

To our fellow Washington residents:

Please join us in welcoming our new Administrative Assistant, Jodie Hostetter of Schulze Road. Jodie brings a wealth of skills from her management job at KB Toys. She is now an (almost) full-time Mom as her new position allows her the flexibility to work from home as well as from the Town Hall – where you can meet her any Monday night during the Select Board meetings.

The position of Administrative Assistant was created by vote of the Town during last May's Annual Town Meeting in the response to an ever-increasing demand on the Select Board's time. The greatest benefit of having Jodie is that the Board can focus more attention on the issues that matter most to our residents and less on the blizzard of paperwork from the Commonwealth and various agencies, commissions and committees. Among other things Jodie will be scanning old minutes and other documentation into a data base that will allow much better access to records and much faster response to requests for information. In addition Jodie will be putting together Washington's Annual Town Report for both 2010 and 2009. While we all miss Lillian Fox, Jodie has already established herself as an important member of the team that accomplishes the work of the Town.

Some updates:

- The Requests for Bid on the new boiler, insulation and new siding for the Town Hall and for upgrading the doors at the Town Garage are being prepared for us by Berkshire Regional Planning and should be out soon.
- The Select Board, Finance Committee and our Highway Superintendent, Dave Fish have updated our inventory of capital assets – buildings, roads, equipment (approximately \$5 million) - and will meet regularly to decide on how best to maintain and grow our capital base. This should mean both lower maintenance costs and fewer repairs. Some other capital issues:
 - We want to take a fresh look at space usage in the Town Hall and decide what can be done to improve it.
 - Berkshire Regional Planning's Brownfields Program has approved (i.e. will pay for) a Phase I assessment of the nursing home. This should help us decide the best course of action for this property.

The historical record is a bit fuzzy as to why the "Township of Hartwood" came to be incorporated as Washington, but the date is clear: April 12, 1777 – a week shy of the two year anniversary of Concord & Lexington. As far as we can tell we were the first municipality to be named after General George, whose badly depleted Continental Army was just stirring after the legendary winter spent at Valley Forge ("These are the times that try men's souls.") What a vote of confidence! Thanks to our Historical Commission for keeping our Town's history alive. Any one wishing to join or just learn more should contact Gail Ellis or Ralph or Barbara Simmons

One last thing: we have a new e-mail address for the Select Board:
washingtonboardofselectmen@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,

Jim Huebner,
Select Board Chair

Shawn Lennon
Select Board Clerk