



Before Jan Nelson passed away in 2020, she was for many years an Administrative Assistant to the Washington Select Board, a member of the town's Historical Commission, and a Trustee of the Becket-Washington library. Nearly 50 years ago she wrote a novel, which was never published, closely based on the true story of Deborah Sampson, a young woman from Massachusetts. Deborah disguised herself as a man, enlisted in the Continental Army during the American Revolution and served for nearly a year and a half, during which she was wounded in combat and promoted as an aide to a general (who was from Lenox). Jan's husband Steve has just published her book, *The Memoir of a Female Soldier*, through Amazon and donated a copy to the library. Check it out!

-Steve Nelson

Washington Scholarship Applications: 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. Scholarship applications, due May 1, are available on our town's website: <https://www.washington-ma.gov>, go to the community tab and click on schools.

Linda Levernoch
Washington Scholarship Committee

I would like to thank Carol Lew for her balanced and unbiased article on DCR's proposed "Ant Lot" logging project covering 450 acres in October Mountain Forest in Washington.

For those who may oppose this project, I invite you to sign the petition below that will be submitted to the Governor and Commissioner of DCR.

Link to the petition:
<https://forms.gle/7iwuHkQMmD6TZvSd8>

Below is a link to the logging plan. When you open the link, click on "Ant Lot" project and it gives you the option to open the file. Refer to pages 6 and 7 for maps of the project area at the Four Corners of October Mountain Forest.

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/forest-management-projects#-forest-management-projects-proposed-2022->

Thank you,
Susan Purser, Becket, MA
saveforests8@gmail.com

Stumpf and Bradley's Sawmill and Millpond

Washington Historic Commission

If you've ever walked down the Navin Trail, in October Mountain State Forest, you'll notice a stone dam to your right, at the first brook crossing. This is a story about that sawmill dam, and a husband and wife who owned it. Cobb Coddington and his son Ephraim, bought this land in 1826 from a man named Haywood. Cobb and his wife Philena are buried in West Branch Cemetery. They built a smaller earthen dam on the brook, which powered a sawmill just downstream of the trail crossing. In 1844, a year before he died, Coddington sold the land and the sawmill to Phillip Stumpf, who was born in Bavaria (1818). His partner was Peter Shaddell (Schatelle), who was born in France (1774). Stumpf was married to Shaddell's daughter, Magdalena (1815). They enlarged the mill pond by building the stone dam still seen today. They also erected a house on the property, within view of the mill pond, along with a barn. Both foundations are still visible. The lumber was brought off the mountain to Lee, by a now overgrown road that paralleled the Stumpf Brook down to the County Road (Washington Mountain Road in Lee). The Stumpf's had 11 children living in their home, along with Magdalena's parents. Peter Shaddell is listed in the 1855 census, but must have passed away shortly after that, because in 1859, Shaddell's interest in the sawmill was sold to Alonzo Bradley of Lee. The sawmill must have been prosperous for both men, as it had a reputation for supplying quality lumber.

In September of 1862, Phillip Stumpf enlisted (not drafted!) into the Union army, with the 159th Infantry Regiment, New York State Volunteers. He was 44 years old! He enlisted at New Lebanon NY, and his regiment was sent to Louisiana, attached to the Department of the Gulf. He appears to have fought in the Siege of Port Hudson, LA, but is listed as dying of disease in June of 1863. He left his wife Magdalena and 7 children under the age of 18 at home. Magdalena continued to run the mill with her husband's business partner Bradley, while raising the 7 children; Phillip 16, Magdalena 14, Frederick 12, Peter 10, Mary 9, Francis 7, and Julius 5. To say she was a strong woman would be an understatement!

By 1871, Magdalena could no longer pay her creditors for the vast land holdings her husband had acquired before his death, and she was forced to sell the land and the sawmill at public auction. Thomas Flynn won the bidding war, for \$755. Flynn seems to have continued running the sawmill until 1898, when he sold the land to William C. Whitney.

The stone dam is still intact today, and the Stumpf's cellar hole is right next to the dam and pond. They must have had a gorgeous view looking out over the water! There is a barn foundation next to the house cellar, that may have been used for lumber storage. The mill itself is about 100 feet downstream from the trail crossing. All that is visible are some of the stones supports. The remains of the sluice that brought water to the mill can be seen just past the bridge crossing the trail. Magdalena Stumpf moved to Lee, and died there in 1892. She was 77 years old. She and Phillip are buried in Saint Mary's Cemetery in Lee. 10 of Magdalena and Phillip Stumpf's children grew to adulthood. One of them, also named Magdalena, married a man named Thomas Hayden. He was a well-known foreman at the Smith Paper Company in Lee. Their son William was also a foreman at the Schweitzer paper mill. Many of Phillip and Magdalena Stumpf's descendants still live in Lee. I'm sure they're very proud of their ancestor who died as a hero in the service of his country, and his wife who maintained a business, while raising 7 young children.

Tom Hoffman



Voter Registration Session Friday, March 10, 2023

The Town Clerk will hold a voter registration session on **Friday, March 10, 2023 from 2:00 - 4:00 PM and 7:00 - 8:00 PM at the Washington Town Hall**. For eligible town residents that are not yet registered to vote, this is the deadline to register and be eligible to vote at the Special Town Meeting scheduled for Monday, March 20, 2023.

2023 Annual Town Census

We've received a great response to the 2023 Annual Town Census. Thank you! If you have not returned your form yet, please do so as soon as possible. Included in the census mailing is an envelope to mail the census form to the town hall. Alternatively, you can drop the census form in the drop box at the town hall.

We have also included an application to vote by mail in the 2023 elections, which for this year will only be the Annual Town Election in May.

And if your census form indicates that you own a dog(s), an application for a 2023 dog license was included. If you already have a 2023 dog license, you can disregard this.

2023 Dog Licenses Available

Just a reminder that the **current (2022) dog licenses will expire March 31, 2023**. The dog licenses for 2023 are now available. Please see the Town Clerk on Monday evenings with the following information or send it in the mail (Attn: Town Clerk, 8 Summit Hill Road, Washington):

- Current rabies certificate
- Proof that your dog is spayed or neutered, if applicable
- Appropriate fee. \$4 if dog is spayed or neutered, \$10 if not
- Mail the above to the Town Clerk, 8 Summit Hill Road, Washington, MA 01223 and a license and tag will be mailed to you.
- If you received a late fee invoice for 2022, you will have to pay that first before you can renew your dog license for 2023.

Any questions please contact the Town Clerk 413-207-7526 or washington.ma.townclerk@gmail.com.

Town Nomination Papers Available

Nomination papers are available for the following town positions that are up for election this year:

- Finance Committee (3 year term)
- Finance Committee (3 year term)
- Planning Board (5 year term)
- Board of Selectmen (3 year term)
- Municipal Light Board (3 year term)

If you would like to take out nomination papers, you can find the papers on the website: <https://www.washington-ma.gov/town-clerk/pages/town-elections> or pick them up at the town hall on Monday evenings. You will need to collect 20 signatures from town residents that are registered to vote and the completed nomination papers must be returned to the Town Clerk by Friday, March 31, 2023. Any questions please contact the 413-207-7526 or washington.ma.townclerk@gmail.com.

Thanks,
Allison Mikaniewicz
Town Clerk
Washington, MA

8 Summit Hill Road
Washington, MA 01223
Phone 413-623-8878 x105
Mobile 413-207-7526

Dear Washington Friends & Neighbors:

March 2023

The uncharacteristic rain, sleet, and record warm temps this past month, have wreaked havoc on gravel roads throughout the Berkshire hilltowns. Our town has been no exception. Lovers Lane and Schultze Roads were especially hard hit, with worse-than-ever mud and ruts.

Unfortunately, ice and mud are more time-consuming (and costly) to deal with than snow. And when daytime temps get too warm, it can become impractical to get heavy equipment in to lay down stone without causing more harm than good. We appreciate the patience and endurance of our residents as the Highway crew have done their best to keep our roads passable.

Meanwhile, we continue to seek a new Highway crew member. Anyone who is interested should check out the job posting on our website: www.washington-ma.gov/job-opportunities, or reach out directly to Tom at the Highway garage.

In summer 2021, in a final effort to get Woodrow Witter to demolish the dilapidated Woody's Roadhouse, the Select Board imposed daily fines following one last deadline. Those fines went unpaid after he sold the property. The Town has sued to recover those fines. His attorney has requested a settlement conference, which the Select Board will take up in an upcoming meeting.

In the Bucksteep case, the Land Court postponed any action to allow the owner more time to seal a deal to sell the property. The hearing was continued over to March 30. We are seeking a firm deadline by which the owner must pay all back taxes, interest, and fees, or else face foreclosure.

Upon recommendations from the Town Plan Steering Committee, the Planning Board has drawn up proposed bylaws to enable Accessory Dwelling Units and to regulate Short-Term Rentals in town. They will hold a **Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 14, at 7:15pm** to answer questions and get feedback. Copies are available on the town website. Residents are encouraged to attend.

Our efforts to find a Shared Town Administrator have stalled. The Washington and Middlefield Select Boards have concluded that our job offer is not competitive enough. Even though the towns will not need to pay the full salary and benefits for another year thanks to grant funding, the Boards want to make sure we have the support of our communities before increasing the salary offer. So we will be holding a **Special Town Meeting on Monday, March 20, at 7:00pm** for a town vote. There will also be a few housekeeping articles to pay past fiscal year bills.

After the Special Town Meeting, any extra time that evening will be available for general questions for the Select Board to address. We hope to see you there.

Kent Lew
Select Board chair

David Ellis
Select Board

John Fish
Select Board clerk

How To Make Life Easier And Affordable Without Leaving Home

By Susan Colgan

Affordable housing is on everyone's mind. Towns north and south of us—all over the country, in fact—are grappling with the absence of housing priced within reach of most people. Electricity and fuel costs are skyrocketing, too, and some folks wonder if they will be able to stay in their homes.... But where to go?

In the local paper we have watched Great Barrington and North Adams hammer out regulations for Short Term Rentals (STRs) and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) to aid residents who want to earn money from their homes, which helps them, if they wish, to stay put. Efforts have sometimes been contentious, but solutions have been found.

Here the Town Plan Steering Group and the Planning Board have been working for the past year or more on guidelines to help our residents who wish to take advantage of the income—and even the peace of mind—that Short Term Rentals and Accessory Dwelling Units can provide. The effort will result in a public hearing this month to discuss the two sets of bylaws. You can study the proposed bylaws in their entirety (at <https://washington-ma.gov/proposed-adu-str-bylaws>), and air your views or ask questions at the Public Hearing March 14th.

Maintaining Town Character

The paramount goal in both sets of bylaws is to maintain the single-family character of our town. Parking, for instance, must be provided in the driveway or garage or designated area on the property. Any new structure, as in the ADU bylaw, must be designed so that the appearance of the addition remains consistent with the residential character of the neighborhood. And a detached ADU may not be located between the front of the main dwelling and the street—just to name a few of the guardrails the bylaws stipulate.

The stated purpose of the STR regulations is to formalize how homeowners, or renters, can promote and support the town—more residents are always welcome—while allowing those residents to earn extra money from their properties, to maintain their property and also to contribute to the community through room taxes. (The state collects the room taxes and part of that comes back to the town.) Up to two bedrooms in a home may be rented year-round, by right, provided that the owner or tenant is occupying the dwelling unit at the time of the rental. An entire home or dwelling unit may be rented up to 150 days per calendar year, by right, and up to 175 days, by special permit.

The Accessory Dwelling Unit bylaw's primary purpose is to create more housing options for town residents. The ADU provides homeowners with the ability to create a separate space for family, or simply for renters who might provide companionship or security. Or the ADU might be a space for service providers.

There are three types of ADUs—a detached structure, an addition to the main residence, or an apartment within the main residence. A detached ADU in Washington must be clearly

subordinate in size to the main structure and cannot exceed half of the square footage of the original structure, or 900 square feet, whichever is smaller.

An addition to, or a remodel of an original dwelling must also be clearly subordinate to the original dwelling and not more than one-third of the floor area of the original structure, or 900 square feet, whichever is smaller.

Should you be considering an ADU, you will need to meet with the Building Inspector to confirm the need for a building permit and any Board of Health or Conservation Commission approvals.

How an ADU Worked for Us

For some, the thought of sharing one's home might be a daunting prospect. But how nice to create a separate apartment where a relative can live, or where someone can move in and begin paying rent...offsetting bills and taxes. My husband and I were in just such a position. We had a small four-story house in New York State where we worked. Our family had grown and moved on. But we were reluctant to sell. We loved our house and our neighbors. And our street. Why not divide the house as other neighbors had done before us? So, we reconfigured the space.

We'd created a living space at the top of the house and downsized our own quarters to the lower floors. It was small and cozy. The two of us felt happy there. The young couple who rented our apartment had two daughters. We enjoyed the sounds of the children tromping into the front hall through their separate entrance after school. They'd often be squabbling or singing. I'd hear them on the stairs, their voices trailing off and it would be quiet again.

Now we are here and the possibilities these new bylaws open up for us and our neighbors feel realistic and smart.

Housing Seniors Like

Recently, the New York Times (January 31, 2023) ran an article with the title "Senior Housing that Seniors Actually Like," citing families in Oakland, California, and Portland, Oregon, who had created an ADU on their properties. In the ADU in Oakland, the parents live in the main house and the adult children live in the 400 square foot renovated garage with kitchen and bath. In Portland, the grandmother lives in the 750 square foot ADU, also in a renovated garage, and her daughter and her family live in the four-bedroom main house. These are just two examples of a nationwide phenomenon. AARP, according to the Times, supports ADUs and has helped 17 cities pass ADU regulations, from Denver and Louisville to Raleigh and Kansas City. And the numbers, they say, are growing.

As affordable housing becomes increasingly scarce for young and old, the ADU offers many advantages which can keep a community vibrant without altering its character or charm. These options—ways to use our homes without leaving them—are set forth now, with community approval, in the Washington's proposed regulations.

...East or West, Home is Best... Read up, attend the hearing, voice your opinion, and vote!

Becket Athenaeum

- Thursday, March 2, 6-7:30pm
Judicial Presentation by Hon. Joan McMenemy
- Saturdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25, 10:30-11:30am
Library Storytime (2nd Saturday of the month, the craft project is replaced by creative movement.)
- Saturday, March 4, 6:30-9:30pm, movie starts at 7pm
- Movie Night for Adults: Everything Everywhere All at Once
- Tuesday, March 7, 1:30pm
- Book Club: The Secrets We Kept by Lara Prescott
- Saturday, March 11, 6:30-9:30pm, movie starts at 7pm
Teen Movie Night
- Monday, March 13, 6pm
- Cookbook Club: Sarabeth's Good Morning Cookbook or Cook's Illustrated All-Time Best Brunch
- Thursday, March 16, 6-8pm
- Game Night
- Weekdays, 2:55-5:30pm
Kids Club After-School Care at BWS. Contact Jon Yetto at the Dalton CRA
413-684-0260 jyetto@daltoncra.org for information and to sign up.

If you are having serious challenges purchasing food, heat or anything that may affect your health, we may be able to help! Call Pastor Bill, Becket Federated Church 413-770-1897.



Becket Arts Center Events

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Art | Opens March 2nd. Thurs, Fri, Sat 12-4pm - Artist in Residence, Sean McCusker display in downstairs gallery. |
| Shop | Opens March 2nd. Thurs, Fri, Sat 12-4pm. - See our redesigned gift shop and shop local and hand-crafted gifts. |
| Yoga | Thursdays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 9:30am - Rima Sala leads yoga in the upstairs gallery for all abilities. Donation \$5-\$10. |
| Theater | Saturday, March 18, 7pm - "The Big Why" - Douglas Williams presents a one-man comedic cabaret. |
| Talk | Sunday, March 19, 4pm - Speaker Series presents: Smitty Pignatelli and Paul Mark, representatives. |
| Music | Saturday, March 25, 7pm - Hill 78 including John Nalepa, Johnny Culp, Pete Prieto and Amy Attias. Donations welcome. |



Learn More
becketartscenter.org/events

CALL FOR ART BECKET ARTS CENTER

7 Brooker Hill Road Becket, MA 01223
413.623.6635

Visual artists in all media including oils, pastels, watercolor, printmaking, mixed media, photography, ceramics, sculpture, and more.

Emerging and professional artists are invited to apply before **March 31, 2023**. Work is reviewed through a blind jury process and selected for specific 3-week group shows of no more than 5 artists between June 1, and October 1, 2023 in the BAC's beautiful, accessible gallery in the North Becket village, just off Route 8.

- **\$300 award** to the best submission, as determined by the reviewing jury.
- Along with the cash prize, the **BAC season poster** will feature the winning artist's work.
- Application fee of \$20 per artist.*
- All applicants will be added to the BAC's online Artist Directory.

*The BAC offers limited scholarships to reduce or eliminate the \$20 application fee to younger artists; email office@becketartscenter.org to inquire.

For More Information & Apply:

becketartscenter.org/artists/art-exhibitions



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Call or email for pricing.

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.