



# January 2022



**New Year Workshop Series** (ONLINE) with local author Lara Tupper: This workshop is for writers with work in progress (fiction or nonfiction) who'd like to join a friendly writing community and receive feedback. Class size will be limited.

**WHEN:** Five Wednesdays (online) beginning January 12, 2022, 6:00 - 8:00 pm ET (Jan. 12, 19, 26, Feb. 2 and 9)

## RESULTS

### TOWN OF WASHINGTON SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2021

#### BOARD OF SELECTMEN (2 year unexpired term)

David Ellis	76
John Fish	16
Keith Sharp	17
Blanks	3

#### MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD (3 year term)

Pauline Combe-Clark	96
Blanks	11
<b>Write-Ins</b>	
John McElwain	3
Eyal Shapira	1
Michael Burke	1

#### MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD (2 year unexpired term)

Richard Spencer	96
Blanks	13
<b>Write-Ins</b>	
John McElwain	1
David Fish	1
Craig Willis	1

#### MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD (1 year unexpired term)

Blanks	93
<b>Write-Ins</b>	
John McElwain	11
David Fish	2
Craig Willis	1
Linda Levernock	1
Keith Sharp	1
Michael Burke	1
Mark Schnopp	1
Rick Southard	1

Total Registered Voters: 415  
Total Votes Cast: 112  
Voter Turn-Out: 26.9%

## COA News

Classes are continuing with masks being required for all

Yoga Tuesdays at 9:00 AM  
Osteoporosis Thursdays at 9:00 AM  
Ti-Chi/QiGong Fridays at 19:00 AM

Pot Luck Dinner Friday  
January 21st at 5:30 PM all seniors welcome with or without a dish to share - we look forward to seeing !  
( Masks required for socializing before and after eating )

Questions, comments or need assistance? Call 413-394-0003 or email

[washingtoncoa@gmail.com](mailto:washingtoncoa@gmail.com)

# TOWN OF WASHINGTON JANUARY 2022 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>  </div> <div> <b>HAPPY</b>  <b>2022</b>  <b>NEW YEAR</b> </div>						<div>  </div> <div> <b>New Year's Day</b>                      Be safe                 </div>
<div>                     2                 </div> <div>                     Call to verify the Town Office you are looking to visit is open before you come to the Town Hall                 </div>	<div>                     3                 </div> <div>                     Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM                      Select Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00PM                      Assessors Office 6:00 - 8:00PM                      Tax Collector 6:00 - 8:00PM                      Town Clerk 7:00 - 9:00PM                      Police Department 7:00 - 9:00PM                 </div>	<div>                     4                 </div> <div>                     Yoga with Rema 9AM                 </div>	<div>                     5                 </div> <div>                     Historical Commission 10AM                      Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM                      Building Inspector 1PM-2PM                      Transfer Station 5PM-8PM                      Girl Scout Troop 40367 6PM-8 PM                 </div>	<div>                     6                 </div> <div>                     OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM                 </div>	<div>                     7                 </div> <div>                     TOWN HALL                      TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10AM                 </div>	<div>                     8                 </div> <div>                     TRANSFER STATION                      Transfer Station 8AM-4PM                 </div>
<div>                     9                 </div>	<div>                     10                 </div> <div>                     Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM                      Select Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00PM                      Finance Committee Meeting 7:00PM                      Assessors Office 6:00 - 8:00PM                      Tax Collector 6:00 - 8:00PM                      Town Clerk 7:00 - 9:00PM                      Police Department 7:00 - 9:00PM                 </div>	<div>                     11                 </div> <div>                     Yoga with Rema 9AM                      Planning Board Meeting 7PM                 </div>	<div>                     12                 </div> <div>                     Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM                      Building Inspector 1PM-2PM                      Transfer Station 5PM-8PM                      Girl Scout Troop 40367 6PM-8 PM                 </div>	<div>                     13                 </div> <div>                     OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM                 </div>	<div>                     14                 </div> <div>                     TOWN HALL                      TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10AM                 </div>	<div>                     15                 </div> <div>                     TOWN HALL                      Town Planning Steering Committee Meeting 9AM *                      Transfer Station 8AM-4PM                 </div>
<div>                     16                 </div>	<div>                     17                 </div> <div>                     Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observed                 </div>	<div>                     18                 </div> <div>                     Yoga with Rema 9AM                 </div>	<div>                     19                 </div> <div>                     Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM                      Building Inspector 1PM-2PM                      Transfer Station 5PM-8PM                      Girl Scout Troop 40367 6PM-8 PM                 </div>	<div>                     20                 </div> <div>                     OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM                 </div>	<div>                     21                 </div> <div>                     TOWN HALL                      TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10AM *                      Council On Aging Polltuck Dinner 5:30PM-7PM                 </div>	<div>                     22                 </div> <div>                     TRANSFER STATION                      Transfer Station 8AM-4PM                 </div>
<div>                     23                 </div>	<div>                     24                 </div> <div>                     Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM                      Select Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00PM                      Assessors Office 6:00 - 8:00PM                      Tax Collector 6:00 - 8:00PM                      Town Clerk 7:00 - 9:00PM                      Police Department 7:00 - 9:00PM                 </div>	<div>                     25                 </div> <div>                     Yoga with Rema 9AM                 </div>	<div>                     26                 </div> <div>                     Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM                      Building Inspector 1PM-2PM                      Transfer Station 5PM-8PM                      Girl Scout Troop 40367 6PM-8 PM                 </div>	<div>                     27                 </div> <div>                     OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM                 </div>	<div>                     28                 </div> <div>                     TOWN HALL                      TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10AM                 </div>	<div>                     29                 </div> <div>                     TRANSFER STATION                      Transfer Station 8AM-4PM                 </div>
<div>                     30                 </div>	<div>                     31                 </div> <div>                     Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM                      Select Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00PM                      Assessors Office 6:00 - 8:00PM                      Tax Collector 6:00 - 8:00PM                      Town Clerk 7:00 - 9:00PM                      Police Department 7:00 - 9:00PM                 </div>	<div>                     Board of Health will meet next on March 14, 2022. Will meet sooner if needed.                 </div>				

Entity	Contact	Number	Entity	Contact	Number
Assessors	Karen Avale	717-7216	Parks Commission	Dominic Sinopoli	623-2086
Board of Health	Jim Huebner	655-8668	Planning Board	Don Gagnon	822-8385
Building Inspector	Paul Greene	446-0964	Police Chief	Nicole Miller	446-4294
Chapel Commission	Rose Borgnis	394-0003	Selectmen	Kent Lew	623-0202
Clerk	Allison Mikaniewicz	623-2185	Tax Collector	Gina Campbell	623-0146
Conservation	Michelle Lampro	464-2388	Transfer Station	Michelle Lampro	464-2388
Council on Aging	Rose Borgnis	394-0003	Veterans Agent	John Herrera	499-9433
Finance Committee	Sean Connors	212-1182			



Please **CALL AHEAD**

# Washington Insights

Part Two in a series of articles from members of the Steering Committee for Washington's Town Plan. This essay will begin an archive of assets for the town's new website, launching in January or February.

## Winter Walks

By Carol Lew and Josh Greene

If you have guests coming from out of town, or want to entice them to your Airbnb, here are some walks that will take them closer to the natural beauty of Washington.

**Sandwash** So far, this season, with the wild fluctuations in temperature, Ashley Pond Road remains clear of the snow pack that usually welcomes cross-country skiers. That means it's still a great place to walk as it leads to what may be one of the most beautiful spots in October Mountain state Forest: Sandwash Reservoir. The far banks at Sandwash are forested in our local mix of ash and maple, light grey against the winter sky. There's rough barked cherry in darker grey, stands of birch, and a backdrop of spruce green.

To get there, park on Washington Mountain Road at the Appalachian Trail crossing (about a mile north of the town hall). Follow the dirt road to the west, past the AT turn off and down the hill. Less than a mile in, you'll pass Ashley Pond on the right side. Then the road heads up and over a ridge. Around the mile mark, there will be a fork in the road; stay to the left down the hill. Further down, a big granite whale of a rock emerges on the right of the trail. Continue past a yellow metal gate on the left and cross an old bridge over a rushing brook. From a second gate, you'll have a lovely view across Sandwash. (As Sandwash and Ashley Reservoirs are both part of the Pittsfield water supply, access beyond the gates is restricted.) All together this is three miles more or less when you have turned around and walked back to your car.

**Muddy Pond** Avid hikers *Ed and Ellen Bond* have walked every trail in Washington. One of their favorites is a 2.5-to-3-mile loop around Muddy Pond. "We park near the railroad tracks on Upper Valley Road. Just over the tracks there's a path. Snowmobilers ride here, so when there's snow, it's nicely packed," Ed notes, adding that they have never seen snowmobilers or other hikers while they were on the trail. After entering the path, he says, "Muddy Pond is to the right and, in really cold weather, we like to walk on the lake." Just past Muddy Pond, there's a trail on the right that goes to Bullard Crossing Road. "Take a left on that road—really just a path; there are no cars on it—and it loops back around to the railroad tracks which we follow back to our parked car."

**Lower Valley** One of the prettiest walks you'll find in Washington is on Lower Valley Road, along Depot Brook. It's a particular favorite of *Lara Tupper*, among many others. "I love how quiet it is—until the occasional train goes by," she says. Here the broad stream wends

its way through an evergreen forest that reminds Tupper of Lord of the Rings—“as though creatures might appear.” TO find this walk, park at the intersection of Lower Valley Road and Johnson Hill Road. The turn-off there provides a convenient place to leave your car. Lower Valley Road continues on along the river, and is now closed to through traffic. Follow the road up and over the railroad tracks, where you can either turn right onto Lower Sargent Road (also closed to traffic), or continue on Lower Valley Road through the woods all the way to Route 8. If you don’t mind walking along Route 8 for a little while, you can make a loop by following Lower Valley Road to the end, turning right onto Route 8, and right again on Lower Sargent Road to head back.

**Cross Place Road** It's wild and magical , says *Carol Lew*, who enjoys walking her Pugs through the forest there. “I drive past most of the populated part of the road and park in a small pull-out on the right just before the first body of water, now called Jan’s Pond,” she says. “The forest here is full of evergreens, and up the hill on the right is a great view over the swamp. From there, I continue walking the road until the end. It is relatively flat and easy to walk, and there is little or no traffic on this section. It’s not plowed though, so in snowy conditions it can be a little more difficult.”

A large tract of land off Cross Place Road acquired by the Nature Conservancy three years ago is another place Carol loves to walk. Look for a drive marked with a blue post opposite the swamp with the numerals 441. A chain crossing the path keeps vehicles out, but hikers are welcome. “This is a pretty, winding trail with views of the foundation of David Cairn Cross’s farm that dates back to the 1790s,” she says. “After crossing a bridge over a stream, the path ends at where a more recent house used to be. In the spring, flowers from the homestead still bloom there.”

**West Branch** “The first thing you notice when you park at the intersection of West Branch Road and Washington Mountain Road is the wind,” says *John McElwain*. “Lots of wind and blowing snow. So much so that one could decide to get back into the car and forget the walk. But carry on. The walk along West Branch is worth it.” John notes, “The road is not plowed so it can be very icy. I recommend snowshoes, micro spikes, and walking sticks that will prevent you from falling. Once you drop down the first hill the wind let’s up and you’re taken by the solitude and silence. Not to mention the frozen ponds and beautiful trees.” John explains “You can continue as long as you like on West Branch. There could be an occasional snow mobile, cross-country skier, or four-wheel-drive car. But any time I’ve encountered one they have driven by slowly and respectfully,” John says. “An alternative to staying on the road is to cut off onto the Appalachian Trail which I’ve done walking south to the lean-to. Both options are a beautiful walk.”

Check out the expanded version of this article on Washington’s new website (when it’s up and running) for maps, photos, and additional walking trails.

Dear Washington Friends & Neighbors:

January 2022

Happy New Year! Last month's Special Town Election inspired a robust turnout. Kudos to all who participated. We welcome David Ellis to the Select Board.

Thanks to Jodi Hostetter for once again orchestrating last month's Tree Lighting ceremony and bringing holiday cheer to the Town Park. And thanks as always to Rose Borgnis for organizing the December COA dinner. Nothing like a Christmas ham to insure a good attendance! It was wonderful to see so many folks gathered. Special thanks go to Sean & Debra Connors and the Becket Praise Team for serenading the group with seasonal hymns and carols. We hope that even more residents will take these opportunities to visit with old friends and meet new neighbors.

After nearly three years, our efforts to secure FEMA grant funding to fix the Frost Rd culvert remain tied up in red tape, with no end in sight. The Board will now be pursuing other possible grant funding since this culvert clearly needs replacement whether FEMA is convinced of it or not.

The Town will be applying for a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) planning grant to develop goals and projects to mitigate climate change impacts. Thanks to Rika Alper for stepping up to help write this grant application.

The Board obtained a Best Practices grant to evaluate our financial and operational management structure, particularly from the viewpoint of whether/how the Town might be served by having a part-time Town Administrator. We have contracted with the Collins Center for Public Management to conduct the study and present proposals with their findings this spring.

We have received funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to address the economic fallout from the pandemic. A working group of Select Board and Finance Committee members is exploring eligible uses. Some will go to support emergency spending and infrastructure improvement, but we also want some funds to directly benefit residents who have been affected. We continue to look for ways to identify where the greatest needs are.

As part of his Stop the Spread initiative, Governor Baker has announced plans to arrange for towns to purchase Covid-19 at-home testing kits directly from manufacturers to distribute in their communities. The Select Board is waiting for details to be provided in the coming weeks.

We hope that everyone had a safe and healthy holiday season. While we are now headed into the depths of winter (and sometimes seem to get more than our share of it up here!), the season can also have its charms. We encourage our hardy residents to get out for one of the winter walks highlighted in this month's Washington Insights article.

Kent Lew  
Select Board chair

Tricia Drugmand  
Select Board clerk

David Ellis  
Select Board

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

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

## Support Our Local Businesses

### **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

### **Hilltowns Veterinary Clinic**

Dr. Sharon Lynch, MVB  
133 South Washington State Rd  
Washington, MA 01223  
413.623.5329  
[www.hilltownsvetclinic.com](http://www.hilltownsvetclinic.com)

### **John Fish Piano Service**

413-281-6130  
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Piano tuning, repair & restoration; 20 years experience

### **Justice of the Peace**

Dorothy Filanowska  
413.446.6921 [justicedora@gmail.com](mailto:justicedora@gmail.com)  
<http://www.justicedora.com>

### **Mark F. Roos, Broker Associate ABR**

**The Kinderhook Group**  
413.822.6143  
[markfr909@gmail.com](mailto:markfr909@gmail.com)  
Helping buyers and sellers achieve their dreams

### **Pinnacle Painting Company**


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Washington, MA 01223  
413.623.8737  
Over 35 years experience Painting, wall covering &  
light carpentry

### **Realtor & Notary**

Lisa Peltier  
500 S. Washington State Rd.  
413.822.1257  
Keller Williams Realty  
[LisaPeltier413@gmail.com](mailto:LisaPeltier413@gmail.com)

### **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



Email your TRACKS info by the 25th of the month to get in to next month's issue to  
Lisa at: [mrsabeski@mac.com](mailto:mrsabeski@mac.com)  
Please put TRACKS in the subject line.