

Shutesbury Board of Health  
January 19, 2022, 7 pm

Present: Catherine Hilton, chair; Wm Levine, Norene Pease, Arleen Read, Garrett Simonsen, board members; Nate Heard and Anna Heard, Shutesbury residents; Walter Tibbetts, EMD and Cemetery Commission.

Minutes of previous meeting were approved as written.

The board agreed that Cat will issue a DWCP for septic system repair at 260 Leverett Road, T-70, when the application is complete.

Arleen reported that the surge in Covid-19 cases has calmed down in the last few days. Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been 113 known cases; 69 of them were in the last month; 17 of those were self-reported. DPH contact-tracing guidance now allows communities to prioritize cases where there is a high level of risk to groups; otherwise affected individuals are allowed to notify their own contacts.

Newsletter article content: Self-report positive home test results to Arleen at new email. How to access free test kits from federal program. Guidance on masks, including mask use within households, with reference to new I&Q guidelines; also how to make sure your masks are high quality. NB coordinate newsletter message with Grace about getting on the list for town announcements. Use pandemic information web page.

On the matter of getting word out to residents: put some signs out (library, PO) with instructions on how to get on the town announce list.

The board agreed that it is no longer makes sense to purchase test kits for distribution. Discussion about buying and distributing masks. Anna Heard, a Shutesbury resident who is also a global public health professional, joined this discussion and suggested that the best use of resources would be to target mask distribution, in significant numbers, to those who can't afford masks or are still using cloth masks. She recommended Korean-made KF94 masks. Get school nurse, librarians, police to distribute masks where they see a need; SAC also?

Arleen can make sure people in isolation and quarantine have appropriate masks and drop some off if needed. Wm will contact Tracy Rogers at FRCOG and also work with Walter Tibbetts to try and organize a purchase. Walter will do some research on what his vendor offers; he has not bought masks but received them from MEMA. Cat will ask Grace about the number of children and adults in town.

“Unanticipated business”:

Walter Tibbetts asked the board’s opinion about cement vaults at the cemetery: would we object if the Cemetery Commission made them optional (in the conventional sections) instead of obligatory? The board agreed that it saw no reason to require vaults.

Cat will talk to someone on the COA about how to get home services for a senior with Lyme Disease who seems to have problems.

Adjourn 8:45