

Shutesbury Selectboard Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2024 Virtual Meeting

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

Staff present: Becky Torres/Town Administrator

Volunteers & Other Staff Present: Paul Lyon/ Town Moderator

Guests: Leslie Cerier, Mary Lou Conca, Miriam DeFant, Jill Buchanan, Matteo Pangallo, Frank McGinn, Henry Geddes

Makepeace-O'Neil calls the meeting to order at 6:04pm

Agenda Review: As posted.

Public Comment:

1. Leslie Cerier, statement on using Glyphosate
 - a. Mentions it would be foolish and toxic it would be to use Glyphosate to be used in a town that is a green community. It has no green value and it is not healthy. It goes in the air, and she heard it was supposed to go on school house road and there is no Knotweed over there. She never heard anything back and wanted more information. Mentions there are less expensive and less toxic options out there and to consider what she wrote in the letter.
2. Mary Lou Conca, statement on using Glyphosate, mentions that there should be concern with this going into the ground especially since most homes get their water from the wells.
3. Miriam DeFant, asks if there will be a second special town meeting, if so when. Torres states November 19th but is still a tentative date.

Review of Minutes: None available

Discussion Topics:

Paul Lyon

1. Electronic Voting/ Clicker:
 - a. Survey results: results inconclusive (60/40 support but strong sentiment to keep things the same), exploring a couple options
 - i. Non-binding ballot question
 - ii. Article at annual town meeting
 - iii. Mock meeting using the clickers (Grace Bannasch)
2. Efficiency of Town Meetings
 - a. Print the Motions in advance prior to meeting
 - b. Divide their town meetings
 - i. Spring is when they discuss financial/budget
 - ii. Fall is when they discuss bylaws, planning board motions, etc.
3. Virtual meetings could be the next step and should be the next step.

- a. Grace Bannasch and Rita Farrell second the motion on exploring this for next year

4. Consideration of appointment of new Land Clerk
 - a. Matteo Pangallo

VOTE: Farrell makes a Motion to approve Matteo Pangallo as the new Land Use Clerk; Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, Makepeace-O'Neil: aye, the motion carries.

5. Consideration of appointment of new Admin Secretary
 - a. Abbigail Hernandez

VOTE: Farrell makes a Motion to approve Abbigail Hernandez as the new Admin Secretary; Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, Makepeace-O'Neil: aye, the motion carries.

6. Highway Superintendent Resignation

VOTE: Stocker makes a motion to accept Steve Sullivans resignation, Farrell, seconds. Roll call vote: Stocker: aye, Farrell: aye, Makepeace-O'Neil: aye, motion carries.

7. Knotweed mitigation

- a. Stocker, we should The Board of Health, the Conservation Commission, Knotweed. Need a decision in agreement with the select board and with the committees mentioned. Farrell agrees with Stocker, and mentions that there is legitimate public concern. We need to hear from the Conservation Commission and Board of Health first for any concerns they may have. Torres, will ask the committees to come to a meeting to ask them directly. Farrell agrees. Torres, will ask if they can come to next meeting on the 10/8. DeFant, appreciates having conversation with the committees and asks that the people that signed the petition to have a chance to speak. DeFant mentions that there are some procedure issues that the select board faces, what are going to be the regulations and standards for employees using this material, what PPE are you going to train your employees to protect their health, what notification will you provide, will there be signage or labeling for people to be aware of what area has been treated to keep dogs or children away. Jill Buchanan, mentions that there would a strong turn out to do a non-toxic or approach like a hand pully, volunteers to help with the efforts to avoid using toxic sprays.

8. The Review of the Historical Commission and the letters we received from building committee regarding that proposal

- a. Makepeace-O'Neil mentions that the gazebo structure to go over the guide board to protect its restoration. McGinn, mentions it didn't fit the size and need more information. The Building Committee asked for more outside the box ideas for a proposal. Torres mentions that the top of gazebo was very top heavy and

took away from the guide board it-self. Plexi glass sides on all four sides to protect it but not sure how it would hold us with storms, another option is enclosing it in all glass. Henry Geddes, with the Historical Committee feel they have used all their ideas, but are open to a solution. Geddes mentions putting it in all glass is not a good idea because it can create a lot of moisture and could cause damages, not sure if they plexiglass will hold but it is a matter of trying it out. Suggested hiring another architect for ideas, the volunteer that they have might not be able to do this project. Asking for ideas from McGinn for ideas for proposal. He also mentions that the Massachusetts Historical Commission prohibits creating a replica of the object and strongly suggests against it, if we were to do a replica we would have to work with Massachusetts Historical Commission. There is some wiggle room here where a replica might be possible. Stocker asked if we did nothing, it lasted all these years. He ask if it is crazy to put it out there without a roof or protective barrier and then in 30 years or whenever it needs to fixed. Makepeace-O'Neil agrees that that is something that is possible. Geddes mentions that object was deemed valuable enough renovate thoroughly by professional, and on the list of artifacts with the Massachusetts Historical Commission. We followed the guild lines from the secretary of state and the Massachusetts Historical Commission to renovate it. As a commission, let's put it back out there and see how it works. Stocker asks why change it now. Mary Lou Conca mentions, it's costing us too much. We have 6 to 7 months before it comes back to make a decision.

9. Select Board for new date meeting that fall on election day, Christmas and new years
 - a. Tentative dates, November 6th, January 2nd

Administrative Actions:

- 1.

Documents and Other Items Used at the Meeting:

- 1.

Respectfully submitted,
Abbigail Hernandez
Administrative Secretary

** A full version of the 9/24/24 SB meeting is available to view on the Town of Shutesbury's YouTube page at: https://youtu.be/_Bdp1JAUA4M?si=6dLPMs6BucM-dzr-