

Shutesbury Board of Health
December 15, 2021, 7 pm
Virtual meeting

Present: Catherine Hilton, chair; Wm Levine, Norene Pease, Arleen Read, Garrett Simonsen, board members.

Actions taken:

Approved minutes of previous meeting

Tonio Sagan, 542 West Pelham: DWCP upgrade by Sieruta, adding a septic tank to connect a studio with existing 5-br system. Board voted to issue the permit, contingent on CK's approval, when the fee is paid, and that the owner will be charged the rate for a single component (\$50).

Corrective action was taken as required by the Attorney General's Office with respect to the Open Meeting Law complaint: The following e-mail from then board member Al Werner, addressed to the complainant Michael Hootstein and copied to the addresses of the Board of Health and the Town administrator, was found to be in violation of the law and we were instructed to make it public. This is the text of the e-mail:

Dear Mr. Hootstein,

I don't agree with your assessment of the towns water supply nor do I agree with your assessment of Shutesbury's Board of Health. The BOH works hard, putting in lots of

hours for the benefit of the town's residence [sic] and I am appalled that you have the audacity to suggest otherwise – shame on you!

Your comments directed at the BOH and the hard working individuals you disparaged, deserve an apology. It is YOUR hurtful, hostile and defamatory attacks that require an apology. Your attempts to bully and demean this incredibly qualified town board is both inappropriate unacceptable. Therefore Micheal [sic], I respectfully request that you apologize to the board and the individuals that you have been harassing, and that you do so immediately.

Town administrator, I would like to raise a formal complaint against Mr. Hootstein for his on-going and unfounded harassment of the BOH. His contributions to the town have been nothing short of demeaning and unproductive.

Respectfully submitted,
Al Werner

This text was read aloud at the meeting and has been recorded; it will also be posted on the BOH website along with the determination letter from the AGO.

Discussion:

A new e-mail address reserved for disease investigation has been created: publichealth@shutesbury.org Arleen will have sole access to this address, and Cat will have sole access to boardhealth@shutesbury.org

On Mondays Arleen will report current known cases for the two weeks ending the previous day, as well as the number of active cases in isolation; this information will be updated weekly on the pandemic page of the town website. A message will be

developed to send out immediately explaining this, among other things.

Mary Anne may be able to get some of the UMass test kits for pickup at the library and dropoff in Amherst. Shutesbury may also be able to get some of the rapid self-tests using COVID grant money from the district, but apparently we need to invoice the district by the end of December.

Norene agreed to do the FRCOG survey on behalf of Shutesbury.

Norene reported that there will be an REPC meeting early in the year that will offer PFAS training.

Cat reported on the district meeting earlier today: the budget is increased by 2 ½ % and we will attempt to get health benefits for Claudia within the next year. Discussion of the shortage of health agents and the paucity of available training, and the district members' ideas about trying to get this rectified.

Adjourn about 8:00.