

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen at Washington Town Hall

August 1, 2016

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner, M. Case and T. Drugmand.
2. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes of July 25, 2016. M. Case seconded and the vote to accept the minutes was unanimous.
3. **Open Forum for Residents:** Mr. David Benham, who resides in Lenox, is owner of a hunting camp in Washington as well as substantial acreage off Cross Place Road, addressed the Board. He wants to use the road to his property for logging access and asked if that would be permitted. After brief discussion the Board told him that there would be no problem with the proposed improvements as long as he did not in any way block the road. The Board encouraged him to talk to his neighbors and make sure to repair any damage.
4. **Highway Department:** T. Johnson told the Board that he has no timing information yet for the culvert construction on Cross Place Road or on the Blotz Road paving. D. Spencer asked him if there is any way he could take care of the problem with the culvert pipe on Lower Valley Road at the foot of Heartwood Road which leaks and freezes onto Lower Valley every winter. T. Johnson was aware of the problem and had given it some consideration. He mentioned that if the cause was ledge some blasting may be required. There was no news on the Summit Hill Bridge, Eden Glen or the Middlefield Road Bridge.
5. **Police:** Chief Breen reported that there was no trouble at the Summit Hill Campground's recent car show. There was no speeding.

6. **Administrative Assistance:** J. Hostetter told the Board that she has made considerable progress on her inventory of the wooden seating in the auditorium still in good condition. She is also close to completing the job of shredding outdated and no longer required Town documents. She is working with the Clerk to add Town election results to the Appointments spreadsheet. She prepared the Permit for the September 11th Sons and Daughters celebration and gave it to the Board for signature. The permit was duly signed. She reported receiving the performance review for C. Taylor, Town Hall Custodian. The Board instructed her to give it to G. Grogan for filing.

7. **Washington Mountain Road (WMR) Construction:** Lillian Fox told the Board of her concerns about the Washington Mountain Road construction. She wanted to know how close to her well the final location of the pavement would be. Stakes have been placed by the contractor which seem too close to the well. Her husband is also worried about this. Lillian also asked for clarification on where the run-off from the road will flow. J. Huebner told her that he will contact Baltazar about her concerns.

8. **COA:** Steve Deloye told the Board that there will be a meeting on COA matters tomorrow night. He was grateful for training he had received on the grant writing process and has already applied for one grant for the COA. The Board signed a cover letter for him. There was about \$ 3,300 left in the budget at the end of the fiscal year.

9. **Conservation Committee:** A member of the Berkshire Snowseekers group, a snowmobiling club, told the Board that they will be working with the DCR crew to clear rocks and other obstructions from trails in October Mountain State Forest over the next few weeks. They need to update our Conservation Commission on their plans. The Board informed him that the Commission will meet on Thursday evening this week and they can speak to the members at that time. T. Drugmand offered to take their maps and

proposal to Michelle Lampro, Chair of the Conservation Commission if they could not attend.

The Board also reviewed a draft “Buy Recycled” contract prepared by M. Lampro for their consideration. The EPA now requires such an agreement to be submitted by each town applying for the Small Scale Recycling Grant of \$500 each year. The Board will ask the Conservation Commission to review and revise the contract to broaden our statement of commitment to using recycled products. They will put this on the agenda for August 15.

10. **Solar Power:** J. Huebner reported receiving information from the Clean Footprint solar company concerning discounted electrical rates. This deal was targeted at individual residents. We are looking for a community solar arrangement under which electricity would be offered to the whole town (residents could opt in or opt out) at a rate well below the “public utility” rate. No news from SynCarpa, the solar company with which Becket is working.
11. **WiredWest:** Steve Nelson updated the Select Board on developments in the effort to bring broadband to the Town. He and K. Lew have contacted our bond counsel and are waiting for a reply. MBI has sent a letter to the Department of Revenue informing them that we are going to be in touch with them. He reported that the recent Municipal Modernization Bill, which is certain to be signed by Governor Baker, is very favorable to the success of WiredWest. That bill strongly encourages regionalization throughout the state, implying that MBI will have to give priority to regional organizations (of which WiredWest is the prime example) as it implements its charter to bring broadband to western Mass towns. S. Nelson will contact Todd Corcoran, our MBI liaison, to discuss the importance of WiredWest’s role in implementing the legislative directive. The new legislation also extends from five years to ten years the period for rolling over one year notes. This eases the financial pressure on Washington and other small rural towns seeking broadband inclusion.

12. **Emma Bailey Scholarship:** J. Huebner reported speaking with Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard about the details of the Town's management of the trust. He learned that there is no legal barrier to our using the remaining Emma Bailey funds as long as the money is used for scholarships. This frees us up to merge the remaining Emma Baily funds with the Washington Scholarship if all parties agree to the creation of one fund for Town scholarships.
13. **Veterans' Memorial:** The Board sent a letter to Eyal Shapira of Pugzee's Farm to see if he is still interested in being involved in planning and financing the Memorial. We have had no reply yet. Chief Breen told the Board that he wants to to participate in a committee to get the project going and wants to reach out to Eyal himself. The Board encouraged him to do so.
14. **Board of Health:** Vera Cormier asked if a temporary food permit had been issued for the Car Show at Summit Hill Campground. None had been issued by the Town as no details were available on specific plans for the event. In January the Town had issued the Campground an annual permit to operate. A swimming pool inspection is still needed. J. Huebner will ask Berkshire Public Health Alliance to send out an agent to do the inspection. T. Drugmand expressed the need to establish a clear protocol for getting permits taken care of. V. Cormier mentioned that we will need a Certified Food Handler to oversee the refreshments at the September 11 Sons and Daughters event.
15. **Public Notices:** Washington received the following notices from abutting towns: Dalton Board of Appeals Notice of Decision dated June 29, 2016 for property of Wayne and Sandra Wick of 200 Hinsdale Road, Dalton. The Board voted to grant the administrative appeal for non-enforcement of zoning by-laws at 164-168 Hinsdale Road and to deny the Administrative appeal with respect to all other sections of the property. Posted.; Dalton Board of Appeals Notice of Decision dated June 29, 2016 for property of

Shire Enterprises LLC at 164 Hinsdale Road, the Board voted to deny the petition for a special permit for the addition of outdoor dining. Posted; Town of Dalton Notice of Planning Board Hearing regarding a special permit application of General Electric to install a large scale solar array off Bridal Road, zoned R-1 residential. Public hearing at Town Hall on Wednesday, August 17 at 7:00 pm. The Board signed this notice and a copy will be returned to Dalton. Posted.

16. J. Huebner **briefly mentioned** the following items:

- a. There will be a capital meeting next Monday, 8/8 at 7:30.
- b. Received information from Berkshire Natural Resources Council about their new trails and land conservation efforts underway. Conservation Committee to review the material.
- c. There is no news on J. Guthrie's attendance at Smith Voc. in the fall.
- d. J. Huebner will attend the MPO meeting in Pittsfield tomorrow,
- e. The Town Historical Commission will be involved in planning the Veteran's Memorial if the Town decides to go ahead with this project.
- f. K. Lew and M. Lampro had discussed the future closing of Covanta and its impact on the Town's hauling process and cost. More research to be done on our options.

17. J. Huebner moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm. M. Case seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

Accepted: _____

Accepted: _____

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Nelson