

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen at Washington Town Hall

August 28, 2017

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner, T. Drugmand and R. Grillon. T. Drugmand was recording the meeting.
2. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes from August 21, 2017. T. Drugmand seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
3. **Monthly Selectmen's Letter:** J. Huebner made a motion that the Board accept the monthly letter for September as written. R. Grillon seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous. J. Huebner asked the Administrative Assistants to forward the letter to L. Guthrie for publication in Tracks.
4. **Town Park:** The Becket Police Department will hold a Car Show fundraiser for children in our Town Park on September 24th. It was decided that we will not charge a fee to Becket for use of the Park. Board of Health Member V. Cormier said that they will be serving food and she will inspect per state regulations.
5. **Highway:** The Army Corps of Engineers has called the Board inquiring about the status of work on the Cross Place Road bridge and the Eden Glen culvert. J. Huebner will reply. J. Huebner also said he learned from BRPC that the potential FEMA grant he hoped would help repair the upper Frost Road culvert is for disaster prevention, not repair. He will continue to seek funding for this project. There is no news on the dam. J. Huebner thanked T. Johnson for the great work the highway crew did on grading Upper Sargent Road. T. Johnson told the Board that he has been working with Craig Willis and Matt Thomas on shoring up the metal bin at the Transfer Station to make it more stable and easier to access. They will install steel

rails and place concrete blocks where needed. They are also working on repairs to the compactor. J. Huebner reported receiving the Eden Glen culvert payroll from Maxymillian for the period 8/12 to 8/18. There was no news on Washington Mountain Road.

6. **Sexton:** Resident Darlene Brunell asked Sexton and Board member D. Grillon for his signature on a permit for a military plaque. He duly signed the permit.
7. **Landfill Issue:** J. Huebner explained that resident Larry Wells came to see him last week and told him that he had received a notification of a cutting plan as an abutter from Mr. Thomas Anderson, a forester doing business as Dutchess Lumber. Mr. Anderson proposed cutting timber on 19 acres of land owned by Maureen Borgnis in the area of Frost Road and Washington Mountain Road.

A parcel adjacent to this property was used as a dump years ago. Mr. Wells was worried that the cutting would affect his water supply. He submitted pictures of the area to J. Huebner. J. Huebner reviewed the issue with our health inspector, Charlie Kaniecki, and was advised by him to issue a cease and desist letter to Mr. Anderson under MGL Chapter 111, sections 122 & 150A . J. Huebner did so and also asked Mr. Anderson to re-submit his cutting plan to the Washington Board of Health and the Washington Conservation Commission. Mr. Anderson was in attendance at the Select Board meeting.

J. Huebner said that both Washington and Becket had been dumping in that area for more than 10 years. The dump has long been closed, but not encapsulated. The issue came up a couple of years ago when Maureen Borgnis sought to sell her property. The Assessors' map shows 5 lots. The landfill area affects several of the lots. We will need to get the DEP and our Board of Health out there to inspect the 19 acres. There can be no cutting until we are sure where the landfill is. As Becket land is involved, J. Huebner

will brief Ed Gibson, Becket Town Administrator, on the situation. Clean-up could be very costly. J. Huebner thanked Assessor Consultant Karen Avalue very much for her help in evaluating the situation. He reminded forester Thomas Anderson to re-submit his cutting plan to the Conservation Commission and the Select Board.

8. **Personnel Policy:** Treasurer Glenn Grogan discussed changes to the Personnel policy with the Board. He gave the Board a copy of the changes he had written up. The Board agreed that at retirement a Town employee would be entitled to payment for up to 40 unused sick days. J. Huebner thought this would be an incentive to not take sick days inappropriately. He asked G. Grogan to research state policy on this issue.
9. **Administrative Assistants:** J. Hostetter told the Board that her computer had been down for several days preventing her from updating the web site with last week's minutes. J. Les has now fixed the machine and the site is up to date. She sent the Board and other Town officials a draft copy of the newest elected and appointed officials' spreadsheet. She asked them to review it and send her corrections so that she can distribute a finalized copy. J. Huebner mentioned that Mike Case should be listed on the spreadsheet as Washington representative to the School Building Committee.

J. Nelson asked the Board to consider several measures to improve the sound quality at Board meetings so that minutes can be taken accurately. The Administrative Assistants both reported trouble hearing clearly when multiple conversations occurred simultaneously or when individuals spoke too softly. J. Huebner recognized the problem and agreed to step in if needed to keep proceedings more orderly and more audible.

10. **Police:** Chief Breen reported receiving a clear summary of instructions for locking and un- locking the Town Hall front door from J. Hostetter. He had brought the need for these instructions to the Board's attention last week.

J. Hostetter will make copies and post the information where all can see it. He also mentioned that Melissa Martinetto, our former Tax Collector, had turned in her key to him after her last day working at Town Hall. Additionally, he had tested the emergency medical equipment donated to the Town by a resident some time ago and found it was outdated and unusable. This equipment will be discarded.

Chief Breen reported receiving numerous reports of the excessive speeds of traffic on Washington Mountain Road (WMR). Police officers were mentioned as among the worst offenders. T. Drugmand, a resident of WMR, said that the normal speed of cars passing her home is about 65 miles per hour. J. Huebner asked Chief Breen to make himself visible more often on the road and to ask Lt. Dalton of the State Police to put some officers up on the road. K. Lew suggested that a few traffic stops might be effective.

Chief Breen told the Board that he will be visiting the Bucksteep property with Building Inspector Paul Greene. J. Huebner suggested that he also bring along Fire Chief Paul Mikaniewicz and Board of Health inspector Charlie Kaniecki. Bucksteep owner Mr. Loveszy had given Chief Breen permission to check the property. J. Huebner told Chief Breen that he will follow up with him on a new grant.

11. **Pugzee's Farm:** J. Huebner reported that all three selectmen had received letters from Mr. Eyal Shapira of Pugzee's Farm at 249 Washington Mountain Road. A copy of what appeared to be the same letter was received addressed to Washington Town Counsel. J. Huebner said that Mr. Shapira was upset about being sent a registered letter by the Selectmen concerning a complaint about his perimeter lighting disturbing an abutter. He invited the Select Board to visit his property. Chief Breen said that he has visited several times and has spoken extensively with him. J. Huebner told Chief Breen to ask the neighbors on behalf of the Board if Mr. Shapira has adjusted the perimeter lighting down.

12. **Brief Items:** J. Huebner thanked Chief Breen for his prompt response to an accident at the corner of Blotz and Plunkett Roads; T. Drugmand will attend the county MMA legislative breakfast; the Board signed a sympathy card for the Fish family on the passing of Jim Fish; T. Drugmand requested that the exercise group on Friday be asked to put the Auditorium chairs back in place after their class so others do not have to do so; The Board decided that we had no use for the surplus chairs being offered by BRPC.

13. **Adjournment:** J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:44pm. T. Drugmand seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

Accepted: _____

Accepted: _____

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Nelson