

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen - April 6, 2015

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Attending for the Board were Jim Huebner, Shaun Lennon and Mike Case.
2. After leading the Meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance, J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes from March 30, 2015. M. Case seconded and the vote to accept the minutes was unanimous.
3. D. Fish updated the Board on his work to acquire a vibratory roller for the repair and maintenance of Town roads. This was one of the recommendations made by Berkshire Regional Planning in their recent study of our town road conditions. D. Fish will get bids for this acquisition through regional group purchasing. Cathy Stevens of DOT advised him on price. He wants to use the equipment first on Kirchner Road. He prefers to use the mill and fill process there. That has the added benefit of providing good quality fill for our dirt roads as a byproduct of the work. The Board signed the agreement he presented. D. Fish said that he will use Ch. 90 funds for this purchase. He told the Board that he and the highway crew will attend the upcoming Ch. 90 seminar being held by the state.
4. J. Huebner announced that the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission has selected the Washington Financial Sustainability project to receive technical assistance under the 2015 District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) program. The grant application was written by K. Lew and D. Spencer along with the other members of the Finance Committee. K. Lew mentioned that although the focus of the effort will be long term financial planning, they will also consider revenue generation from sources such as Virginia Lake Estates. He and D. Spencer will meet with BRPC staff next week. The Finance Committee will meet next Monday to

finalize the budget. The Select Board will review it in detail on April 20th. J. Hostetter will also have a draft of the ATM warrant for review.

5. S. Conners opened discussion of the removal or the restoration of the dam on Frost road. He favors restoration and has gathered signatures for a warrant to that effect for consideration at the Annual Town Meeting. He referenced the Select Board's Letter in the April Tracks which he thought favored removal of the dam. Phil Clark, our engineer on the Eden Glen mitigation project, said that from an engineering standpoint, dam removal makes sense for flood control. He added that it's going to cost a substantial amount of money either way. J. Huebner said that the Board's intention is to let the voters express their opinion on the dam at the ATM. He added that if it is determined that the dam is a safety hazard we must get rid of it.

Kent Lew said that the first thing to do is to determine what the 2 options - removal or repair of the dam - will cost the Town. That should be the starting point of discussion. The Board asked P. Clark to do an analysis of likely cost. He said that will be a very complicated process as there are many variables to consider and many Mass. and Federal departments will be involved. There is a whole sampling process to go through for lab analysis. Fish and Wildlife, DEP, EPA, National Park Service, Army Corps of Engineers, Westfield Wild & Scenic and others will all be involved in the decision. The Board asked him for a white paper on the process covering both contingencies. Kent Lew pointed out that we should have an assessment of the liability to the town also. The Board asked Glenn Grogan to contact our insurer on this.

6. D. Fish told the Board that Pittsfield has asked for our permission to close New Lennox Road leading to Farnham's Dam. They want to put a gate on it. The Board decided that Pittsfield can put a "Road Closed" sign up, but no gate. This closure is for construction and public safety purposes as

work on the Dam. J. Huebner said that they should put dates on the sign indicating how long the road will be closed.

7. J. Huebner mentioned that in his letter of March 25 Peter Niles of DOT said that he expected to have plans for the Summit Hill Bridge in 3 to 4 weeks. He will be following up on this.
8. The Board reported receiving a check from Waste Management for \$487.00 in payment for the value of the Town's recycled tonnage from July through December.
9. J. Huebner and P. Clark signed the Designation of Project Manager form for the Mass. Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) work in Town.
10. P. Clark asked that going forward, and starting with the Goucher's plan for their Cross Place Road property, all septic plans be reviewed by the Conservation Commission in addition to the Board of Health. He concluded that the Goucher septic as planned will have no impact on the new bridge. He will meet with Holden Engineering this week to review their plans for the Cross Place Road traffic bypass and other aspects of the work. He also said that we are approved to simply restore the Middlefield Road Bridge as it was, rather than completely re-build it at the present time. We have one year's grace on that. The Frost Road Bridge will go out for bidding in another year.
11. J. Huebner reported that Washington Mountain Road (WMR) bids open on May 27. The solicitation is out now. The state has moved up the total reconstruction of the road from 2018 because it qualifies as a true "shovel ready" project. M. Case said that there is actually a shortage of such projects and it was a question of get started now or lose the funding.

12. The Board brought to Chief Breen's attention that large animal rescue training is being offered in Lenox over Memorial Day weekend. He reported to the Board that he spoke with the Dalton police chief and with the state police in Lanesborough about the large, heavy trucks travelling frequently over WMR. Many of them are granite trucks. Others are carrying pre-cast concrete bridge sections. The state police truck team refused to come out here to do weight checks because there is no safe place to pull over. However all parties did agree to call the granite company to voice concern about the speed the trucks travel and the danger they pose as they head downhill into Dalton, especially if they are overloaded and speeding. There will be a greater state police presence. M. Case added that it would be a good idea to emphasize the company's liability. Fines are typically \$10,000 - \$15,000. Regarding the proposed war memorial, Chief Breen mentioned that the corner of West Branch and WMR had been suggested as a possible site. Designing and building any structure would be the paid for by residents' donations.

13. Dave Fish told the Board that Frost Road will only be closed on 4/7.

14. J. Huebner reported that there is no news on Bucksteep. No one, including the Planning Board and the Building Inspector, has heard from Mr. Loveszy. The Assessors have sent him a letter reminding him of forms that must be submitted if he is to retain his non-profit status.

15. J. Huebner contacted Carol Kennedy concerning a road race she inquired about holding on WMR. However, she did not express much interest in proceeding with that.

16. J. Huebner attended the Berkshire pipeline meeting last week at BRPC. Members from the Town of Deefield shared their resolution to block the pipeline completely from their borders under the authority of the Board of Health. Two organizations have been formed to block the pipeline

under the provision of the Mass. Office of Environmental Affairs statute Ch. 97. See the Deerfield town web site for further details.

17. Phil Clark plans to step down from the Conservation Commission (ConCom). J. Huebner asked Ken Walls if he knew any likely candidates for the ConComm. He said that he did not but would give it some thought. P. Clark said that he would be available to advise the Board as needed. J. Huebner said as there are still 3 members on the Commission and that this is adequate for the present.
18. J. Huebner mentioned that the Board is still looking for someone to design a new flag for the Town. Shaun Lennon has suggested getting design help from Williams College.
19. K. Lew and M. Case plan to attend the MBI grant process advisory meeting this Friday, April 10 in Becket. G. Grogan and J. Huebner may join them.
20. J. Hostetter told the Board that she expects to have the remaining 2 Annual Reports ready for the ATM. She informed them that April 27th is the deadline for signing and posting the ATM warrant. She also mentioned that she asked Ed Bond to change the mailbox lock to insure the integrity of official mail.
21. M. Case left the meeting briefly to assist a resident with an excise tax question.
22. J. Huebner also reviewed the following items:
 - a. At present we only have one VocEd student to transport next school year.
 - b. P. Clark will have a sign made for the Eden Glen MEMA work site.

- c. Received the agenda for the annual MMA meeting on Nantucket. No one to attend.
- d. BRPC is holding a “Planning for Healthier Communities” Dinner meeting at Pittsfield Country Club. J. Huebner may attend. He asked our two new BOH members if they would like to attend.
- e. WiredWest will hold a meeting for the general public at Washington Town Hall on Saturday, April 18 from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Residents will be able to get answers to their questions about the broadband service and get assistance in signing up
- f. MBI will hold a meeting for select boards, finance committees and Broadband committee members to review the grant process at Becket Town Hall on Wednesday, April 15th from 6:00 – 8:00.
- g. Notice from Lee Planning Board of a public hearing to amend a section of its bylaws on April 27.
- h. Notice from Lee Planning Board that they will hold a public hearing to amend the Signs bylaw on April 27.
- i. Information from DEP on the 2015 Sustainable Materials Recovery Program municipal grants. To be given to M. Lampro.
- j. Letter from Mike Moro regarding the proposed concerts in the park on summer evenings. Board requests that he be asked to attend the parks commission meeting this Wednesday at 7:00.
- k. D. Fish is looking for paperwork on pothole repair grant. He hasn’t seen any information on this yet.

23. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm. M. Case seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

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Respectfully submitted,

Jan Nelson