

April 13, 2026 Board of Assessors Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Chairman Howard Shpetner and Members: J. April Stein and George Arvanitis.

Also present: Consultant Administrative Assessor John Whelihan, and Assessors' Clerk Leslie Bracebridge.

Guests: None

1. Chairman Howard Shpetner opened the meeting at 5:35 PM.

2. No Public Comments were offered.

3. A motion was made and seconded to approve the March 16, 2026 meeting minutes: No changes were offered. Approved as written: Arvanitis - aye, Stein – aye, Shpetner – aye.

4. A motion was made and seconded to approve for signature stamps the following Accountant report:

- Motor Vehicle Abatements:**

<u>Commit. Year</u>	<u>Report Date</u>	<u>Total Amount Abated</u>
2026	March (2026)	\$930.81

- Real Property Exemptions:**

<u>Commit. Year</u>	<u>Report Date</u>	<u>Total Amount Abated</u>
2026	March (2026)	\$824.00

No changes were offered. Approved as moved and seconded: Arvanitis - aye, Stein – aye, Shpetner – aye. Leslie reported that Administrative Assessor Consultant John Whelihan had submitted the MDM-1 and the new MVE municipal exemption reimbursement forms on time in Gateway.

5. Prepare for Annual Town Meeting:

- Town Counsel MacNicol will provide proper wording for the Means-Tested Circuit Breaker exemption three-year renewal and the minimum value for personal property taxation.
- John will be Shutesbury's Administrative Assessor by Town Meeting time, and offered his presence to speak to the 2 warrant articles on behalf of the Assessing department.
- The Clerk and Board members will be present according to their personal availabilities.
- Hand-outs were not deemed necessary.

6. Invoice to Amherst for Watershed Parcels MGL Ch 59 § 5D:

- Consultant Whelihan has reviewed the FY 2026 invoice prepared for the Atkins Reservoir watershed parcels owned by the Town of Amherst, to send to Amherst for their annual statutory payment. A motion was made and seconded to approve and mail the invoice, as prepared, to the Amherst Department of Public Works: Arvanitis - aye, Stein – aye, Shpetner – aye.

7. Schedule Next Meeting: Thursday, May 28 at 5:30 PM.

8. At 6:08 PM, April seconded the motion of Chairman Shpetner for a roll call vote to enter into executive session for reason number 7, to comply with or act under the authority of any general law (MGL Ch 59 S 60) which keeps applicant information confidential: abatement and exemption applications, and then to reconvene in open meeting to authorize any votes taken in Executive Session: There was no discussion. Approved as moved and seconded: Arvanitis - aye, Stein – aye, Shpetner – aye.

9. At 6:22 PM Assessors re-entered open meeting.

10. A motion was made and seconded to accept all votes taken in Executive Session: Arvanitis - aye, Stein – aye, Shpetner – aye.

11. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn open meeting at 6:24 PM: Arvanitis - aye, Stein – aye, Shpetner – aye.

Respectfully submitted, as approved on May 13, 2026,

**Leslie Bracebridge
Assessors' Clerk**

List of Documents used at the meeting:

1. April 13, 2026 meeting agenda.
2. March 16, 2026 draft meeting minutes.
3. Summaries to Accountant as detailed in minutes.
4. Draft wording for Annual Town Meeting articles.
5. Draft invoice for Amherst watershed parcels