



September 2021



WASHINGTON CULTURAL COUNCIL SEEKS FUNDING PROPOSALS

Proposals for community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs due October 15th

The **Washington Cultural Council** has set an **October 15th** deadline for organizations, schools and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community.

These grants can support a variety of artistic projects and activities in **Washington** including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies or performances in schools, workshops and lectures.

The **Washington Cultural Council** is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences and humanities every year.

The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

This year, the **Washington Cultural Council** will distribute about **\$4,800** in grants.

The on-line application period opens September 1, 2021.

Applications are available on line at <http://www.mass-culture.org>

All applications must be submitted on line by the October 15th deadline. The Massachusetts Cultural Council will no longer allow paper applications.

Town of Washington Citizen's Committee to Combat Litter and Dumping

"Obie, I don't think I can pick up the garbage with these handcuffs on," Arlo Guthrie told the Stockbridge Police Chief after being nabbed for dumping garbage. More than 50 years later, littering in his hometown of Washington will now be as aggressively policed.

Several of Washington's 538 residents have joined forces to establish a new citizen's committee, coordinating with the town government on enforcement strategies. Much of the town's 38.8 square miles are devoted to open space, including October Mountain State Forest, the Appalachian Trail and the Pittsfield Watershed. The goal of the committee is to help preserve the beauty of that undeveloped land and the safety of the water supply through strategies that discourage and diminish littering and dumping in town.

The members of the committee include Ed Neumuth, a retired veterinarian who runs birding programs for Canyon Ranch; Matt Watson, a lawyer in town who has developed a network of trail cameras to record wildlife in the woods surrounding his home, and Joshua Greene, a magazine editor and frequent hiker.

The committee will propose strategies to the Select Board, including road signage, litter patrols and surveillance cameras at sites where dumping has occurred in the past. Watson will contribute a number of trail cameras to the project, in a pilot program to determine their effectiveness at deterring or catching perpetrators.

Nicole Miller, Washington Police Chief, is advising the committee on best practices for enforcement and evidence gathering.

The committee hopes to enlist members of the Washington community as well as visitors who travel to town to hike, ski or ride their ATVs. Residents of Pittsfield, in particular, who rely on water from three pristine lakes in town—Ashley, Farnham and Sandwash—will benefit from added security that may help diminish any toxins leaching into the reservoirs.

Jason Murphy, Water Superintendent in Pittsfield, sends his teams to check on the reservoirs in Washington. He and his wife carry a bag with them when they ride ATVs in the State Forest, picking up cans and bottles that others may have tossed. "It's beautiful up there on the mountain and if you want to go hang out, I have no problem with that," he says. "But follow the posted rules and carry your trash out with you."

For information on the committee and how you can help keep Washington green and beautiful, please contact GreenWashingtonMA@gmail.com.

Prose Workshop Series (ONLINE) with local author Lara Tupper: This workshop is for writers with work-in-progress (fiction or nonfiction) who'd like to commit to weekly sessions and receive supportive, pointed feedback. You'll share your writing with the group and Lara will offer craft guidance about where to take your writing next. Class size will be limited.
WHEN: Five Wednesdays (online) from October 6 through November 3, 6:00 - 8:00 pm ET (Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27 and Nov. 3).
COST: \$250 per person
Registration deadline: Sept. 22
For details, please email laratupper@gmail.com or visit www.laratupper.com

COA News Rose 413-394-0003 washingtoncoa@gmail.com
Classes are continuing with masks being required for all
Yoga Tuesdays at 9:00 am, Osteoporosis Thursdays at 9:00 am, Tai-Chi/QiGong Fridays at 10:00 am
Pot Luck Dinner Friday September 17th at 5:30pm (masks are required for socializing before and after eating)

Open Studios Drive About Saturday, Sept. 4 10AM-4PM www.becketartscenter.org
Meet local artists and writers at their studios or at the historic Becket Arts Center. (rain date: Sunday, Sept. 5th 10AM-4PM)

Exhibit by local photojournalist, Todd Maisel Todd Maisel at 646-872-5374, toddphoto@aol.com or the Becket Arts Center at 413-623-6635, office@becketartscenter.org.
September 10th-October 11 Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Rd, 20 Years after 9/11 – A Witness to Terrorism and Recover
More than 50 images of the attack on the World Trade Center in New York City on 9/11/2001 and subsequent recovery will be on display for the 20th anniversary of that terrible event in which 2,996 people were killed and hundreds more rescuers succumbed to illness. The discussion forum will occur on **Monday, September 13, 7 p.m.**, in coordination with the Arts Center and Becket Historical Commission.

Information Session Home Energy Improvement Info At Becket Town Hall's Community Room and via Zoom! (click the link at becketbroadband.org for zoom link) Saturday, Sept. 11th, 2021 9AM – 11AM
Learn about ways to improve the comfort and efficiency of your home whether you own or rent and find out the latest on solar energy options and recent renewable energy legislation. Then get an update on Becket Broadband's new high-speed Internet as well as answers to all your technical questions.

Free Coffee and Donuts - Refreshments 9-9:30am Home Energy Info 9:30-11am

The Washington Sons and Daughters 110th Annual meeting Old Town Hall on Washington Mountain Road
September 12. 12-3pm
There will be live music by Dave Bacon on keyboard! Bring your favorite homemade cookies for the baking contest!
Food and drink will be provided
Due to COVID-19, masks are required.

Raise the Roof concerts Shows begin at 5PM at the Washington Town Park
Due to rain a couple of the concerts have been moved to September.
Sunday, September 12 - Cliff Brodeur & the Square One Band & Sunday, September 19 - Rev Tor
Thank you to all of you who have been coming out and enjoying free, live music at our park!

Barn Sale at Dick's Place! Sept 19th, from 10am-2pm 1046 Washington Mt Rd., Washington, MA
With our father Richard Grillon passing, we would love to find a good home for his various tools and equipment collected over the years.
Please park on the road and be careful with traffic.
Antique and modern woodworking tools big and small, tool storage, machinery to throw snow and mow grass, a few John Deere machines (excavator and lawn mower), a DR field and brush mower. There is also A/V equipment such as speakers and other various electronics.
Many items work, many need TLC and may not work.
Cash or digital transfers through Venmo or PayPal possible.
Happi, Joy and Ben will be there to help find a piece or two to remember the special man that was our father.

Help Preserve our History! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Carol Lew carol@carollew.com 413-623-0202
Behind the old Town Hall on Washington Mountain Road, there's a graveyard where many of our town's founding fathers and mothers are buried. Beautiful old gravestones have been falling in disrepair for quite some time, and we're planning to do something about it.
There's an excellent product called D2 Biological Solutions. It kills, mold, mildew, algae, and lichen growth that disintegrate stone carvings and obscure the lettering. On September 25th from 10 am to 3pm, (rain date Sunday September 26th) there will be a volunteer work party where we'll spray earmarked stones with this solution. The second part of the gravestone restoration project is about saving old headstones from new damage. Many are leaning. Before winter, we'll be adding supports to 20 stones that are most at risk of falling. In the spring, we'll be righting them. If you're interested in helping us construct the supports this fall, get in touch.

**Planning Board
Town of Washington, Massachusetts
Notice of Public Hearing**

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Ch. 41, sec.81D. Notice is hereby given that the Planning Board will hold a public hearing to discuss proposed amendments to the town's Solar Photovoltaic zoning by-laws. The public hearing will be held as follows:

**Place: Washington Town Hall
8 Summit Hill Road
Washington, MA 01223**

Date: September 14, 2021

Time: 7:30PM

The subject matter of the proposed amendments is as indicated below. The complete text relative to the proposed amendments is available for inspection during regular business hours at the following location:

Place: Washington Town Hall, 8 Summit Hill Road, Washington, MA 01223 front lobby.

Article 9.3 Definitions: Changes nameplate capacity to kW rating, removal of Medium Scale Installation, adding As-of-Right Siting and Designated Location.

Article 9.5.1 Use Regulations: adding as-of-right siting as a designated location.

Article 9.5.8.d.1 Filing Requirements -Technical Information: change to "Massachusetts" Electrical Code.

All interested persons should attend the hearing.

Donald Gagnon - Chairperson
Town of Washington Planning Board

Becket Washington Athenaeum

Cookbook Club-The Rise by Marcus Samuelsson Monday, September 13 6:00 PM 7:00 PM Becket Athenaeum
Prepare a dish from [The Rise](#) by Marcus Samuelsson to share at the outdoor meeting, under tents! Great community fun to be had!
Email info@BWLibrary.org to request a copy of the cookbook and notify us of your recipe selection.

Book Club-American Dirt by Jeannine Cummins Tuesday, September 14 1:30 PM 2:30 PM
All are welcome to join us to discuss [American Dirt](#) by Jeanine Cummins.
Email info@BWLibrary.org for details regarding the Zoom meeting or an off-site outdoor meeting.
Join us for lively conversation!

Library Storytime with Crafts Wednesdays, starting September 15 10:30 AM
Preregistration appreciated: bit.ly/BA-storytime

Let's Chat: A discussion about facts and current trends in drug use to help start open communication between teens and the adults in their lives. Thursday, September 23, 2021 6:00 PM 7:00 PM **Zoom Event**

A community conversation facilitated by [The Brien Center](#).

Preregistration required. Link will be posted on our website when preregistration opens. For questions, call 413-623-5483 or email info@bwlibrary.org

Book Sale Fundraiser Saturday, September 25, 2021 10:00 AM 4:00 PM Becket Athenaeum

Front lawn, under tents

weather-permitting

Drum to the Beat with Otha Day Saturday in September, to be scheduled, check website for updates.

Outdoor under tents (rain dates TBD)

behind the Mullen House, across the street from the library

Preregistration appreciated: bit.ly/BA-drumming

Drums are provided

Early Epitaphs in the Becket Center Cemetery Saturday, October 2 2 PM

Talk in the sanctuary of the First Congregational Church and Walk in the Becket Center Cemetery

Masks required indoors.

Tyringham resident John Hanson will give a talk on Early Epitaphs in the Becket Center Cemetery, on October 2 at 2 PM at the First Congregational Church, 22 Y.M.C.A. Road off Route 8, Main Street, Becket, MA.

Becket Athenaeum is looking for volunteer tutors to work with academically challenged Becket & Washington students, grades 2-8. For more information, please email Jodi Shafiroff at jodi@bwlibrary.org

TOWN OF WASHINGTON SEPTEMBER 2021 CALENDAR

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday
<div>Important Notice: The Select Board reinstated a mask requirement for all staff and visitors in Town Hall regardless of vaccination status, effective immediately.</div>		TOWN HALL		TOWN HALL		TOWN HALL		TOWN HALL		TOWN HALL		TOWN HALL
5		6		7		8		9		10		11
		Town Hall Closed for Labor Day		YOGA WITH RIMA 9AM		Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM		OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM		TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10AM		Transfer Station 8AM-4PM
12		13		14		15		16		17		18
TOWN PARK		TOWN HALL				TOWN HALL		TOWN HALL		TOWN HALL		TOWN HALL
Washington Sons & Daughters 110th Annual Meeting Old Town Hall 10-3PM		Select Board Meeting 7:00-9:00PM Assessors Office 6:00-8:00PM Tax Collector 6:00-8:00PM Town Clerk 7:00-9:00PM Police Department 7:00 - 9:00PM Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM		YOGA WITH RIMA 9AM Planning Board Meeting 7PM Solar Photovoltaic zoning by-laws Public Hearing 7:30PM		Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM		OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM		TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10AM		Transfer Station 8AM-4PM
<div><div><div>'Raise the Roof'</div><div>FREE</div><div>Sunday Concerts</div><div>AT THE PARK</div><div>5:00 p.m.</div><div><small>Sponsored by a grant from the Washington Cultural Council</small></div></div><div>Cliff Brodeur & The Square</div><div>One Band 50/50 Raffle</div></div>												<div><div>5TH ANNUAL</div><div>BACKET POLICE ASSOCIATION</div><div>COPS & RODDERS CAR SHOW</div><div>10AM-3 REGISTRATION OPEN @</div><div>RAIN DATE: 9/19/21</div><div>FOOD~DRINKS~PRIZES</div><div>50/50~RAFFLE</div></div>
19		20		21		22		23		24		25
TOWN PARK		TOWN HALL				TOWN HALL		TOWN HALL		TOWN HALL		TOWN HALL
<div><div><div>'Raise the Roof'</div><div>FREE</div><div>Sunday Concerts</div><div>AT THE PARK</div><div>5:00 p.m.</div><div><small>Sponsored by a grant from the Washington Cultural Council</small></div></div><div>Rev Tor</div><div>50/50 raffle & Soup & Chili</div></div>		Select Board Meeting 7:00-9:00PM Assessors Office 6:00-8:00PM Tax Collector 6:00-8:00PM Town Clerk 7:00-9:00PM Police Department 7:00 - 9:00PM Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM		YOGA WITH RIMA 9AM		Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM		OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM		TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10AM		Transfer Station 8AM-4PM
26		27		28		29		30		Upcoming Dates: <div>★ October 15, 2021 Cultural Council Application Submission Deadline (State no longer accepts paper apps)</div> <div>★ November - Special Town Meeting</div> <div>★ December 4, 2021 Special Town Election</div>		
		Select Board Meeting 7:00-9:00PM Assessors Office 6:00-8:00PM Tax Collector 6:00-8:00PM Town Clerk 7:00-9:00PM Police Department 7:00 - 9:00PM Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM Special Town Meeting 7:00 PM		YOGA WITH RIMA 9AM		Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM		OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM				

Dear Washington Friends & Neighbors:

September 2021

With the CDC's declaration of Berkshire County as a Covid-19 high-transmissibility county, the Select Board made the decision to require masks for everyone while inside Town Hall, regardless of vaccination status, until further notice. If you have not gotten vaccinated, please consider doing so, especially now that the Pfizer vaccine has received full FDA approval.

Heavy storms and Hurricane Henri caused more periodic flooding last month. The repeated flooding on Rte 8 has been disruptive. Efforts have been made to protect the Town Park, while we explore longer-term solutions. We are still grappling with how to pay for restoration of the immense erosion at Eden Glen that threatens the Frost Rd embankment. Talks with MEMA and FEMA are ongoing. The Hwy Dept remains short-staffed as we seek a new truck driver/equipment operator to join the crew. If you or anyone you know is interested in applying or to find out more information, please contact Tom at 623-8383 or washingtondpw@gmail.com.

The WiredWest Co-op completed its first full year of operations, with the broadband networks of Rowe, Washington, New Salem, and Windsor all fully lit up. Heath and Becket are still coming on line. The operation was able to realize excess annual revenue and each Town's share of FY21 dividends has been distributed. Washington received \$30K for its portion.

However, we face a conundrum since our Broadband Manager now also chairs the Select Board that approves his policy recommendations. To resolve this conflict of interest, the Board proposes to establish a separate, elected Municipal Light Board to oversee these responsibilities. There will be **Special Town Meeting on Monday, September 27, at 6:00** to take up this question, as well as a few other housekeeping items. We have also called for a **Special Town Election on December 4** to fill the vacant Select Board seat.

The old Woody's property has a new owner. The owner has applied for a demolition permit, but at the time of this writing, a timeline has not yet been established. The Select Board will continue to press for a resolution and keep options open for Town action, if necessary.

The Town Plan Steering Committee held its first meeting with a group of civic-minded volunteers who want to help strengthen our community and shape its future. If you too would like to play a part, please contact Jodi Hostetter at washington.aas@gmail.com.

Sunday Concerts in the Park that were cancelled by rainstorms have been rescheduled for this month. There are also the annual Sons & Daughters reunion (9/12) and Cops & Rodders Car Show (9/18) to come out and enjoy. We hope everyone makes the most of these community events as the summer winds down.

Kent Lew, Select Board chair

Tricia Drugmand, Select Board clerk

Voter Registration Deadline for Upcoming Special Town Meeting

Friday, September 17, 2021 is the deadline to register to vote at the next Special Town Meeting scheduled for September 27, 2021. Please see the Town Clerk on Monday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00 PM if you need to register to vote or register online at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>.

Special Town Election: Nomination Papers Available for Board of Selectmen Position

A special town election will be held on December 4, 2021 to fill the vacant position on the Board of Selectmen. This is a 2-year unexpired term. Nomination papers for this position are now available from the Town Clerk. The deadline to take-out nomination papers is Monday, October 11, 2021. If you would like to take out nomination papers, please see the Town Clerk on Monday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00 PM or send an email to washington.ma.townclerk@gmail.com.

Dog License Late Fees Policy

As of August 31, 2021 any Washington resident with an unlicensed dog will be assessed a \$25 late fee. This fee will be in addition to the license fee. Residents will receive an invoice in the mail if you have not yet licensed your dog for the period April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022.



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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.