

Shutesbury Selectboard Meeting Minutes
August 22, 2024 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

Volunteers & Other Staff present:

Guests: Todd Tietchen, Mike, Kathy Salvador, Diane, Joyce Braunhut, L. Bernlin, Briggs/Lehane, Amanda Alix, Jon, Jim Hemingway, Mike Vinskey, Robert Groves, Mike Connors, Jon Lawless, Panlilio, Selectboard Meeting Room, Katherine A. Powers, gidevito@gmail.com, Frank McGinn, III, Amy Lahane, Mark Rivers, Sharon Raymond, Beth Wilson, Tracy McNaughton, Mary Lou Conca, Norene's Ipad, Gabe's Iphone, Marianna Socko, Charlene Galenski

Makepeace-O'Neil calls the meeting to order at 5:36 pm.

Agenda Review: As posted.

Public Comment: Amanda Alix voices her displeasure at the TA interviewing for the Assistant Town Administrator position in Deerfield. Alix called Torres a traitor and suggested Torres does not care about the town or the town residents and asks the SB to continue to not offer the TA a new contract. Mary Lou Conca states agrees word for word with everything Alix said.

Review of Minutes: Minutes of July 9, 2024, July 16, 2024 and July 30, 2024 were approved.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to approve the July 9, 2024 minutes; Farrell moves, Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to approve the July 16, 2024 minutes; Farrell moves, Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to approve the July 30, 2024 minutes; Farrell moves, Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

Discussion Topics:

1. Appointment of new Conservation Commissioner: Todd Tietchen was appointed to Shutesbury's Conservation Committee.

VOTE: Farrell makes a Motion to appoint Todd Tietchen as the newest commissioner of the Conservation Committee; Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

2. Review of Special Town Meeting held on August 15, 2024: STM was held at town hall on August 15, 2024. 34 people were in attendance. The town voted by 2/3rds vote to approve the article passed incorrectly at ATM by majority regarding borrowing. Another STM is expected in November.
3. Review application for appointment to the new Boating and Safety Committee: The SB received about 30 applicants to the Boating and Safety Committee. The SB discussed changing the number of members from 7 to 9. The SB members agreed and appointed 9 members, Mark Rivers, Jr; David Greene, Alexandria Windcaller; Matt Borowiec; Kathy Salvador; Amy Lahane; Judy Rimmell; Tom

Siefert and Christine Brassil. New appointees will receive an appointment letter with instructions to visit the Town Clerk's Office to be sworn in. The TA will work with the new members to get everyone appointed so they can begin meeting and voting.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion because of the outpouring of volunteers the increase of the Boating and Safety to be increased to 9 members; Farrell moves, Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

VOTE: Farrell makes a Motion that Mark Rivers, Jr.; David Green, Alexandria Windcaller; Matt Borowiec; Kathy Salvador; Amy Lahane, Judy Rimmell; Tom Siefert and Christine Brassil be appointed to the Lake Wyola Safety Committee; Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

4. Police Chief presents Police Department Sponsorship of Police Academy Candidate: The police chief discusses the changes to the part-time police academy. Chief Burgess asks the SB to approve the Shutesbury Police Departments sponsorship of Gabe Socko at the Police Academy. The cost of tuition is \$3,200 plus the cost of equipment. Socko is currently working at American International College ("AIC") as security with the campus police and has ties to the local community, his wife is the preschool teacher at SES and his mother-in-law and brother-in-law are also teachers at SES. Socko and Chief Burgess discussed him returning to work for the Shutesbury Police Department after completing the academy and also discussed if Socko were to find employment elsewhere he would reimburse Shutesbury for the cost of his tuition and expenses. Chief Burgess has money in her budget to fund the sponsorship through grants she has received through the state, for past reimbursement for other officers Shutesbury has had attend the Bridge Academy. The academy will begin in December.

VOTE: Farrell makes a Motion that the Town of Shutesbury sponsors Gave Socko for the non-full time department sponsored in the academy; Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

5. Town Administrator Updates: The Dudleyville Dam is almost gone. They have been deconstructing since Tuesday. DEER will be supporting Shutesbury in trying to move ahead on the engineering for the culvert. There is no concern right now about the safety of the roadway or the culvert, it is holding strong. The Greenfield Recorder wrote a wonderful article on the dam today. The painting and trim work at the school is near completion. The TA had a visit with Thomas Erwin who is working with a small group of individuals to help them put together a paint stewardship legislation. The legislation would allow people after buying a can of paint to return the empty can to the store. They have received support from retailers, government officials and the public. The MVP contract has been signed and sent to the MVP department. They are processing the contract of \$222,000 which they will send when its ready. Shutesbury has to put in \$21,000 in cash and there are \$4,300 in in-kind services that the TA is providing throughout the project. It is believed the \$21,000 can and will come from the Friends portion of the funds raised and if that fails this would have to return to TM to ask for the funds.

Makepeace-O'Neil Motions to Adjourn (6:24 pm); Farrell moves, Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

Administrative Actions:

1. Appointment Letters for the Boating and Safety Committee.

Documents and Other Items Used at the Meeting:

1. Lake Wyola Boating & Safety Committee list;
2. ConCom Vacancy email;
3. Draft 7/9/24, 7/16/24 and 7/30/24.

Respectfully submitted,
Geneva Bickford,
Administrative Secretary

** A full version of the 8/22/24 SB meeting is available to view on the Town of Shutesbury's YouTube page at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4ajoOcJsNzf5DBgMTZgcJA>