

THE LENOX TOWN HALL NEWSLETTER

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March , 2010

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NAMED

The newly formed Lenox Economic Development Committee members are Larry Lane, Joe Nejaime, Tom Romeo, Nate Winstanley and Richard Wise, Ken Folwer and Tom Werdman.

The committee's charge is to recommend new town initiatives to foster economic growth and vitality in Lenox. The group will report to the Selectmen, and have staff support from the Town Manager and Town Planner.

Sample initiatives of the Committee might be:

- Developing new approaches to attracting new business to town
- Marketing to bring more visitors
- Organizing new special events like horse shows, balloon festivals or car shows
- Building relationships with regional and national organizations to hold seminars and retreats in Lenox
- Cultivating support for a Local Business Improvement District
- Fostering greater collaboration amongst the local business community

Public investment to enhance our local economic health will be important to our long-term viability as a community. New dollars for this purpose will be part of the proposed town budget for the next fiscal year that begins July 1.

BUY LOCAL & SUPPORT YOUR TOWN MERCHANTS

Selectman Dia Trancynger recently urged townspeople to shop locally with our Lenox merchants, especially those that are open all year. Lenox retail and service establishments need business year round. Those of us who are here year round can help! Support your neighbors – keep your dollars local!

ARMSTRONG TO ADA COMMISSION

Lifelong Lenox resident Nancy Armstrong has been appointed to the town's American's With Disabilities Act Commission. Nancy, a retired a human services professional, has great concern for the rights and safety of the disabled and the elders of Lenox.

Nancy joins commission members John Pignatelli, Thomas Graham, Eleanor Vacchina, and Bill Thornton. The ADA Commission makes sure that public buildings are accessible and that when new construction takes place on public or private property, accommodations are made for those with disabilities.

BUDGET PREPARATIONS NEAR COMPLETION

The school budget for the coming fiscal year (7/1/10 through 6/30/11) will be finalized at the regular School Committee Meeting on Monday, April 5 at 7PM in the Selectboard's Meeting Room in the Town Hall. Two nights later, the Selectmen will be putting the final touches on the rest of the town budget for Fiscal year 2011. The Finance Committee will join the Selectmen on Wednesday, the 7th, at 7PM at Town Hall. The public is welcome to attend both meetings.

The Annual Town Meeting will be Thursday, May 6, 7:00PM in the Duffin Theater at LMMHS. All voters registered in Lenox may attend to vote on the FY2011 budgets and other articles pertaining to town business.

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT-2010

Work on the Village Improvement Project will begin in April with the contractor from last year's work completing items on a punch list from the 2010 work on Church Street.

Work on Walker Street from the Town Hall to the Church Street intersection will also be started in the spring and completed before July . Also to be included is the parking lot in front of the Fire Station.

Phase 2 Improvements, which include the one way block of Housatonic Street and Franklin Street, are currently out to bid. Work on these two streets may begin this spring but construction work will stop for July and August in order to accommodate the needs of the downtown merchants and their customers during the peak summer season. The work will resume in the fall. Phase 2 funding is primarily from a \$950,000 Public Works grant from the state.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 5, 10AM: Meet the Candidates Coffee hour at the Community Center

April 5, 7PM: School Committee Meeting
FY11 Budget votes; Town Hall

April 7, 7PM: Selectmen and Finance Committee Meeting — FY11 Budget votes; Town Hall

May 6, 7PM: Annual Town Meeting,
LMMHS, Duffin Theater

WIND MONITORING UNDERWAY

A grant to the town by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative is funding a wind study near the reservoir. The purpose of the wind study is to determine if the wind levels are adequate to support one or two wind turbines. Weston Solutions, an engineering firm with extensive experience with turbines, is conducting this feasibility study. A SODAR device, a small unit using sound waves to measure wind speeds at varying altitudes, is being used to measure wind speeds. Using this new technology avoids the need for clearing trees to conduct the monitoring of the wind. Assuming confirmation of adequate wind, a full feasibility study will be conducted. The feasibility study will include numerous public meetings. Before a project goes forward, voters will have an opportunity to decide whether

FARMERS MARKET AT TRIANGLE PARK-AGAIN

After a lengthy process the Selectmen voted to again locate the summer Farmers Market in Triangle Park. Ideas about placing the Farmers Market in Roche Reading Park, or Ore Bed Park were ultimately voted down in favor of Triangle park, despite concerns about traffic and congestion around Triangle Park. A traffic officer will assist at each market to ensure a smooth and safe operation. The Market will be open Friday afternoons from the end of May until the middle of October.

CABLE COMMISSION VACANCY

The Cable Commission, which oversees cable television services in Southern Berkshire needs you! Currently Lenox is not being represented. Anyone interested in serving is asked to contact the Selectboard.
