

Shutesbury Board of Health

October 8, 2025, 7 pm

Virtual meeting

Members present: Catherine Hilton, chair; Norene Pease, Arleen Read, Garrett Simonsen; members absent: Wm Levine; guests: Tom Siefert

Actions taken:

Minutes unanimously approved (motion: Garrett, 2nd: Norene).

DWCP for T-117, West Pelham Road, new construction, plan by Jon Sieruta. Voted unanimously (motion: Arleen; 2nd: Norene) that Cat should issue the permit once it has been reviewed and approved by Mike Theroux.

Out-of-season beaver trapping permit using Conybeare traps at Fiske Brook Culvert: Because of the Conybeare traps, we can issue this permit only after declaring an emergency, which would be pressure on the culvert and the complete blockage of inflow to the lake. An application has not yet been received, but Cat attended a meeting with the town administrator, highway superintendent, the damkeeper, Mark Rivers of the Lake Wyola Advisory Committee, and Kevin Williams of Pine Brook Camp where a plan was developed to trap the beavers both in Shutesbury and in Wendell (on Pine Brook property) and then breach the dam. Tom Siefert was recognized by the chair and argued against keeping the culvert open for navigation. After much discussion, the board voted unanimously (motion: Garrett; 2nd: Arleen) to authorize Cat to issue the declaration of emergency and the ten-day trapping permit if and when it is received.

Discussion:

Mosquito Control District: John Briggs neglected to bill us for FY25, though FY26 has been paid for. The omission was discovered only after the warrant for Special

Town Meeting had closed, so this matter will have to be on the warrant of Annual Town Meeting in 2026 as a bill of prior years.

Update on the health agent search: Cat reported that a potentially viable candidate has been interviewed. If no stronger applicant responds to an amended advertisement, the position will be offered to this person, who lacks experience in public health but has experience that is “public-health adjacent.”

Cat responded to an ADA complaint from a citizen regarding access to the lift. Though the Board of Health is probably not responsible for enforcing the ADA, she made suggestions to the administrative secretary (Brennan), who acted on them.

Regulations: preliminary discussion of potential BOH regulations. Immediate questions to be answered are what regulations do we wish to adopt (BESSes, data centers), when and how to proceed. It was agreed that all will try to read the information that has been gathered before the next meeting, October 22, and be ready to address these questions.

Garrett reported on the MAPHCO vendor search: because the deliverables for this period are different, the RFP is different, so that there are two procurements, one for coalition management and one related to an exercise. No final decisions as yet.

Norene reported that Sarah Fiske, who had requested financial support for air travel to a public health conference in DC, has changed her plans and will be driving. She has requested that she be allowed to spend the \$200 allotted for air travel for other travel expenses. This request came to Cat, who agreed to it.

The chair adjourned the meeting at 8 pm.