

**Shutesbury Planning Board
Minutes – May 12, 2025**

Approved and approved for public release: 8/18/26

Virtual

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board Members Present: Michael DeChiara (acting Chair), Ashleigh Pyecroft, Jeff Weston, Keith Hastie, and Tom Siefert (Associate Member)

Board Members Absent: Deacon Bonnar, Steve Bressler

Recused: Nathan Murphy

Call to Order: 5:04pm

Michael moved to enter 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 Cowls regarding the Shutesbury Solar Bylaw. Ashleigh seconded. Board will return to open session at 7:00pm.

DeChiara – aye

Hastie – aye

Weston – aye

Pyecroft – aye

Motion carried unanimously.

The board members were polled on what they saw as a desired outcome – whether in regards to sites that might or might not be developed or what regulatory power the Board might have at the start of a special permit process.

Tom left the meeting at 5:30.

Having discussed personal perspectives, the Board explored various options and their strategic risk or merit. This ranged from what type of counteroffer could be made to not making any offers until after the June 27 court appearance. There was particular discussion about the Montague Road site.

Michael moved, Ashleigh seconded:

The Planning Board instructs counsel to communicate on its behalf to the plaintiffs that it would consider another offer. Further, that the communication should convey that the Planning Board has substantial concerns with the Montague Road site, especially and that the Planning Board continues to seek meaningful funding towards a Shutesbury clean energy fund that can be used over the life of the project.

DeChiara – aye

Hastie – aye

Weston – aye

Pyecroft – aye

Motion carried unanimously

Michael moved to exit Executive Session to return to Open Session the meeting and further, to recess until 7:00pm. Keith seconded.

DeChiara – aye

Hastie – aye

Weston – aye

Pyecroft – aye

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting recessed at 6:35 pm.