

Shutesbury Selectboard Meeting Minutes  
June 4, 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: Frank McGinn, Isaac Goldstein, Mark Roblee, Select Board Meeting Room, Joyce Brauhn, Nate Heard, Stephen Bannasch, Matteo Pangallo, Penelope Kim, Grace Bannasch, Tom Siefert, Susan Millinger, Gail Fleischaker, Michael DeChiara, Keith Hastie, April Stein, BZ Reily, Tim, Miriam DeFant, Weezie Houle, Leslie Luchonok, Catherine Hilton, Jim Hemingway, Stephen Dallmus, Kate, Arlene Reed, Andrea Bono-Bunker, Dominik Wit, Neil Joyce, Heather Backman, Clif Read, Serge Fedorovsky, Sean Meyer, Mel DeSilva, Jill Marland, Robert Groves, Olken, Libby Lass, Dale Houle, Sara Aierstuck, Graeme Sephton, Mel DeSilva, Michele Sedor, Sam's Iphone, Ajay Khashu, Peg Ross, Scott, Helen Ann Sephton, Diane, Becca Wheeler, John Buonaccorsi, Colleen Kelley, Shannon's Dad, Brad Foster, Lauren Holt, Amanda Alix, Sarah Fairfield, Steve Bressler

Guests:

Makepeace-O'Neil calls the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Agenda Review: As posted.

Public Comment: Penelope Kim expresses her appreciation for the hard work that has gone into the library project and thinks the Library Building Committee has worked hard and has done a great job of keeping everyone well informed.

Review of Minutes: Only the May 7, 2024 minutes were reviewed and were approved.

**VOTE:** Farrell makes a Motion to approve the May 7, 2024 minutes; Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

**Discussion Topics:**

1. ECAC Review of Committee Charge specifically the relationship between Selectboard and ECAC and ECAC Seeks approval from Selectboard to proceed with a Community Choice Aggregation Broker: ECAC recommends that the SB choose Colonial Power Group. Colonial's references from other communities were good and the contract has no cost to the community. Nate Heard and the Town Administrator will connect and continue to work on this. ECAC will report its progress as this moves along. Regarding the ECAC Committee Charge, this has come to light as ECAC had to pull a warrant article for ATM because a public hearing was not held. ECAC is recommending that the SB allow the committee to act. Farrell reviewed the original charge and was surprised that there was so much coming back to the SB and feels that it is a good idea to give ECAC some more autonomy. There was some discussion had on how to rewrite the charge. The SB and ECAC will discuss further and rewrite the charge

**VOTE:** Farrell makes a Motion that the Shutesbury Selectboard execute a contract with Colonial Power Group to be our Energy Broker; Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

2. EV Charger Proposal from Livingstone Update: TA discussed with the library committee their concerns. If the town wants an ADA electric car charging spot we can assign it as an ADA, the town can also allow non-electric cars to park there, it is all at the towns discretion. There appears to be about 1/3 of the funds left and if the town were to sign and there is no more money left from National Grid or the project funding has been reduced it would come back to us and we could withdraw at that

point. The TA will ask a few more questions of Livingstone: What is the maintenance cost for 5 years and for 10 years? Is the maintenance cost covered by fees after the 5 year warranty is expired? What is the warranty and is it bumper to bumper? How long do the chargers last, what is the average age? TA will email responses from Livingstone to the SB.

3. Forest Allies for Responsible Solar Presentation: The Forest Allies are asking the SB to send the Citizen's Petition to the legislature with a letter stating that it passed at ATM and the vote count.
4. Town Administrator Updates: Torres has reached out to Geneva and she will come back and help catch up on minutes and has started going through the appointment list and is working on appointment letters. The TA did receive a resume for the Administrative Assistant position. The bathroom door that was mysteriously locked is now unlocked useable. Amherst Locksmith came in and repaired the lock. The All Bards meeting will be added to the calendar and there will be a 15 minute discussion on the future of zoom meetings, hybrid meetings, remote meetings and in person meetings. After that people will have 2-5 minutes to speak. Paul Lyons will also give a brief update on the clicker study. The PFAS litigation has been given to Donna MacNicol for her review and the TA is awaiting her response. The Building Committee just replaced the sill at the old town hall with new mahogany sill. The Building Committee is continuing its review of Town Hall and will continue to work on issues that need to be fixed.
5. Meet with Library Building Committee, Library Trustees, and Finance Committee to review new library bid opening, possible Selectboard approval of ARPA and/or Earmark Funding for Library Project, and Potential Approval of a Special Town Meeting to consider Additional Funding for the new library: Elaine Puleo calls the Library Building Committee to order at 7:00 pm. FinCom called themselves to order at 7:05 pm. Five bids were received. The lowest bid was from Construction Dynamics Incorporated for \$6,386,000.00. We received one from Kronenburg & Sons Restoration for \$6,688,000. We received one from Keiters Building Incorporated for \$6,830,000. We received one from J & J Contractors Incorporated for \$7,107,000 and we received one from VA Sullivan & Sons for \$7,370,000. Neil Joyce will be doing a detailed review of Construction Dynamics Incorporated before making his recommendation. There will be a detailed review of all the bid forms and documents that were provided with the contractors bid and Joyce will also evaluate DCAM Evaluations that are available on the top 3 bidders and will provide a memo and a recommending award will most likely go to Construction Dynamics Incorporated. The final total project costs are \$8,983,000. Currently we have \$8,750,674 funded assuming we are taking the low bid. That means \$232,326 must be raised. The Library Building Committee unanimously recommends that the SB use ARPA funds and Earmark Funds available to move forward with this project. There will be \$120,863 remaining and that includes the cost of the well and landscaping that is required in the OOC issued by the Shutesbury ConCom. The Contract must be executed by the end of June. The well was installed and the 24 hour pump test required by DEP was done in the beginning of April. The well water does not have PFAS nor does it have any other contaminants. It does have radon which exceeds the general safety requirements. A DEP approved carbon filter was installed and that filter while the well does not have PFAS that filter will also filter out PFAS and then things that might discolor the water like iron. It is really good news and we will have that final report which goes to DEP hopefully tomorrow. The OOC's were that we were required to develop preplans for the ConCom before the beginning of construction. Those were to Prepare trash and Debris Removal Plan, the property was scoured and mapped and presented the plan and photographs to ConCom and was approved, some of the trash removal will begin tomorrow; the second order is an Invasive Species Management Plan, Brian Collier was hired to do the plans Brian thought that most of the invasive plants could be dealt with through volunteers but there are a few places that need more attention and he has just prepared a plan that will be submitted to ConCom by Thursday and approved; and the third order was the Landscaping Maintenance Plan which was received Friday and should be submitted to ConCom by Thursday. The square footage of the building is 4,530 Sq Ft. FinCom votes 5-2 to recommend the SB use ARPA Funds and Earmark money.

**VOTE:** Farrell makes a Motion that we approve \$60,840 in ARPA Funds and \$50,623 in our Earmark to be dedicated towards the new Shutesbury Library. Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

Makepeace-O'Neil Motions to Adjourn (8:03 pm); Farrell moves, Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

Administrative Actions:

1. TA to reach out to Livingstone with more questions;

Documents and Other Items Used at the Meeting:

1. ECAC Recommendation of an energy broker to support Shutesbury Community Choice Aggregation;
2. Responses to Questions for Prospective Consultants Shutesbury Energy and Climate Action Committee Prepared & Submitted by Colonial Power Group, Inc.;
3. Library Funding Analysis;
4. Library Budget;
5. Shutesbury Library Sub Bids: May 23, 2024;
6. Shutesbury Public Library Filed Sub Bid Results;
7. Livingstone EV Charging Station Proposal; and
8. FARS Article 29 Email & Citizen's Petition.

Respectfully submitted,  
Geneva Bickford,  
Administrative Secretary

\*\* A full version of the 6/4/24 SB meeting is available to view on the Town of Shutesbury's YouTube page at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4ajoOcJsNzf5DBgMTZgcJA>