

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen at Washington Town Hall

July 31, 2017

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner, T. Drugmand and D. Grillon.
2. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance, J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes of July 24, 2017. T. Drugmand seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
3. T. Drugmand stated for the record that she was not recording the meeting.
4. **Park Commission:** J. Huebner signed the Use of The Washington Town Park application submitted by Robert Stanton for a children birthday party on August 13, 2017.
5. **Community Solar:** Dave Drugmand reported on the Berkshire Green Network quarterly meeting that he attended last Monday. He spoke with and will continue to work with Al Blake from Becket on participation in a joint application with Washington for community solar that could also include Hinsdale. UMASS EEC has a new heat pump program that is being offered to people who previously converted to solar powered electricity that now want to convert to an air heat pump system. There was discussion on net metering restrictions limiting the solar array size. D. Drugmand will continue to work with Becket on both programs.
6. **Personnel Policies:** J. Huebner distributed to the other selectmen and Glenn Grogan copies of the town of Framingham weapons policy for their review.
7. **Bucksteep/Family Unity:** Mary Jarvie, in response to an article in Saturday's The Berkshire Eagle stating that Bucksteep Manor was sold to a non-profit, researched the deed history. The only sale registered is the Sacco to Family Unity sale that occurred a couple years ago. The Board asked M. Jarvie to research it further.

8. **Highway Department:** J. Huebner and T. Johnson are working on a MassWorks grant to pave Lovers Lane from Frost Road to the end of the blacktop. T. Johnson will be meeting The Gordon Group tomorrow to help scope the project. The application is due this week. There was a brief discussion on extending the paving into Becket.

The Board reviewed the EPI ratings of paved road from Street Scan. The lowest rating is the beginning part of Frost Road. T. Johnson suggested adding an addendum to the FEMA grant extending the work from the Frost Road culvert replacement down to route 8. A 2in overlay of the 23ft by 1700ft section would be 483 tons of blacktop costing approximately \$4,800.00. K. Lew would like to have something to discuss during the next Finance Committee meeting. The next lowest rating is Lovers Lane which can be included in the MassWorks Grant application.

9. **Cross Place Road:** Jeff Collingsworth of HCS Consulting reported to T. Johnson that the vegetation work is all set. They need to come back to patch a piece of concrete that fell out of the bridge. It is not structural a issue.
10. **Middlefield Road:** T. Johnson, K. Lew and J. Huebner met with Steve Mack of Foresight on Friday to discuss the Middlefield Road Bridge Replacement proposal. Some changes were made to the proposal and those changes have been incorporated into the contract. The Board took exception to the range in cost for the construction services. That amount will be re-negotiated after the bids. The Town will hire Foresight at \$32,000.00 to do everything up to the construction phase. Town Counsel will review the contract before it is signed.
11. **Summit Hill Road:** -J. Hostetter sent the instructions on renting a mailbox at the Hinsdale Post Office to the residents who expressed interest in having one. She has not received any receipts for reimbursement yet. J. Huebner will contact Tully for an end date to the project which must be completed within 122 days for the start date of July 5, 2017.
12. **Eden Glen Culvert:** T. Johnson reported that they started enclosing the culvert with concrete today.

13. **Washington Mountain Road:** The final walkthrough of the punch list will begin at the Becket town line starting at 10:00 on Tuesday. C. Lew reported that the Town has been asked to purchase the chain to be installed at the common then to submit the bill for reimbursement. D. Drugmand asked about the J. Dorval issue. That is one of the issues to be reviewed tomorrow as well as all other items in both T. Johnson's book and on the MASSDOT list. T. Drugmand recommended that the Highway Superintendent does not sign off on the job if everything is not completed.
14. J. Huebner introduced the new Town Moderator Ed Neumuth. The Special Town Meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM.
15. J. Huebner resumed the Selectmen's Meeting at 8:03 PM
16. **MA Turnpike Exit in Becket:** Money has been appropriated to study installing on Route 8 in Becket a "cars only" entrance to and exit from the MA Turnpike. Residents were asked for their thoughts. The majority of the room was in favor as long as it was restricted to cars only. One resident objected to restricting truck traffic. There was discussion on trucks putting unnecessary wear and tear on the roads and placing a weight limit on Washington Mountain Road. J. Huebner stated that the project will need to go through the Metropolitan Planning Organization and TAC. The town has representatives on both. If the project moves forward the Board will take a formal survey of the Town.
17. **Virginia Lakes Working Group:** D. Spencer, Mary Jarvie and Dick Grillon conducted a site visit on Friday. They found a hunting cabin that was not worth assessing. Some of the paper roads do exist. They walked the mail road and there are signs that it is being used by the hunting cabin. There was a plan filed with the Registry of deeds in 1958 and an expanded updated plan filed in 1960. Nature Conservancy recently bought 2 of the 60 x 100 blocks or approximately .29 acres for \$8,000. They found pins stating Nature Conservancy land that they didn't understand. Next step is to get Legal Counsel involved. There was discussion of notification of possible sale to the private owners, ownership of the paper roads, if a subdivision was approved, if the original LLC is still in operation. The Board asked that the group come up with a plan of action that can be brought to the town.

There was discussion on the Town's right of way to Beach Road and if it has been abandoned should the road be part of Pugzee's Farm assessment. K. Lew will research this.

18. **Veteran's Memorial:** There is nothing new to report on the memorial. There was a brief discussion on the difficulty in moving the existing memorial.
19. **Wired West/Broadband:** The contract that was signed a couple of weeks ago and sent by UPS to Boston was not received. J. Huebner signed a new contract on Friday. K. Lew, using the tracking number provided, confirmed during the meeting that the second contract was delivered. S. Nelson will meet WiredWest on Wednesday to discuss concerns with the MOU and the reluctance of other towns to sign the contract. The WiredWest Board is scheduled to meet on September 13th. K. Lew and S. Nelson will meet with Westfield Gas and Electric Wednesday afternoon to go over contract details. K. Lew sent out an updated template for pre-meeting review. The primary focus of the meeting will be the impact the actual data from the pole survey has on the original estimates. They will go over what has been done and what needs to be done. Draft revision will be reviewed by Board and Legal Counsel.
20. **Other Items:** J. Huebner will make corrections to the Board of Selectmen's submission to the Annual Report.

The Board received Maxymillion prevailing wage report for week ending 7/21/2017 along with an addendum paying fringe benefits.

The Board received from the Census Bureau documents requesting information on any new addresses within the Town. J. Huebner will complete the report.
21. **Action Items:**
 - a. J. Huebner researched Mr. Bennet's inquiry into a coal burning stove. M. Lampro confirmed with Mark Stimpson of DCR that coal burning stoves are not a concern of the Conservation Commission. J. Huebner contacted the Health Agent Charlie Kaniecki who directed him to DCR. J. Huebner then spoke to Mark Stimpson at DCR who provided a citation number governing coal burning stoves. J. Huebner forwarded the

information to Town Counsel for guidance. The Board updated Mr. Bennett after he arrived later in the meeting.

- b. J. Huebner's contact at the USDA is on vacation. An inspection of Eden Glen Dam will be scheduled soon.
- c. J. Huebner did not find any new grants to update the Town Hall.
- d. There was nothing new to report on the DLTA Shared service grant.

22. **Adjournment:** J. Heubner made a motion to adjourn at 8:36 pm. D. Grillon seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

Accepted: _____

Accepted: _____

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Hostetter