

**Shutesbury Historical Commission**  
**Minutes – 7/21/21**  
**(approved 9/29/21)**  
*Virtual Meeting*

**Meeting start:** 3:07 pm

**Commissioners Present:** Henry Geddes (Chair), Miriam DeFant, Greg Caulton, Mary Lou Conca, Ezzell Floranina, Janice Stone

**Commissioners Absent:** Karen Czerwonka

**Others Present:** Leslie Bracebridge

**Commissioner Conflicts of Interest and Appearance of Conflicts of Interest Disclosure**

**Requirements:** Geddes proposed that Commissioners fill out any necessary 23b3 Appearance of Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure forms in the meeting, so that they can review draft reports on the solar projects. DeFant: people only must fill out the forms if they are an abutter, a near-abutter, or have an appearance of a conflict of interest. Appearance of a conflict of interest could include some situation where a reasonable person might conclude you are likely to have a bias toward a party, such as Cows or Amp Solar. DeFant explained that she filed a 23b3 Disclosure Form last year when she was appointed because she had made public statements about the Wheelock Tract Solar Project. This situation did not involve a true financial conflict of interest, but rather, an appearance of one. DeFant stated other Commissioners must decide for themselves how they want to handle disclosures. Conca stated that she consulted with the State Ethics Commission and was given similar guidance. She completed a 23b3 in 2020 but did not file it with the Select Board as required. She is completing a new one for this reason. Stone indicated she has just completed a form. DeFant explained that if a Commissioner is an abutter or near abutter within 300', they have to file a 19b Disclosure-of-Financial-Interest and recuse self from deliberations. The only abutters on the Commission are Stone, DeFant, and Czerwonka. The other issue is to file a 23b3 Appearance-of-Conflict form for the other parcels if the Commissioner has a conflict of interest for one of them. If they file this, then they can vote on the other parcels. DeFant suggested Commissioners fill out whatever forms they need to fill out in the meeting before the Commission votes on anything. The Commission spent approximately 45 minutes assisting one another with form completions and submissions.

**Approve Minutes for 6/23/21 Meeting:** Motion to approve with minor edits: Geddes; Second: DeFant. Roll Call: Caulton: aye; DeFant: aye; Geddes: aye; Floranina: abstains; Stone: abstains; Conca, aye.

**Review of Reports to AMP Solar:** Caulton and Stone commented on the draft reports being thorough and well-written. These reports were prepared in response to Project Notifications received from AMP Solar. The Project Notifications were sent to Massachusetts Historical Commission. Rather than compiling one general report, the Commission must submit 5 separate reports because DeFant has to recuse herself from voting on the Pratt Corner East report.

The Commission reviewed the Pratt Corner West report. Data presented in the reports was gathered from the MACRIS database and other sources. Minor editing changes were

incorporated. In reviewing the summary and recommendations, Conca expressed dissatisfaction with the recommendations for 53G third-party consultants for the Planning Board. She would like to see the Planning Board hire only Indigenous consultants. Other Commissioners expressed the view that an Indigenous consultant is strongly preferred if Traditional Cultural Properties are identified by a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), but that this requirement is not essential so long as a THPO is involved and the 53G consultant has appropriate expertise and is respectful of the role of the Tribal representative in identifying Traditional Cultural Properties. Discussion of this recommendation noted that the Planning Board may need to hire two consultants: an archaeologist and a Traditional Cultural Properties expert. **DeFant moved to approve Recommendation #10 as written. Geddes: seconded. Roll Call: Caulton: aye; Conca: nay; DeFant: aye; Geddes: aye; Stone: aye. DeFant moved to approve the Pratt Corner West Report with the discussed minor edits. Geddes: seconded. Roll Call: Caulton: aye; Conca: nay; DeFant: aye; Floranina: aye; Geddes: aye; Stone: aye.**

The Commission reviewed the Leverett West report. **Geddes moved to approve the Leverett West Report with the discussed minor edits. Caulton: seconded. Roll Call: Caulton: aye; Conca: nay; DeFant: aye; Floranina: aye; Geddes: aye; Stone: aye.**

The Commission reviewed the Montague/Carver report. **Geddes moved to approve the Montague/Carver Report with the discussed minor edits. Caulton: seconded. Roll Call: Caulton: aye; Conca: nay; DeFant: aye; Floranina: aye; Geddes: aye; Stone: abstaining.**

The Commission reviewed the Pratt Corner East report. **Geddes moved to approve the Montague/Carver Report with the discussed minor edits. Caulton: seconded. Roll Call: Caulton: aye; Conca: nay; DeFant: abstaining; Floranina: aye; Geddes: aye; Stone: aye.**

The Commission reviewed the Pratt Corner South report. **Geddes moved to approve the Pratt Corner South Report with the discussed minor edits. Stone: seconded. Roll Call: Caulton: aye; Conca: nay; DeFant: aye; Floranina: aye; Geddes: aye; Stone: aye.**

**Geddes moved to adjourn. Stone: seconded. Roll Call: Caulton: aye; Conca: aye; DeFant: aye; Floranina: aye; Geddes: aye; Stone: aye.**

**Meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: 8/25/21**

**Documents Used:**

- Agenda
- Draft minutes for 6/23/21
- 19b and 23b3 Disclosure Forms
- MHC Project Notifications for five proposed solar projects
- Draft Preliminary Reports for Pratt Corner South, Pratt Corner East, Pratt Corner West, Montague/Carver, and Leverett West Projects

***Respectfully submitted by Miriam DeFant, Historical Commission Secretary, 9/30/21***