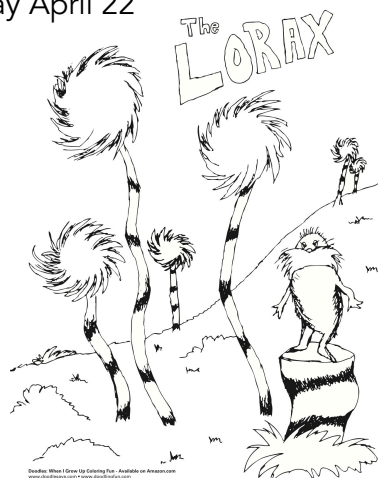
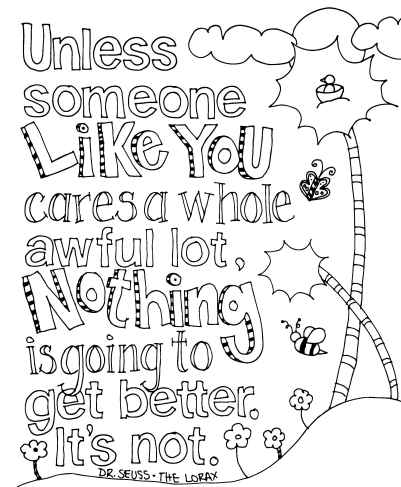




Earth Day April 22



2019 April



Any registered voter in the town of Washington who would like to attend a Special town meeting or the Annual Town Meeting but is unable or unwilling, for safety reasons of driving at night, may receive assistance from police Chief Nicole Miller. She has graciously agreed to provide transportation to and/or from our Town Meetings for those in genuine need of this service. You may reach Chief Miller by calling 413-446-4294 in advance to make arrangements. Thank you Chief Miller.

Class of 2019 High School Seniors

If you reside in Washington and plan on continuing your education you are eligible for the Emma Bailey Scholarship. The deadline for applications is April 26th. Application can be found at the Town Hall or online at Washington-ma.com

Washington Broadband – Update and Info Session Saturday, April 13, 10–noon at Town Hall

With the arrival of spring, work is about to begin in earnest on our municipal fiber-optic broadband network. Tangible developments are already starting to take place in town. So please join us for a community update and learn:

- The current status of the project and next steps
- Pricing and details for internet & phone service from WiredWest
- What it will take to get your house connected
- How and when you may be able to sign up
- What you can do to help us get ready

Even though many aspects are still evolving, we are keen to share the details and specifics that we have at this point. We look forward to answering as many of your questions as we can on the 13th at Town Hall. We hope everyone will attend.

Kent Lew
Steve Nelson

Attention high school seniors:

The deadline for submitting your application for the Washington Scholarship is approaching quickly. Please send your completed application to Linda Levernoch by April 15. If you need an application or have any questions, please contact Linda at 623-8309.

REMINDER: 2019 Dog Licenses

The 2018 Dog licenses expired on March 31, 2019. If you have not yet registered your dog for 2019, 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.

Any questions please contact the Town Clerk 413-623-8788 ext 105 or washingtontownclerk@yahoo.com.

2019 Town Census Forms

The 2019 town census forms have been mailed to every household. Please review your census form, make any necessary updates, sign it and return it to the Town Clerk by April 15, 2019. Even if there are no updates, it must still be signed and returned. Thank you.

Upcoming Elections and Meetings

Saturday, April 6

Special election to vote on funding the Wahconah Regional High School building project. Polls will be open from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Town Hall

Wednesday, May 8

Annual Town Meeting at the Town Hall at 7:00 PM

Saturday, May 18

Annual Town Election from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Town Hall



COA

Ongoing at the Town Hall
Free Classes

Yoga 10AM Tuesdays

Tai Chi/Qi Gong 10AM Fridays

Pot Luck Dinner 5:30 Friday, April 19

Becket Athenaeum News for April:

Evening Workshops are funded by a grant from the Central Berkshire Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

April 2 - Judicial Outreach Presentation by Berkshire Court System's Judge Joan McMenemy, 1st Justice of the Berkshire Juvenile Court

April 9 - Hospice Care in the Berkshires Presentation

April 30 - Integrative Health/Nutrition & Gut Health with Jenn Avery 6-8pm

STEAM Group Activities for Pre-schoolers with Wendy Provencher Tuesdays 1-2pm at the Becket Athenaeum - FREE!

For more information

<http://www.becketathenaeum.org>

Email: info@bwlibrary.org or call 623-5483

Becket Federated Church Parish House

3381 Main St., Becket (across from library)

Becket Food Pantry - 1st and 3rd Sat., 9-11am

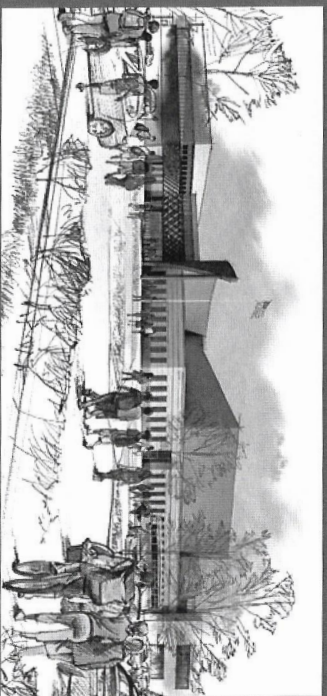
Free Supper - 1st Friday every month

REMEMBER!



APRIL 6, 2019

Dalton Hinsdale
Peru Becket
Windsor Washington
Cummington



Proposed New Wahconah Regional High School

Educational Benefits

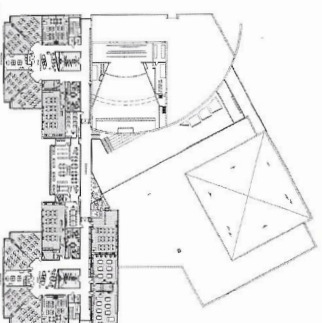
The new Wahconah Regional High School will:

- Promote student engagement
- Create flexible and collaborative spaces
- Support 21st Century Learning Skills:
 - Collaboration
 - Communication
 - Creativity
 - Critical Thinking
- Reflect environmental awareness and responsibility
- Foster small school feel with big-school opportunities
- Ensure safety and security for all

Environmental Advantages

The new High School is designed with the following strategies to achieve LEED Silver certification:

- Highly efficient envelope- insulation, windows, configuration
- Maximize sustainable site strategies: Compact footprint, minimal site disturbance, area, best stormwater management
- Maximize alternative energy generation with Solar PV panels
- Utilize high-efficiency LED light fixtures throughout
- Highest-efficiency motors and HVAC equipment
- Positive solar orientation-maximize daylighting and passive heating
- Utilize green, low/no VOC finish materials
- Require construction waste management
- Integrate sustainability into the High School curriculum



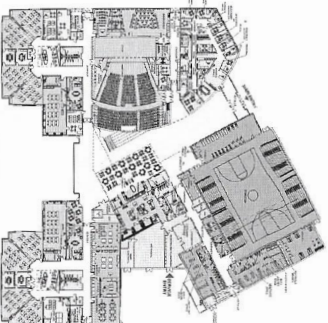
Second Floor Plan



Site Plan

The new school (shown in white on left) will be constructed to the east of the current building on what is now the baseball field while the existing school remains in operation.

Construction is expected to begin in the Spring of 2020. Upon completion of the new school in August 2021, the existing building will be demolished and new athletic fields will be built.



First Floor Plan

It's Time...

The original Wahconah Regional High School was constructed nearly 60 years ago. It has been a well-loved educational facility that served the Central Berkshire Region for several generations. However, despite the regular and on-going maintenance, the physical facility has reached the end of its useful life. As identified in the architectural and engineering assessments conducted during the Feasibility Study phase, several significant repairs, replacements, and upgrades would be needed in the next few years to keep the building viable. Major items needing attention include the roof, windows, heating & ventilation systems, finishes, and accessibility. Additionally, the current building layout no longer adequately supports the educational mission of the school. As identified in several visioning sessions, the



Features

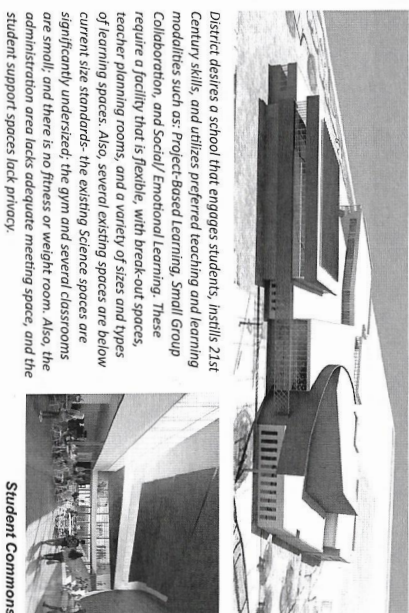
After a comprehensive study of more than 13 options, the Building Committee and Design Team concluded that new construction (so-called Option NC2A.2) was the preferred solution for Wahconah Regional High School. It offers numerous benefits, including:

- A plan that best meets the District's educational vision and translates the goals embodied in the Educational Plan.
- Best long-term value: lowest cost of the new construction options
- Energy efficient, compact, yet flexible layout
- Best overall use of the site; efficient balance of built areas vs. green space
- Secure, single-entrance building design with dedicated driveways safely separating cars, buses, and pedestrians
- Short construction duration, minimizing disruption and the need for temporary facilities

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is the only choice a new building?
A: The School Building Committee did review 13 total options ranging from base repair, renovation, to new construction. Four of the options focused on renovation/addition during this process. However, after extensive review and discussion, the renovation options were not approved as each did not meet all the space summary goals and were not conducive to the educational goals of the district. Small classrooms remained and not all systems would be totally new. In addition, the exterior walls would not be thermally improved. Much disruption would occur as the renovations would require multiple phases to occur in very close proximity to occupancy of staff and students. The cost estimates for these options ranged from \$5.8 million to \$1.1 million.

Q: How will the new building improve the overall education of a student?
A: The building will be constructed so that teachers and students will be able to work more collaboratively with each other. The design of the building contains common collaborative spaces in each of the learning pods. The building will have additional art space, science labs, maker space and other areas that will promote experiential or "hands on" learning.



Student Commons

Tax Impacts

Construction Cost
Soft Costs (includes fees, furniture & equipment, testing, etc.)
Contingencies
Total Project Cost
Less MSBA Maximum Grant (est)
Central Berkshire Regional School District share (approx.):

Town	Enrollment Share 10/1/18	Avg Home Value	Tax Rate Impact	Avg Homeowner Annual Tax Increase
Dalton	66.67%	\$210,742	\$2.66	\$560.76
Hinsdale	12.64%	\$199,500	\$1.00	\$198.91
Peru	5.66%	\$190,300	\$1.53	\$290.82
Becket	5.01%	\$255,700	\$0.25	\$ 62.13
Windsor	5.57%	\$276,400	\$0.91	\$252.45
Washington	3.05%	\$267,900	\$0.91	\$243.28
Cummington	2.40%	\$257,700	\$0.46	\$117.31

Based upon an estimated local share of \$42 million at 4.0% interest rate for 30 years, with level debt payments. Prepared by Unibank Fiscal Advisory Services, Inc.

Q: What happens if I vote "yes"?
A: A new Wahconah will be built adjacent to the old building. The school would be scheduled to open fall of 2021. Our community will benefit from a new high school for many years to come.

Q: What happens if I vote "no"?
A: CBRSD's enrollment in the MSBA program will end and the entire process would have to start again. There is no guarantee if or when they would accept us into the program again. It is anticipated it would be another 10 years or longer before we reach this point again. CBRSD will face ongoing needs at Wahconah. It is very unlikely the MSBA will offer the district any reimbursement for Wahconah any time soon. The building has been noted to need much more than a repair of the roof, boilers and windows. Therefore, the cost of a full base repair of the building is estimated to be in the range of \$33.5 - \$45.6 million. This repair option does not address educational issues.

Project Website:
www.cbrsd.org/m_s_b_a_building_project

TOWN OF WASHINGTON APRIL 2019 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Selectmen Meeting 7 PM Town Hall Offices Open 7 - 9 PM Assessors/Tax Collector 6-8 PM Police Department 6-9 PM	2 TOWN HALL Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM	3	4 TOWN HALL OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM ***** Conservation Commission Meeting 6 PM	5 TOWN HALL TAL-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM	6 TOWN HALL Special Election Wahconah High School VOTE - 10AM - 4PM
7 Selectmen Meeting 7 PM Finance Committee Meeting 7 PM Town Hall Offices Open 7 - 9 PM NO HOURS FOR TOWN CLERK Assessors/Tax Collector 6-8 PM Police Department 6-9 PM	8 TOWN HALL	9 TOWN HALL Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM Planning Board Meeting 7 PM	10 TOWN HALL	11 TOWN HALL OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM	12 TOWN HALL TAL-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM	13 TOWN HALL Broadband Information Session 10AM - noon
14 Selectmen Meeting 7 PM Town Hall Offices Open 7 - 9 PM NO HOURS FOR TOWN CLERK Assessors/Tax Collector 6-8 PM Police Department 6-9 PM	15 TOWN HALL	16 TOWN HALL Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM	17 TOWN HALL	18 TOWN HALL OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM	19 TOWN HALL TAL-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM ***** COA Pot Luck Dinner 5:30 PM	20 *VOLUNTEER* Proposed date for Town Clean-up - See Ann Marie Desautelle for details. *VOLUNTEER*
21 Selectmen Meeting 7 PM Town Hall Offices Open 7 - 9 PM Assessors/Tax Collector 6-8 PM Police Department 6-9 PM	22 TOWN HALL	23 TOWN HALL Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM	24 TOWN HALL	25 TOWN HALL OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM	26 TOWN HALL TAL-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM	27
Easter						
28 Selectmen Meeting 7 PM Town Hall Offices Open 7 - 9 PM Assessors/Tax Collector 6-8 PM Police Department 6-9 PM	29 TOWN HALL	30 TOWN HALL Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM				

Entity	Contact	Number	Entity	Contact	Number
Assessors	Karen Avalle	717-7216	Finance Committee	Kent Lew	623-0202
Board of Health	Janice Paxton	655-8668	Parks Commission	Dave Drugmand	623-6651
Building Inspector	Paul Greene	446-0964	Planning Board	Marilyn Wiley	623-5859
Chapel Commission	Rose Borgnis	441-0787	Police Chief	Nicole Miller	446-4294
Clerk	Allison Mikaniewicz	623-2185	Selectmen	Jim Huebner	655-8668
Conservation	Michelle Lampro	623-8333	Tax Collector	Gina Campbell	623-0146
Council on Aging	Rose Borgnis	441-0787	Veterans Agent		

Please CALL AHEAD



To our Washington neighbors:

April 2019

We welcome Dave Waldron to our Highway crew. Dave is experienced in all aspects of road and bridge maintenance and brings our highway crew up to full strength.

Please come to the Town Hall between 10 and 4 on Saturday April 6th to cast your vote on building a new Wahconah High School.

- Our existing high school is woefully inadequate to the needs of our children.
- The new school is a commitment to our future that we can all be proud of.
- The Select Board has voted unanimously to support the new Wahconah!

We have agreed to Becket's terms for the next 5 years of fire protection. The all-volunteer force includes many Washington residents and new volunteers would be welcomed.

The Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee is close to completing our mitigation plan.

- If you have not already done so please drop off the Natural Hazard questionnaire at the Town Hall or the Transfer Station. We want to incorporate everyone's response.
- With the plan in place we will reapply for a MEMA (MA Emergency Management) grant for the replacement of the deep culvert on upper Frost Road. We have also applied to DER (Department of Ecological Restoration) for grant funding.

We have written to Senator Hinds to ask that he introduce legislation to reform the PILOT process and, as he did last year, provide legislative relief for us and restore the over \$30,000 that the Baker Administration has proposed to cut from our FY2020 reimbursement.

The disposition of land in the defunct Virginia Lakes development is proceeding slowly. We are determined to ask Nature Conservancy - who will most likely be the major purchaser of the land - for annual PILOT payments to the Town.

We have asked our Planning Board to bring forward two new by-laws. The first, Stormwater Management, would strengthen our position with MEMA; the second, By-Right Commercial -Scale Solar, is needed to get Green Community status for the Town.

Tighe & Bond is developing a proposal for the repair or replacement of the failed bridges along the closed Lenox-Whitney Road in October Mountain State Forest. There will be no cost to the Town since we have a \$500,000 Small Bridge grant.

- We are still awaiting the DOT go-ahead to bid the construction of a new bridge on Middlefield Road over Coles Brook for which we also have a \$500,000 Small Bridge grant. We are approaching 5 years since DOT reduced the weight limit.

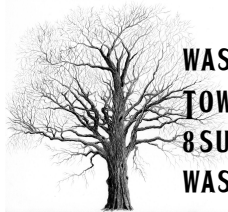
Upcoming events:

- For anyone interested in learning more about the status of our Broadband project there will be a presentation from 10 am - noon on Saturday April 13 at the Town Hall.
- Volunteers are needed for a planned clean-up along our roads 9-noon on Saturday April 20; look for a flyer in the next two weeks!
- Wednesday May 8 Annual Town Meeting at 7 pm; Annual Town Election Saturday May 18 from 12-4 pm.

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand
Select Board Clerk

Dick Grillon
Select Board



**WASHINGTON TRACKS
TOWN HALL
8 SUMMIT HILL RD.
WASHINGTON, MA 01223**

Arbor Day, April 26

WWW.WASHINGTON-MA.COM

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mrsabeski@mac.com
Please put TRACKS in the subject line.