

NEWS FROM South Williamstown

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Mass DOT Proposes Roundabout for Five Corners Intersection

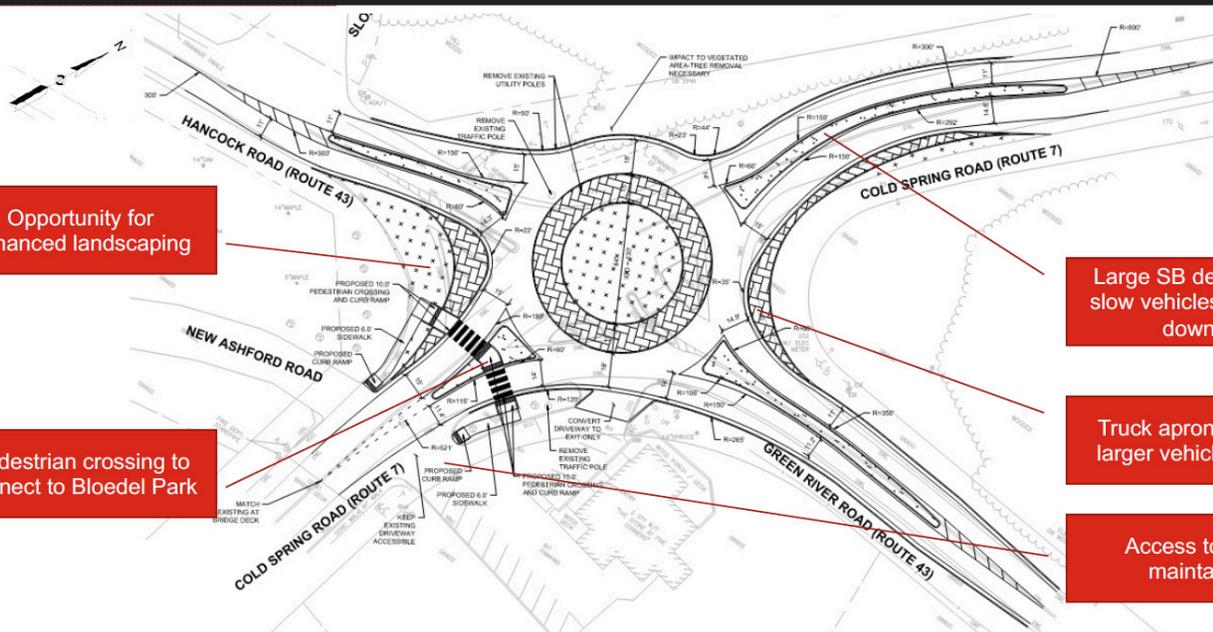
By Bette Craig

Michael Trepanier of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation hosted a Zoom meeting for SWCA Board members on October 20 on the proposed roundabout for the Five Corners intersection of Routes 7 and 43. There will be a public hearing when the project reaches the 25% design stage, but meanwhile, this is what we learned:

- * Mass DOT expects to start construction in the **spring of 2024**.
- * Traffic will be maintained in both directions during construction, which is expected to take at least one construction season, probably running into the beginning of the next for finishing details.
- * He was made aware of the Waubeeka Springs Goodwill Water Association pipes running under the intersection and stated that Mass DOT would participate in the cost if it needs to be upgraded or replaced.

MassDOT Comment Summary from last year is at https://southwilliamstown.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/MassDOT_Williamstown-PIMA-Comment-Summary_v03.pdf

You can watch the entire discussion on the SWCA website at: <https://southwilliamstown.org/link-to-recording-of-mass-dot-five-corners-proposed-roundabout-discussion/>



You can read the Project Summary (as of last April) (where the graphic above was copied from) at https://southwilliamstown.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Rt43_Rt7_Project-Summary.pdf

Land Acknowledgement

News From South Williamstown

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Contribute to the next
SWCA Newsletter, due out
by March 30, 2022.

Email suggestions or
articles to
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Find SWCA on Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/
South-Williamstown-Community-
Association-1684158335160201/](https://www.facebook.com/South-Williamstown-Community-Association-1684158335160201/)

It is with gratitude and humility that we acknowledge that we are learning, speaking and gathering on the ancestral homelands of the Mohican people, who are the indigenous peoples of this land. Despite tremendous hardship in being forced from here, today their community resides in Wisconsin and is known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. We pay honor and respect to their ancestors past and present as we commit to building a more inclusive and equitable space for all.



Vendors: Chris's Kitchen, Sweet Brook Farm, East Mountain Farm, Crow Hill Farm Crafts, Talus Wood Farm, Bertleberries and **MORE!**
(vendors subject to change each week)

Soup & Snacks will be for sale to eat on site or to go

Questions? Contact Kerry Bradich @ Star6386@gmail.com

What's Next for The Store at Five Corners

By Alison Case

Good things are brewing at the Store at Five Corners! No, not coffee -- yet. A new non-profit organization, The Store at Five Corners Stewardship Association, with the South Williamstown Community Association as fiscal sponsor, has taken on the task of acquiring, renovating and maintaining the historic Store building as a community asset. Until the recent shutdown, the Store, first established as a tavern in 1767, was one of the oldest continuously operating businesses in the country. In 1993, the 'Five Corners Historic District' was entered in the National Register of Historic Places.

Community interest in reviving the business is quite strong. A recent survey sent to SWCA's mailing list yielded an astonishing 131 responses. On average, respondents rated the importance of the Store to the community at 8.9 out of 10, and its importance to them personally at 8.7. 89% preferred that the Store remain independent (i.e. not a chain). Comments stressed not only the convenience of being able to pick up milk and other staples without a long drive into town, but also the pleasure of having the Store as a place to visit and a community hub. Many spoke of meeting friends there for coffee or lunch, bringing guests, children, and grandchildren there for treats, and shopping for last-minute house gifts. They mentioned the Store's importance for tourism, as a "gateway" to Williamstown, and to workers in the area who need a nearby place to get coffee and snacks. They spoke also of the delight of running into friends and neighbors in a setting that invites casual socializing.

Over the next few months, The Store at Five Corners Stewardship Association will be raising funds to purchase the building, do renovations, and establish an endowment for its long-term maintenance. We will then make plans to lease the building to an operator willing to revive the Store in a form similar to its recent incarnations, on terms that will enable the business to be sustainable over the long term.

Anyone interested in helping with this project in any way is encouraged to visit the website at <https://storeatfivecorners.org> to find out more.



Welcome to Our New Neighbors: Barry and Denny Meneghelli

South Williamstown is delighted to welcome Barry and Denny to the community. They enjoy the Berkshires as an arts and cultural destination, and are lovers of all from Tanglewood, to the Berkshire Botanical Gardens, Shakespeare & Co. and more.

But what prompted these self-described “weather wimps” to relocate to the Northern Berkshires after nearly three decades in Florida? Read on

First tell us a little about yourselves:

For many years, we lived on the east coast of Florida, not far from Orlando, where Barry worked as a chemist at the Kennedy Space Center. Over the years, Barry was involved in projects supporting the Space Shuttle program, as well as international committees. He continues to work remotely a few days a week. For more than 20 years, he has volunteered with HOBY or the Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership organization, which is dedicated to training and nurturing a global community of the young leaders of tomorrow.

Denny has been focused on the non-profit world through her career. She worked for several different organizations, including local government, education and a local hospice. Denny continues to be involved in several non-profits, and has jumped in to volunteer with the Williamstown League of Women Voters, Williamstown Garden Club, the Berkshire Food Project and the Milne Library.

What is your connection to the Berkshires?

Well, the story goes back to 1990, when each of us was invited to join mutual friends at their annual Tanglewood weekend of lawn seats and nearby camping. We first met at the campsite on a Friday evening in 1990, and will be celebrating our 30th wedding anniversary this December. We moved to Florida after our wedding in 1991, but have returned for that Tanglewood reunion weekend for all but two years since then. So, this reunion, which originally began in 1974 with four Holy Cross



Photo Credit: Lisa Argento

grads looking to stay connected, has grown to include more family and friends and was our introduction to the Berkshires. During all those visits, we became enchanted with the Berkshires, but never thought that we would someday live here.

So, tell us, why Williamstown?

For many years, we talked about moving to a small, college town -- though after nearly 30 years in sunny Florida, we were certain it would not be in the northeast! However, the more we thought about it, the more we realized that the northeast had what we were looking for. So, last fall, we took a “college tour” across much of New England, looking at about 30 different college towns.

We decided on Williamstown for a number of reasons: the natural beauty of the area, proximity to Tanglewood and so many arts/cultural organizations, the size of the town and access (post-Covid) to the college. We initially planned to move in the spring but an apartment became available at Cable Mills in January 2021, so we made the move.

After being in Williamstown for a few months, we started a home search in Berkshire County and Bennington, but in the end, decided we wanted to stay in Williamstown. At first, we were looking for a place “in town,” so we could continue to walk to the downtown area. However, we really wanted a view of the mountains, so when our house on Hancock Road became available, we knew it was the place for us.

Where are each of you from originally?

Barry is originally from Richmond, CA. He was an undergrad at the University of San Francisco and attended the University of Michigan for graduate work. After graduating, he worked in WV, CT and MA before making the move to FL. Denny was born in Woburn, MA, and moved to Ohio where she attended Cleveland State University for both undergrad and graduate work. After graduating, she moved back to MA, and then on to FL.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

We both enjoy cooking (and eating!) and have always been fans of various arts and cultural events. We also enjoy outdoor activities like biking, hiking, walking and gardening and are looking forward to snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Barry loves photography and we have a number of his images throughout our home.

End of Season Report from

Waubeeka Golf Links By Mike Deep

We had another happy season at Waubeeka this year. Our high water mark was being voted the Best Golf Course in the Berkshires by readers of *The Berkshire Eagle*. The challenges of running a golf course today are enormous, but with all the support of the local community we were able to put out an excellent product for a very fair price. We employed 50 people throughout the golf season and over one dozen in the Tavern on 7. Our restaurant business was very steady and next year we hope to offer more dinners on weekends.

Next year, our feature tournament will be the USGA four ball qualifier with a full field anticipated. This should help all the area hotels and restaurants, as we expect nearly 100 golfers participating.

Everyone at Waubeeka would like to thank the members of SWCA for their support and wish everyone a great holiday season and a very Happy New Year!

Williamstown to Key West by Bicycle

By Doug Molin

In early August I bought a new bicycle. I started riding it daily except on days when I was working. I was working two days per week as a doctor in a nursing home in Kingston, NY. In late August my position at the nursing home was terminated. I had a new bike that I loved riding and no other commitments so I decided to fulfill a bucket list dream and take an epic bike ride. I did my best to prepare for my trip. I absorbed all the information I could from the folks at The Spoke. They prepared my bike for the trip. I read books like “Old Man on a Bicycle.” I consulted the Adventure Cycling website. I continued riding daily and increased my daily mileage. On September 10th I headed out of my driveway on Roaring Brook Road bound for Key West, Florida.

Despite my preparation I wasn’t prepared. There were many miles of glorious cycling roads where I wondered why I was the only one out there on a bicycle. There were also not so glorious roads: heavily trafficked roads with narrow shoulders, industrial roads where I inhaled truck dust, city streets, rural roads with dogs to outspurt, long suburban sidewalks along multi-lane roads. My credo became “If my body is intact, my bike is intact, and I have a route to follow -- keep going.”

I made it to Key West on October 27th. I’m grateful that my wife, Melanie, was able to ride with me from Hollywood, Florida, to Key West.



Doug Molin and Melanie Mowinski at the end of the road.

Williamstown Historical Museum Switches to Winter Hours

By Patrick Quinn

The Williamstown Historical Museum has switched to its winter hours, Fridays and Saturdays 10am-2pm. It is also, as always, open by appointment – just phone, 413-458-2160, or email info@williamstownhistoricalmuseum.org.

A new temporary exhibit on children and schools through the years in Williamstown will open soon.

Upcoming programs include:

12/11 at 11am beginning in front of the Manton building of 1973 Jock Brooks is giving a tour “Down Memory Lane: Looking back at the Early Years of The Clark Art Institute.” It will be limited to 12 participants who must pre-register by 12/8 with verification of their fully COVID vaccination status. To register contact Patrick Quinn at 413-458-6141 or quinnsun8@gmail.com. Name of each individual with vaccination status, telephone or email address for confirmation is required. If more people sign up, a second session may be available. The cut off is 12/8.

2/26 at 11am in the Milne Library’s back lobby. Barbara Winslow will be giving a talk on her book about Shirley Chisholm.

March TBD, Alex Carlisle will be leading a panel on the history of The Green River Grange building and organization with recollections of grange fairs and horse shows.

The barn project will be the subject of a spring event.

New Cell Tower Erected in Williamstown

(Reprinted from IBerkshires)

Four months after getting the green light from the Zoning Board of Appeals, a new wireless communications tower is ready to accept antennae.

Evolution Site Services of Pittsfield announced in early November that construction is completed on a new 153-foot cell tower in South Williamstown on the Phelps family’s farm.



New Cell Tower as seen from Woodcock Road.

Get Involved in SWCA

Here are some ways you can do it. Would you like to:

- Work on helping organize a community event.
- Write about South Williamstown history or local events for the newsletter
- Fix things at our Repair Cafés.
- Track local land use issues or other topics of interest.
- Represent SWCA at community events like the Farmer's Market.
- Post posters about our events around town
- Tell your local friends and family about SWCA and point them to our website at <https://southwilliamstown.org/>
- Share news about our events with your friends or via e-mail, Facebook, etc.

Or, maybe you have a good idea to suggest for something the South Williamstown Community Association should be doing as a 501(c)3 organization devoted to historical preservation, building community and being a neighborhood voice.

Email us at swca32@gmail.com. Visit our website at <https://southwilliamstown.org/>

South Williamstown Community Association Membership Form

Historical Preservation + Community + Neighborhood Voice

Print and mail this form or join online at <https://southwilliamstown.org/membership>

I/We wish to join/renew our membership in SWCA for the year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022.

Suggested dues are

\$25/household	\$25
Additional donation \$	_____
Total enclosed \$	_____

SWCA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Your dues and donations are tax-deductible and your cancelled check or email confirmation will be your receipt.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email (used only for SWCA announcements): _____

____ check here if you want to receive emails about other South Williamstown news/events

Business Name: _____

if your business is located in South Williamstown and you would like a link on our website

I would like to volunteer for an event or committee _____

Mail to SWCA, PO Box 432, Williamstown, MA 01267

Email us at swca32@gmail.com. Visit our website at <https://southwilliamstown.org/>

Snippets of News About South Williamstown

The SWCA Board of Directors wishes to thank Claudia Ellet, for her very generous donation of the lights for the holiday tree at The Store at Five Corners this year. They are given in loving memory of her mother, Katey Winant, a long time South Williamstown resident.

- December 2 **Mohican Nation in Williamstown** - Part of Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation's "Talks on the Hill", 7:30 - 8:30 via Zoom.
See <https://rurallands.org/talks-on-the-hill/> for more information
- December 11 **South Williamstown Market** at Second Congregational Church, 10am-2pm
81 Hancock Road, every second Saturday of the month through April
* January 8, 2022 * February 12, 2022
* March 12, 2022 * April 9, 2022
- December 12 **"Down Memory Lane: Looking back at the Early Years of The Clark Art Institute."** at 11am beginning in front of the Manton building of 1973 Jock Brooks is giving a tour. See page 6 of this newsletter for registration information.
- December 24 **Christmas Eve Service** at Second Congregational Church at 5pm
January 6 **LOST SKI AREAS of the BERKSHIRES** presented by Jeremy Davis. From the 1930s to the 1970s forty-four ski areas were developed throughout the Berkshires. Today there are only seven. See <https://rurallands.org/talks-on-the-hill/> for more information
- February 3 **ON FARMING 328NORTH** - Tu Le discusses stewarding land for farming using intensive methods and sustainable practices. See <https://rurallands.org/talks-on-the-hill/>
- February 26 **Barbara Winslow will be giving a talk on her book about Shirley Chisholm** at 11am in the Milne Library's back lobby.

South Williamstown Community Association

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