

Shutesbury Selectboard Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2026 In-Person Meeting Format

Selectboard members present: Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil/Chair, Eric Stocker/ Vice-Chair, Rita Farrell/ Board Member.

Staff present and Guests: Hayley Bolton: Town Administrator, Brennan Mailloux, Amanda Alix, Grace Carmichael, T. Williamson, Gail Fleischaker, Tom Siefert, Matteo Pangallo, Jon Lawless, Leslie Bracebridge, Mary Lou Conca, Mary Anne Antonellis, Kate Murphy, Ziporah Hildebrandt, Don Wakoluk, K. Fournier, "Jon".

Makepeace-O'Neil calls the meeting to order at 4:32 pm

Agenda Review: As posted.

General Business:

1. Approve Meeting Minutes for 4.8.26 and 4.13.26:

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes for 4.8.26 as worded, Stocker seconds. Roll call vote Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; motion carries.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes for 4.13.26 as worded, Stocker seconds. Roll call vote Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; motion carries.

2. Sign letter of receipt from the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District acknowledging borrowing authorization to fund Amherst-Pelham Regional Capital Plan projects:

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a motion to sign the letter of receipt from the Amherst Pelham Regional School District that acknowledges borrowing authorization for projects, Stocker seconds. Roll call vote Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; motion carries.

3. Town Administrator: Hayley Bolton Contract Signing:

- a. There was discussion about where contracts are being stored and technology being used to back up the stored data.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a motion to execute the signatures of the three-year contract for Town Administrator Hayley Bolton, Stocker seconds. Roll call vote Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; motion carries.

4. Review and Approve May 9th, 2026 Annual Town Meeting Warrant:

- a. Article 24 for Data Centers was removed since the previous Select Board Meeting on April 8, 2026.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a motion to approve and sign the May 9th, 2026 Annual Town Meeting Warrant with the correction of the date on the signature page, Stocker seconds. Roll call vote Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; motion carries.

VOTE: Farrell makes a motion to appoint Matteo Pangallo as Deputy Constable, Stocker seconds. Roll call vote Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; motion carries.

5. Update from The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regarding the ongoing project at the Former Air Force Terminal Very High Frequency (VHF) Omni-Directional Range (TVOR) Facility (Parcel O-32):
 - a. The Town had a former Air Force Terminal VHF Range Facility radio tower. There was a gas leak there at one point in the past, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers took over the project.
 - b. Travis Williamson, an Environmental Engineer and Project Manger with Tidewater, the contractors that have been helping the Army Corps of Engineers, gave an overview of the location of the project. He stated the radar facility installed in the 60's is still located in the area behind the Shutesbury Public Library today.
 - c. Williamson gave a presentation on the site history and context. He started with 1962 where the site was operated by the Air Force for regional air navigation and provided information all the way up to 2021 that was the year in which investigations for the new Library construction located petroleum traces in the soil samples. This triggered MASS DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) to be notified.
 - d. In 2025, a field investigation was conducted, and soil borings were done (37 soil samples were collected from 16 locations). Groundwater monitoring was done through 15 wells (7 new ones installed). This was done to get a handle on where there was active petroleum contamination, and where there wasn't any at the current time.
 - e. Williamson shared the soil impacts are minimal. There were no odors or staining observed in the surface soil. Only 1 of 37 samples exceeded the most conservative Massachusetts Contingency Plan standard. The detection was Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE), and it was contained to the immediate contamination area. Their takeaway was that there is no "source" of contamination in soil that could spread or further impact groundwater.
 - f. Williamson shared the key message: No impacts to local drinking water are anticipated from historical Department of Defense (DoD) activities.
 - g. They will be adding one more well northwest of the former UST between MW-14 and MW-15. The purpose will be to provide a quantitative data point to formally document that petroleum hydrocarbons are not present at concentrations above the States's strictest Ground Water-1 criteria. They plan to do another sampling round of all the wells and then prepare an updated report and risk evaluation incorporating the new data.

Respectfully submitted,
Brennan Mailloux
Administrative Assistant
Town Administrator/Select Board

** A full version of the 4/14/26 SB meeting will be available to view on the Town of Shutesbury's YouTube page: <https://youtu.be/btYD7zhedCY>

