



# 2019 March



## Hilltown Benefit Update

A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped make this benefit a great success! Every penny raised, and all the love, prayers and encouragement will help this young man financially, but also in ways we can only begin to imagine! We love our community!!!

### COA Events

Yoga 10 AM Tuesdays  
Osteoporosis Class 10 AM Thursdays  
Tai Chi/Qi-Gong Class 10 AM Fridays

#### Pot Luck Dinner

5:30 Friday, March 15th  
Join us in celebrating St. Patrick's Day - entertainment will be provided by Sean & Debbie Connors along with Elaine Morel singing Irish songs from 6-8 PM.

### Attention high school

**seniors:** Any high school senior who is a resident of the Town of Washington and is planning to further his/her education is eligible to apply for a Washington Scholarship. Applications for the Washington Scholarship, which are due by April 15, are available by contacting Linda Levernoch at 623-8309.

### Annual Town Meeting

The date for the 2019 Annual Town Meeting is Wednesday, May 8, 2019. The meeting will be held at the Town Hall, 8 Summit Hill Road and will start at 7:00 PM.

If you have an article you would like included on the warrant, please submit a petition to the Town Clerk. The petition must include the wording for the article along with a minimum of 25 signatures of town residents that are registered to vote. The last date for any such petitions to be submitted is Monday, March 25, 2019.

### Annual Town Election

The 2019 Annual Town Election is Saturday, May 18, 2019 at the Town Hall, 8 Summit Hill Rd. Voting hours are from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

The following offices will be on the ballot this year.

- Auditor: One 2-year unexpired term
- Finance Committee: Two 3-year terms
- Planning Board: One 5-year term
- Select Board: One 3-year term

### Nomination Papers for Elected Town Positions

If you would like run for one of the above elected positions, please see the Town Clerk to obtain nomination papers. Nomination papers are available now through Friday, March 15, 2019.

In order to be included on the ballot you will need to obtain a minimum of 25 signatures from town residents that are registered to vote and submit the nomination papers to the Town Clerk by Tuesday, March 19, 2019.

### Voter Registration Session for Annual Town Meeting and Election

A voter registration session will be held on Thursday, April 18, 2019 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. If you are not already registered to vote in the town of Washington, this will be your last chance to register and be eligible to vote at the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election.

### Becket Athenaeum News for March 2019

#### Salsa Dancing with Jay Lopez, from the Pillow

Tuesday, March 12, 7-9pm

#### STEAM Group Activities for Pre-schoolers with Wendy Provencher

Tuesdays through May 21<sup>st</sup>

Upcoming dates:

March 12, 19, 26, April 9, 23, 30  
1-2pm at the Becket Athenaeum  
FREE!

#### Book Club

All are welcome to join us at the Athenaeum on **Tuesday, March 5th at 1:30pm**, we will discuss The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead.

#### Next Community Movie Afternoon:

SATURDAY, MARCH 16<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-3:30pm  
Shaun the Sheep: Rated PG

For more information visit our website: [www.becketathenaeum.org](http://www.becketathenaeum.org)  
or email us at: [info@bwlibrary.org](mailto:info@bwlibrary.org)




### Becket Federated Church Parish House

3381 Main St., Becket (across from library)

**Becket Food Pantry** - 1st and 3rd Sat., 9-11am

**Free Supper** - 1st Friday every month

# TOWN OF WASHINGTON MARCH 2019 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					TOWN HALL 1	2
					TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM	
3	4 TOWN HALL Selectmen Meeting 7 PM Town Hall Offices Open 7 - 9 PM Assessors/Tax Collector 6-8 PM Police Department 6-9 PM	5 TOWN HALL Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM	6 Ash Wednesday	7 TOWN HALL OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM ***** Conservation Commission Meeting 6 PM	8 TOWN HALL TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM	9
10 Daylight Savings 	11 TOWN HALL Selectmen Meeting 7 PM Finance Committee Meeting 7 PM Town Hall Offices Open 7 - 9 PM Assessors/Tax Collector 6-8 PM Police Department 6-9 PM	12 TOWN HALL Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM Planning Board Meeting 7 PM	13	14 TOWN HALL OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM	15 TOWN HALL TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM ***** COA Pot Luck Dinner 5:30 PM	16
17  St. Patrick's Day	18 TOWN HALL Selectmen Meeting 7 PM Town Hall Offices Open 7 - 9 PM Assessors/Tax Collector 6-8 PM Police Department 6-9 PM	19 Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM	20 1st Day of Spring 	21 TOWN HALL OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM	22 TOWN HALL TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM	23
24	25 TOWN HALL Selectmen Meeting 7 PM Town Hall Offices Open 7 - 9 PM Assessors/Tax Collector 6-8 PM Police Department 6-9 PM	26 Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM	27	28 TOWN HALL OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM	29 TOWN HALL TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM	30
31						
Entity Assessors Board of Health Building Inspector Chapel Commission Clerk Conservation Council on Aging	Contact Karen Avale Janice Paxton Paul Greene Rose Borgnis Allison Mikaniewicz Michelle Lampro Rose Borgnis	Number 717-7216 655-8668 446-0964 441-0787 623-2185 623-8333 441-0787	Entity Finance Committee Parks Commission Planning Board Police Chief Selectmen Tax Collector Veterans Agent	Contact Kent Lew Dave Drugmand Marilyn Wiley Nicole Miller Jim Huebner Gina Campbell	Number 623-0202 623-6651 623-5859 446-4294 655-8668 623-0146	

Please CALL AHEAD



To our Washington neighbors:

March 2019

After more than two decades of service to the Town as a member of the Select Board and Board of Health, and as a member of our highway crew and Highway Superintendent Dave Fish has retired. We thank him for his long and dedicated service to Washington.

- We are looking for a replacement for Dave and will give preference to a Town resident, so if you know someone who might be interested have them contact Jodi or Tom Johnson.

Our schools form the cornerstone of our society. The best investment we can make for our future is to support our teachers and administrators and to provide a physical plant in which our children can grow into citizenship. Mark your calendars for the April 6 district-wide vote for funding the new Wahconah High School. Keep in mind that the Massachusetts School Building Authority will pay for a large portion of the cost of the new school and that the maintenance costs of maintaining the old one would likely be as much as the new one!

We are close to agreeing to a five-year agreement with Becket for fire protection.

DOR once again proposes to cut our PILOT reimbursement by over \$30,000 for FY2020 as they did for FY2019. We wrote to Governor Baker last October asking that he address DOR's grossly unfair, opaque and capricious valuation of state-owned land. The Governor has completely ignored us even after repeated calls to both his Boston and Western Mass offices. Last year Senator Hinds was able to provide legislative relief for us and we have appealed to him for the same help this year.

**To our seniors:** if you missed the announcement in last month's *Tracks*: remember to file Schedule CB with your MA tax return. You may be eligible for a tax credit thanks to our State Senator Adam Hinds. Brochures are available at the Town Hall.

Nick Connors, Director of the Green Communities program has offered to assist when we once again apply this coming fall. We are awaiting a model by-law for by-right installation of utility-scale solar generation, as well as a model project list suitable to a town of our size. .

MEMA has turned down our grant request for the replacement of the deep culvert on upper Frost Road. We will reapply in April when we should have the Hazard Mitigation Plan required by MEMA in place.

We have been awarded a \$500,000 Small Bridge grant for the failed bridges in October Mountain State Forest along Lenox-Whitney Road which remains closed until they are fixed.

DOT has apparently reopened its review of our design for the new bridge over Coles Brook on Middlefield Road. We are still expecting to put the project out to bid this spring.

Eversource and Verizon crews will soon be working throughout town to replace some poles and moving existing wires to make room for our fiber network cables. We expect the cables themselves will be installed this summer. We hope to schedule an information session soon.

Stay warm and stay safe. Spring is right around the corner.

Jim Huebner  
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand  
Select Board Clerk

Dick Grillon  
Select Board

#### **SAVE THE DATE**

##### **Washington Broadband – Update and Info Session**

**Saturday, April 13, 10–noon at Town Hall**

Steady progress continues to be made on our broadband fiber network. In the next few months we should start to see tangible developments taking place in town. In April, we will hold another Town Info Session to share details about the upcoming construction and more information about the services that will be available. More specifics about the topics to be covered will be announced in next month's *Tracks*.

In the meantime, a general project update is available online at <https://wiredwest.net/towns/washington>

Kent Lew  
Steve Nelson



The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) is a quasi-independent government authority created to reform the process of funding capital improvement projects in the Commonwealth's public schools. The MSBA strives to work with local communities to create affordable, sustainable, and energy efficient schools across Massachusetts.

The MSBA is in the process of approving the final schematics, budget, and timelines for the construction of a new Wahconah. The MSBA will be paying over 40% of the cost for a new Wahconah.

## Dates for events prior to the vote:

### Wahconah Building Tours:

### Community Meetings to discuss budget and design:

3/5 at Wahconah 5pm  
3/5 at Windsor Town Hall 7pm  
3/7 at Kittredge 5pm  
3/7 at Becket/Washington 7pm

### For more information:

Website: [www.cbrsd.org](http://www.cbrsd.org)

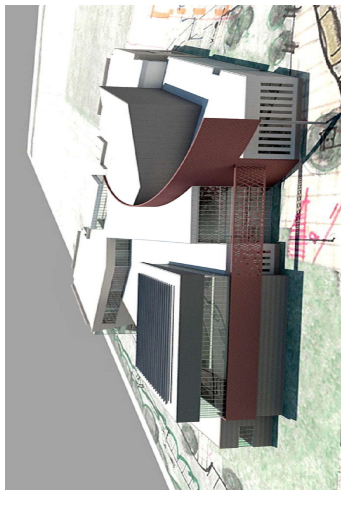
Twitter: @WRHSBldgProject

Facebook:

[facebook.com/WahconahBuildingProject](https://facebook.com/WahconahBuildingProject)

The website has a link to a panel discussion, notes from meetings, upcoming meetings dates, and newspaper articles about the project.

# Wahconah School Building Project



## Vote

April 6, 2019

10am-4pm

(at your local polling station)



## What is the need?

### DETERIORATING...

- roof, HVAC system, windows, ceiling, brick-face, locker rooms, bathrooms, auditorium

### OUTDATED ...

- classroom/learning spaces, library/media center, I/A Tech equipment/classrooms, kitchen equipment

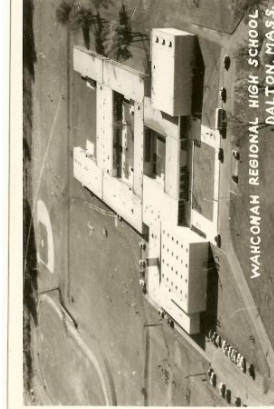
### LACK OF...

- privacy in health center and counseling areas, sufficient lighting, collaborative work spaces, space for OT, PT, Speech, ESL services

### INADEQUATE...

- meeting spaces, lab space, and learning spaces for a growing Fine/Performing Arts and STEM programs

**Wahconah Regional High School was completed in 1961.**



## Cost of the Project

The budget for the new Wahconah, which includes the building, furnishings, site work, demolition of the old Wahconah and contingencies is \$71,871,107 million. The anticipated MSBA contribution is \$31,226,147. Leaving the seven member towns to pay approximately \$40.6 million. This number is divided among the towns based upon the number of students enrolled. Below is the anticipated cost per town (numbers were determined based upon a \$42 million bond (with feasibility costs)

Based upon a 30 year bond and 4% interest rate the anticipated impact on the tax rate is listed below in terms of dollars per 1000 assessed:

Becket: \$0.24  
Cummington: \$0.46  
Dalton:\$2.66  
Hinsdale: \$1.00  
Peru: \$1.53  
Washington: \$0.91  
Windsor: \$0.91

## If I vote “YES” ...

- A new Wahconah will be built that addresses all the needs listed.
- Our community would benefit from a new high school for 50-60 years.
- The school would be scheduled to open fall of 2021.
- New schools tend to attract more school choice students. Could bring more money into the district.
- The CBRSD community could have more people move into the community.

## If I vote “NO” ...

- The CBRSD's enrollment in the MSBA program will end and the entire process would have to start again. There is no guarantee if or when they would accept us into the program again. It is anticipated it would be another 10 years or longer before we reach this point again.
- CBRSD will face ongoing needs at Wahconah. It is very unlikely the MSBA will offer the district any future reimbursement for Wahconah given the building has been noted to need much more than a repair of the roof, boilers and windows. The cost of a full base repair of the building is estimated to be in the 33.5 - 38.5 million range.



WASHINGTON TRACKS  
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8 SUMMIT HILL RD.  
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WWW.WASHINGTON-MA.COM

## SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

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Email your TRACKS info by the 25th of the month to Lisa at:  
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Please put TRACKS in the subject line.