

Shutesbury Selectboard Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2024 Hybrid Meeting Format

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

Staff present: Rebecca Torres/Town Administrator

Volunteers & Other Staff present: Tracy McNaughton, Mary David, Matteo Pangallo, Joseph's Ipad, Jessica Makepeace, Rob Kibler, Penelope Kim, Martha, Jon Lawless, Joan Hanson, Joyce Braunhut, Paul Lyons, Mike S., Amanda Alix, Sharon Weizenbaum, Frank McGinn, Jane Urban, Robert Seletsky, Jill Buchanan, Gail Fleischaker, Mark Protti

Guests:

Farrell calls the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

Agenda Review: As posted.

Public Comment: NONE

Review of Minutes: NONE

Discussion Topics:

1. Receive ConCom member's resignation and make an appointment to the Council on Aging: Robin Harrington has resigned from ConCom. The SB thanks Harrington for her service. Jessica Makepeace was appointed to the Council on Aging.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to accept Robin Harrington's resignation from the Shutesbury Conservation Commission.; Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Makepeace-O'Neil: aye, Stocker: aye, and Farrell: aye; the motion carries.

VOTE: Farrell makes a Motion to appoint Jessica Makepeace to the Shutesbury Council on Aging. Stocker seconds, Farrell moves. Roll call vote: Stocker: aye, Farrell: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: abstain; the motion carries.

2. Four Town Meeting, 4/20/24, Review: Farrell attended via Zoom and Makepeace-O'Neil and Torres was in attendance in person along with FinCom members. The school committee voted a budget that resulted in a lot of public outcry. Shutesbury's assessment would be an 8.2% increase. FinCom came up with a proposal to approve 6%. The Regional School Committee will be meeting again to discuss a budget and if nothing is settled the towns will have to reconvene in a STM to address the budget or they can keep TM open until after that vote.

3. Selectboard Interviews and ConCom Appointments: Three individuals were interviewed for the two open ConCom positions. The SB appointed Jan Rowan to the ConCom position open for a 14 month period and Bob Douglas to the ConCom position open for a 3 year and 2 month open position.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to appoint Jan Rowan to the 14 month position on the ConCom; Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Makepeace-O'Neil: aye, Stocker: aye, and Farrell: aye; the motion carries.

VOTE: Stocker makes a Motion to appoint Bob Douglas to the 3 year and 2 month position for the Shutesbury Conservation Commission; Makepeace-O'Neil seconds. Roll call vote: Makepeace-O'Neil: aye, Stocker: aye, and Farrell: aye; the motion carries.

4. Selectboard response to an Open Meeting Law Complaint: Torres has drafted a response and waiting for it to be reviewed.
5. Moderator Report to the Selectboard on Electronic Voting Study Group: A short presentation will be given at TM. It was suggested in the past that ARPA funds be considered to purchase an electronic voting setup for TM and Lyons has been interested in this for a while. An adhoc group was put together of 7 people who did extensive research, gathering data on options of renting vs buying, vendors and what they offer and approximate cost. The group also got feedback from town voters. A fact sheet has been put together along with the survey and responses received. Mark Hawkins will be presenting at TM.
6. Review Annual Town Meeting Logistics: TM will take place back at the school. Help will be needed on Friday between 4 pm and 5 pm for setup. Food will be available. SB should arrive at TM at 8:30 am to hold a brief SB meeting at 8:45 am.
7. EV Charger proposal from Livingstone Update: It was determined Livingstone's offer was not as good as believed and there are many others out there. Through Livingstone there is now a cost to the town of about \$118,000 to have chargers installed at the library and an additional \$118,000 to install at town hall.
8. FRCOG request for Letter of Support for Dirt Road Tool Box MVP Grant: The SB approved the letter of support for FRCOG's MVP Grant Application.

VOTE: Farrell makes a Motion to approve the letter of support for FRCOG's MVP Grant Application; Makepeace-O'Neil moves, Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Makepeace-O'Neil: aye, Stocker: aye, and Farrell: aye; the motion carries.

9. Town Administrator Updates: The Emergency Management Team is meeting in May. There has been a lot of PFAS activity going on. Final rounds of testing for the year is being done. 20 lab reports have come in so far with more expected. The results received have expanded the circle and added 3 new POETS. Gasoline has been stalled as we are not able to put one of the wells where we originally wanted and a new location will need to be found. The building committee is still busy working on the projects. Members of the building committee have replaced all the insulation around the mini splits piping and they are back in operation. They have looked at all of Old Town Hall and there is concern about going into Old Town Hall and not being able to close the doors again. The Building committee has found someone to replace the Sill and that is going to get fixed. ATM is approaching and people have been pitching in and helping making copies and Carey has been very helpful. Annual Town Report is in the final stages. Greg Caulton has done an excellent job. No further candidates for the Administrative Secretary position. The Land Use Clerk position is being advertised. The TA is going back through the narrative for the MVP grant to see what changes might be more effective at this point. TA has costs for the Lightning F150 but there are different models available at different costs depending on what is needed. The MVP application would be for 47 Kilowatts of solar on the library as designed to be NetZero. Shutesbury is requesting an F150 Food Lightning pickup truck to act as our battery backup and was suggested by our MVP representative. Stocker asks if the MVP grant fails where does the library stand with solar? TA states it will depend on their subcommittee. They are closing the gap but they have just gone out to bid. Bids are not due back for 5 weeks. MVP is the one that requires battery storage. TA put in a Department of Energy Resources ("DER") Grant for a culvert engineering and permitting for the culvert at the mouth of the Dudleyville Dam. If that dam is removed Shutesbury would do culvert work. They are talking about removing the upper portions of it which is basically removal and would turn the flow from a narrow channel to a stream and the town

would have to deal with the culvert. These two projects can go hand in hand very well. The town can apply for MVP money to do the culvert and that is what the 2nd project we reviewed with MVP.

Farrell Motions to Adjourn (6:56 pm); Makepeace-O'Neil moves and Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Makepeace-O'Neil: aye, Stocker: aye, and Farrell: aye; the motion carries.

Administrative Actions:

1. Appointment Letters for Bob Douglas and Jan Rowan;

Documents and Other Items Used at the Meeting:

- 1.

Respectfully submitted,
Geneva Bickford,
Administrative Secretary

** A full version of the 4/23/24 SB meeting is available to view on the Town of Shutesbury's YouTube page at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4ajoOcJsNzf5DBgMTZgcJA>

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