

To our fellow Washington residents:

September 2011

Normally August is a quiet month but summer ended with a bang called Irene. I want to thank our Emergency Managers, our Highway Department and everyone else who prepared for, helped out during, and cleaned up after the storm. We are fortunate that the Town came through with minimal damage to our roads and bridges.

A number of good things have happened this past few weeks:

- Thanks to the Parks Commission we have a brand-new sign at the Town Park.
- MA Department of Energy (DOER), who administers the federal EECB Grant, has approved the use of grant funds to pay for the cleanup of the crawlspace between the utility room and the rest of the Town Hall and also to pay for the new garage doors at the Town Garage. This means we have avoided an \$8575.00 cost for the cleanup and will be reimbursed \$9,840.53 for the garage doors. Although we will be paying for the new water heater at the Town Hall, the total cost to the Town for all these improvements will be less than \$5000 from our current budget and we will have spent none of the \$20,000 approved at our Annual Town Meeting in May 2010.
- It appears unlikely that we will be doing insulation and siding of the Town Hall unless DOER decides to provide additional funds. BUT. We are still negotiating with DOER to use the remaining grant money (over \$50,000) for new energy efficient doors and windows at the Town Hall.
- The Ad Hoc Committee for the Town Hall has met and is developing plans to improve access (ADA compliance), better utilize space and make other needed improvements. Any ideas or concerns you may have can be directed to Committee Chair Shaun Lennon or committeewoman Jodi Hostetter.
- An RFP (Request for Proposals) to solicit bids for the re-use of the former Mapleview Nursing Home has been authorized by the Select Board. If you know of anyone who might be interested in the property please have them contact us at the Town Hall (e-mail washingtonboardofselectmen@gmail.com) before the RFP closing date of October 17. Ed Bond will conduct a walk-through of the property on Saturday 9/17 between 10 am and 12. We are hoping to both add some sale money to the Town coffers and get the property back on the tax rolls.

Don't forget the Hill Town Hoot on Sunday September 18 starting at noon. Invite your out-of-town friends and family. As our Select Board Chair Emeritus, Dick Grillon, was fond of saying, Washington has the highest concentration of folk singers in the world. Let's all celebrate with them!

Finally, lest anyone be alarmed that the other members of the Select Board have disappeared, the reason I am the sole signatory is that since we did not meet on August 29 we were unable to discuss and approve this letter in open meeting.

Jim Huebner,
Select Board Chair

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