

To our fellow Washington residents:

Thanks to Jan Nelson for stepping up to fill in as our Administrative Assistant while Jodie Hostetter has her second child. Jan has already started attending Select Board meetings and learning the ropes.

We have had several volunteers for the Conservation Commission step forward. Anyone interested in serving as a volunteer on the Chapel Commission, Parks Commission, Historical Commission, Cultural Council, or Council on Aging or just learning more about them please let us know.

We do need a back-up bus driver. This is a paid position which requires a special license. Anyone interested should contact Victor Breen.

In the context of how space is used at the Town Hall we have asked our long-time tenants Head Start to consider moving to the Becket-Washington School. No decision has been made by the Board or Head Start. If you have any thoughts or concerns please let us know.

Some updates:

- The new insulated doors at the Town Garage have been installed.
- We had to re-bid the new boiler for the Town Hall since we wanted to include on-demand hot water for even greater energy efficiency.
- We are applying for FEMA/MEMA (Federal/Massachusetts Emergency Management) money to cover some of our costs related to the snow removal costs during the January 11-12 snowstorm.

The Select Board and the Finance Committee continue to work on next year's budget. Please get any budget requests or suggestions to us as soon as possible.

According to a 2/20/2009 report prepared for the MA Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, "Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Potential at State Owned Facilities and Lands", wind power accounts for 90% of the potential renewable energy on state owned lands. Washington figures in five separate sites with a combined potential of 119,500 kW, or more than eighth of the total wind potential. The Select Board will be following up on both wind and solar possibilities for the Town.

Is it Spring yet?

Jim Huebner,
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon,
Select Board Clerk

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