



# May 2021



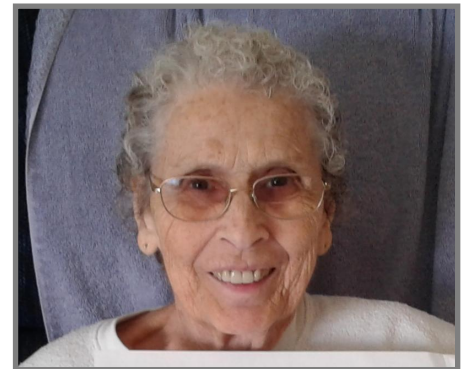
As many of you know Joan Cadman and her sister Lorraine Deane passed away in December-2020. Their passing has left big holes in our hearts and for those who knew them. What a lot of people may not know is that in 1921 their parents purchased the property from Eden Glen on Frost Road to Stonehouse Road. As adults 2 of the 4 Campbell children Joan & Lorraine decided to stay in Washington on the Campbell Homestead to raise their children. It was with great joy to both to share their beautiful homes in the country and stories of days gone by with their grandchildren & great grandchildren (and for Joan great, great grandchildren). They both were involved in events in the Town and were very dedicated to preserving the small town history and neighborly ways.

With the month of May approaching our families will be saying their "Final Goodbyes" as we will be putting them in their final resting place. We invite all who wish to attend their burials, Lorraine's will be Monday May 10th at the Washington Cemetery.

Joan's will be May 14th at North Becket Cemetery.

Thank you to all their dear friends and neighbors for always being there for them.

- Chris Provencher



Seeking Local Artists for the Becket Arts Center's third annual Open Studios DriveAbout  
Calling all local artists and art-lovers!

The Becket Arts Center (BAC) is planning its **third annual Open Studios DriveAbout** for **Saturday, September 4, 2021** of Labor Day Weekend (rain date: Sunday, September 5). We are looking for local (Becket, Chester, Hinsdale, Otis, Washington, Middlefield, and Peru) artists to participate.

Interested artists should complete the [2021 Open Studios DriveAbout](#) form no later than May 31st, 2021.

**What is the Open Studios DriveAbout?** It's a unique and immersive way for artists and art-lovers of all kinds to experience and explore the vast talent living and working in our local communities. Artists get to showcase their studios, present their work, and sell their creations as art-lovers drive from location to location; artists can also utilize the common space at the BAC itself to showcase their work (7 Brooker Hill Rd, Becket).

Thanks to generous grant funding from the local cultural councils, there is no participation fee for artists, though we do ask artists to have their 2021 BAC memberships up-to-date. You can update your membership online -

[www.becketartscenter.org/membership](http://www.becketartscenter.org/membership); if you aren't sure if your membership is current, please email [office@becketartscenter.org](mailto:office@becketartscenter.org).

Please forward this along to any other local (Becket, Chester, Hinsdale, Otis, Washington, Middlefield, and Peru) artists you think may be interested. And, if you have any questions, please contact us at

[office@becketartscenter.org](mailto:office@becketartscenter.org) or 413-623-6635.

For a look at last year's Open Studios website, check out the following link:

[www.becketartscenter.org/2020driveaboutartists](http://www.becketartscenter.org/2020driveaboutartists)

May 2021

To my neighbors in Washington:

I have had the privilege of serving as the Chair of your Select Board for over ten years. This past year of quarantine has been unusually difficult for all of us, a mixture of monotony and anxiety that seems finally to be coming to an end. It seems a fitting time for me to step aside and let others carry on.

I will continue to volunteer my time on behalf of the Town on your Board of Health, as a representative to the Metropolitan Planning Organization, and, above all, as part of our Town Planning initiative.

Government works best with widespread interest and participation. The Town Planning effort is designed to maintain our Town's character and strengthen our finances for the foreseeable future. To do so we need to harness our combined energy and intelligence. **We need volunteers for this effort to succeed.**

Please review the five project descriptions in the enclosed flyer and see if there is one - or more - in which you have an interest or some expertise to contribute. Spreading the work over five teams and many people will make this a true community effort. Join your neighbors to help create our own future. I hope you will be part of it!

Jim Huebner

## Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting will be held Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the Washington Highway Department garage again this year so we may continue to practice social distancing. Masks and registration for contact tracing will be required.

## Annual Town Election: Voting by Mail

In light of the ongoing pandemic, the State is allowing early voting by mail for any Annual Town Election held before June 30, 2021. Since our election will be held on Saturday, May 15, 2021 you have the option of voting early by mail. Please contact the Town Clerk if you would like to receive an early voting ballot for the Annual Town Election. Phone 413-623-2185 or email [washington.ma.townclerk@gmail.com](mailto:washington.ma.townclerk@gmail.com) and I will send you an application to request the ballot. **The last day to request an early voting ballot is Tuesday, May 11, 2021.**

## Annual Town Election: Saturday, May 15, 2021

The annual town election will be held at the Washington Town Hall on Saturday, May 15, 2021 from 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM. We will follow all of the same safety precautions that were put into place for last year's elections. Please follow signage and instructions when you arrive at the town hall to vote.

Positions and candidates on the ballot include:

- Auditor (3 year term): no candidates
- Finance Committee (3 year term): David Drugmand, Incumbent
- Moderator (3 year term): Edwin Neumuth, Incumbent
- Planning Board (5 year term): no candidates
- Select Board (3 year term): Kent Lew
- Town Clerk (3 year term): Allison Mikaniewicz, Incumbent

Memorial Day May 31st



# TOWN OF WASHINGTON: TOWN PLAN VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT FORM

The Washington Capital & Town Planning Committee is in the final stages of adopting a *Town Plan* that identifies **FIVE** priority projects. We need your help! Each priority project will be overseen by a volunteer Project Team. The priority projects are as follows:

- ☐ Diversifying the current housing stock
- ☐ Creating more senior housing options
- ☐ Implementing a marketing strategy to attract new residents
- ☐ Exploring business development possibilities
- ☐ Assessing the Town's financial sustainability

Volunteers will be provided with guidance from town authorities such as the Planning Board as well as from a Steering Committee which oversees all **FIVE** projects.

If you have expertise in one of the topic areas, if you are interested in participating in local government, or if you simply care about Washington's future and want to be involved — THEN WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please check **ONE OR MORE** of the boxes above for the projects you are interested in working on and complete the contact information section:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Check this box if you are interested in joining the Steering Committee which will oversee all **FIVE** projects.

To submit the completed form, please mail to Town Hall (8 Summit Hill Rd., Washington, MA 01223), place in the drop box at Town Hall, or email it to Washington's Administrative Assistant at [washington.aas@gmail.com](mailto:washington.aas@gmail.com).

**Please see reverse side for more information.**

# WASHINGTON'S 5 PRIORITY PROJECTS:

## **Housing Expansion**

This Team will explore how to increase housing availability and provide more diverse housing options for both existing residents and prospective buyers and/or renters while being mindful that many current residents are opposed to significant development. They will work with housing authorities and explore Federal grants and MA Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development programs to develop solutions appropriate for us.

## **Senior Housing**

This Team will determine the desirability for housing for our seniors, explore what State or Federal grant money is available by working with the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs and the MA Office on Disability to develop a proposal for senior housing and/or senior center.

## **Marketing & Communication**

This Team's task is to develop a general marketing plan to promote Washington's rural beauty, community values, and our lifestyle that combines nature and outdoor activities with easy access to nearby goods and services. This effort should support the other initiatives to help bolster the residential tax base and foster appropriate small business.

## **Business Development**

This Team will work closely with the Planning Board to identify possible areas for commercial zoning. They are also tasked with clarifying what uses might be acceptable to the community and provide greatest potential benefit to the Town. The Team's efforts may extend to delving into the specific economic viability of certain sectors, such as the marijuana industry, to determine opportunities for greatest potential success.

## **Financial Sustainability**

This Team will work closely with the Finance Committee to review and analyze data trends and forecast future spending needs, identifying areas of concern and opportunities for improvement. They will also develop a Capital Improvement Plan to better anticipate long-range investment needs. They will also explore what Town additional services or activities can be shared with other municipalities or outsourced. The Team will draw on State resources through the Division of Local Services.

**For further information , please contact [washington.aas@gmail.com](mailto:washington.aas@gmail.com)**

To our Washington neighbors:

May 2021

The number of confirmed COVID cases in Berkshire County is rising! The pandemic is not over. By now every adult in Washington can get vaccinated and we urge you to do so if you have not already gotten your shot. We will not be safe until the great majority of us have been vaccinated.

- If you have internet access use <https://www.getvaccinatedberkshires.org/> otherwise call the Berkshire County Vaccination Hotline (413-449-5575)
- Meanwhile, stay home, wash your hands, and wear a mask if you must go out.

MassDEP is offering free testing for PFAS compounds in private wells. PFAS, developed as a precursor to Teflon and other materials, persist for a long time in the environment and can cause health problems. Some residents will be contacted directly, but anyone can apply. The link to apply for free sampling is <https://dwp-pfas.madwpdep.org>. For more information about the program go to <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

There will be a short presentation about our Town Plan to begin our Annual Town Meeting on Wednesday May 5. Hard copies will be available, and the Plan will be accessible online.

- To achieve the goals set out in the Town Plan we need volunteers from the community. We hope all who are interested in our Town's future will pitch in to help! Please fill out and return the inserted flyer.
- More details about the Plan's five projects will be provided at the Public Hearing for the formal adoption of the Plan by our Planning Board on Tuesday May 11. There will be a question-and-answer session.

Bucksteep's back taxes remain unpaid because the present owners are claiming that the property will soon be sold to an unnamed buyer. We hope to have clarification after the next court date on 4/28.

Woody's continues to collapse into itself. We have re-issued an RFQ for its demolition, but the issue for the Town remains that we are unlikely to recoup enough money from the property to cover our costs. Nonetheless it is an attractive nuisance and an eyesore that cannot be allowed to remain.

The Board is moving forward with plans to auction off the Town-owned properties in Virginia Lakes. Next step is an appraisal to be paid for by Nature Conservancy.

Three upcoming events that we urge everyone to participate in:

- Our Annual Town Meeting on Wednesday May 5 at 7 in the Town Garage.
- Planning Board Public Hearing for our Town Plan May 11 at 7, also in the Town Garage.
- Annual Town Election Saturday May 15 from noon to four at the Town Hall.

Good government requires community involvement. See you all there!

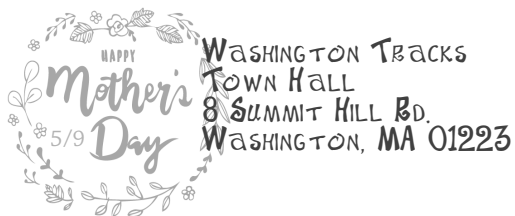
Jim Huebner

Tricia Drugmand

Dick Grillon

**SAVE THE DATE**

Park clean up is the first weekend in June!



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**Justice of the Peace**

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

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