



# 2019 JANUARY

## **COA Potluck Dinner**

Friday the 18th

5:30pm

Town Hall

## **Becket Food Pantry**

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

Becket Federated Church (Parish House)

3381 Main St., Becket

(across from library)

## **Free Supper**

1st Friday every month

Becket Federated Church - Parish House

3381 Main St., Becket (same)

The Tree Lighting was once again enjoyed by all. The young folks voices sounded beautiful as they took turns with the microphone leading the group in carols over the complementary sound of bells ringing out with every shake of the jingle sticks. I would like to thank Donna Stimpson for donating the tree this year and her crew for delivering it. I would also like to thank Deb and Sean Connors for putting the tree up and providing the sound equipment. A special thank you to Kasey Hatch for coming to the rescue and helping me trouble shoot the unlit strands of lights and decorating the tree. I hope you all had a Merry Christmas. Hope to see you next year.

Jodi Hostetter

**SAVE THE DATE - February 24th**  
**FOR:** Hilltown Benefit - local 27 year  
old Veteran with inoperable brain  
cancer.

**WHERE:** Papa Bob's  
71 Chester Rd. (Rt. 20)  
Becket, MA

Price of admission includes: catered  
food, local bands, raffles, 50-50  
drawing, etc.  
More information to come!

## **TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

### **SPECIAL TOWN MEETING RESULTS**

**DECEMBER 10, 2018**

**Article 1:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the proposed new section to the Town of Washington's Zoning Bylaws with respect to Marijuana Establishments proposed by the Planning Board, as more particularly described below, or to take any other action relating thereto...

**Article 1 passed by hand - counted 2/3 vote: 24 votes for; 4 votes against**

**Article 2:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the proposed addition to the Town of Washington's General Bylaws with respect to Recreational Marijuana Excise Tax proposed by the Planning Board, as more particularly described below, or to take any other action relating thereto...

**Article 2 passed unanimously by voice vote**

**Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the proposed addition to Section 6 of the Town of Washington's Zoning Bylaws with respect to Outdoor Illumination proposed by the Planning Board, as more particularly described below, or to take any other action relating thereto...

**Amended Article 3 passed by hand - counted 2/3 vote: 25 votes for; 7 votes against**

**Article 4:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$5,000 from the Stabilization Fund for a survey of a plot of land on the east side of Washington Mountain Road, just north of Beach Road, recently acquired from the City of Pittsfield, which survey is required for filing with the Registry of Deeds.

**Article 4 passed by hand-counted 2/3 vote: 26 votes for; 0 votes against**

Visit our town website for full articles.

[www.washington-ma.com](http://www.washington-ma.com)

To our Washington neighbors:

January 2019

Happy New Year!

Testing by the Commonwealth has shown high levels of mercury in perch from Ashley Lake. Please avoid eating any! Signs should go up soon.

- We are still working out a gate to restrict access to Ashley Lake; Pittsfield has offered to install it if the Town will buy it for about \$2200.

Thanks to the thirty-plus voters who attended the December 10 Special Town Meeting the Town now has a zoning by-law governing how marijuana may be grown, tested and sold. Basically, any of these activities require a permit from the Planning Board, but anything other than small-scale growing is limited to a new Marijuana Overlay District. The entire text of the by-law is available on our Town Website <http://washington-ma.com/>.

- The Town also adopted a general by-law which mandates a 3% sales tax to the Town on any marijuana sales.

A second zoning by-law regulating outdoor illumination was also adopted, albeit not without some concerns expressed by the attendees.

- Several amendments were made and accepted; the changes seem to have addressed most of the voters' concerns.
- The new by-law provides the Select Board with a bit more clout to respond to a lighting nuisance complaint. The Board urges anyone with a nuisance complaint to do everything they can to work with their neighbors to resolve the issue before bringing it to the Board. Our residents enjoy a certain quality of life: peace and quiet, privacy, and the freedom to enjoy their time without intrusion. We need to work together to maintain that.

The voters also approved funding for a survey of the five acre parcel we finally received from Pittsfield last year. The survey is needed because we do not have the right documentation to record the deed in the name of the Town.

A citizens' committee to help determine what environmental hazards the Town faces or may face is meeting to create a Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) with the help of Berkshire Regional Planning. MEMA requires us to have this plan in order to qualify for construction grant funding which is desperately needed for collapsed culvert on upper Frost Road. Anyone interested please come to the Town Hall on January 17 at 6:30.

- We have submitted a request for an exemption to MEMA's rules so that we can put in for our construction grant now but funding would be contingent on a completed HMP.

Ongoing:

- No word yet on our application to become a Green Community.
- Our Broadband network remains on schedule for construction this year.
- Once Woody's is declared an abandoned property the Board will have to decide whether to spend the money to tear it down.

We hope everyone had a happy holiday season. Stay warm, stay safe and start planning your garden!

Jim Huebner  
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand  
Select Board Clerk

Dick Grillon  
Select Board

WASHINGTON TRACKS  
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2019  
Happy New Year

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NO EXP. DATE

EMAIL YOUR TRACKS INFO BY THE 25TH OF THE MONTH TO:  
MRSABESKI@MAC.COM  
PLEASE PUT TRACKS IN THE SUBJECT LINE.