

Shutesbury Planning Board
Minutes – Dec. 8, 2025 Executive Session
Approved and approved for public release: 8/18/26
Virtual Meeting

Board Members Present: Nathan Murphy (Chair), Michael DeChiara, Keith Hastie, Tom Siefert (Associate Member acting as Board member), Steve Bressler, Ashleigh Pyecroft, and Jeff Weston

Board Members Absent: Deacon Bonnar

The Board voted to invite Tom Siefert, Associate Member, to participate in the session.

Michael moved to go into 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. Litigation specific to Complaint received from Cows regarding the Shutesbury Solar Bylaw. Board will not return to open session. Jeff seconded.

DeChiara – aye

Hastie – aye

Weston – aye

Pyecroft – aye

Murphy – aye

Bressler – aye

Motion carries

The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:05pm

There was discussion about the process for approving and releasing minutes. This included conversation about how and when to release executive session minutes given that the litigation, the reason for the executive sessions, was dismissed without prejudice. There was also a question about how attorney-client privilege influenced release of minutes. Nathan referenced an email from Town Counsel regarding her response to his previous inquiry on this issue.

-Weston left the meeting-

The Board agreed that notes taken for the executive sessions were very detailed but did not necessarily function as minutes. Michael agreed to re-write these notes and share the revised versions with the Board. The Board expressed an interest for the minutes to be a balance of "transparency without granularity." If available, these draft minutes would be reviewed by the Board at its January 2026 meeting.

Steve moved, and Keith seconded, that Michael will edit current executive session notes to achieve the intended "transparency without granularity" and subsequently share them with the Board for review.

DeChiara – aye, Pyecroft – aye, Hastie – aye, Siefert – aye, Bressler – aye. Murphy - no vote recorded.

Motion carries.

Michael moved, and Ashleigh seconded, to adjourn, not to return to Open Session.

Hastie – aye, Siefert – aye, Bressler – aye. Murphy – aye, DeChiara – aye, Pyecroft – aye, Motion carries.

Left executive session and meeting adjourned at 9:22pm.

Documents Used:

- Email from Town Counsel regarding Executive Session minutes