dam makes sense but there will be no decision until we do a cost-benefit analysis and get more input from residents.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is looking for volunteers and comments on the trail system and trail planning for Pittsfield State Forest and October Mountain State Forest. If you are interested email paul.jahnige@state.ma.us or DCRUpdates@state.ma.us.

We fought hard to get the complete rehabilitation of Washington Mountain Road back on the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for 2018, but, even better, we found out that DOT has just put the project out for bid! We are told that construction will start in August, but, given the opacity and capriciousness of DOT we will wait to celebrate until it actually happens.

- Our biggest issue with DOT remains the bridge that spans the CSX tracks on Summit Hill Road. We continue to demand its immediate replacement.

As a corollary to our ongoing loss of young adults we have an aging population. A group headed by Berkshire Regional Planning wants to make Berkshire County "Age Friendly". As a start they are conducting a survey for residents age 50 and over. We have hard copies at the Town Hall or use the link on the Town's website www.surveymonkey.com/s/BerkshireAgeFriendly.

All available municipal flags hang in a hall in the Statehouse in Boston. Several residents are concerned that the Town's is, well, dated. The Select Board is looking for a new design. Anyone interested please let us know.

Mike Moro of Frost Road has proposed to hold informal jam sessions on Summer Sunday evenings in the Town Park. We think this is a great idea in keeping with our rich musical – and volunteer - tradition. Anyone wishing to comment or help, please let us know.

Jeff Sawtelle has done a great job with our Council on Aging, but he needs more volunteers. Please contact Jodi or Jeff if you can help.

We hope everyone is signing up for high speed phone and internet service with WiredWest either by mail or through <https://register.wiredwest.net/>. There will be an informational session from 9 am to 1 pm Saturday April 18, and a ballot question at the Annual Town Meeting.

- The Annual Town Meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY** May 6th at 7 pm. We made the change in order to allow more of our residents to attend, so we hope to see you there!
- And don't forget to vote! The Annual Town Elections are Saturday May 16th.

Is it spring yet.....

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board



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