

Shutesbury Board of Health
June 23, 2021, 7 pm
Virtual meeting

Present: Norene Pease, chair; Catherine Hilton, clerk; Arleen Read, Garrett Simonsen, board members; Wm Levine, member-elect; Melissa Makepeace-O'Neill, guest; Al Werner, board member, joined late and did not participate in any board actions.

The minutes of June 9 were approved as written.

Brad Foster, 579 West Pelham Road, U-30, joined the meeting and presented a well permit proposal requesting variances to the setbacks to the leaching field and possibly the road. The lot is very tight and constrained by topography and adjacent wetlands. The board agreed to send a memo to Conservation Commission saying that we are prepared to issue the permit if they concur.

Drabeck estate, 338 West Pelham Road ZQ-3, DWCP repair, CK recommends approval. Board agreed to issue the permit.

CofCs to be issued: 58 Lake Drive ZB-43, 75 Shore Drive B-404

Update on PFAS results. We have received so far seven reports, the two positives already known and five non-detects, on Montague, Leverett, and Cooleyville Roads, the unpaved section of Wendell Road, and in the neighborhood near Atkins Reservoir.

Through an email on June 22, we learned that the Shutesbury Athletic Club had signed up for free testing as a Public Water Supply. They are now conflicted about following through for fear that PFAS will be discovered in their well. Two significant points were made: Arleen said that the risk assessment for PFAS compounds is calculated over a lifetime of use in a residential context, and Melissa stated that the seltzer for soft drinks is made from well water. It was also pointed out that a point of use filtration system could possibly serve them better than the whole-house filter recommended for homes. It was agreed that we should encourage the SAC to go through with the testing.

Also on June 22 we learned that some staff from DEP came to town to do preliminary research for preparing their site discovery plan. They said in an email to Becky that they would sample residential wells using a state contractor, first in the Fire Station area and then in the area around the junction of Wendell and Locks Pond Roads.

Cat and Norene gave some background on our status as an Emergency Dispensing Site. We are being asked (again) if we want to remain a single site with Leverett or separate. It was agreed that we might have John Hillman and maybe other members of the Leverett EDS team to a meeting, and also that Norene will suggest to MAPHCO that regional collaboration among existing EDS teams might best be facilitated at a higher level.

Becky will bring up to the Personnel Board a request to hire a part-time clerk for the BOH using grant funds from the septic system betterment loan program, possibly sharing a person with another committee or department. The board made suggestions for a rough job description that Becky will take to the PB meeting, which Cat is not available to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15, with the members staying on briefly to discuss having a party.