



# OUR TOWN

## ***Do you or a household member need alternative forms of transportation?***

Town Hall wants to help! See page 8 for a survey to complete on paper (or online) that could make a difference!

### Moderator Musings

Paul Lyons, *Town Moderator*

Even after 40 years of attending – and more recently, presiding over – Shutesbury’s Town Meetings, I still find certain aspects of parliamentary procedure to be confusing or subjective. I’d like to address one of those in this issue, but first, an announcement: A vacancy has recently opened on the Finance Committee that I plan on filling prior to July 1 (i.e., the start of the new fiscal year). If you’d like to be considered for the vacancy, please email me by June 1 at [Moderator@Shutesbury.org](mailto:Moderator@Shutesbury.org) with a statement of your interest. If you don’t have access to email, you can mail a letter of interest to: Paul Lyons, 7 Old Orchard Rd., Shutesbury MA 01072.

Now, on to the exciting stuff – parliamentary procedure! An important role that the Moderator plays at Town Meetings is

**2023 Annual Town Meeting  
(and in-person voting for  
Election of Officers)  
Saturday, June 3**

determining when a motion or an amendment is “outside the scope” of an article. And often times, that’s not a straightforward call. Here’s some background: When the Warrant (the “agenda”) for a Town Meeting is posted (which by law, has to happen at least 7 days before the meeting), it serves as an “adequate warning” to voters about what topics will be discussed and voted on at that meeting. Such notice allows voters to prepare for the meeting (maybe by studying the budget proposal, reviewing the wording of a proposed bylaw change, or reading through committee meeting minutes), or they might decide that those topics are not important enough for them to miss their child’s soccer game. So, it’s important that the wording of the warrant articles provides enough detail to give voters a good idea of the types of decisions that are likely to be made at the meeting.

But, by design, that wording usually isn’t so specific that Town Meeting doesn’t have some “flexibility” in deciding the specifics of the matter.

(That’s why the phrase “or take any other action relative thereto” is often included at the end of the article wording.) The specifics are generally spelled out in the actual **motion** that is presented on the floor of Town Meeting for an article, and/or in proposed amendments. But, the motion or amendments cannot deviate too much from the wording in the posted article.

Here’s an example: Let’s say that a warrant article proposes that the town spend \$25,000 on a sedan for the town’s tree warden. On the floor of Town Meeting, a motion might be made to transfer \$25,000 from Stabilization for the purchase of a 2-wheel drive sedan. But someone might argue that the tree warden really needs a 4-wheel drive vehicle, which would cost \$27,000, and further, that the money should be taken from Free Cash rather than Stabilization. Those are reasonable changes that would likely be allowed (i.e., considered “within scope”). But a proposed amendment to spend

***Moderator, cont. on page 2***

**Moderator**, cont. from page 1

\$50,000 on a HumVee would likely be ruled “out of scope,” because it’s substantially different from the article wording, and also because a voter who chose not to attend the meeting could effectively argue that he/she did not receive “adequate warning” that such a purchase might be approved at the meeting. Here are a couple other “out of scope” examples: 1) A motion to amend a zoning bylaw would not be permissible under an article to repeal the bylaw; 2) An amendment to include funds for a new recycling shed would not be within the scope of an article to improve handicapped access at the school.

In Moderator parlance, questions about Scope are usually thought of in terms of a “Four Corners” perspective. That is, “Does the proposed change fall within the bounds, or four corners, of the intent, purpose and wording of the article?” Such determinations often involve on-the-spot judgement calls, which are not always easy. And different Moderators may very well rule differently on similar questions of scope. In the end, it’s just one more reason why New England Town Meetings are so wonderfully intriguing and entertaining – and worth attending!

**A Letter from the Town Clerk**

Grace Bannasch (she/her/hers), *Town Clerk*

townclerk@shutesbury.org  
413-259-1204  
Website [www.shutesbury.org](http://www.shutesbury.org)  
Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,  
Friday: 10am-3pm.  
Wednesday: 10am-1pm, 3-  
5pm.  
Friday: 10am-3pm.

Salutations Shutesburians!

I’m just gonna dive right into it. “It” meaning the civic info you need to know.

**Annual Town Meeting** will take place on Saturday, June 3, in the field behind Town Hall at 1 Cooleyville Rd. As we’ve been doing the past few years, Town Meeting will occur outside. If you have comfortable portable chairs at home, consider bringing them to sit in. If you have any mobility concerns with navigating the grass, please contact the Town Clerk or Town Administrator so we can make sure there is seating available for you at the edge of the lawn.

**The Annual Local Election** will also be taking place on June 3 at Town Hall, inside and downstairs. Polls will open at 8am and close at 2pm. You can vote in person at Town Hall on June 3, and you can vote by mail. The deadline to apply for Vote by Mail is May 30 but between us, that deadline is a little unrealistic. USPS recommends allowing 7 days for the mailing of your ballot. So, please keep that in mind if you are applying for Vote by Mail. All ballots must be received by 2pm on June 3 in order to be counted.

There is a webpage on the town website dedicated to information about the Annual Town Meeting and Local Election on June 3. You can easily find the link on the homepage,

or by going to: <https://www.shutesbury.org/node/3696>

**Some other Town Clerk news:**

Check out the new Town of Shutesbury Youtube channel! Your first stop for all the public meeting recordings from your favorite local government! You can easily find the channel by going to the town website and clicking the “Meeting Recordings” option under the “Meetings” dropdown menu.

By now you all should have received your annual street list form. You’ll notice that there was no return envelope. I made the decision to take out the return envelope because when I took the street list packets to be weighed before sending, we discovered that the additional forms included this year had increased the weight over an ounce, and including the return envelopes would have made the town-wide mailer a lot more expensive. I am working on consolidating the forms and getting the weight down for next year. In the meantime, you can return this year’s street list several different ways.

- By mail: Address your completed form to “Town Clerk, PO Box 264, Shutesbury MA 01072”
- By dropbox: Put your completed form in the dropbox outside Town Hall
- By email: If you have a scanner at home, you can scan your street list and submit it to me at [townclerk@shutesbury.org](mailto:townclerk@shutesbury.org). Please doublecheck before sending to make sure all text is legible in the image.

## Candidates for Elected Office in Shutesbury 2023

\* DENOTES CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION

All terms are for 3 years unless specified otherwise.

### BOARD OF HEALTH VOTE FOR TWO

\*NORENE PEASE—19 South Laurel Dr

\*GARRETT SIMONSEN — 294 West Pelham Rd

### CEMETERY COMMISSION VOTE FOR ONE

\*WALTER TIBBETTS — 273 Pelham Hill Rd

### LIBRARY TRUSTEE VOTE FOR TWO

\*MELANIE DESILVA — 291 Wendell Rd

\*PATRICIA S OUELLETTE — 205 West Pelham rd.

### PLANNING BOARD VOTE FOR THREE

\*DEACON BONNAR — 276 Montague Rd

\*STEVEN H BRESSLER — 43 Old Orchard Rd

\*MICHAEL JOSEPH DECHIARA — 56 Pratt Corner Rd

### SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE FOR TWO

MARY L CONCA — 105 Wendell Rd

ANNA CEDERBERG HEARD — 64 Cushman Rd

NATHANIEL CHARLES LONGCOPE — 71 Town Farm Rd

JEREMY MAILLOUX — 176 West Pelham Rd

### SELECT BOARD VOTE FOR ONE

\*RITA FARRELL — 36 Briggs Rd

### TOWN CLERK VOTE FOR ONE

\*GRACE BANNASCH — 106 Sandhill Rd

Statements from candidates for Town Election of Officers

Space in Our Town for campaign statements is available to all candidates, including known write-in candidates. Each is invited to submit a statement of no more than 125 words to this newsletter. Below are all statements that were received by the Our Town newsletter. The Town of Shutesbury does not endorse any candidate.

### School Committee

#### Mary L Conca

105 Wendell Road

I have a vested interest in assuring all children receive an equitable education.

My experience and education: Preschool Teacher, Certification, Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, Bus/Van Monitor, Cafeteria Assistant, Special Education Instructional Paraeducator, Substitute—Preschool to Sixth, and Tutor for Middle School.

Bachelor of Arts, cum laude', Liberal Arts, Concentration in Young Children's Learning, The University of Massachusetts, Associate in Science, Executive Office Assistant, Aquinas College, Newton, Massachusetts, Certification, Math for the 21st Century, Greenfield Community College.

Foster Parent Certification, Massachusetts Approach Partnership Parenting.

Restorative Justice Working Group, Amherst Regional School Committee's subcommittee, School Equity Advisory Council, Wellness Committee. Currently I work as a substitute for Union #28. If elected, I will take leave.

I offer a wealth of experience and knowledge to the service of our youth.

#### Anna Heard

64 Cushman Road

Our family moved to Shutesbury in part because of its elementary school and community that supports the curiosity and development of every child. We have two children in the Shutesbury/Amherst Regional school system. I enjoy serving as the Treasurer of the SES PTO and leading fundraising and community events, such as skating at the Mullins Rink, and would like to deepen my involvement by joining the School Committee.

I'm eager to work with fellow committee members and other relevant town and regional bodies to ensure teachers have the support they need, kids' needs are well-met, and parents are encouraged and facilitated to be involved. I'll advocate for appropriate and cost-effective resources and support for administration and facility maintenance, and environment-forward improvements such as heat pumps.

#### Jeremy Mailloux

176 West Pelham Rd

My name is Jeremy Mailloux. I am running for one of the open seats on the school committee. I live here in Shutesbury with my

***Statement continues next page***

## School Committee continued from previous page

wife and three children, and work as an English Teacher at the Franklin County Technical School in Turners Falls. As a public educator for over 16 years, and a parent of a child at SES, I will bring a balanced and informed perspective to this position. My youngest son's experience at SES has been nothing short of transformative, and through this I have come to see first-hand just what a treasure this school is for our community. I want to play a role in keeping our school the strong and independent heart of our town. I would appreciate your vote.

## Board of Health

### Garrett Simonsen 294 West Pelham Rd

While relatively new to town (2019), I have 18 years of experience in public health emergency preparedness and response in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Over the past 8 years, I have consulted to state and local health departments on plan development for response to infectious disease outbreaks. I have supported local response during two pandemics (H1N1, COVID-19), isolated outbreaks (Measles, Hepatitis C) and emergency sheltering (2008 Ice Storm). During my first term

on the Board, I collaborate with board members to support local response to the pandemic including proactive communication with residents. I served as the Board's liaison to state agencies for collection of information. Community volunteerism is an important personal tenet and reason I ran for the Board and why I am seeking re-election.

I am committed to continue serving the Town and I welcome your support serving the Town and I welcome your support - not only during this election period - but throughout the year as the Select Board continues its important and challenging work.

## Town Clerk

### Grace Bannasch 106 Sand Hill Rd

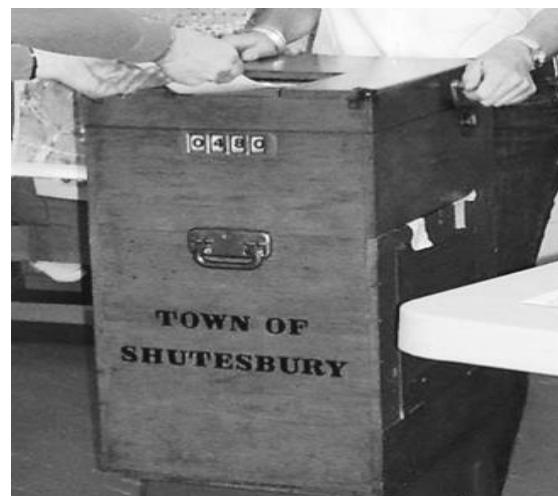
#### Rita Farrell 36 Briggs Rd

I am running for reelection to the Select Board and I believe I have the commitment and qualifications to continue as member of this board.

I have many years of municipal experience ranging from serving on the Shutesbury school and finance committees and for 3 years serving as a shared town administrator in four Franklin County towns.

Much has been accomplished in these last three years including creation of an Energy and Climate Action Committee, revamping the Building Committee, moving the Library forward, addressing PFAS in town, hiring a new Fire Chief, and progress on the school roof.

I wish I could explain the job of a Town Clerk in its entirety, but there's a character limit. So, very briefly, Town Clerks are in charge of elections, birth/marriage/death records, town archives and public record access, among countless other duties. I started as the Assistant Town Clerk in 2019 and was elected Town Clerk in 2020. I am running for a second term because I love working for our community and I love the job itself. I am passionate about civic access, election administration and voting rights, and getting young people engaged with town government. I hope you will pick me to be your Town Clerk again. The local election will take place on June 3rd. You can also vote by mail now.



## News from your Select Board

Your Selectboard members, Rita Farrell, Melissa Makepeace O'Neil and Eric Stocker, have been busy tending to town business over the last few months.

The Town is continuing our site investigation of Lot O-32 with our licensed site professionals at Fuss and O'Neill to ensure that all environmental concerns are addressed at the future site of the library. Most recently, additional test wells were installed at the site of the former air force tower. Discussions are underway with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding their responsibility for cleanup of the contamination at this location.

A Public Involvement Plan (PIP) has been drafted to address how the Town will work with local citizens on the planning and remediation at Lot 0-32, the site of the future library. The draft PIP will be finalized after comments are incorporated into the final document which will be done by the end of May.

Planning is well underway for the design for the replacement of the school roof and we expect to put the roof out to bid in time to allocate funds at Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, June 3.

The other big construction project for this year will be the replacement of the culvert on Locks Pond Road adjacent to Lake Wyola. This project will commence in mid-July and will result in Locks Pond Road closure and detours.

In other Lake Wyola news, the Select Board is in the process of developing a draft by-law to limit access to the dam at Lake Wyola due to safety concerns. This by-law will go before Annual Town Meeting this June.

The Town has been notified that it is eligible for the Clean Water Trust Emergency Loan Program for PFAS remediation. The loan would cover the costs associated with the FAS contamination at the fire station and households affected by this contamination, which totals just over \$136,000. The loan would be a 0% interest 20 year loan and there is a good chance of forgiveness for part of the loan. All the costs associated with the engineering, POETS systems, filters and any additional testing would be covered. There will be an article on the Town Meeting warrant to authorize the Town to apply for this loan.

We continue to hold our bi-weekly meetings on Zoom Tuesday evenings at 5:30 – always check the town calendar for updates and the meeting agendas. And don't forget: Town Meeting will be on Saturday, June 3, at 9 am under the tent behind town hall. We look forward to seeing you there.



### Prevent Outages

After both the January and March snowstorms this year,

we enacted our emergency response plan for the first time since the network was built. Both of these storms were severe enough that large percentages of the homes in town lost power, some for multiple days, and dozens of homes had their broadband lines or equipment damaged. After each storm our new service provider deployed a small fleet of trucks and technicians to Shutesbury and had almost everyone back online within 48 hours. We know how critical the internet is when these storms roll through for you to stay connected to loved ones, school, work, and entertainment.

Almost all of the damage to our network happened on the drops — the fiber lines that run from the road to each home. Here's what YOU can do to help ensure your connection stays online during the next storm.

- **Clear Hazard Trees:** Make sure tree limbs and vines are trimmed away from the fiber lines that run from the road to your home and remove any deadfall that could be hazardous to the wires. Please consider having this work done this spring! Since tree work near wires entails personal safety risks, we recommend you consult with a professional.
- **Install Surge Protectors:** Plug your in-home broadband equipment into a surge protector instead of directly into a wall socket. Electrical surges and cycles like

**Broadband**, cont. on page 6

## **Broadband**, cont. from page 5

what we had with the March storm can damage your equipment, and surge protectors will help prevent this.

**Consider a Battery Backup:**  
The batteries included with the Cyberpower UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) battery backup units that were sold during initial installation are reaching the end of their 3-5 year lifespan. If yours has failed, or you never got one, you might consider getting a new battery (or UPS battery backup unit) so you can continue to have phone service during a power outage. Larger battery backups can also supply your router and other devices with power so you can stay online on the internet during a power outage. See the FAQs page on our website for lots more information about this. <https://www.shutesbury.org/broadband-transitionFAQ>

Lastly, make sure your driveway is plowed and downed trees are cleared as soon as possible when you have an outage so repair trucks can get through. And please shovel a pathway to the fiber network equipment on the side of your home so technicians can reach it.

Thanks for doing your part to ensure your connection to ShutesburyNET is resilient!

## **Did you know Our Town is available online?**

A digital version with clickable hyperlinks and color photos can be accessed on the home page of [www.shutesbury.org](http://www.shutesbury.org).

## A timely reminder from the Board of Health:

As you enjoy the warmer weather, take care to avoid insect-borne diseases! Certain ticks carry Lyme and other very serious diseases; mosquitoes can carry the deadly Eastern Equine Encephalitis. There are many ways you can protect yourselves and your families from these illnesses. Visit shutesbury.org/health and select *Insect-borne diseases* for more information. If you lack internet access, call the Board of Health at (413) 259-2122. Also: COVID vaccine booster shots are still available and free. Those over 65 and the immunocompromised are now permitted to have a second booster shot. Information available at shutesbury.org/health or 259-2122.

## Want to help Shutesbury act on climate and energy?

The Energy and Climate Action Committee (ECAC) will have several openings starting this July. If you are someone who is interested in thinking about ways the town can act to address climate mitigation and increase resiliency, this might be the volunteer opportunity for you. The committee purpose (as established by the Select Board) is to recommend ways that “the Town can meet its climate mitigation and resilience goals as detailed in the Town’s 2020 Municipal Vulnerability Plan and the 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan.”

ECAC meets monthly, usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Members balance big-picture thinking as well as

rolling up our sleeves to do research, explore opportunities, and dig into the details to inform town policy or town actions. More information can be found at:

[www.shutesbury.org/energy-climate](http://www.shutesbury.org/energy-climate).

If interested, please email a statement of interest to Michael DeChiara, ECAC Chair at [Shutesbury.michael.dechiara@gmail.com](mailto:Shutesbury.michael.dechiara@gmail.com)

Please include any relevant background, particular interests and your understanding of what ECAC can and should focus on.

While relevant expertise is welcome, we are mostly looking for people who care about this issue, can contribute to doing work, and will actively participate to promote efforts regarding climate and energy policy action for Shutesbury.

## **Our Town Newsletter Policy**

Adopted by the  
Shutesbury Select Board  
December 23, 2019

*Our Town*, published three times a year in January or February, April, and August or September, is supported by tax dollars. We welcome news from Town of Shutesbury departments, boards, and committees, and from individuals and groups about local community projects, activities, or special events of benefit to our community. Submissions must be strictly secular and nonpartisan and are subject to review, revision, and/or non-acceptance by the editorial board of the newsletter. Submissions promoting the sale of goods and services for private profit cannot be accepted. Appeals to any review decisions can be brought to the Select Board for further discussion.

Janis S. Gray and Linda Avis Scott,  
*Newsletter Committee*

Geneva Bickford, *Town Hall Liaison*

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## From the Recycling and Solid Waste Committee Shutesbury Trash Bag Distribution Schedule 2023 (after Annual Town Meeting)

- Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> 5:30 – 7:00 (School Shed)
- Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> 8:30 – 10:30 (Lake Wyola Association Meeting)
- Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> 5:30 – 7:00 (School Shed)
- Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> 9:30 – 11:30 (School Shed)
- Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> 5:30 – 7:00 (School Shed)
- Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup> 9:30 – 11:30 (School Shed)
- Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup> 5:30 – 7:00 (School Shed)
- Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup> 9:30 – 11:30 (School Shed)

Each household in Shutesbury is entitled to 50 bags (five packs of 10 bags). Please bring a bag to take your bags home.

## Leverett Transfer Station Stickers

Beginning with trash bag distribution, Leverett Transfer Station (LTS) stickers for FY 2024 will be available. These stickers are good from July 1, 2023 until June 30, 2024 and cost \$20.00. FY 2023 stickers will go on sale for \$10.00 and are good until June 30, 2023. With a sticker, Shutesbury residents have access to the LTS to dispose of bulky waste and also have access to the Swap areas at the LTS. For information regarding the LTS and a list of costs to dispose of various items see the website here: [Leverett Transfer Station - Town of Leverett, MA](#)

Council on Aging  
**We have a vacancy!** Your Council on Aging serves Shutesbury residents aged 55

and older. If you are interested in learning about the Council's work, please attend one of our meetings held on the second Wednesday of the month. See the Town meeting calendar for Zoom log-in information.

## Recreation Committee plans Family Field Day for June 17

*(With the print version of this newsletter delayed, some of the other fun spring activities noted in this article will have happened by the time the print version reaches mailboxes.)*

Our spring activities have started off well!

## Jefferson Safe Haven

On Saturday, April 15, the Recreation Committee sponsored a trip to Jefferson's Safe Haven in Leverett.



Kathy and Trish, the sisters who own and operate the farm with the help of wonderful volunteers, explained how they started the Sanctuary and ultimately came to Leverett. We met the animals, among them Patches (an alpaca), Wilbur (a goat), and Peanut (a chicken), and learned how they came to find their forever home at Jefferson's Safe Haven.

Kathy and Trish provided vegetables for those who wanted to feed the animals and popcorn for the visitors. The day provided us with the opportunity both to learn about this very special place and to see old friends and make new ones. If you'd like to learn more about the sanctuary, go to [jeffersonsafehaven.org](#).

## Invasive Plant workshop

Our next event will be on **May 13 from 10-12** and will be led by Brian Colleran, an expert on invasive plant management. We will meet at the Shutesbury Elementary School because there are three types of invasive plants growing there.

With his help we will learn how to identify these invasives and how to eradicate them. The photo is of Japanese Knotweed. While its lushness may be appealing, it quickly excludes native plants, depriving bugs of their vital food sources and in turn depriving birds of theirs.

## Ancient Pony Farms

On **Saturday, May 27, from 10-12** please join us at Ancient Pony Farms. Based on the success of last year's visit we have asked to return and Zoe Weizenbaum, Farm Manager, has welcomed us again. For adults, you'll have the opportunity to learn about her farming methods. And for adults and children, you'll have the opportunity to meet the soon to be born baby goats.

## Family Field Day

We are very pleased to be able to offer our second annual Family Field Day! It will be on **Saturday, June 17, from 10-12**, at the Shutesbury Elementary School. Once again, we thank Mr. Steven Carra, the Physical Education teacher at the school, for his generous offer of his time, talent, ideas and energy!

**Pickleball:** Indoor pickleball will have ended for the season at the end of April. We hope that it will return next year because it was an incredible opportunity both to play and to meet new people.

## Do you or a household member need alternative forms of transportation?

Last spring, LifePath, our Area Agency on Aging, surveyed people aged 50 and older as part of the Franklin County & North Quabbin Age-Friendly Communities Project. Respondents from Shutesbury expressed a lot of interest in having transportation options beyond private cars.

Now the Town of Shutesbury is reaching out to learn how many residents, of any age, are in need of transportation – and just what they're looking for. To help provide a fuller picture, please clip out and complete this survey by the Select Board and the Shutesbury Council on Aging.

Then send it to P.O. Box 276 Shutesbury MA 01072 Attention: COA, or place it in the Drop Box outside Town Hall to the attention of COA or put it inside in the COA Town Hall mailbox.

To complete the survey electronically, visit the COA webpage for instructions.

1. Could one or more residents in your household use some help with transportation?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

2. What are the ages of the residents in your household needing transportation?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. To which towns do the residents need to go?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. The reason(s) for the residents to go there: (check all that apply)

Medical appointments \_\_\_\_\_ Grocery shopping \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

5. How is each resident getting there now? (check all that apply)

Drives self \_\_\_\_\_ Asks a friend or relative to drive \_\_\_\_\_

Uses drivers from Village Neighbors \_\_\_\_\_ Can't get there from here \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Does any resident in your household use special medical equipment? (check all that apply)

Walker \_\_\_\_\_ Wheelchair \_\_\_\_\_ Oxygen \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please respond by June 16th. Thank you!



## Spring sightings at Shutesbury Elementary

Dan Hayes, Chair, Shutesbury School Committee

Recently, I went to the Elementary School to take a look at the kitchen floor; there are several places where it is beginning to buckle. I wanted to understand what needs to be done. A request to replace the flooring will be going to the Capital Planning Committee. While there, Jackie Mendonsa, Principal) gave me a brief tour. The conference room has been repurposed to allow for increased services to support students and the music room was bustling with activity. Jackie pointed out the fabulous artwork on the walls and the trove of cute and cuddly moose mascots. I stayed for lunch and enjoyed the meal, and I especially enjoyed observing the students in action.

The energy and excitement were palpable. Students lined up for their delicious pork or tofu sliders, potato soup, salad and apple sauce. Conversations amongst students were engaging and spirited, and Mr. Carra (the physical education teacher) and students were doing push-ups at the gym's edge.

Jackie captured the attention of all students in a game of eye spy, then transitioned them in an orderly manner, as they filed back to their classrooms

It was a delight to see the joy in the faces of the students and the pleasant engagement with teachers and staff. It meant so much to me to see this.

I am proud of the academic success of all of our students, the integration of art, music, physical education and health into the fabric of curricula, and the cultural enrichment opportunities that permeate the school culture. Additionally, the social and emotional curricula — choose love, a conscious effort to implement a culture of kindness — appears to be working well.

We have a great elementary school, one that prepares our students well as they matriculate into the Amherst Regional school system. Thank you, our community, for your continued support. We appreciate it.

**Early Childhood Program**  
The Shutesbury Elementary School (SES) Community believes that opportunities for early childhood education are essential components of a good education system. Early experiences in an environment rich in hands-on materials and activities provide children various opportunities to grow emotionally, physically, socially and cognitively. We believe that a trans-disciplinary team approach, in which all adults working with children are responsible for a child's learning, is the most effective way of teaching, and we also believe that parents are the most important teachers of their children and that their involvement in their child's education is essential.

**Your child must be 3 years old on or before September 1, 2023, for pre-school enrollment,**  
**or 5 years old, on or before September 1, 2023, for kindergarten enrollment.**  
**Please contact the school for**

## Fall/2022 enrollment information.

For more information, please call **Laura Feltman**, Main Office SES, 413-259-1212 x100 [feltmanl@shutesburyschool.org](mailto:feltmanl@shutesburyschool.org) or **Grace Griecci**, 413-259-1212 x140 [griecig@shutesburyschool.org](mailto:griecig@shutesburyschool.org)

## Greetings Shutesbury Community!

*From the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)*

Spring is welcoming us out of our winter hibernation! At Shutesbury Elementary School, spring can be found blossoming in the classrooms and sprouting on the playground. We are so happy to see the return of field trips, in-person guest authors, and parents in the school building! We owe a debt of gratitude to everyone who helped shepherd us through the isolation and uncertainty of the last few years- we are healthy, connected, and growing as a community.

The PTO has been busy supporting teachers, students, and families. Our mission is to enhance the educational experience at SES. We believe that fostering a close relationship between our families, our community, and the school is the key to that goal. We know that we can positively impact the student experience at SES by providing financial support directly to classroom teachers to support their pedagogy. Our little school has a well-deserved reputation for excellence, and has been a consistent bright spot that attracts new residents to town. We strive to maintain Shutesbury Elementary's high achievement standards, award-

**SES, cont. on page 10**

## **SES, cont. from page 9**

winning teachers, outdoor and creative learning programs, and nurturing community.

Through the hard work of many volunteers as well as the financial generosity of our community, the PTO was able to provide cash allowances to the entire SES faculty. We helped fund big purchases at the school such as a volleyball net, MCBA books, author visits, and new curricula. We also organized free school community events like Soup & Games Night and skating at the Mullins Center. Our volunteers produced the Student Directory, Buddy Books, and much more!

We love when members of the wider Shutesbury community participate in our fundraisers. Thank you to all our neighbors who supported us at the Silent Auction, and with our fundraisers through Hillside Pizza and North Hadley Sugar Shack. Our work is only possible with the support of the larger Shutesbury community. We are grateful for the many ways folks have been generous with their financial resources, time, and creative energy. Every little bit helps! We are truly a community school.

Our last fundraiser offered hanging flower baskets from North Hadley Sugar Shack, just in time for Mother's Day.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy summer season!  
With gratitude,  
The Shutesbury PTO

**Union #28 Community Network for Children (CNC)**  
This program offers programming and basic needs support for families with young children in Erving, Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury and Wendell. Learn

more about CNC at 413-422-0170 (call/text) or email [Budine@erving.com](mailto:Budine@erving.com)

## **Update from the Library Building Committee**

The Library Building committee is now engaged in the schematic design phase.

Our three main priorities are as follows: 1. To maximize usable space with minimal cost, 2. to site the building within all the wetland constraints on the property, and 3. to build a net zero energy building.

Where did that leave us? Our architects (Odens – Ello) gave us three designs to choose from. Two were rectangular buildings with similar interiors but different orientations, and the third was an L-shaped design.

After much discussion, tours of many other libraries in Massachusetts, and hearing from the community at our public forum, we chose the design of the rectangular building with a single south sloping roof. This will maximize placement of solar panels, maximize interior usable space, and minimize cost.

We had detailed schematic designs presented to us at our May 16 meeting. We are currently getting cost estimates on the options.

We appreciate everyone who attended our public forum. We have received many thoughtful comments and yes, criticisms. We know we can't accommodate all ideas brought forth. That said, we still want to hear them. We will be presenting our next phase in a public forum sometime in the summer. You are most welcome to attend our bi-weekly meetings where we always hold the first 10 minutes

for public comments. Other comments and questions can be sent to [LibBuild@shutesbury.org](mailto:LibBuild@shutesbury.org). And please, visit our website <https://www.shutesbury.org/library-building> where you will find all presentation materials and minutes from previous meetings.

## **Means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption comes to Shutesbury!**

*From the Board of Assessors*

The June 12, 2021 Annual Town Meeting authorized the Select Board to petition the General Court for passage of a special law to provide for a **means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption**.

This exemption is tied to the applicant's qualification for the Massachusetts State Tax Form Schedule CB (Circuit Breaker). Governor Charles Baker approved and signed Shutesbury's special request on November 7, 2022, allowing qualifying senior citizens to benefit from this exemption in the coming Fiscal 2024 tax year.

Assessors are developing an information sheet detailing qualifications and an application form. The application forms will be available by July 2023 and the return deadline will likely be August 31, 2023. Any senior citizen of Shutesbury, who qualified for the state "Circuit Breaker" Form Schedule CB, who is 65 years of age or older, and who has owned a home in the Town of Shutesbury for not less than 10 consecutive years may be eligible, based on their calendar 2022 income and assets.

If you wish to receive an information sheet and application form, as soon as they are avail-

**Assessors, cont. on page 11**

## **Assessors**, cont. from page 10

able, please email your request to: [assessor@shutesbury.org](mailto:assessor@shutesbury.org), or mail your application request to: Shutesbury Assessors, P O Box 264, Shutesbury MA 01072. Please include your name, your email address (if available), your mailing address, and a telephone number.

This exemption would be in addition to the long-standing statutory exemptions and applications that were re-voted and up-dated at the May 21, 2022 Annual Town meeting, and which are due each April 1.

**The Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) requires that Assessors visit each parcel** in their community during every 10-year period, in order to verify that interior and exterior information on file for each property is accurate. This requirement is meant to ensure that each property is valued fairly and equitably. It is a critical element in developing uniform and fair market values.

Such routine inspections are called "cyclical inspections." Recent construction and property sales also trigger DOR required property inspections, and may double as a "cyclical" inspection for a 10-year period. For practical reasons, much of the Shutesbury Assessors' inspection work is done during the fair-weather seasons, as are coming up soon.

Assessors schedule interior inspections at the convenience of the property owner. In the absence of interior opportunities, Assessors minimally conduct exterior inspections, which may include verification of decks and outbuildings, measurements, and an updated exterior property photo, all in keeping with DOR

standards and expectations. Should you have any special requests concerning a property inspection, Assessors invite you to call 413-259-3790, or email [assessor@shutesbury.org](mailto:assessor@shutesbury.org) anytime to leave a message. We look forward to working with you to properly follow DOR guidelines, while respecting your needs and wishes. Thank you in advance for your cooperative understanding.

Chairman Howard Shpetner, and Members April Stein and George Arvanitis

## Note from the Town Collector

Dear Shutesbury taxpayers,  
Happy spring! Now that the warmer weather is approaching, we are nearly at the end of fiscal 2023 and the Town Meeting for fiscal 2024.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** As I have had to change vendor programs, all bills generated after June 1 will appear different than the current ones. All information on the bills will be the same as on the present ones but in different places on the bill. The top section is the collector's copy of the bill, the middle has the information that is currently found on the back of your bills, and the bottom section is the copy for you to keep. If you want a receipt, please send the entire bill (or the top and bottom sections) with a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

My office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 am – Noon and Thursday from 8 – 11 am. If you call during these hours and I don't answer, please leave a message. I'm either on the telephone or have stepped out of

the office.

Always open all envelopes you receive from this office immediately upon receipt. The bill you think is a real estate bill (and paid by your bank) may be an excise tax bill for which you are responsible.

If you use on-line banking from your bank (not the Town's system), please change the mailing address to Town Collector, PO Box 175, Shutesbury, MA 01072 -0175. Please make sure the memo information is correct and does not reflect information from previous payments (ie: listing real estate or excise bill numbers from previous years or an incorrect type of bill). Since your bill payment is NOT an automatic transfer into the Town's bank account, you must plan accordingly when authorizing the payment. DO NOT set up the payment on the due date as it won't get to the Town until almost a week later which will result in fees and interest.

If you are having financial difficulty paying your real estate bills, please contact me to arrange a payment plan.

Don't forget to contact the Board of Assessors if you no longer have a vehicle on which you have received a motor vehicle excise tax bill. All bills should be paid in full before you apply for the abatement. If this is not done and the bill becomes overdue with additional fees and interest before abatement, these must be paid along with any outstanding balance due on the bill after abatement.

Be sure to notify this office if you

**Collector**, cont. on page 12

permanently change your mailing address to avoid a delay in delivery of your mail which is returned to me for forwarding. This can take as much as three weeks which reduces the time you have to pay the bill on time. I am glad to forward bills if you are temporarily away. However, I must know this is the situation before you leave to avoid the bills being returned as "temporarily away" by the post office, which delays delivery to you.

Should a demand bill be issued on a motor vehicle excise tax, the law provides 14 days for receipt of payment before a warrant for collection is issued to the Deputy Collector. This results in at least \$22.00 in additional fees. Upon mailing of the demand bills, payment of the original bill will NOT be accepted and checks made out in the incorrect amount WILL be returned to the sender.

Some of you have been unable to pay your bills on-line. If the bill is on warrant, it cannot be paid on-line except through the Deputy Collector's office which can be reached during business hours at 413-527-2388.

Have a good spring and stay healthy. Ellen McKay, Town Collector

## 41st LAKE WYOLA ROAD RACE & WALK

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2023

4.8 MILES and  
NEW 1.5 MILE FUN RUN/  
WALK

LAKE WYOLA STATE PARK  
SHUTESBURY, MA

9:30AM WALK  
10:00AM RUN  
10:10AM FUN RUN/WALK

REGISTRATION AT:  
[www.runreg.com](http://www.runreg.com)

Please contact Maura Keene at  
[keenemaura@gmail.com](mailto:keenemaura@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer or make a donation of money or prizes.

## Variable Milfoil: An Invasive Aquatic Plant

*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*



### Description

- Variable Milfoil is an aquatic rooted, submerged non-native plant with a "raccoon-tail" or pipe cleaner appearance.
- Variable Milfoil can form dense mats at the water surface and can grow in the photic zone, in up to 10 feet of water.
- The delicate green underwater leaves are feather-like and average ½ to 2 inches across. Leaves are arranged around the stem in whorls of 4-6. The leaves have 6-12 segments.

Learn how you can help prevent the spread of invasive weeds in Massachusetts waters.

On Friday, June 23 at 11am, the Lake Wyola Association will host Massachusetts Lakes and Ponds Program staff to present Weed Watcher Training.

This is a hands-on workshop learning to identify native and invasive plants. The class is free and open to the public. No experience necessary.

This event will run for 1.5 to 2 hours and will be held at the LWA Hall at 6 Shore Drive in Shutesbury, MA. Limited to 25 people, so please RSVP to Tim and Kathy Timpson at [ttimpson3@gmail.com](mailto:ttimpson3@gmail.com)



## Village Neighbors

Village Neighbors is a nonprofit helping residents 60 and over live high-quality independent lives. Membership is free. Village Neighbors offers rides to groceries, meal sites, and medical appointments, and directs to services for long-distance appointments. VN does small safety home repairs, and organizes social and other activities.

Call 413-345-6894, write PO Box 501 Shutesbury 01072 or email [generalinfo@villageneighbors.org](mailto:generalinfo@villageneighbors.org).



# The M. N. Spear Memorial Library

10 Cooleyville Road  
413-259-1213;  
[www.mnspear.org](http://www.mnspear.org)  
Mary Anne Antonellis, Director

Hours: Sundays: 3pm-6pm  
Mondays and Wednesdays:  
11am-1pm and 3pm-6pm  
Tuesdays and Thursdays:  
3pm-7:30pm  
Fridays: 3pm-6pm  
Saturdays: 10am-1pm

## Summer Programming for kids and families!

We are kicking off summer with a family friendly, interactive show with local legend, Trevor the Games Man on Friday, June 16, at 6pm, under the pavilion at the Shutesbury Athletic Club.

### **Giants & Giraffes ~ Dragons & Detectives with Trevor the Games Man & Ice Cream Social**

We'll be serving free ice cream and we hope people of all ages will join us. This is an annual opportunity to visit with old friends, welcome newcomers, and celebrate our library, the beginning of summer and each other.

An uproarious kid and family show that features Stilt walking and Cooperative Games. This show is 100% participatory: the audience will be doing something all the way through from beginning to end. This show features Aerial Delights and Cooperative Games!

During the show, the Athletic Club will be grilling burgers, hotdogs, and veggie items for about \$5 each.

**After the show, we will serve ice cream!**



Beginning Wednesday, July 5, we will be offering free, weekly programs for children and families, every Wednesday at 6:30pm, under the pavilion at the Shutesbury Athletic Club.

**Wednesday, July 5, 6:30pm  
Summer Songs with Julie**  
Gather around with family and friends for an evening of familiar tunes kids of all ages will love.

**Wednesday, July 12, 6:30pm  
Records and Burpee Super Zoo\***  
Meet, pet and feed a variety of



animals such as goats, sheep, a llama, alpaca, and rabbits. Meet and greet exotic about exotic animals such as a big tortoise or young alligators, squirrel monkey, python, and colorful macaws.

**Wednesday, July 19th 6:30 pm  
Music & Movement with Tom & Laurie\***

Offered in collaboration with the Community Network for Children. Well-loved musicians, Tom & Laurie, will delight us with an interactive bilingual program created for young children and their families. Everyone will enjoy dancing, puppets, call and response songs, and lots of movement.

**Wednesday, July 26, 6:30pm  
Whale Tales, a Puppet Show with Anna Sobel**

It's the aquarium that comes to you! As part of this musical puppet show, you'll meet lots of

**Library, cont. on page 14**



creatures that live in the sea, including a walrus, a seahorse, a giant beluga whale, and many more.

**Wednesday, August 2, 6:30pm  
Children's Songs and Singing Games with Roger Tincknell\***  
Roger will perform an interactive program with traditional, multi-cultural, contemporary and original children's songs designed to stimulate the imagination and inspire singing,



clapping, moving and dancing. The audience is invited to imitate animals, take imaginary journeys, create song lyrics and learn words in Spanish and other languages through call and response singing.

**Wednesday, August 9, 6:30pm  
Musical Storytelling with Eli Elkus\***  
This family-friendly program will feature original songs and stories as well as rekindlings of folk songs and Americana in the tradition of artists like The Carter

Family, Woody Guthrie, Bessie Smith, Lead Belly, Malvina Reynolds, Shel Silverstein and more. Folk music for folks of all ages to enjoy with some songs geared toward the younger listeners.



*\*These programs are supported in part by grants from the Shutesbury Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.*

objects to block sunlight from the photosensitive fabric to make beautiful surface patterns. You will take home several cyanotype fabric image samples that can be made into bags, placemats, pillows, napkins, mending patches, quilt squares and more.

**Block Printed Surface Design ~ July 23**

**Shibori Dying with Indigo ~ August 27**

**Slow Stitching as Mindful Practice – September 24**

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#### Fiber Arts Workshops (for adults) with Rory Valentine

With support from a grant from the New Salem Academy, we began a monthly series of fiber art workshops in February. These monthly workshops will continue through September. To register for one or more of the final three workshops, please email [library.director@shutesbury.org](mailto:library.director@shutesbury.org).

**All programs will take place on Sundays at 2pm at Shutesbury Town Hall.**

#### June 11 Cyanotype - Sun Printed Fabric

Cyanotype is an antique photographic printing process well known for its deep blue color and where the term "blueprint" originated.

In this class we will use pre-treated cotton and everyday

#### Friends of the Library News

##### Library Giving Day! What a day!

In early April, 186 donors raised an amazing \$53,860 on Library Giving Day. That money will go straight into building our new library, and it will leverage three times that amount in state funds.

Words cannot express our gratitude for community support of this magnitude.

Our work isn't finished: we will keep raising funds for the new library until the doors open in the spring of 2025! In fact, we have two fundraisers coming up soon!

## The Library Loans Kayaks!



*The Library's kayaks will be available by the end of May. Borrowing the kayaks is a little bit complicated and requires some advance planning. Kayaks are available to Shutesbury resi-*

dents only, with a valid library card, for use on Lake Wyola only. Everyone, ages 18 and up, who uses the kayaks is required to sign a policy and release each time they borrow the kay-

aks. Children ages five and up can use the kayaks when accompanied by a parent or guardian. Learn more about the kayak loan program on the kayak page on [mnspear.org](http://mnspear.org).





TOWN OF SHUTESBURY  
P.O. BOX 276  
SHUTESBURY MA 01072

Return Service Requested

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US Postage  
PAID  
Permit 183  
Greenfield MA

## HOW TO CONTACT TOWN OFFICIALS

Go to [www.shutesbury.org](http://www.shutesbury.org) to find email addresses, or call the appropriate number below.

ACCOUNTANT Gail Weiss	413-259-1108	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR Kristin Burgess	413-259-1279	POLICE DEPARTMENT Kristin Burgess, Chief	413-259-1279
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY Geneva Bickford	413-259-6550	ENERGY & CLIMATE ACTION COMM. Michael DeChiara, Chair	413-259-1059	Dispatch	413-625-8200
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR Rebecca Torres	413-259-1214	FINANCE COMMITTEE Ajay Khashu, Chair	917-582-4256	RECREATION COMMITTEE Barbara Bigelow, Chair	413-801-9714
ANIMAL INSPECTOR Nancy Long	413-259-1279	FIRE DEPARTMENT Leonard Czerwonka, Chief	413-259-1211	RECYCLING COORDINATOR Gary Bernhard	413-259-1235
ASSESSORS Leave inquiries at BOARD OF HEALTH	413-259-3790	HEALTH AGENT Claudia Lucas	413-549-3710	REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE Stephen Sullivan	413-259-1626
BUILDINGS COMMITTEE Stephen Dallmus	413-367-9565	HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Tim Hunting	413-259-1215	SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE Dan Hayes, Chair	413-230-4686
BUILDING INSPECTOR Jim Hawkins	413-774-3167 x. 113	HISTORICAL COMMISSION Leave inquiries at	413-259-1214	UNION #28 SCHOOL SUPT. Jennifer Culkeen	413-423-3337
CEMETERY COMMISSION Walter Tibbets	413-259-1286	LAKE WYOLA ADVISORY COMMITTEE Mark Rivers, Chair	508-259-0972	SELECT BOARD Rita Farrell, Chair	413-259-1297
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMM. Matteo Pangallo, Chair	413-687-0402	M.N. SPEAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY Mary Anne Antonellis	413-259-1213	Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil	413-256-0312
COUNCIL ON AGING For general inquiries and details on Foot Clinic, leave message	413-259-3796	SPEAR LIBRARY TRUSTEES Kate Cell, Co-Chair	413-259-9129	Eric Stocker	413-259-1250
CONSERVATION COMMISSION Leave inquiries at	413-259-3792	Michele Regan-Ladd, Co-Chair	413-259-1149	SHUTESBURY BROADBAND COMMITTEE Gayle Huntress, Chair	413-345-2855
CULTURAL COUNCIL Rory Valentine	413-256-0563	OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE Leave inquiries at	413-259-1214	TAX COLLECTOR Ellen McKay	413-259-1615
DEPT. OF VETERANS' SERVICES Timothy Niejadlik	413-772-1571	OUR TOWN NEWSLETTER Janis S. Gray	413-259-1584	TOWN CLERK Grace Bannasch	413-259-1204
DOG OFFICER Nancy Long	413-259-1279	PERSONNEL BOARD Leave inquiries at	413-259-1214	TOWN MODERATOR Paul Lyons	413-259-1556
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR Maurice Gregoire	413-253-7505	PLANNING BOARD Deacon Bonnar, Chair	413-406-2767	TREASURER Ryan W. Mailloux	413-205-9944
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Jackie Mendonsa, Princ.	413-259-1212	PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR John Letourneau	413-367-0017	TREE WARDEN Don Wakoluk	413-256-6736
		EMERGENCY POLICE, FIRE & RESCUE SQUAD	911	WEB COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE Gail Fleischaker, Chair	413-253-0565
				ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS Jeff Lacy, Chair	413-253-0705