

## Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – May 4, 2015

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner, Mike Case and S. Lennon.
2. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance, J. Huebner made a motion to approve the minutes from April 27, 2015. M. Case seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.
3. J. Huebner reported that the Board has been invited to attend the Mass Selectmen's Association Regional meeting at the MMA office in Boston on May 20 from 1:30 to 1:30.
4. J. Nelson told the Board that she had received a reply from Wendy Pearl of the DCR to our inquiry about their interest in the South Center School on Washington Mountain Road. W. Pearl told her that DCR is gathering recommendations for the natural, cultural and recreational resources in October Mt. State Forest and other DCR parks in the area. They will write a Resource Management Plan (RMP) to be a management tool for park staff and partners. She had done a quick review of the Mass Historical Maps and it appears that the school is sited within the limits of the state forest. She was aware that South Center School is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. DCR's goal in this work is to preserve the cultural resources within the parks. She will consult with her supervisor for more information. She will keep the Town updated.
5. J. Huebner reported that the Town had received a Notice to Proceed from Mass DOT concerning our award of \$25,451 for pothole repairs. This document is our signed copy of the contract award. All work has to be completed before June 30, 2015.

6. J. Huebner said that the Town had received 2 letters of concern about our highways. The first was from Rene Senecal , the Hinsdale Highway Superintendent. He asked why Washington had laid down stone material on Plunkett Reservoir Road on March 13. He objected to the fact that he was not informed of our plans to do this in advance and asked for an explanation. The Board asked D. Fish to follow up with Mr. Senecal on this. D. Fish also noted that we plow Bullards Crossing and Matteau roads without any complaint from Hinsdale. The second letter was from Rick Blakesley of Watson Road. He complained that he is unable to safely use his motorcycle on his road because the highway crew laid down a quantity of loose stone. This has created a hazard and he would like it corrected.
7. J. Huebner noted that the Town had received R. Loveszy's documents necessary for Bucksteep to continue as a 501-C3.
8. He attended the meeting of the Pipeline Group at Berkshire Regional Planning last week. No new information has been announced by Kinder Morgan (KM) about the pipeline's route. It is still not planned to come near us. There actually have been some delays in filings by KM, however that does not mean that they are changing their plan to build the pipeline. They have not filed maps of the compressor stations or of valve shed locations. This is a big issue for any affected towns.
9. J. Huebner noted that there will be a Municipal Official Training workshop on May 23 in Greenfield and on June 3 at BCC.
10. The Town received a letter from the Massachusetts Appalachian Trail Committee. The letter contained general information on the AT including the fact that in Mass it passes through 17 communities over the 90.2 miles from the Connecticut border to Vermont. Contact information for the Berkshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was provided.

11. J. Huebner reported that the Town has been contacted by another solar energy company. This one is called Solar Income Partners. He suspects they are fraudulent as they will not provide him with information about projects they have already installed.
12. J. Huebner asked about preparations for the Annual Town Meeting on May 6. J. Nelson told him she is still waiting for a few of the handouts. Help will be needed to set up the chairs in the auditorium as we expect a much larger than normal attendance due to the broadband vote and a number of other important questions before the Town. M. Case and S. Lennon will work as constables to help with parking the cars.
13. In response to Treasurer Glenn Grogan's inquiry to our insurer MIIA about our liability for a swimming hole, Susan Nadile of Cabot Risk Strategies has informed the Town as follows: "Any swimming hole, pool or beach is OK for the Town under the town's recreation but all policy exclusions would apply. Medical is excluded under the MIIA policy and general liability is in place for any negligence on the part of the Town. All this depends on the proper signage placed at the swimming hole (swim at your own risk, no life guard on duty, times, lighting, fences etc.). Please refer to the MIA website." "Regarding the dam, dams and downstream liability are also excluded under the MIIA contract. Downstream liability can be purchased but it depends on the engineering report. We would need a recent engineering report so underwriting can make the decision to add the downstream liability." This information is relevant background for the Annual Town Meeting question on the Eden Glen dam.
14. J. Huebner attended the MPO meeting in Pittsfield last week. The Washington Mountain Road total reconstruction bid is scheduled to open on May 27. That is still on the books.
15. S. Lennon will draft a letter to the Sherriff about work on the Old Town Hall and pothole filling.

16. Phil Clark told the Board that he has received some design information from Holden and that it is inadequate. He has been in touch with them about this and they agreed to provide the missing data.

17. A notice was received from the Town of Peru's Planning Board about a public hearing to be held on May 12 to consider changes to the zoning by-laws on wind energy conversion systems by limiting the height of any new facility and classifying these systems as an accessory use..

18. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30. M. Case seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Nelson