



APRIL 2020 LATE EDITION

To our Washington neighbors:

April 2020

The Select Board met by conference call on March 30. The Board will continue to meet on a regular schedule. Other Town Boards can avail themselves of the same conferencing opportunity. All meetings will be posted at the Town Hall and on our website with a phone number and a PIN number for anyone who wishes to call in. These are open meetings but please remember that participation is limited to the Board members unless and until the Chair or Moderator asks for public comment.

The national emergency brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic continues; travel restrictions and closures will remain in force at least through the month of April. Following guidance from the Commonwealth and the Berkshire Boards of Health the Board voted to recommend a two week quarantine for anyone entering or returning to our Town.

- The Select Board also voted to postpone both the Annual Town Meeting and the Annual Town Election by four weeks. The new dates are Wednesday June 3 for the Annual Town Meeting and Saturday June 13 for the election.

Berkshire County has one of the highest per capita infection rates in the country, so please stay home, wash your hands often, and practice social distancing if you must go out (see enclosed guidance for "Contact Free Pickup/Delivery"). This is especially true for seniors and those with compromised immune systems or other underlying health problems.

- Washington has at least one active COVID-19 case as well as citizens who have recovered.
- Testing for COVID-19 remains woefully inadequate but is becoming more available with a physician's recommendation.

You can go to <https://www.buoyhealth.com/> for a free assessment of your symptoms and information about COVID-19.

If you believe you have symptoms of COVID-19 (which are like flu symptoms and include fever, sore throat, and difficulty breathing/shortness of breath) contact your primary care physician or the Berkshire Medical Center hotline at 855-262-5465.

If you believe you have been exposed to COVID-19 and have symptoms contact our Public Health Nurse at alliancenurse@berkshireplanning.org or our Board of Health japhuebner@gmail.com 655-8668.

Massachusetts has made number adaptations for unemployment, health care, small business support and other problems raised by the pandemic. For details go to: <http://www.mass.gov/covid19> or call 2-1-1.

- For updates and contact information to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) or the Mass Department of Public Health (DPH) you can refer to the Board of Health page on the Town website: <http://www.washington-ma.com/boh.html>

If you need help, please reach out to:

- Seniors: Council on Aging 413-394-0003 or washingtoncoa@gmail.com

- Everyone: Emergency Management 413-212-7152 or Administrative Assistant 413-464-6656.

Town Status:

- The Town Hall has been thoroughly cleaned but will remain closed to the public through April.
- All Town operations are continuing. If you need to speak to someone refer to the Town website or the contact information printed here in TRACKS.
- All emergency services - Police, Fire, Ambulance – remain on call.
- The Transfer Station is open for household garbage, paper and recyclables but will not accept white goods, electronics or construction waste; the swap shop is closed until further notice.
- Tax payments can be made by mailing a check and including a stamped self-addressed envelope if you want a receipt. Please do NOT use the online payment option until we have been able to clarify a potential security breach.

Other news:

- Free WiFi access at the Town Hall can be had without entering the building. There are three separate WiFi channels: WTH-guest2 most easily accessed from the side of the building, WTH-guest and WTH-guest5G are most easily accessed from the front or rear of the building. None require a password. If you park in front of the building please do not block the mailbox.
- Bids for the demolition of Woody's are due by 7:30 on April 13; depending on the bid amount there may be an item on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant to approve the expenditure.
- Bids for the reconstruction of the Middlefield Road bridge are due by 7:30 on April 27; if the bids are below the Small Bridge grant amount of \$500,000. we may finally be able to go forward with this project.
- Our Broadband network construction is continuing; next steps will be the actual house-to-network connections. Please sign up!
- Other initiatives: Town Planning, ADA Compliance and Green Communities remain active although timelines have been thrown off by the COVID-19 emergency.
- Our road crew is planning to replace five culverts along Summit Hill Road next month. You'll be given adequate warning and signs will be posted.
- Construction of the new Wahconah High School has begun with site preparation.

Thanks again to Lisa Guthrie and Michelle Beemer for adapting the **TRACKS** schedule so we can keep everyone informed during these difficult times.

Please stay safe, stay home, check on your neighbors, friends and family members; look out for each other and help each other. We will get through this together.

Better times are coming.

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand
Select Board Clerk

Dick Grillon
Select Board

Earth Day 2020 is upon us. Many of us are riding out quarantine at home and we all have a little more time in our day than usual so, let's all take the family out for a walk, with a trash bag, along the roads in your neighborhood and help keep our part of Berkshire County beautiful. Every road in town can use some attention, winter is over and the black flies aren't here yet so let's get outside and pitch in together! Thank you!

REMINDER - 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 (387 Upper Valley Rd.) by April 15th. If you need an application or have questions, please call Linda at 413-623-8309.

Contact-Free Pick-Up Methods COVID – 19 Risk Reduction

GETTING YOUR ESTABLISHMENT READY:

1. Determine the best space for Pick-Up orders in your establishment. If your restaurant has a vestibule, that could work well. If not, set up an area near your front door.
2. Repurpose shelving or similar to keep orders at least 6 inches off the ground for the new Pick-Up area.
3. Create a labeling system for orders.
 - a. We recommend a bold sharpie or print out a label with the customer's name and an order number and place the order where the information can be read from a distance.

PRIOR TO PICKUP:

1. Take full payment including tip online or over the phone.
2. Explain to the customer this will be a CONTACT-FREE Pick-Up and if there is anyone in line looking for an order to leave 6 ft. of space between everyone.
3. Ask your customer what their ETA is and let them know when you expect the food to be ready. Give them an order number that will be visible on the Pick-Up order.
4. After washing hands with warm water (making sure to scrub for 20 seconds) the designated employee should don a pair of non-latex gloves, place the order in the Pick-Up area and then immediately wash hands again. (If multiple orders are being placed in the Pick-Up area, gloves should be changed and hands washed every 15 minutes.) Gloves should be changed if they become torn or soiled.
5. Prior to placing food in the Pick-Up area make sure all foods are under temperature control: cold food should be placed in separate containers from hot food to help maintain product temperatures.

AFTER PICK-UP:

- Clean and disinfect any commonly touched areas in the pick-up process including the door handles.

REMINDERS:

- Keep your staff and customers safe by not having them interact face to face.
- Staff not currently scheduled to work should be denied entry to the establishment.



PO Box 180446 Boston MA 02118 Phone: (617) 445-1647 Fax: (617) 427-7890

Contact-Free Delivery Methods COVID-19 Risk Reduction

PRIOR TO DELIVERY:

1. Take full payment including tip online or over the phone.
2. Receive directions for where the customer would like their food placed. (i.e. on steps, by garage, front porch, in mailbox, etc. . .)
3. Explain to the customer this will be a CONTACT-FREE delivery.
4. For third-party food delivery, consider setting up a handwashing station for the drivers. A Cambro-style coffee urn filled with hot water and nearby soap, paper towels and a container for waste water retention allow for handwashing. You may even want to provide hand sanitizers or have a sanitizing hand-dip station set up. All drivers should be provided with disposable gloves.
5. Prior to sending food away with driver make sure all foods are under temperature control. Cold food should be placed in separate containers from hot food to help maintain product temperatures.
6. Delivery drivers should have coolers or insulated bags that should be cleaned and disinfected every four hours.
7. The delivery vehicle should be cleaned and disinfected daily. This includes the steering wheel, shifters, radio controls and door handles – anything that hands touch.

DURING DELIVERY:

1. Have delivery employees wear single-use gloves and change when contamination occurs.
2. The packaging **MUST** stay closed and intact. It may not be opened by anyone except for the person placing the order.
3. Have the driver confirm the customer that food has been delivered via text or phone call to the customer. You may want your driver to wait in the car to assure food is picked up.

AFTER DELIVERY:

1. Apply hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content when available after a delivery and change gloves.
2. Disinfect delivery bags before picking up new orders.



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2020 Dog Licenses

The 2019 dog licenses expired on March 31, 2020. If you do not have a 2020 license for your dog(s) yet and because the Town Hall is currently closed due to the pandemic, please mail the following to the Town Clerk and a license and tag will be mailed back to you:

- Proof of current rabies
- Proof your dog(s) is spayed or neutered
- Check payable to the Town of Washington
 - \$4.00 if your dog is spayed or neutered
 - \$10.00 if not
- Send the above to: Town Clerk's Office, Washington Town Hall, 8 Summit Hill Road, Washington, MA 01223
- Note: any paperwork you send will be returned to you, so you do not need to send photocopies

2020 Annual Town Census

All of the 2020 annual town census forms have been distributed at this point; either handed to you at the election or sent to you by mail. Please review, correct, sign and return the census in the envelope provided in the mailing as soon as possible. If you did not receive a census mailing please contact the Town Clerk

washingtontownclerk@yahoo.com.

2020 Federal Census

Recently you should have received a letter from the U.S. Census Bureau, inviting you to go online to respond to the 2020 Federal Census. The U.S. Census counts every person in the country every 10 years. The information gathered through the census is used to decide how much our communities get in state and federal money for things like public health, transportation, and education.

The census is quick, easy, and important, and all of your answers are confidential.

Please visit <http://www.my2020census.gov> and be counted today.

Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election Postponed

Both the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election have been postponed by four weeks.

The Annual Town Meeting (ATM) will now be held on **Wednesday, June 3, 2020** starting at 7:00 PM. The last day to register to vote at the ATM will be Wednesday, May 13th.

The Annual Town Election (ATE) will now be held on **Saturday, June 13, 2020** from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM. The last day to register vote at the ATE will be Wednesday, June 3rd.

Absentee and Early Voting Ballots for Annual Town Election

Absentee and Early Voting Ballots for the Annual Town Election will be available starting Monday, April 20, 2020. If you will not be able to vote in person on election day (absentee) or would prefer to vote early (currently only available by mail) please email me for an absentee or early voting application and I will send it to you. Once I receive the completed application, I will send you the applicable ballot when it is available.

Becket Athenaeum

info@bwlibrary.org 623.5483

*Yoga For Everyone w Emily Robinson, RYT-200

Tuesdays & Thursdays 9-10am

[facebook.com/BecketAthenaeumLibrary/Live](https://www.facebook.com/BecketAthenaeumLibrary/Live) gentle, mindful, inclusive. For all ages and abilities. Kripalu inspired.

*Virtual Tutoring available for Becket & Washington during this mandatory school closure. Tutoring via Skype and/or Zoom.

Also helping groups of kids learn to play board games using Skype and/or Zoom. Email Jodi: jodi@bwlibrary.org

ONGOING

COA - All classes & pot luck dinners are temporarily cancelled.

Becket - Free Lunch Program Postponed
Becket Federated Church Parish House

Dinners Canceled until the coronavirus passes.



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

www.washington-ma.com

Realtor & Notary
Lisa Peltier
500 S. Washington State Rd.
413.822.1257
Keller Williams Realty
LisaPeltier413@gmail.com

Mark F. Roos, Broker Associate ABR
The Kinderhook Group
413.822.6143
markfr909@gmail.com
Helping buyers and sellers achieve their dreams™

Pinnacle Painting Company
578 South Washington State Rd
Washington, MA 01223
413.623.8737
Over 35 years experience Painting, wall covering &
light carpentry

Your Way Computer
Frank Kennedy
1153 Washington Mt. Road
Washington, MA 01223
Call: 623.5180 / Fax: 623.2018
E-Mail: carolandfrank@carolandfrank.com
by appointment only

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

Justice of the Peace
Dorothy Filanowska
413.446.6921 justicedora@gmail.com
<http://www.justicedora.com>

Horace Mann Insurance Agency
Po box 772 Becket Ma. 01223.
Phone 413.623.2112
Fax 413.623.5551
Provide all Personal Lines of Insurance
Provide Financial and retirement products too

Summit Hill Campground
34 Old Middlefield Rd.
Washington, Ma. 01223
413.623.5761
Great Family Camping
Tents, R.V.s Motor Homes
Full Hook Ups
Pet Friendly
Seasonals Welcomed
Events scheduled May through Sept

Hilltowns Veterinary Clinic
Dr. Sharon Lynch, MVB
133 South Washington State Rd
Washington, MA 01223
413.623.5329
www.hilltownsvetclinic.com

Becket General Store
Heather Anello
3235 Main Street
Becket, MA 01223
413.623.6026
becketgeneralstore.com
Rt. 3235 main street

FREE COFFEE AND
DONUT AT THE
BECKET GENERAL
STORE NO EXP. DATE

Email your TRACKS info by the **25th of the month** to get in to next
month's issue to Lisa at: mrsabeski@mac.com

Please put TRACKS in the subject line.