



JUNE 2020

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

To our Washington neighbors:

June 2020

Thanks to the more than 30 voters who attended the Annual Town Meeting. The only issue that sparked discussion was the lack of funding for Becket Beach. After some discussion the funding was restored by amendment.

- We have reached an agreement with Becket. Check with Jodi if you want a sticker for the Beach.
- Our replica of the Boston Post Cane, since 1909 traditionally bestowed on the Town's oldest resident, was awarded to Mary Filanowski who celebrated her 97th birthday on April 3. Congratulations!
- Thanks to Jodi Hostetter for having the FY2019 Annual Report ready.
- Thanks to our Highway Superintendent and crew who set up the Highway Garage as a meeting room!

As of mid-June we are three months into the emergency measures brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been staying in, social distancing when we do go out, washing our hands and covering our faces. At first this seemed a temporary condition, but with time we have – reluctantly – accepted a “new normal”. What that means is our adaptation to the new set of rules that keeps us, our loved ones and our friends and neighbors disease-free.

Washington has been fortunate in some ways. After the few initial infections, no new ones have emerged. We are part of a Commonwealth whose governor prioritized public health and the well-being of our citizens over economic concerns. We live in a well-dispersed community and are self-reliant by choice and habit.

Nevertheless, many in our community have lost jobs and income. We may never again go out to a crowded bar or restaurant or to a live sporting event. Our children will experience education and recreation very differently from their parents.

We have maintained our emergency services and the transfer station and adapted in a number of ways: our meetings are held by conference call, our Annual Town Meeting was held at our Highway Garage to accommodate social distancing, and our Town Hall has been closed to the public. Nevertheless, some important initiatives and issues have been put on hold. Recognizing that there will not be a return to the “old normal” any time soon, here are updates and plans:

- Our Town Planning initiative will resume this month via conference call; we plan to have a Town profile and the list of challenges facing our Town available for comment by the end of July.
- Terry Robbins plans to have our ADA Self-Evaluation Report complete by the June 30 deadline. He is soliciting comments so please help him out. The Report will be used to apply for grant funding to address any deficiencies in handicapped access in all our facilities.
- We are at a standstill with Woody's; unless and until something changes the eyesore will remain.

- We missed this year's opportunity to apply for Green Communities status and the funding that comes with it; a committee is forming to finally get this done. Anyone who wants to participate please contact Trish Drugmand.
- The owners of Bucksteep are under a court order to bring the main building up to code by August first; however, with the continued societal shutdown we will not be surprised if they petition for an extension.
- We are still waiting for a response from Nature Conservancy about the purchase of Town-owned properties in the North Lake portion of the failed Virginia Lakes development.
- Highway:
 - Unless DOT can find additional funding, the "temporary" bridge over Coles Brook on Middlefield Road will remain as is, six years on.
 - The Upper Valley Road roadbed is being raised to minimize flooding and the deterioration of the surface.
 - We are still waiting for word from FEMA on funding for the upper Frost Road culvert and from DER on funding for designing a culvert on Lovers' Lane.
- Broadband has been a real bright spot. More than a decade after the legislature made funding available our homes are finally being connected. Early reviews are all glowing. Thanks to Steve Nelson and especially Kent Lew who has logged countless hours to make this happen. Everyone should be connected by summer's end.
 - If you are not yet signed up now is the time!

Thanks to Mike Case who saw to it that flags were placed on all our Veterans' graves.

The Commonwealth has outlined four Phases for reopening. The first phase is ending and guidance on reopening lodging, restaurants, recreation, etc. are being issued in advance of any actual go-ahead. For details go to <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts>

Please make sure that you vote in our Annual Town Election either by mail-in ballot or in person on Saturday June 13 from noon to 4 pm.

Stay at home as much as possible; wear your mask and limit your exposure to groups when you do go out; wash your hands often, keep in touch with friends, neighbors, and family. Let's all help each other get through this!

Enjoy the good weather.

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand
Select Board Clerk

Dick Grillon
Select Board

ADA Self-Evaluation

I am currently in the process of doing an ADA Self-Evaluation for the Town of Washington, which is periodically required of municipalities under Title II of The Americans With Disabilities Act. This review is a comprehensive look at all Town physical assets, programs and services to insure that barriers are removed for everyone. The purpose of the self-evaluation is to identify accessibility problems and identify solutions which is a necessary first step in applying for grants to implement these solutions.

If anyone is aware of accessibility issues with the town's facilities, services and programs, please contact me with your concerns. I can be reached best by email at terry.robbins@gmail.com or leave a message by phone at (413) 446-7431.

Town Park

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Annual Clean-up was not scheduled this year. Although only a handful volunteered during last year's park cleanup the Parks Commission decided to err on the side of caution and not gather folks together. There remains much work to be done. With a modest budget, the Park Commission counts on volunteers to assist with most of the tasks needed to keep the park looking beautiful for all residents to enjoy.. If you would like to volunteer for a task please call Chairman Dominic Sinopoli at (413)528.1710. Thank you in advance for supporting your Town Park.

Green Communities Committee

We are looking for a few residents to volunteer and participate in forming a new Green Communities Committee. If you can help in sharing the responsibilities of meeting application criteria, researching data and info and working with our Western Mass regional coordinator, we may get approved and finally become a Green Community. There are many benefits and grants to be realized, but we need your help in moving forward and working together. Please email Tricia Drugmand at drugmand3@gmail.com for more information.

Minor Recycling Changes Take Effect July 1

On July 1st, *aerosol cans will no longer be accepted* in your town's container recycling program. After July 1st all aerosol cans must be disposed of in the trash.

As of July 1st, *shredded paper will no longer be acceptable* in your town's paper recycling program. After July 1st residents can bring confidential documents to area businesses (e.g. copy shops, office supply, shipping stores, and local banks) for secure shredding. Many local banks sponsor free spring and fall shredding events.

As of July 1st, *clear plastic cups will be acceptable* in your town's container recycling program. Lids and straws must be removed and placed in the trash.

Other plastic cups, such as polystyrene (#6 plastic), colored "keg" cups, and opaque (cloudy) plastic cups, are not acceptable for recycling and must go in the trash. If a clear cup is labeled "compostable," it should not go in with recyclables because it is not accepted at the MRF.

As of July 1st, *clear plastic egg cartons will be acceptable* in your town's container recycling program. Paper and Styrofoam™ egg cartons are not accepted at the MRF.

Kids

Help the father find his way through the DAD shaped maze to find his gift giving son.

corner





Washington Tracks
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Washington, MA 01223

www.washington-ma.com

Realtor & Notary

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LisaPeltier413@gmail.com

**Mark F. Roos, Broker Associate ABR
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413.822.6143
markfr909@gmail.com
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1153 Washington Mt. Road
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Call: 623.5180 / Fax: 623.2018
E-Mail: carolandfranksr@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
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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

**Reopening June 16th w outdoor
dining & curbside pick up!**

Heather Anello
3235 Main Street
Becket, MA 01223
413.623.6026
becketgeneralstore.com

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.