

TA Report 6.1.12

BULKY WASTE DAY SATURDAY JUNE 2, 2012

RETRACTION NOTIFICATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO DEP for the proposed library site. Alan Weiss has made official notification to DEP that the retesting of the ground water and soil samples did not result in finding any PCBs at reportable limits. Lab tests on the drinking water wells within 500' of the original site are not due back until the middle of June. As Alan Weiss said originally the additional testing was precautionary. When asked how this could happen he explained that it happens with sediment sometimes.

PRESCHOOL VISITS TOWN HALL On Wednesday 21 preschoolers visited town hall. They meet with the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk explained vital records, showing a birth certificate of a child in the class and talked about dog tags. She provided print outs of a map of Shutesbury and the town seal for them to color. They held a mock Selectboard meeting in the downstairs room. Three children volunteered to be on the Selectboard. The children problem solved, what to do about a bridge that fell down? Build a new one! The Selectboard made a motion, second and voted to build a new bridge. Then the whole class voted. Some no's, more yes's to build a new (pretend) bridge. After making their big decision their teacher, Grace Griecci, followed up with songs and dancing.



THE PAUL C. JONES WORKING FOREST, Dedicated May 29, 2012, in Leverett Half the State House sat under a tent on Mitchell's farm on Tuesday morning overlooking the grandest view of Brushy Mountain that could be found. The Amherst Regional Middle School Chorus sang, "This Land is Your Land, this Land is My Land..." Governor Deval Patrick praised the Cowl's family's honoring of Paul C. Jones with this gift to the public not just for today but shaping for years to come a commitment to forestry and open space. Meeting Sam Jones and other grandchildren the Governor said this is what it is all about, generational responsibility, taking action that benefits those to come in the future. Cinda Jones, thanked all members of her family and participants in this lengthy sometimes difficult process. She emphasized her father's commitment to balance of conservation forestry with development. Development enables conservation forestry, because property taxes do have to get paid. She encouraged state officials to broaden the terms of conservation restrictions to include alternative energy, to make farming and forestry on conserved lands viable by allowing this additional revenue stream.

LIBRARY FUNDING UPDATE, Shutesbury Town Counsel Donna MacNicol clarifies the status of the potential new library building project. The question has been asked, "If sufficient funds, \$1,000,000, are donated to the Shutesbury public library building project, does the project go forward? Or not? The basic issue is what has the town authorized to date. We are clear the funding of the town match request for a debt exclusion override has failed at this point. So the question is whether the passage of Article 6 at the 2010 Annual Town Meeting authorizes the Town to accept and expend the MBLC grant without a further town meeting vote?

Shutesbury Town Counsel, Attorney MacNicol's opinion is below:

Article 6 of the 2010 Annual Town Meeting: A motion was made and seconded that the Town of Shutesbury approve the library building project by accepting the preliminary design for the new Shutesbury Library building and authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or the Library Trustees to apply for any state funds which might be available to defray the costs of the design, construction and equipping of the library project and to authorize the Library Building Committee and/or Board of Selectmen and/or Library Trustees to accept and expend any such funds when received without further appropriation. (As amended.)

Article 6 did the following:

*approved the library building project by accepting the preliminary design
authorized the Selectboard and/or Library Trustees to apply for state funds to defray the costs of designing, constructing and equipping the library
authorized the Library Building Committee/Board of Selectmen and/or Library Trustees to accept the state funds and expend those funds without further appropriation*

These approvals and authorizations are still valid.

It is my opinion that the Town must fulfill the MBLC grant requirements prior to proceeding with the project, but so long as the Town meets the grant requirements and has enough funds from whatever source to proceed with the project they may do so.

The failure of the debt exclusion vote nullified the appropriation of the Town's matching funds for the library grant. It did not nullify the vote approving the project and authorizing the application and expenditure of state funds for the project.

In summary this means if a generous person or persons collectively give a Million Dollars to the new proposed Shutesbury library project BEFORE JUNE 30, 2012, Shutesbury will build a new library.

RECYCLING COMMITTEE IS DISTRIBUTING TRASH BAGS on Saturdays at town hall between 9:00 am and noon.

COUNCIL ON AGING (COA) SURVEY The Council on Aging has prepared a survey that was included in the Annual Town meeting mailing. Copies are available at town hall. Anyone who is 55 or older is encouraged to fill one out.

WIRED WEST COOPERATIVE (FIBER OPTIC TO THE HOME) the JUNE MEETING IS IN SHUTESBURY. This project is one of the most ambitious and complicated multi-task endeavor ever taken on by a group of volunteers. If you have time, skills, and interest please inquire how you can become involved and help us all actualize a public last mile build out. There are forms on the table outside my office. To get an overview of the work go to www.wiredwest.com.

SHUTESBURY FARMERS MARKET this SATURDAY, June 2st,

Behind town hall from 8:30am to noon- EGGS- TOMATO, BASIL, CABBAGE, KALE, CUCUMBER, JALAPENO, MELON, LETTUCE, and CILANTRO PLANTS, CUT FLOWERS, PERRENIALS, RHUBARB, ONIONS, SCALLIONS, SPRING GREENS, BOK CHOY, LETTUCE, MANURE, BASKETS, SAND DOLLARS, JEWELRY and LIBRARY BOOK TABLE. If you have items to sell at the market please email me at townadmin@shutesbury.org or call 259-1214.



THANKS AGAIN! to **Franklin County Technical School** instructor Mike Therian and his class: Alyssa Andrews, Cooper Grace, Brooke Meuse, Tyler Peters, Cody Booska, Scott Modica and Robert Reed. This week they installed glass doors, caps and trim.

* Correction: Please note that Mike Therian and his class are from Franklin County Technical School not Smith Vocational School as I wrote in my report last week. Apologies for the error.

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