



June 2021



Frank Kennedy, Sr. of Washington, Mass., passed away on May 17, 2021 at Springside Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing. He had just turned 78. The family is planning a joint service for Frank and Carol on June 19 at 1pm at St Andrews Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in Frank's name to the Elizabeth Freeman Center (elizabethfreemancenter.org), Alcoholics Anonymous (contribution.aa.org), or an organization that offers "sober rides." Dery Funeral Home, 54 Bradford St, Pittsfield, is handling the arrangements.

Washington Town Hall Reopening

The Washington Town Hall will be reopened to the public starting in June.

Regular Monday night Town Hall 6:00–9:00 p.m. open hours will resume on Monday, June 7, including a return to weekly in-person Select Board meetings at 7:00.

The Town Hall office hours are as follows — all Monday nights, except holidays:

Town Clerk : 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Assessors : 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Tax Collector : 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Police Chief : 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

For the time being, the public is asked to observe the following precautionary measures at Town Hall:

- Non-vaccinated individuals are requested to wear a mask while inside the building, consistent with updated guidance from the State and the CDC.
- Please don't crowd into Town offices; if possible, wait in the hallway while others are being served and maintain a respectful distance.
- In the Select Board meetings, chairs will continue to be spaced with extra distance, as attendance allows.

The COA will be resuming their regular schedule of exercise classes starting June 1.

The **Transfer Station** will be lifting most restrictions. The Manager asks that people limit occupancy in the Swap Shop to no more than two at a time and not enter the office unless invited.

The **Town Park** closure will also be officially lifted starting in June.

Everyone is encouraged to take any additional precautions necessary for their own personal safety. Let's all continue to be considerate of one another and respect the boundaries of those who may be more vulnerable.

We look forward to seeing and serving everyone again.

Washington Select Board

RESULTS

TOWN OF WASHINGTON ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2021

AUDITOR

Ed Bond	1
Kent Lew	1
Brian Barth	1
Blanks	63

FINANCE COMMITTEE

David Drugmand*	61
Craig Willis	2
Blanks	3

MODERATOR

Edwin Neumuth*	64
Blanks	2

PLANNING BOARD

Linda Levernoch	4
Rose Brognis	2
Thomas Cairns	1
Matthew Watson	1
Carol Lew	1
Barbara Keyes	1
Ellen Bond	1
Ed Bond	1
Jodi Hostetter	1
James Huebner	1
Donald Gagnon	1
Blanks	51

SELECTBOARD

Kent Lew	63
Blanks	3

TOWN CLERK

Allison Mikaniewicz*	64
Blanks	2

*Incumbent Candidates

Total Registered Voters: 414
Total Votes Cast: 66
Voter Turn-Out: 15.9%

The Town of Washington and the Parks Commission would like to invite you all to participate in the Washington Town Park Volunteer Day. We are looking for volunteers to assist in some park beautification activities on Saturday June 19th from 10 am - 2 pm. Volunteers will be provided lunch and drinks for your participation in the event. Our hopes is to prepare the park for upcoming events such as the annual Girl Scout Campout and the highly anticipated Raise the Roof events in August which will include live music and fun for all. We are trying to raise \$4000 to supplement the Town's appropriation in order to replace the 30+ year old cedar shingle roof with a synthetic cedar shingle roof that will last 50+ years. Donations can be dropped off at the Town Hall drop box or mailed to the Town Hall/ Parks Commision at 8 Summit Hill Road. Any donation checks should be made out to The Friends of the Park.

The Parks Commission

New Dog License Late Fee Policy

Washington will be implementing a dog license late fee starting immediately. Please see the specific details below.

- Dog licenses expire on March 31st of each year.
- The town will offer a 2 month grace period after the expiration date for residents to renew their dogs' license(s).
 - Starting in 2022, the grace period will end on May 31st.
 - For 2021, the two month grace period will run from June 1st to August 31st.
- Beginning June 1, 2022 (September 1st for 2021) all residents that have not renewed their dogs' license(s) will receive a late fee invoice of \$25, plus the cost of the license (\$4 or \$10).
- Reminders to renew dog licenses will be included in each issue of Tracks from December through May.
- A reminder about the late fee policy will also be included in the May issue of Tracks.

Licensing your dog(s) is a state law and at this point only 25-30% of the dogs in town are licensed. Please license your dog before August 31st, 2021 to avoid the late fee.

The Town Hall will be opening back up the beginning of June and the Town Clerk will have office hours on Monday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00 PM. You can also mail the necessary paperwork to the Town Hall and a license/tag will be be mailed to you.

Necessary paperwork:

- Current rabies paperwork showing rabies expiration
- Proof of spay/neuter
- License fee: \$4 for spayed/neutered dog or \$10 for an unaltered dog (\$24 or \$35 after August 31, 2021)
 - If paying by check, make it payable to Town of Washington

Beach passes will be sold at the Town Hall at 8 Summit Hill Road by the Town Clerk Monday evenings between 7:00PM to 9:00PM or from the Administrative office on Wednesday from noon to 2:00PM. Residents will be asked to provide name, address, phone number, registration (license plate number) and pay a \$5.00 fee.

IN HOME VACCINATION
Beginning May 24, anyone homebound or otherwise unable to get to a vaccine site is eligible for the homebound program. Call [\(833\) 983-0485](tel:833-983-0485) to register for an in-home vaccination. The registration phone line is open Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM.

Dear Washington Friends & Neighbors:

June 2021

Following Annual Town Elections, a new Select Board has been formed. Kent Lew was elected and has been chosen to serve as Chair.

As of May 29, Gov. Baker has lifted the statewide COVID restrictions. In light of this, the Select Board has decided to reopen the Town Hall and return to regular business, starting June 1.

- Although the coronavirus threat has diminished, the risks are not zero. If you have not yet been vaccinated, we encourage you to do so. Appointments are now readily available, with some sites even welcoming walk-ins. Visit getvaccinatedberkshires.org or call 413-449-5575.

A public hearing was held last month for the Town Plan. Several insightful comments and questions were contributed from the attendees. After the discussion, the Planning Board voted unanimously to adopt the Plan for the Town, providing a roadmap toward greater sustainability while aiming to maintain Washington's essential character. Thanks to all who participated.

- Now the work begins. It will take citizen involvement to help shape our future and realize our aspirations. In a small town like ours, the only ideas and efforts that come to fruition are those that we the residents are willing to make happen. There ain't nobody else but us. So please consider what part you can play — large or small. The Plan is available for download on the Town website. Volunteer forms can be found now at the Town Hall. Or stop by a Monday meeting and talk to the Board.

Woody's remains a frustrating and dangerous eyesore. The Board continues to seek a solution that doesn't leave taxpayers footing a huge, unrecoverable bill.

The Receiver has been securing the Bucksteep property and addressing the outstanding health violations. It remains to be seen how far the judge will authorize them to go toward restoring the property. The next court date is June 7. Despite several mechanical setbacks that have our big trucks out of commission temporarily, the Highway crew took advantage of the warm, dry weather to restore and regrade most of our gravel roads.

One of our next big challenges is to find an interim solution for the collapsed culvert on Frost Rd, since any grant funding for a complete fix appears completely stalled. We can't keep having it flood over.

Thanks to everyone who raised the alarm about a petroleum spill along the tracks near Muddy Pond, especially Ed Neumuth who alerted the Environmental Police. They got CSX to remediate the area. The hazard has been cleaned up and contamination of the pond was avoided.

In August, the Cultural Council will be sponsoring Sunday afternoon Concerts in the Park. Join the Annual Town Park Clean-up on June 19 and help make it look nice for everyone to enjoy this summer! If the Park enhances your life here, now's your chance to give back.

As we re-emerge from Covid hibernation and reconnect, use common sense and stay safe.

Kent Lew
Select Board chair

Tricia Drugmand
Select Board clerk

Dick Grillon
Select Board

COA

Classes will begin again this month. We respectfully ask that anyone who is not yet fully vaccinated to wear a mask when joining our classes at the town hall.

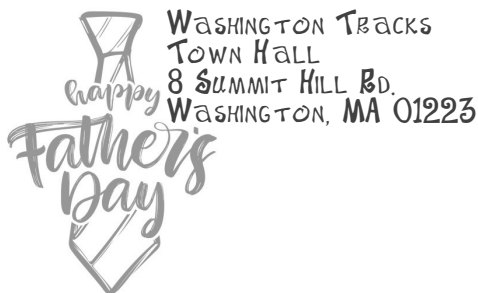
Osteoporosis class will be held on Thursdays starting at 9 am

Yoga will be on Tuesdays starting the 29th at 9:30. If you have your own mat, please it, we do have some mats available if you need one. There will not be an area to store your mat at the town hall.

We hope to be able to offer our Ti-Chi/Qi-Gong class at a later date.

Please call or email me if you have any questions washingtoncoa@gmail.com 413-394-0003

Make sure to look at the back page of the Tracks for BAC events in June!
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Join us at the Becket Arts Center!

June 7, 7pm - Becket Arts Center History, the 1970's

June 13, 2-4pm - Color & Sound Workshop

June 28, 7pm - Don Morrison

June 12, 2-4pm - Exhibit 1 Gallery Opening

June 19, 11am-5pm - Summer Solstice & Bobby Sweet
with Abe Guthrie & Pete Adams, & Lara Tupper at 5pm FREE

www.becketartscenter.org for more information

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