



MAY 2020 2ND EDITION

Hope

To our Washington neighbors:

Mid-May 2020

The governor has extended the stay-home order and shutdown of non-essential businesses until May 18; please be aware that this may be further extended.

- As best we can tell there have been only a few cases of COVID19 in Town, none of which required hospitalization. Thanks to all for continuing to stay home.
- The Town Hall remains closed to the public.
- Town operations continue; contact information is printed here in TRACKS and is available on the Town website. <http://www.washington-ma.com/boh.html>
- Emergency services remain on call.
- The Transfer Station is keeping normal hours on Wednesday and Saturday but is not accepting white goods, electronics, construction waste or swap shop items.

Resources for the pandemic:

- Farmers can go to <https://www.mass.gov/guides/covid-19-resources-for-agriculture> for resources and guidance through the pandemic.
- Similarly <https://www.mass.gov/doc/farm-stand-order/download> has guidance for farmers Markets and farm stands.
- Council on Aging 413-394-0003 or washingtoncoa@gmail.com
- Emergency Management 413-212-7152 or genergoebel@gmail.com
- <https://www.buoyhealth.com/> offers a free assessment of your symptoms and information about COVID-19.
- Public Health Nurse alliancenurse@berkshireplanning.org; Board of Health japhuebner@gmail.com 655-8668.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Rail and Transit Division is conducting a survey to determine the level of intercity bus demand in the State of Massachusetts. Intercity bus service differs from local transit service and allows our residents to travel greater distances to cities such as Albany, Springfield, Greenfield, Worcester and Boston. The survey will be used to determine how MassDOT can best utilize its annual apportionment of Federal Section 5311(f) Intercity Bus Program funds for intercity bus service. Link to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MassDOTGeneralStakeholders>

During the Select Board conference call on April 27 the three bids received for the replacement of the Middlefield Road bridge over Coles Brook were opened. None came close to fitting within the \$500,000 budget of our Small Bridge Grant. DOT has been asked to either come up with additional funding or find an alternative way of replacing the bridge – almost six years after it was shut down. The “temporary” bridge will be in place for as long as needed.

- We also reviewed the FY2021 budget. Thanks to the hard work of our Finance Committee and despite our high assessment from Central Berkshire (including construction of the new Wahconah) and the impact of our broadband network we will not need to ask for an override vote.
- Our next meeting – also by conference call – is scheduled for May 11. Meetings are posted at the Town Hall and on our website with a phone number and a PIN number for anyone who wishes to call in.

Other news:

- Broadband network connections to individual homes will begin this month. A protocol for the safety of both residents and installers has been agreed upon by our Board of Health and is reproduced elsewhere in this issue of TRACKS. A similar protocol should be followed for any in-home repairs or installations.
- Our Annual Town Meeting remains scheduled for Wednesday June 3 at 7:00 pm at the Town Garage. See the text box elsewhere in TRACKS for more detail.
- Likewise, our Annual Town Election is scheduled for Saturday June 13 from noon to 4 pm. Protocols, including those for mail-in ballots are printed elsewhere in this issue.

- There are residents and non-residents abusing our transfer station by bringing junk from out of town. Washington is one of the only towns in the Commonwealth that does not charge a sticker tax or impose a bag fee for disposal. The transfer station attendances will start checking residents' ids and issuing free stickers, so please cooperate and understand that we need your help in eliminating the problem.

Stay safe, check on friends, neighbors, and family. We are getting through this together with everyone's help.

Has it finally stopped raining?

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand
Select Board Clerk

Dick Grillon
Select Board

Our Annual Town Meeting will be at the Town Garage on June 3 at 7 pm. Attendees will be required to wear face masks. Hand sanitizer and additional masks will be available. Our Town Clerk will check off your name on the voter list as you arrive. Seats will be placed six feet apart in all directions. We will have volunteers to help with sanitization, parking, set up and breakdown of the seating.

Annual Town Election Safety Procedures

With the Annual Town Election coming up in about a month, I wanted to outline the safety plan we will be implementing for the well-being and safety of our voters and election workers.

- All election workers will have face masks and gloves.
- The check-in, check-out and ballot box will all have plastic barriers on them.
- There will be a revised traffic flow for entering and exiting the polling location.
 - All voters should enter the Town Hall through the front door.
 - The floor will be marked in 6' increments and you should wait at the first available open marker.
 - Once you have finished voting you will exit the voting area through the kitchen and exit the building through either the side door or back door.
- Once you have checked-in you will be handed a ballot and a sanitized pencil to mark your ballot.
- Only two voters will be allowed in the voting booths at any given time and only every other booth can be occupied.
- At the check-out table there will be a basket for you to place your pencil in. All pencils will be sanitized before being used again.
- Each voting booth will be sprayed with disinfectant before being used again.
- As it is now a requirement in the state of Massachusetts, you will must wear a face mask the entire time you are in the Town Hall.
- Once you have voted please exit the Town Hall immediately so we keep the number of people in the building at any given time to a minimum.

Although these procedures will certainly slow the process of voting, they are necessary to keep everyone safe.

As an alternative to voting in-person on election day, please consider voting early by mail. Included in this issue of Tracks is the Early Voting application. If you would like to vote early, please do the following:

- Complete the application and either mail it to the attention of the Town Clerk, Allison Mikaniewicz, 8 Summit Hill Road, Washington, MA 01223 or scan it and email it to me as an attachment: washingtontownclerk@yahoo.com.
- Once your application is received, an early voting ballot will be mailed to you with instructions.
- Once you have voted please mail the ballot back to the Town Clerk at the address above.
- If you include your email address on the early voting application, I will confirm the date your application was received, the date your ballot was mailed and the date your voted ballot is received back.
- Legally, the deadline to apply for an Early Voting ballot is 12:00 PM on Friday, June 12, 2020. As this is the day before the election and the Town Hall is currently closed, please be sure to apply for a ballot with enough time for mailing.

I also want to send out a big THANK YOU to one of our town residents - Dave Furlong - and the company he works for - Plaskolite in Sheffield - for creating and donating to the town the plastic barriers.

2020 Municipal Election Early Ballot Application



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Voter Information

1

Name: _____

Legal Voting Residence: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Telephone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Ballot Information

2

Mail Ballot to: _____

Special Circumstances (If applicable)

3

☐ Voter required assistance in completing application due to physical disability.

Assisting person's name: _____

Assisting person's address: _____

Signed (under penalty of perjury): _____ Date: _____

Eligibility

Any registered voter may use this application to request an early ballot for a local election being held on or before June 30, 2020.

Completing the Application

1. Voter Information – Provide your name, legal voting address, and date of birth. Telephone number and e-mail address are optional fields.
2. Ballot Information – Provide the address where you want the ballot mailed.
3. Special Circumstances – If you are assisting a voter in completing this application, complete this section.
4. Sign your name. If you require assistance in signing the application, you may authorize someone to sign your name in your presence. That person must complete the assisting person's information in Section 3.

Submitting the Application

Send the completed application to the local election official at your city or town hall.

Applications can be mailed or hand-delivered. Applications may also be submitted electronically by fax or e-mail, as long as your signature is visible.

Please allow ample mailing time for this application and for the ballot. Ballots must be returned to your local election official by Election Day.

Find contact information for local election officials at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele or by calling 1-800-462-VOTE (8683).

PRECAUTION PROTOCOL FOR INTERIOR INSTALLATIONS

April 2020

The Whip City Fiber team takes very seriously the important measures we can use to keep our customers and employees safe at all times. During these unique times we are pleased to offer interior installs while following these protocols:

- When appointment is scheduled, Customer Service will inform the customer about precautions being taken for safety during the installation.
- We will confirm that the customer is comfortable with an installer entering the home. If they prefer, they can be put on a list for a Teambox install as equipment become available.
- Customer will be asked to please notify us if anyone in the home has been recently or currently ill.
- Installers have been explicitly briefed that if they are sick, they must stay home.
- Installers will wash or sanitize their hands prior to each appointment.
- Installers are outfitted with Personal Protective Equipment consisting of safety glasses, respiratory mask, and gloves which will be worn in each home. Gloves will be changed at each location.
- Upon arrival, installer will knock on door, then step back 6+ feet to speak with customer. This conversation will confirm that there is no illness in the household and that installation will proceed as planned.
- Social distancing will be maintained. Moving about the home is kept to a minimum.
- Equipment will be unpackaged in the home to keep it new until needed. All packaging will be removed from the home afterwards.

Prior to approving that interior installs can proceed, WG+E recommends the town Broadband Committee review procedures with their Board of Health and any other appropriate governing authority.

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.



Washington Tracks
Town Hall
8 Summit Hill Rd.
Washington, MA 01223

www.washington-ma.com

Realtor & Notary

Lisa Peltier
500 S. Washington State Rd.
413.822.1257
Keller Williams Realty
LisaPeltier413@gmail.com

**Mark F. Roos, Broker Associate ABR
The Kinderhook Group**

413.822.6143
markfr909@gmail.com
Helping buyers and sellers achieve their dreams"

Pinnacle Painting Company

578 South Washington State Rd
Washington, MA 01223
413.623.8737
Over 35 years experience Painting, wall covering &
light carpentry

Your Way Computer

Frank Kennedy
1153 Washington Mt. Road
Washington, MA 01223
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
Full Hook Ups
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 -
TEMPORARILY CLOSED**

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



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.