

Shutesbury Selectboard Meeting Minutes  
November 21, 2023 Hybrid Meeting Format

Selectboard members present: Rita Farrell/Co-Chair, Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil/Co-Chair and Eric Stocker

Staff present: Becky Torres/Town Administrator, Geneva Bickford/Administrative Secretary

Volunteers & Other Staff present: Shutesbury Host, Gail Fleischaker, Mark Olszewski, Michael DeChiara, Carey Marshall, Jeff Weston, Jeff Lacy, Donna MacNicol, Meryl Mandell, Nathan Murphy, Ashleigh Pyecroft

Guests: Jodi Rodar, Renee, Rinky, Tom Siefert, Zoom User, Amanda Alix, Kevin Weir, Joyce Braunhut, Mary David, Joseph's Ipad, Paula Moore, Mike S., Grace Bannasch, mark Roblee, Robert Seletsky, Sharon Weizenbaum, Frank McGinn, David Buchanan, Penelope Kim, Don Ogden, Brian Miner, Laurel Facey, Diane, Genny Beemyn, Joan Hanson, Steve Schmidt, Shane Bajnoci, Mark Protti, Rivka Solomon, Robert Price, Renee Moss, Eric Bachrach, Jenny Kallick

Makepeace-O'Neil calls the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

Agenda Review: As posted.

Public Comment: NONE

**Discussion Topics:**

1. Review Job Description recommended changes from the Personnel Board for HW Superintendent, Recycling Coordinator and Librarian Assistant: The Personnel Board made some adjustments to the Highway Superintendent job description, TA will have Steve Sullivan review. The SB approved the job description for the Recycling Coordinator.

**VOTE:** Farrell makes a Motion to approve the recycling coordinator job description as presented this evening; Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Makepeace-O'Neil: aye, Stocker: aye, and Farrell: aye; the motion carries.

2. Trash Bag Policy: The policy has been in place for years and is now being put up on the website as well as it is in the trash collection book. A statement about reasonable accommodations being made was added to the policy for those who need assistance.

**VOTE:** Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to vote for the Shutesbury trash bag policy as amended; Farrell moves, Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Makepeace-O'Neil: aye, Stocker: aye, and Farrell: aye; the motion carries.

3. ConCom Bylaw Legal Review: The SB will engage with Gregor McGregor for review of the Wetland's Bylaw.

**VOTE:** Farrell makes a Motion that the Town of Shutesbury engage the firm of McGregor & McGregor to review the draft Shutesbury Wetlands Bylaw; Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Makepeace-O'Neil: aye, Stocker: aye, and Farrell: aye; the motion carries.

4. Shutesbury Athletic Club Permitting: The SAC ABCC license application was approved by the SB contingent upon receiving the inspection report from FRCOG before November 30.

**VOTE:** Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to approve the ABCC Liquor License Application for the Shutesbury Athletic Club; Stocker moves, Farrell seconds. Roll call vote: Makepeace-O'Neil: aye, Stocker: aye, and Farrell: aye; the motion carries.

5. Town Administrator Updates: The TA was asked to sign a waiver in regards to the paving at the culvert. TA was advised not to sign the Waiver and the contractor provided another option that was acceptable. All SB members will be in attendance at the 4 Town Meeting. The Highway Dept. is in search of a new full time equipment operator. Benjamin Fields is the candidate and he is in the process of obtaining his CDL but will have his permit before the end of the week. PFAS testing will continue on Monday, December 4. TA will reach out to Arps to schedule a time for him to give another update at the SB's 12/19 meeting. The Building Committee is focusing on a project to complete the school that will entail siding and trim work. Steve Sullivan and Chief Czerwonka have turned in their budgets. Town Hall will be closed Friday.

**VOTE:** Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to appoint Benjamin Fields as temporary part time plow driver; Farrell moves, Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Makepeace-O'Neil: aye, Stocker: aye, and Farrell: aye; the motion carries.

6. Attorney General's Response to PB Solar Amendment, January 2023: The Attorney General's office disapproved the Planning Board Solar Amendment. The 2022 Solar Bylaw now stands and that includes the 2021 small and large scale solar installation bylaw. There was discussion of going to the legislature in the future and working with the legislators regarding independent energy storage systems. MacNicol does not recommend rushing and having this for the STM scheduled for 1/16/23.

Makepeace-O'Neil Motions to go into executive session at 6:55 pm for Reason #3 to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the governments litigating position for the meeting specific to the complaint received from Cows regarding the Shutesbury Solar Bylaw with Town Counsel and Planning Board and not to return to open session. Farrell moves and Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Makepeace-O'Neil: aye, Stocker: aye, and Farrell: aye; the motion carries.

Administrative Actions:

1. Prep ABCC documents for SB signature;

Documents and Other Items Used at the Meeting:

1. Shutesbury Trash Bag Policy;
2. ConCom Bylaw Legal Review Request;
3. Recycling Coordinator Job Description;
4. Highway Superintendent Job Description;
5. AG Solar Bylaw Letter;
6. Solar Bylaw Revision; and
7. SAC ABCC License Renewal documents.

Respectfully submitted,  
Geneva Bickford,  
Administrative Secretary

\*\* A full version of the 11/21/23 SB meeting is available to view on the Town of Shutesbury's YouTube page at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4ajoOcJsNzf5DBgMTZgcJA>