

Shutesbury Board of Health
March 5, 2025, 7 pm
Virtual meeting

Present: Catherine Hilton, chair; Wm Levine, Norene Pease, Arleen Read, Garrett Simonsen, board members; Keren Rhodes of JCA; Lisa Kuerzel and Chris Elliott, Jewish cemetery abutters.

Minutes of February 19 meeting approved.

Unanticipated business: 5 Birch Lane (Phil Parker) well permit application from Ezra Cushing. Application includes a request for a reduction in setback from the septic system to 70 feet, with extra casing used to protect the well from surface infiltration. The new well is 30' from the site of a cesspool, which was pumped and filled in 2013, and much farther from the road than the old well. The board agreed that the new site is appropriate. Cat will issue the permit on receipt of the fee.

Jewish Cemetery Complaint:

Lisa Kuerzel had sent an email to the board alleging that “multiple burials” were taking place within 100 feet of her well; it was this allegation that the board was required to investigate. The board reviewed the completed plot plan for the entire cemetery, including the location of the few burials that have taken place in the two years since our ruling on green burial in this cemetery. There are no burials within the 100' radius and there is even a buffer of open space beyond the radius. LK did not retract her assertion but denied having made it. She requested that the board require a hydrogeologic study of the cemetery. The board declined to add any additional requirements or restrictions to its ruling of February, 2023.

Adjourn 7:50.