

Shutesbury Planning Board
Minutes – August 18, 2026
 Approved – October 5, 2026
Remote Meeting

Board Members Present: Michael DeChiara (Vice Chair), Jeff Weston, Keith Hastie, Dean Gendron (Associate Member), Tom Siefert, Carl Lounder (Associate Member), Ashleigh Pyecroft

Board Members Absent: Nathan Murphy (Chair), Steve Bressler

Other Staff Present: Matteo Pangallo (Land Use Clerk)

Others Present: None

Call to Order: 7:03pm

The meeting is being recorded and all members are participating remotely.

DeChiara is serving as acting Chair. He explains the distinction between Open Session and Executive Session and the process for reviewing, approving, and releasing Executive Session minutes.

Executive Session

Motion to Enter Executive Session for Reason No. 3, to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's litigating position. The Board will not return to open session. Litigation specific to Complaint received from Cows regarding the Shutesbury Solar Bylaw. Specifically, the Board intends to review, approve, and consider for release to the public, Executive Session Minutes from over the course of the litigation, including meeting dates 2024-07-08, 2024-09-09, 2024-10-07, 2024-11-4, 2024-11-25, 2025-01-08, 2025-02-10, 2025-02-26, 2025-04-09, 2025-05-07, 2025-05-12, 2025-06-09, 2025-06-17, 2025-07-14, 2025-12-08. Following review of minutes, the Board will return to Open Session as needed: DeChiara; second: Pyecroft. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; DeChiara - aye; Weston - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to include Associate Members Lounder and Gendron and Land Use Clerk Pangallo in Executive Session: Siefert; second: Pyecroft. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; DeChiara - aye; Weston - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:11pm and all members and participants confirmed they were in a place where no other person was present or could hear. The recording was paused.

Motion to approve the minutes of July 8, 2024: Pyecroft; second: Hastie. Discussion: The Board noted a few typographic errors. Vote: Pyecroft - abstain; Siefert - aye; Hastie - abstain; Weston - aye; DeChiara - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously with two abstentions.*

Motion to release the minutes of July 8, 2024: Pyecroft; second: Hastie. Discussion: DeChiara reviews again the reason why the minutes were kept confidential and why they would be released now. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; DeChiara - aye; Weston - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to approve the minutes of September 9, 2024: DeChiara; second: Hastie. Discussion: The Board noted a few typographic errors. Siefert notes that the minutes make reference to a memo and asks if that memo is a document that would now be released with the minutes. Pangallo notes that the memo would be listed as a document used but would not necessarily be attached to the minutes. Siefert asks that Pangallo include a list of documents in all of the minutes as they come up. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; Weston - aye; DeChiara - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to release the minutes of September 9, 2024: DeChiara; second: Hastie. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; DeChiara - aye; Weston - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to approve the minutes of October 7, 2024: DeChiara; second: Hastie. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - abstain; Weston - aye; DeChiara - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously with one abstention.*

Motion to release the minutes of October 7, 2024: DeChiara; second: Pyecroft. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; DeChiara - aye; Weston - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to approve the minutes of November 4, 2024, first Executive Session: DeChiara; second: Pyecroft. Discussion: Siefert notes that some members' names are missing in the roll call votes and the Board determines the correct names. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; Weston - aye; DeChiara - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to release the minutes of November 4, 2024, first Executive Session: DeChiara; second: Pyecroft. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; Weston - aye; DeChiara - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to approve the minutes of November 4, 2024, second Executive Session: DeChiara; second: Pyecroft. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; DeChiara - aye; Weston - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to release the minutes of November 4, 2024, second Executive Session: DeChiara; second: Pyecroft. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; DeChiara - aye; Weston - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to approve the minutes of November 25, 2024: DeChiara; second: Siefert. Discussion: Siefert notes that the vote to adjourn is not in a roll call form. Vote: Pyecroft - abstain; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; Weston - aye; DeChiara - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously with one abstention.*

Motion to release the minutes of November 25, 2024: DeChiara; second: Pyecroft. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; DeChiara - aye; Weston - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to approve the minutes of January 8, 2025: DeChiara; second: Hastie. Vote: Pyecroft - abstain; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; Weston - aye; DeChiara - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously with one abstention.*

Motion to release the minutes of January 8, 2025: DeChiara; second: Siefert. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; DeChiara - aye; Weston - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to approve the minutes of February 10, 2025: DeChiara; second: Hastie. Discussion: Some names are missing from the votes and are added. Vote: Pyecroft - abstain; Siefert - aye; Hastie - abstain; Weston - aye; DeChiara - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously with two abstentions.*

Motion to release the minutes of February 10, 2025: DeChiara; second: Pyecroft. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; DeChiara - aye; Weston - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to approve the minutes of February 26, 2025: DeChiara; second: Siefert. Discussion: Pyecroft suggests expanding on the details in one paragraph but DeChiara notes that the information they would need to do that more accurately is no longer available. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; Weston - aye; DeChiara - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to release the minutes of February 26, 2025: DeChiara; second: Pyecroft. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; DeChiara - aye; Weston - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to approve the minutes of April 9, 2025: DeChiara; second: Siefert. Discussion: Pyecroft notes that she was participating remotely and the meeting was hybrid. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - abstain; Weston - aye; DeChiara - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously with one abstention.*

Motion to release the minutes of April 9, 2025: DeChiara; second: Pyecroft. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; DeChiara - aye; Weston - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to approve the minutes of May 7, 2025: DeChiara; second: Siefert. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; Weston - aye; DeChiara - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to release the minutes of May 7, 2025: DeChiara; second: Pyecroft. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; DeChiara - aye; Weston - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to approve the minutes of May 12, 2025: DeChiara; second: Pyecroft. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; Weston - aye; DeChiara - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to release the minutes of May 12, 2025: DeChiara; second: Siefert. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; DeChiara - aye; Weston - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to approve the minutes of June 9, 2025: DeChiara; second: Pyecroft. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; Weston - aye; DeChiara - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to release the minutes of June 9, 2025: DeChiara; second: Pyecroft. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; DeChiara - aye; Weston - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to approve the minutes of June 17, 2025: DeChiara; second: Siefert. Vote: Pyecroft - abstain; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; Weston - aye; DeChiara - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously with one abstention.*

Motion to release the minutes of June 17, 2025: DeChiara; second: Siefert. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; DeChiara - aye; Weston - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to approve the minutes of July 14, 2025: DeChiara; second: Pyecroft. Pyecroft identifies two typographic errors. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; Weston - aye; DeChiara - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to release the minutes of July 14, 2025: DeChiara; second: Siefert. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; DeChiara - aye; Weston - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to approve the minutes of December 8, 2025: DeChiara; second: Hastie. Discussion: Siefert notes the indication of a vote by Murphy is missing and the minutes are corrected to indicate no vote by Murphy was recorded. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; Weston - aye; DeChiara - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to release the minutes of December 8, 2025: DeChiara; second: Pyecroft. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; DeChiara - aye; Weston - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to approve the minutes of November 24, 2024, second Executive Session: DeChiara; second: Siefert. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; Weston - aye; DeChiara - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Motion to release the minutes of November 24, 2024, second Executive Session: DeChiara; second: Pyecroft. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; DeChiara - aye; Weston - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

The Board discusses how to approve the minutes from this Executive Session. Pangallo notes that Executive Session minutes can be approved in Open Session if there is no reason that discussion of those minutes should be conducted in Executive Session.

Siefert asks if the mediation session was technically an Executive Session of the Board. DeChiara notes that there was no quorum of active members at the mediation session.

The Board discusses the extent of the litigation strategy they can now talk about publicly.

Motion to return to end Executive Session and return to Open Session: DeChiara; second: Siefert. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; DeChiara - aye; Weston - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:33pm and the recording was resumed.

DeChiara reviews the list of minutes that the Board reviewed, approved, and released in the Executive Session. He notes that the Board will review and vote on the minutes from tonight's Executive Session at its next meeting.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Pyecroft; second: Siefert. Vote: Pyecroft - aye; Siefert - aye; Hastie - aye; Weston - aye; DeChiara - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Adjourned: 8:36pm