

Shutesbury Board of Health

October 22, 7 pm

Virtual meeting

Members present: Catherine Hilton, chair; Wm Levine, Norene Pease, Arleen Read, Garrett Simonsen, members. All members present.

Guest: Frank McGinn

Minutes of previous meeting accepted unanimously (Arleen motion, Wm second).

Update on beaver situation at Fiske Brook culvert: Chief Czerwonka has inspected the culvert and noted a sinkhole near the culvert. He advises removal of the dam before winter to prevent potential ice damage to the culvert. The board agreed that this was indeed an emergency and that our previous vote, to declare an emergency and issue a trapping permit, should now move ahead.

Discussion of possible regulations:

The board agreed that enacting regulations relating to data centers and BESSes is desirable, though we know little about it. It was agreed that we should notify all appropriate town boards and officials about our plans, try to collaborate with the Planning Board, and endeavor to have our regulation(s) completed before Annual Town Meeting in 2026. The board has a number of questions both about the operation of such facilities and the technicalities of regulating them. We will attempt to answer some of these by our next meeting, November 5. Next steps were tentatively set out.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 (Norene motion, Arleen second).