

TA Report 6.11.10

SES BAND CONCERTS - I am happy to announce the following two upcoming concerts for the school band: Saturday, June 12 - Shutesbury Farmer's Market, 10:30am-noon; Friday, June 18 - Athletic Club - 6:00-8:00pm.

~Brian Bender

brian@brianbender.com

BOAT MONITOR AT LAKE WYOLA The state Dept. of Conservation and Recreation has hired a boat monitor to inspect boats and answer questions regarding zebra mussels and invasive plants. He is stationed at the Randall Rd. boat launch area. He will be working here all summer though his schedule, times and days are not fixed. He is happy to answer your questions.

TOWN HALL FRONT AND SIDE DRIVEWAYS ARE FRESHLY PAVED! Beautiful job by our Highway Dept. and Warner Construction. Thank you all for your hard work.



CHANGES TO OPEN MEETING LAW WORKSHOP was held in Turners Falls, 6/10/10. I attended this workshop Thursday night with about 300 other town officials from around Franklin County. Three attorneys made presentations and answered questions. Officials wanted to know specifically how this new legislation will impact the way they do day to day municipal business. What happens if you do not post your agenda 48 hours ahead? Why do Saturdays no longer count toward the 48 hours? How does each town hall make all meeting notices available to the public on a 24-hour basis? How has the definition of a meeting or a sub committee changed? Who is responsible to physically post all these things? What if that person is not available? Why do you have to list and keep every document? Where do you put them? Won't all these changes cost us money? Who is going to pay for it? The lively discussion went on for 1 ½ hours only to realize the first presenter was not finished...

Our Town Clerk, Leslie Bracebridge, has been following the legislation closely, watching it change and get delayed. More hearings will happen but the framework is there. I am attaching some documents from Leslie that will help inform and guide you. For more information please contact the Town Clerk's office at townclerk@shutesbury.org or 259-1204.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE (CPC) is holding a hearing Thursday 7:00pm June 17, 2010. The purpose of this hearing is to discuss with the public the needs, possibilities and resources of Shutesbury regarding community preservation possibilities and resources. If you have questions please call Donald Fletcher, CPC Chairman at 259-1438.

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SHUTESBURY FARMERS MARKET, Saturday, 8:30am – noon

Pony Rides-\$2!

And SES Band at 10:30am)

New Farm & Forestry page on the Shutesbury website is hosting a Shutesbury Market List of Produce and Products. Check it out.

- Flower plants, perennials, manure, flower bouquets, and eggs-Kathy.
- We will be there with Broccoli, Lettuce, Kale, garlic scapes (new), snow peas (!), mini goat-gouda wheels, herbal tea from Birch Moon Farm! Oh yeah, and LOTS of plants... veggie, flower and herb seedlings- Sarah and Keith
- Quilts, crocheted hats, baby blankets-Janet
- Cooleyville Farm, Gary and Pat will be there. We will have maple syrup, arugula, lettuce mix, radishes, maybe eggs, some plants. That's about it for now. See you on sunny Saturday-Pat
- Live sprouts: Adzuki bean, mung bean, red lentil, green lentil, french green lentil, fenagreek, broccoli, clover.
Complete Sprouting Kits: 2 different styles both include jar, screen, organic sprouting seeds, and instructions.
Garden perennials: Tiger lillies, purple dutch iris, mint.- Kiran
- Recycled jewelry, necklaces - Tani
- Shitake mushrooms, flowers! – Deacon and Susan
- Hand woven farm baskets, house baskets, all sizes and shapes – Lori
- New Moon Traditionals bees wax candles and pure olive oil hand made soaps, - Karen
- Pony rides, Organic Eggs – Wendy

SCHOOL STUDY COMMITTEE HAD THEIR FIRST MEETING MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2010. The Committee schedule is June 22, at 4pm, July 21, at 4pm and August 11, at 4pm. Come and listen, ask questions. This is an open meeting.

NEW EVALUATION FORM Forms will be distributed to staff and explained by Dept Heads. Questions should be directed to department head, who will discuss with town administrator or personnel board. Upon completion please return to department head. We hope to have them completed in July.

FIRE STATION GASOLINE LEAK DEP work is in a quiet phase. Possible dig time line begins in July.

Becky Torres,

Shutesbury Town Administrator

townadmin@shutesbury.org

413-259-1214

To: Public Officials Generally/Committee Members in particular
Re: Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009: Ethics Reform Open Meeting Law Revisions, and Campaign Finance Changes.
From: Town Clerk

1. **THANK YOU** to all who have completed their **Ethics Training Certifications**. For those who didn't, meet the April 2, 2010 deadline, please go to www.mass.gov/ethics and under "Education and Training" sign in, complete the test and copy, paste and email your completion certificate to: townclerk@shutesbury.org. If you do not have access to a computer or prefer paper, please call (259-1204) or come to see me, as I can give you a paper version of the test to get you started on compliance.

2. Another part of the Massachusetts Legislature's efforts to improve government are the **changes to the Open Meeting Law scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2010**. Again, the Commonwealth's City & Town Clerks have been assigned to inform local officials of the changes. While the Senate has voted to delay the effective date from July 1 to November 1, we are still being asked to start practicing the new concepts for a public comment period yet to be announced. During July, when Shutesbury's officials have in the past signed for receipt of certain statutes, including the open meeting law, officials will be given copies of new 2010 Open Meeting Law documents.

The mandated method of posting meetings will change in three significant ways:

1. **The 48 hours in advance will no longer include Saturdays, so Monday meetings must be posted by the time of the meeting on the preceding Thursday.**
2. **Meeting postings must be available to the public 24 hours per day.**
3. **Meeting postings must include an agenda with anticipated subjects to be discussed.**

To meet the latter two goals, I am already experimenting with changes:

- **For 24 hour availability:** In addition to the notice board outside the Town Clerk's Office, I anticipate using either the outside bulletin boards or as inclement weather approaches, and if no other viable alternative is authorized by state regulations, I will have notices in a binder in a weatherproof outdoor box. In addition, I will continue to offer postings online which seems to be the useful 24 hour alternative for Shutesbury, though not an acceptable 24 hour alternative by regulation.
- **For posting agendas** committees which already provide agendas can continue to do so in their own particular ways. For any committees without a regular practice of posting agendas, I have revised the "fill-in-the-blanks" posting forms to include spaces for agenda items. Please use these new forms if you are posting and do not have a prepared agenda.

Other points of interest in the new open meeting law include:

- An unintended quorum of a committee outside of a posted meeting (for example at another committee's meeting) is allowed to remain in attendance as long as no business of the non-posted committee is conducted and no deliberation occurs.
- Minutes must contain detailed information. In addition to members present, date, time and place, minutes will include: a list of any materials, exhibits, hand-outs, reports, and diagrams and the minutes will summarize all discussions.
- Citizens making complaints about a committee's adherence to the open meeting law will first write the complaint to the committee. The committee will then reply to both the Attorney General's office and to the complainant.

3. **The third topic of Chapter 28 of the acts of 2009 concern Campaign Finance:** The reports have always been and continue to be public documents. There are stronger record retention rules for campaign finance reports. The biggest change is that any reports may be scanned and posted on the local website, and it is mandatory that campaign finance reports with over \$1,000 worth of activity be posted on the local website.

Achieving precise implementation of the statute will take time; we will all do our best to comply and bend with the changes as they become known to us.



DATE POSTED:: ____/____/____
TIME:: _____:_____ AM PM Circle one

POSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF MGL 30A §§18-25

Name of Committee

Place of Meeting: _____ Room Preference: _____

_____:_____
Day Month Date Year Time AM PM
Circle One

Meeting of: _____ Canceled
Postponed to: _____
(Leave this line blank if the information does not apply to the meeting listed above)

AGENDA ATTACHED OR SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED LISTED BELOW:

1. Approve Minutes of previous meeting(s): _____
Meeting Date(s). Attach minutes if available.

2. Old Business Topics:

3. New Business Topics:

4. Other:

Posted by: _____
Signature

Date: _____

Fragrance Free Event