

SHUTESBURY

MASSACHUSETTS



OUR TOWN

Shutesbury students soar! Dan Hayes, *Chair, Shutesbury School Committee*

The School Committee is excited to announce that the 2022 MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) scores have been made public, and Shutesbury received the highest student growth scores (for all public schools) in English language arts and math in the entire state.

We outperformed the state averages in every subject matter. Though we do not put major emphasis on MCAS and state testing, we do use the data as an indicator of growth and progress in our students meeting state standards. Our incredible growth and performance after two years of interrupted learning is a

Our Town is available online
A version with clickable links is on the home page at www.shutesbury.org.

testament to the amazing staff and community that support our school and our students.

Additionally, Shutesbury was recognized in the Commissioner of Education’s report, featuring the Choose Love program that is in place to serve the social and emotional support of all of our students and families.

The School Committee is responsible for the school budget. Our administrative team approaches each budget with a focus on current needs, as they constantly change. Our Principal, **Jackie Mendonsa**, monitors the capital needs and along with School Committee representative **Stephen Sullivan**, keeps the

Capital Planning Committee abreast of past, ongoing and future projects. Our Director of Finance and Operations, **Caitlin Sheridan**, works closely with Jackie, and looks into state and federal funding that we can apply for and investigates grant opportunities that help to support our school and students. Our Superintendent, **Jennifer Culkeen**, provides the leadership necessary to oversee the principal’s execution of the budget, capital plans as well as the professional development for her team and feedback to each principal regarding student achievement as well as student health and wellbeing.

We continue to move forward in the next phase of repairing the roof. We are replacing our out-

School, cont. on page 6

Municipal broadband celebrated statewide

by the Shutesbury Broadband Committee

In December 2022, Governor Charlie Baker and members of his administration met with broadband leaders to celebrate the success of the “Last Mile” program to bring high-speed broadband to rural communities across the state.

Shutesbury’s Municipal Light Plant (MLP) Manager **Gayle Huntress** and the MLP Board (**Jim Hemingway**, **Steve Schmidt**, and **Graeme Sephton**)

attended the celebration in Ashfield, where several state leaders spoke about how the success of the municipal broadband program has improved the quality of life for about 26,000 residents throughout the state and made access to education, jobs and

Want to pay even less for your Internet and phone? Eligible households can reduce those monthly bills to less than \$25 by applying for the federal Lifeline and Affordable Connectivity benefit programs. Learn more at: <https://www.shutesbury.org/broadband/lifeline>.

healthcare possible throughout the pandemic and beyond.

Shutesbury was an early participant in the program, and with the help of state grant funds, borrowing authorization from Town Meeting, and thousands of volunteer hours, we completed our network at the end of 2019.

Currently about 90% of Shutesbury residents subscribe for high-speed Internet or phone service. ShutesburyNET stands out as one of the most successful in the state, with the highest percentage of residents using the service for the lowest monthly

Broadband, cont. on page 3

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.

We were very pleased to see a large turnout of townspeople at the **Special Town Meeting on January 19** where, among other things, the solar by-law was amended and funds were allocated to address PFAS contamination at the Fire Station and at properties in the center of town. [Editor's note: PFAS stands for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, sometimes called "forever chemicals."]

Our Highway, Police and Fire Departments did an outstanding job in January dealing with the nasty ice storm which resulted in closed roads, downed power lines and loss of power for many town residents.

We continue to work with the Library Trustees and the Library Building Committee as we move into the design phase for the new library. We are continuing our site investigation of Lot O-32 with our licensed site professionals at Fuss and O'Neill to insure that all environmental concerns are addressed at the future site of the new library.

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 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 late summer 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 **policy to limit access to the dam** at Lake Wyola due to safety concerns. This policy will be developed over

the next few months.

Good news! The Town received the **Green Communities Grant** award for \$178,503; \$100,000 of this total is for new LED lighting at Shutesbury Elementary School. The elementary school does not have LEDs and they will have a cost savings impact. The rest of the money is for weatherization in all our Town buildings.

We continue to hold our bi-weekly meetings on Zoom Tuesday evenings at 5:30pm – always check the town calendar for updates and the meeting agendas.

A letter from the Town Clerk

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

Email: townclerk@shutesbury.org

Phone: 413-259-1204

Office Hours:

Monday & Tuesday: 10am-3pm

Wednesday: 10am-1pm, 3-5pm

Thursday & Friday: 10am-3pm

Salutations Shutesburians!

Springtime means two things in the Town Clerk Office: street lists and Annual Town Meeting. So let's get right down to business.

Annual Street List

Street lists will be arriving at households in March this year. Do not be alarmed if you have not received yours yet, it is on its way. The street list is an annual town census. Each household will receive a street list form that needs to be filled out and returned to the Town Clerk. Please review the information on your street list, make any corrections that need to be made, and return your form. This residency data is invaluable to the town, and the forms are completely private. Thank you for your assistance keeping the information about our town accurate and up to date.

This year, **Annual Town Meeting and the Annual Local Election** will take place on Saturday, June 3, in the field behind

Town Hall. Save the date! In order to participate in Annual Town Meeting, you will have to attend in person on the day itself. However, on the election side of things, you can vote by mail if you prefer. Vote by Mail applications are available online and at Town Hall.

What's on the ballot?

Board of Health (2 seats)
Cemetery Commission (1 seat)
Library Trustees (2 seats)
Planning Board (3 seats)
School Committee (2 seats)
Select Board (1 seat)
Town Clerk (1 seat)

How to run for local office In 3 easy steps:

Step 1: Pick up nomination papers at the Town Clerk Office. You will also receive campaign finance paperwork and fill out a receipt. This is a good time to ask any questions you might have about the process.

Step 2: Collect signatures. You need signatures from at least 20 registered Shutesbury voters. It's a good idea to get more signatures than you need, just in case any of the signatures are illegible or from someone who is not actually registered to vote in Shutesbury.

Step 3: Return your nomination papers to the Town Clerk no later than 5pm on April 15. Assuming you have the required number of valid signatures, get ready to see your name printed on a ballot!

Want to get more involved but not quite ready to run for office? Shutesbury always needs volunteers for our various boards and committees. There are plenty of openings available currently.

Wait up, what about that Special Town Meeting we just had in January?

Curious about our recent Special Town Meeting? Check out the minutes, which are available on

Town Clerk, cont. on page 11

Recreation Committee invites all to join in the fun!

The Recreation Committee has been developing and supporting some great programming for the winter and spring.

We introduced a pilot program this year: **vouchers for ice skates**. This program provided



partial compensation to families to purchase ice skates for their children.

Up to 10 families received vouchers for \$25 each towards the purchase of ice skates from Gateway Hardware Inc., located in Springfield. We will be assessing the response and effectiveness of this program to determine whether to expand its reach in coming years.

Pickleball is everywhere ... except in Shutesbury ... that is, until now. Sessions have begun at Shutesbury Elementary School on Friday nights and Saturday mornings. This is a grassroots effort led by avid pickleball players in Shutesbury. For more information, you can email shutesburypickleball@gmail.com.



For the spring, we have four events planned.

First is a visit to **Jefferson's Safe Haven** in Leverett, where sanctuary and a permanent, loving home are offered to rescued farm animals. We'll be sponsoring a visit on a Saturday in mid-April to meet the animals and learn about this special endeavor. Our visit will be appropriate for all ages and will be free of charge for Shutesbury residents, with RSVPs required. Stay tuned for details!

Second is a return visit to **Ancient Pony Farms**, led by **Zoe Weizenbaum**, the Farm Manager. Last year we visited in

April; this year we'll visit in May to get an opportunity to learn about other aspects of their agricultural practices. The highlight for children (and for many of the adults!) was going into the barnyard and meeting the baby goats! Again, stay tuned for details.

Third is a return visit from Brian Colleran, a Restoration Ecologist who specializes in the **identification and eradication of invasive species**. Last year we had a hearty and enthusiastic group who turned out on a windy, wet, cold day in late April. Brian's entertaining and informative presentation kept us engaged and wanting more. So, we're asking him back, this time to focus on his particular area of expertise: **Japanese Knotweed**. While the date has yet to be finalized, he will likely come in late spring.

Fourth, we will have the return of what we hope to be an annual event: **Family Field Day**. Last year was so much fun! With considerable help from **Mr. Steven Carra**, the Physical Education teacher at SES, children and adults participated in multiple events. As a special treat, students from the high school track team came and demonstrated different elements of track and field. For many families this was an introduction to the use of the SES track, and a lot of excitement was generated! Our tentative date for Family Field Day is June 11. We will announce a final date by mid-May.

In addition to these events, the Recreation Committee is pleased to continue its collaboration with the M. N. Spear Memorial Library in offering and publicizing events. This year we have also been able to provide financial support for the fitness programs offered by the library.

Broadband, cont. from page 1

cost out of any other municipal broadband service in Massachusetts.

Over the last six months, we



MLP Manager Gayle Huntress and Gov. Charlie Baker exchange thanks for bringing broadband to Shutesbury.

improved our network further by switching Internet Service Providers. This change provides improved customer service and more rapid repair response times, as well as increased network resiliency against system wide outages.

Thanks to everyone for your support during this transition. Your patience throughout billing, phone and service changes was very much appreciated.

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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Community Preservation Projects for 2023 Annual Town Meeting

This past December, the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) approved the eligibility for two projects seeking Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding; both projects have subsequently presented to the Committee full grant applications for consideration.

The Cemetery Commission has requested \$10,000 from the Historic Preservation CPA fund to repair and restore 22 historic gravestones in the oldest part of the West Cemetery. This would be a continuation of the work the Commission did with a CPA grant in 2015.

The Amherst Regional Public Schools has requested \$84,840 from the Recreation CPA fund for a project to reorient, renovate, and improve the track and fields at Amherst Regional High School.

Full applications for both projects will be available at https://www.shutesbury.org/community_preservation.

A public hearing will be held via Zoom on March 23 so community members can comment on and ask questions about these projects, followed by a CPC meeting via Zoom on April 6 (also open to the public), at which the Committee will vote on the applications.

If a project is approved by the CPC, it will appear on the warrant for the 2023 Annual Town Meeting. Grant applications that are recommended by the CPC must still be approved by Town Meeting in order to be awarded funding.

The CPC will also be presenting to Town Meeting an article to authorize \$5,000 in CPA funding for the Conservation Commission to build a parking area at the West Quabbin Woodlands Conservation Area on Pelham Hill Road (Lot R-15). These funds would not be an additional grant but would, rather, come out of the \$50,000 CPA grant approved by

Town Meeting last year for the town's acquisition of the 34-acre property.

Finally, the CPC anticipates presenting a warrant article to rescind the Lake Wyola North Cove project grant that had been authorized at the 2018 Annual Town Meeting but which was never started and has now expired.

Since 2011, CPA funds have been used to support 16 projects around Shutesbury, amounting to over \$284,000 of direct investment—and hundreds of thousands of dollars more in matching grants—in historic preservation, open space, recreation, and affordable housing needs in the community. These projects are proposed by members of our community and our neighbors, and represent key partnerships between town and regional committees, boards, and commissions, groups organized by Shutesbury residents, and area nonprofit organizations.

For more information about the CPC, how to apply for grants from the Committee, and past CPA-funded projects in Shutesbury, please visit https://www.shutesbury.org/community_preservation.

Note from the Town Collector

Dear Shutesbury taxpayers,

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.

With the spring approaching, the fourth quarter of our real estate bills will be mailed in March, and the calendar 2023 motor vehicle excise bills for many vehicles registered by the end of January have been mailed. Additionally, excise bills on vehicles registered late in 2022 are billed during 2023. The year for which the bill is issued is found in the upper right hand corner of the bill.

If you receive a bill on a car you have traded or on which you have changed registrations, do NOT ignore the bill. The Board of Assessors should be contacted to obtain an application for abatement. The forms are also available through the Assessors' section of the Town's website and should be printed out in landscape format for easy completion. The mailing address for the Assessors is PO Box 264, Shutesbury.

Our on-line bill paying feature allows you to pay your tax bills either directly from your checking or savings account with a fee of \$.50, or with a credit card for a fee based on the amount of your transaction. To use this service, click on the Town's website and then on the announcement on the Home page.

For Real Estate and Personal Property taxes, you should enter 2023 for the year and just the bill number WITHOUT the RE or PP to enter the program.

For motor vehicle payments, enter the year and bill number which are found on the top, right side of your bill. If you do not have this information, you are able to find your bill information by clicking on the notation "Need help locating your bill" after you indicate what type of bill you wish to pay. You then enter your last name and all bills in that name should be shown. Select the correct one and click on it and the amount due will appear.

Please note that the on-line

Collector, cont. on page 5

feature cannot be used to pay any bill on warrant.

If you have the **payment generated by your bank**, please address these checks to the Collector's Shutesbury mailing address, which is PO Box 175, Shutesbury, MA 01072.

Do NOT use the Woburn address, because the lockbox cannot process the payment because there is no bill enclosed, which results in additional time elapsing before your payment can be recorded.

If you receive a **demand notice**, you should pay it immediately as you only have 14 days from the demand date to pay before the bill goes on warrant which results in a substantial increase in the fees.

If you have **purchased your property after January 1, 2022**, Massachusetts General Law requires that the previous owner's name remain on the real estate tax bill. Hence, your name will appear with an "in care of." There is nothing we can do to put the bill solely in your name.

The question has come up concerning the information found on the bills. All information is required either by Massachusetts General Law or by the Department of Revenue of the Commonwealth. The Town and this office have no discretion on the statements printed thereon.

Before venturing out **to pay a bill in person**, please call this office at 413-259-1615 to check the answering machine to determine if I am here. If conditions are poor, I may not attempt to come to work.

May you be safe and healthy in 2023.

Ellen

Council on Aging news

We hope those of you who are 55 years of age and older enjoyed receiving the Winter 2023 issue of our newsletter, *The Geezette*, in your mailbox.

The Council on Aging (COA) is continuously updating our mailing list, so please let us know if you did not receive this issue. The current issue is posted on the right side of the COA webpage: https://www.shutesbury.org/council_on_aging.

The Council currently has a vacancy. If you are interested in the work of the Council, please attend one of our meetings. They are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm on Zoom. Meeting links can be found on the Town Meeting Calendar.

Timely Information:

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) is partnering with Power House Energy Consulting to provide energy assessments for income eligible households in Franklin County.

The purpose of the program is to help folks determine which clean energy technologies (such as solar PV, solar hot water, ASHPs, etc.) are a good option for their home, and connect them with current rebate and incentive programs.

We hope this will be helpful for homeowners, tenants, and landlords who have already gone through the MassSave program for weatherization work and are thinking about next steps. Learn more about the program at <https://frcog.org/clean-energy-consulting/>.

There is limited funding for the program and there is the capacity to take on only seven more households. If you are interested, please contact Allison Gage at agage@frcog.org or 413-774-3167 x136.

Updates on a few resources for older adults

Community Action VITA Free Tax Return Preparation Assistance Program: If you are over 65 years of age and paying too much for your mortgage or rent, you may be eligible for the Senior Circuit Breaker Credit.

Tax preparation clinics are being held in Amherst, Orange, and Northampton.

Income limits apply for participation in this program. To schedule an appointment by phone or online: 413-376-1136 or www.communityaction.us/taxes.

Older Adult Home Modification Loan Program: Contact Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority at <https://fcrhra.org/programs/home-modification-loan-program-hmlp/> or Grafton Brown at 413-223-5228 or gbrown@fcrhra.org.

Modification examples: installation of grab bars, railings, temporary ramps, tub/shower transfer benches, and raised toilets.

SNAP members: Remember that you have an extra \$40-\$80 on your EBT card for fresh fruits and vegetables! To find a local HIP (Healthy Incentives Program) business near you, use the map at: buylocalfood.org/hip-map.

Please visit the Council on Aging's webpage to learn about our Foot Care program, the Police Department's Sand for Seniors, LifePath offerings and other resources that may be of interest to you.

The COA webpage is at https://www.shutesbury.org/council_on_aging.

To contact us, you may leave a voice message at 413-259-3796; we check our phone messages several times a week.

Or, write to us at coa@shutesbury.org.

**Preschool Open House
Wednesday, March 8
1:00-2:00pm**

This is an opportunity for families to meet the teacher and hear an overview of the Early Childhood Program.

Decisions for the 2023/2024 academic year will be made by March 31.

Children must be 3 by September 1, 2023 to be eligible for preschool.

RSVP to Grace Griecci at grieccig@shutesburyschool.org

Developmental screenings for 3, 4 & 5 year olds

In Shutesbury, developmental screening is available through the school as a first step in a process intended to find children in need of special services and to plan for meeting those needs. Screening focuses on a child's growth in a number of areas, such as large and small muscle control, speech/language development and concept development. This activity takes about 40 minutes and consists of a number of games that children typically enjoy playing. The screening gives an indication of whether or not a child's skills are developing within the typical range.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's development, would like more information, or wish to set up an appointment, contact **Nicole Sutka**, Shutesbury Elementary Student Support Teacher, at 413-259-1212 or sutkan@shutesburyschool.org

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/2023 enrollment information. Contact **Laura Feltman**, Main Office SES, 413-259-1212 x 100, feltmani@shutesburyschool.org or **Grace Griecci**, 413-259-1212 x 140, grieccig@shutesburyschool.org.



School, cont. from page 1

dated and poorly performing telephone system.

We are just beginning to look at possibilities of a different heat source from the boilers (working with the newly formed energy committee), when the life of the

boilers is near the end.

On behalf of the School Committee, thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan Hayes

[Editor's Note: In November, *Our Town* learned that **Dan Hayes**, chair of the Shutesbury School Committee, had received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Mass. Association of School Committees.

The designation honors individuals who, through their service to their community and their local school committee, have exhibited the best characteristics of public service.

When we contacted Dan, he explained that it had been given in recognition for his years of service as a member of the Shutesbury School Committee, and as a representative to School Union 28 and the Collaborative for Educational Services.

Additionally, Dan serves on the Mass. Association of School Committees' Division Five Nominating Committee, Regions Committee, and the Massachusetts All-State Committee (representing school committee members throughout the Commonwealth on a transportation commission for Governor Baker in 2019).]

From the Recycling & Solid Waste Committee

We've Got One Word for You...Plastics

Clip and save this page!

We've been getting a lot of questions about those numbers on plastic containers. Many people think that because the numbers are inside the "chasing arrows" recycling symbol anything with that symbol is recyclable. We often see, for example, Styrofoam and plastic flower pots in recycling bins, and even though these items are **NOT** accepted at our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) they look like they should be recyclable because of the symbol. According to a recent post by Environment Massachusetts, plastics producers have slyly pressed to have the widely recognized recycling symbol on all types of plastic, perhaps to make buyers feel better about buying plastic stuff. But the numbers in the triangle of arrows refer to the types of resins used in each kind of plastic, which may or may not be recyclable. Here's a list of them and how you're likely to encounter them.

PLASTIC RESIN CODES



<p>Polyethylene Terephthalate</p> <p>soda bottles</p> <p>water bottles</p> <p>shampoo bottles</p> <p>mouthwash bottles</p> <p>peanut butter jars</p>	<p>High Density Polyethylene</p> <p>milk, water and juice jugs</p> <p>detergent bottles</p> <p>yo-yogurt and margarine tubs</p> <p>grocery bags</p>	<p>Vinyl</p> <p>clear food packaging</p> <p>shampoo bottles</p>	<p>Low Density Polyethylene</p> <p>bread bags</p> <p>frozen food bags</p> <p>squeezable bottles (mustard, ketchup)</p>	<p>Polypropylene</p> <p>ketchup bottles</p> <p>yo-yogurt and margarine tubs</p>	<p>Polystyrene</p> <p>meal trays</p> <p>egg cartons</p> <p>cups and plates</p>	<p>Other</p> <p>ketchup</p> <p>3 & 5 gallon water bottles</p> <p>some juice bottles</p>
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CAN be recycled —

#1 (PET or PETE) and #2 HDPE are completely recyclable, and 96% of all plastic bottles (soda, water, sports drinks) are made from these plastics. There are plenty of markets for these plastics because they can be made into all kinds of materials—fabrics, building materials, new bottles, etc. Unfortunately, only about 30% of these bottles are recycled in the United States.

- Milk cartons & juice cartons are recyclable if washed clean. They have a coating of plastic and aluminum which can also be recycled. Wash out any food debris.
- Clamshells are the clear plastic containers that open and close like, well, a clam. They can be made out of different types of plastics and are recyclable at our MRF. Wash out any food debris.

CANNOT be recycled —

#3 (PVC or V) is polyvinyl chloride, the same stuff used in plumbing and drainage pipes. PVC isn't attractive to manufacturers of recycled products because it gives off a terrible odor when processed. So, when you're buying, say, shampoo, look for the #1 or #2 on the bottom of the bottle. **If you cannot find a way to reuse this item, it should go in the trash.**

#4 (LDPE) is used to make plastic bags and other plastic film products. **Do not put plastic bags or film of any kind out for Shutesbury recycling.** Some folks put their recyclables out in plastic bags, but these bags are a headache for the haulers, the people at the MRF, and manufacturers of recycled products. **You can take plastic bags and other plastic film to Stop & Shop and other supermarkets for recycling.**

#5 (PP) Some polypropylene containers are okay to recycle. For example, our MRF takes ketchup bottles and yogurt containers. But **plastic drinking cups, straws, and garden planters (plastic trays and flower pots) are also often made of #5 plastic and are NOT recyclable and should go in the trash.**

#6 (PS) This is the resin used in Styrofoam and other polystyrene products. If you buy a computer online, it will probably be delivered encased in polystyrene blocks. Packing peanuts are also made of this material (except for those made of cornstarch), and so are Styrofoam cups and meat trays. Gold Circuit E-Cycling, now in Agawam, recycles Styrofoam for \$20 a load, regardless of the quantity, but does not take packing peanuts or Styrofoam food trays. Packing peanuts are no longer accepted by the UPS store in Amherst. **They can be tossed out with the trash.**

#7 (Other) This plastic is often polycarbonate, used in hard plastic water bottles, but it can also be any combination of resins. Polycarbonate can leach bisphenol. You may have heard about this problem in reference to baby bottles. There is another kind of #7 plastic which is biodegradable. **If you see "PLA" under the #7 code on a container, don't recycle it. It can go into the trash.**

- Molded Black Plastic (black plastic trays, plastic cake containers, etc.). The roasted chicken you buy at the market usually comes in a molded plastic container with a black plastic bottom. The black plastic is **NOT** recyclable at the MRF. The clear plastic top **IS**.
- Prescription pill bottles are **NOT** recyclable (because there may be drug residue in them); however, supplement bottles, vitamin bottles, etc. **ARE** recyclable.

For more information about what's recyclable, check out the Recycling and Solid Waste Committee (RSWC) website at <http://www.shutesbury.org/recycling>. There you'll find the "Recyclopedia" created by the Mass. DEP. Or go directly to the MRF's website: What's Recyclable at the MRF? – Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (<http://springfieldmrf.org/whats-recyclable-at-the-mrf>). The RSWC will also post the full Environment Massachusetts post on plastics on our site.

From the Shutesbury Conservation Commission

What we do: The Conservation Commission (ConCom) administers the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act and the Town's General Wetlands Protection Bylaw. We also manage Town conservation land, educate the public, and work with other town boards and committees to support the environment and open spaces.

Why it matters: Wetlands maintain water quality and serve as critical habitats. They are vital for a healthy ecosystem. Countless critters, from amphibians to birds, depend on wetlands for food, shelter, and spawning.

Massachusetts law and our local Bylaw protect wetlands, and infractions are subject to penalties.

Planning a project? Check before you dig! Near Lake Wyola, streams and rivers, and many smaller wetland areas in our community, proposed work must be reviewed by the ConCom before the work begins. Landscaping, construction, tree removals, paving, new structures or even upgrading existing structures all may require action to guarantee there will be no impact to nearby wetlands. The ConCom must sign



off on all Building Permit Applications when digging is required.

The ConCom wants to help property owners proceed with their projects while simultaneously protecting the valuable wetland resources that benefit everyone. Don't wait until your contractor is scheduled to contact us! It may take time to schedule a site visit by ConCom, and more time if wetlands are nearby.

There are a variety of smaller projects that may be allowed (or "exempt" from the state wetlands protection regulations) without a permit from the ConCom.

A list of these "minor activities" can be found on the ConCom's homepage on the town website. Our local wetlands Bylaw does not have the same exemptions as the state law.

If you are not sure whether you have wetlands on your property or if your project requires a review,

the ConCom can answer basic questions and refer you to other resources.

Who to contact: Our Land Use Clerk is here to help you through the process. She can help you determine what you need to do and how to go about it. Here are ways to engage:

1. Call our office, 413-259-3792, and leave a message, or email concom@shutesbury.org.
2. Visit Town Hall during the Land Use Clerk's office hours which are posted on our homepage, shutesbury.org/concom. (Call ahead, 413-259-3792, before you come.) You can also pick up an informative brochure when you visit for more details.
3. Go to the Conservation Commission's homepage, shutesbury.org/concom, for helpful information, links to permit documents, information about the Commission's activities, and more.
4. Attend one of our meetings (from March to October, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7pm, and from November to February, on the 2nd Thursday).

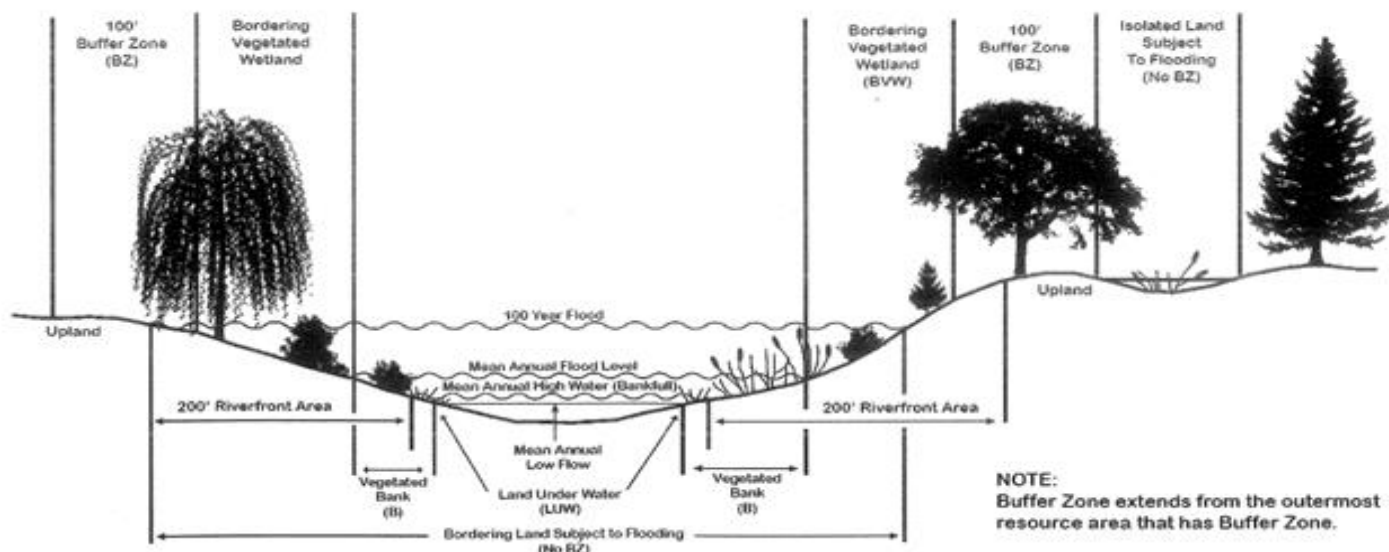


FIGURE 1: Inland Wetland Resource Areas and associated Buffer Zones. Modified from: Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (personal communication) and MA WPA regulations.

The M. N. Spear Memorial Library

10 Cooleyville Road
413-259-1213
spearlibrary@shutesbury.org
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

How to be in the know about Library happenings!

Sign up for the Town of Shutesbury's official email list

About once a week, the Library Director sends out an email announcement via the Town's official email list. The subject line is usually "Library News." The weekly email highlights the newest programs and services offered by the Library.

Other town departments also use this email list. It is the best way to stay informed about important Town of Shutesbury news. Sign up on the right-hand side of the home page at Shutesbury.org.

Sign up for Wowbrary

Wowbrary is a weekly, emailed newsletter about the newest books,



movies, and music at the M. N. Spear Memorial Library. Sign up at <https://wowbrary.org/signup.aspx?l=9226>.

Some of our programs

Office hours with State Rep. Aaron L. Saunders

- First Tuesday of each month
- 12:30 -1:30 pm at the Library
- March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6 . . .

Our new State Representative, Aaron L. Saunders, and his Aide, Jeremy Patenaude, will be stopping by the Library to meet Shutesbury residents.

Drop in to learn about the Representative's goals, share your concerns, ask questions, or just say hello.



Rep. Saunders

Tiny Library Tiny Art Show

Shutesbury residents ages six to 99 are invited to participate in our Tiny Library Tiny Art Show. So that we can be sure to have enough supplies, please register by emailing library.director@shutesbury.org.

Beginning March 15, stop by the Library to pick up a tiny canvas and some art supplies. Over the next month or so, design and create your one-of-a-kind piece of art.

Beginning April 15, return your creations to the Library.

May 1 through May 31, stop by during our open hours to see the show!

Free fitness classes

The Library is pleased to offer a variety of ongoing fitness classes for adults.

This spring, these free classes are funded by the Library, the Friends of the Library, the Council on Aging, and the Shutesbury Recreation Committee. The classes are offered via Zoom.

Library, cont. on page 11

Library, cont. from page 9

Please email library.director@shutesbury.org to register. Our current schedule of classes follows.

- Strength Training: The Anti-Aging Solution with Dr. Kathy Sward Tuesdays, 9 am,
- Gentle Yoga with Jeannette Wednesdays, 9 am
- Therapeutic Yoga with Dr. Kathy Sward Thursdays, 9 am
- Strength Training with Jay Saturdays, 8:30 am

Online Resources offered by the M.N. Spear Memorial Library:

eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and video streaming

To explore the free digital resources provided by the Library, visit the digital resources webpage at <https://www.shutesbury.org/library-digital-resources>.

Here is what you will find on that page.



OverDrive is a free service offered by the Library that lets you borrow digital content, eBooks, eAudiobooks, and eMagazines anytime, anywhere.

Use OverDrive on your computer, tablet or smartphone. Download the Libby app to get started.



Kanopy offers streaming access to popular, independent, and documentary films. Your Shutesbury Library card allows four films per month.



Hoopla is a digital streaming service for library users to access movies and TV shows, eBooks, eAudiobooks, and music using portable devices like smartphones and tablets.

Your Shutesbury Library card allows you to borrow four Hoopla items per month.

Want more digital resources? Get a Boston Public Library eCard

All Massachusetts residents are entitled to a Boston Public Library eCard, which can be used to access a rich collection of online resources.

To apply for a BPL eCard, visit this website, <https://www.bpl.org/ecard/>

A BPL eCard offers access to online streaming platforms like Kanopy and Hoopla, allowing more uses per person per month.

The BPL eCard also provides



access to Language Learning resources like *Little Pim* for ages 3-6, and *Mango Languages*, which provides courses in 70 languages.

To find these and other online resources available through the Boston Public Library, visit their online resources page, <https://www.bpl.org/online-resources/>.



Town Clerk, cont. from page 2

the town website. The minutes show what was voted on and what the result of those votes were. The short version is: All five articles passed.

Huge thank you to the 133 Shutesbury voters who braved the stormy weather that night to participate in town government. None of this would be possible without you, the voters.

Some final notes...

In the mood to watch some public meetings? Check out the new [Town of Shutesbury YouTube channel](#) and peruse the extensive collection of Zoom recordings.

What color is your dog's tag? If it is any color other than orange, you probably need to update your dog license.

COVID tests are still available at Town Hall as long as supplies last.



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

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HOW TO CONTACT TOWN OFFICIALS

Go to www.shutesbury.org to find email addresses, or call the appropriate number below.

ACCOUNTANT Gail Weiss 413-259-1108	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR Leonard Czerwonka 413-259-1211	POLICE DEPARTMENT Kristin Burgess, Chief 413-259-1279 Dispatch 413-625-8200
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY Geneva Bickford 413-259-6550	ENERGY & CLIMATE ACTION COMM. Michael DiChiara, Chair 413-259-1059	RECREATION COMMITTEE Barbara Bigelow, Chair 413-801-9714
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR Rebecca Torres 413-259-1214	FINANCE COMMITTEE Ajay Khashu, Chair 917-582-4256	RECYCLING COORDINATOR Gary Bernhard 413-259-1235
ANIMAL INSPECTOR Nancy Long 413-259-1279	FIRE DEPARTMENT Leonard Czerwonka, Chief 413-259-1211	REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE Stephen Sullivan 413-259-1626
ASSESSORS Leave inquiries at 413-259-3790	HEALTH AGENT Claudia Lucas 413-549-3710	SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE Dan Hayes, Chair 413-230-4686
BOARD OF HEALTH Catherine Hilton, Chair 413-259-2122	HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Tim Hunting 413-259-1215	UNION #28 SCHOOL SUPT. Jennifer Culkeen 413-423-3337
BUILDINGS COMMITTEE Stephen Dallmus 413-367-9565	HISTORICAL COMMISSION Leave inquiries at 413-259-1214	SELECT BOARD Rita Farrell, Chair 413-259-1297 Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil 413-256-0312
BUILDING INSPECTOR Jim Hawkins 413-774-3167 x. 113	LAKE WYOLA ADVISORY COMMITTEE Mark Rivers, Chair 508-259-0972	Eric Stocker 413-259-1250
CEMETERY COMMISSION Walter Tibbetts 413-259-1286	M.N. SPEAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY Mary Anne Antonellis 413-259-1213	SHUTESBURY BROADBAND COMMITTEE Gayle Huntress, Chair Broadband Mailbox 413-345-2855
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMM. Matteo Pangallo, Chair 413-687-0402	SPEAR LIBRARY TRUSTEES Kate Cell, Co-Chair 413-259-9129 Michele Regan-Ladd, Co-Chair 413-259-1149	TAX COLLECTOR Ellen McKay 413-259-1615
COUNCIL ON AGING For general inquires and details on Foot Clinic, leave message 413-259-3796	OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE Leave inquiries at 413-259-1214	TOWN CLERK Grace Bannasch 413-259-1204
CONSERVATION COMMISSION Leave inquiries at 413-259-3792	OUR TOWN NEWSLETTER Janis S. Gray 413-259-1584	TOWN MODERATOR Paul Lyons 413-259-1556
CULTURAL COUNCIL Rory Valentine 413-256-0563	PERSONNEL BOARD Leave inquiries at 413-259-1214	TREASURER Ryan W. Mailloux 413-205-9944
DEPT. OF VETERANS' SERVICES Timothy Niejadlik 413-772-1571	PLANNING BOARD Deacon Bonnar, Chair 413-406-2767	TREE WARDEN Don Wakoluk 413-256-6736
DOG OFFICER Nancy Long 413-259-1279	PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR John Letourneau 413-367-0017	WEB COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE Gail Fleischaker, Chair 413-253-0565
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR Maurice Gregoire 413-253-7505		ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS Jeff Lacy, Chair 413-253-0705
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Jackie Mendonsa, Princ. 413-259-1212		

**EMERGENCY POLICE, FIRE
& RESCUE SQUAD 911**