

SHUTESBURY

MASSACHUSETTS



# OUR TOWN

☞ This is Part One of *two* town mailings you should receive in April. It does not include the budget or warrant for Annual Town Meeting. ☞

## Town Meeting and more

Mike Vinskey, Michael DeChiara and Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil, *Shutesbury Select Board*

We are rapidly closing in on May 6, 2017, the date for Annual Town Meeting. Your Select Board is busy finalizing the warrant. Many of the articles are standard ones that need to be voted/approved on an annual basis, but there are a couple that are different.

**Every year we need to approve the assessment method used by the Regional School District** to determine the share of the Amherst-Pelham Regional School budget each of the four towns (Amherst, Leverett, Pelham, Shutesbury) needs to contribute. The default method is the Statutory Method, created by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. However, regions are allowed to devise their own assessment method.

Such an Alternative Method has been used by the Amherst-Pelham region for 10 years. Several years ago, Shutesbury recognized that the Alternative Method put our town at a

**The Select Board will host a Pre-Town Meeting information session at Town Hall on Wednesday, May 3 at 7:00pm. Come with your questions!**

disadvantage when compared to the Statutory method. We have been discussing developing a more equitable method with the other towns for three years. Shutesbury's position is that the Alternative Method does not account for a town's "ability to pay" and that a revised method needs to take this into account.

Over the last few years we have adapted the assessment method to the point that this year the warrant article will ask that each town approve a method that incorporates an assessment based on 10% of what the Statutory Method requires us to pay, and 90% of the Alternative Method. Shutesbury is not satisfied with this assessment, but we have agreed to this for this year only. We continue to work with the other towns to have in place for Town Meeting in 2018 a method that meets our needs and is acceptable to the other there

towns.

**Creating the Town's operating budget** is a major undertaking for the Finance Committee and Select Board. As this issue of *Our Town* goes to press, the actual budget is still being constructed. There will be an information session on May 3, 2017 to answer any questions about the budget or any other warrant articles. Please attend this session if you have questions or concerns.

Most important, come join your neighbors and friends at Town Meeting on May 6, 2017 beginning at 9:00am at the Shutesbury Elementary School. We hope to see you there!

## Progress on the road to broadband

*Shutesbury Broadband Committee*

Over 100 people attended the March 28 Special Town Meeting and Broadband Information Session. In addition to a short presentation about the project status and next steps, voters decided in favor of creating a five-member Municipal Light Plant Board (MLP). MLP's are what allow towns to own and operate their own broadband networks.

Recent legal clarifications have shown advantages in separating out the MLP from the Select Board. We believe this restructuring is the correct legal formation for an MLP, and will also help move the project forward faster. The Select Board fully supports this change, and its creation will not hold up the project in any

**See Broadband, page 4**

All are invited by the Shutesbury Select Board to join in a Social Hour on Sunday, April 30 to Meet the Candidates on the Ballot for the Election and thank those Volunteers who are leaving committee participation after years of service to the Town.

Come to the Shutesbury Elementary School, 4:53:30pm on Sunday, April 30. There will be refreshments.

## Messages from the Town Clerk

Susie Mosher

[townclerk@shutesbury.org](mailto:townclerk@shutesbury.org)

413-259-1204

on the web @ [www.shutesbury.org](http://www.shutesbury.org)

Office Hours: Mon. 3:30 – 6pm

Tues. - Fri. 8:30 – 10:30am

Tues. evenings 6:00 – 8:00pm

And other times by appointment

Here comes SPRING!

And here comes our Annual Town Meeting (ATM) held at the Shutesbury Elementary School, 23 West Pelham Rd. This community event is an opportunity to come out and see your neighbors, vote on the town warrant articles, cast a ballot to fill elected town positions, and get your trash bags.

Shutesbury's open **Town Meeting** is May 6, starting at 9:00am. All registered voters **may vote in person on warrant articles** as each item is put before its members during Town Meeting. You will receive town meeting materials in the mail and they will be posted on the town web site, [www.shutesbury.org](http://www.shutesbury.org) as soon as they are ready.

Registered voters may also **cast a ballot at the town elections**. Polls open from 8:00am – 2:00pm. Election results will be posted on the town website. The **Voter registration period** closes on Saturday, April 15 at Town Hall from 2:00 – 4:00pm and from 7:00 – 8:00pm. To check if you are a registered voter in Shutesbury, you may call the Town Clerk at 413-259-1204 or go to the Secretary of the Commonwealth website: <http://www.sec.state.me.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx>

All seats on the **ballot** are for three-year terms, except where noted.

\*Incumbent

### **Board of Health** Vote for Two

\* Norene Pease 19 S. Laurel Dr

\* Kenneth Rotondi 4 Leverett Rd

### **Cemetery Commissioner** Vote for One

\*Walter R. Tibbetts, 273 Pelham Hill Rd

### **Library Trustee** Vote for Two

Jaime M. Donta 204 Montague Rd  
Patricia S. Ouellette, 205 West Pelham Rd

### **Planning Board** Vote for Three

\* Deacon Bonnar 276 Montague Rd

\* Steven Bressler 43 Old Orchard Rd  
1 seat open

### **Planning Board (to fill remaining two years)** Vote for One

Robert Raymond 145 Baker Rd

### **School Committee** Vote for Two

\* Daniel Hayes 194 Wendell Rd

\* Stephen Sullivan 444 Wendell Rd  
Jennifer Malcolm-Brown 72 Wendell Rd

### **Select Board** Vote for One

Timothy Logan 15 Town Farm Rd

### **Town Clerk** Vote for One

\* Susan Mosher 360 Cooleyville Rd

Write-In candidates must have a complete name and street address. Stickers with this information are accepted.

If you are going to be out of town that day, have a physical disability, or will be absent due to a religious belief, you may cast an **absentee ballot** for candidates on the ballot. Applications for absentee ballots must be made in writing or by email and include:

- voter's name
- residential address
- address where the ballot should be mailed and
- voter's signature.

Mail your request for an absentee ballot to: Town Clerk, PO Box 264, Shutesbury, MA 01072. Alternatively, you can use the forms available outside the Town Clerk's office or online on the town clerk's web page. Please allow plenty of time for mailing application and ballot materials back and forth. **You may also vote absentee in person at the Town Clerk's office until noon on Friday, May 5.**



The Recycling and Solid Waste Committee begins its new year of **trash bag distribution** at Annual

Town Meeting. The schedule for other distribution dates and recycling will be available at ATM and on the home page of the town website. So, when you arrive at the Elementary School, in no particular order, you can pick up trash bags, sign in for a card for voting on Town Meeting articles, and check in for a ballot to vote.

Spring is also an opportune time to **license or re-license your dog** before the current license expires on June 30. We did not include the application in this mailing. Applications are now available on line, and outside the Town Clerk's office. They will also be on the information table at Town Meeting. Early birds can avoid a late fee by registering before August 1, 2016.

## With appreciation for newsletter volunteers ...

Linda Avis Scott, *Administrative Secretary*

Behind the scenes for each issue of *Our Town* that arrives in your mailbox, **Janis Gray** edits and lays out the content and other volunteers assemble the inserts, fold, and seal each newsletter.

A grateful thanks for the folders of the Winter 2017 issue of the newsletter: **Mary Anne Antonellis, Leslie Bracebridge, Sally Fairfield, Susanne Hayden, Susie Mosher, Becky Torres, and Walter Tibbetts.**

If you would like to join in the fun of assembling our newsletter, please let me know by calling 413-259-6550 or emailing [adminsecretary@shutesbury.org](mailto:adminsecretary@shutesbury.org) and I will add you to my list. When a new issue goes to print, I will call or email you with the date/time the folding will begin. Any amount of time is welcome.

*Our Town*, published three times a year in January or February, April, and August or September, is supported by tax dollars. We welcome news from Town of Shutesbury departments, boards, and committees, and from individuals and groups about local projects, activities, or special events of benefit to our community. Submissions promoting the sale of goods or services for private profit cannot be accepted.

Janis S. Gray, *Editor*  
Linda Avis Scott, *Town Hall Liaison*



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## Statements from candidates for Town Election of Officers

Space in *Our Town* for campaign statements is available to all candidates, including known write-in candidates. Each is invited to submit a statement of no more than 125 words to this newsletter. The Town of Shutesbury does not endorse any candidate.



### School Committee

Dan Hayes  
194 Wendell Road

My passion to serve children, families and community is exemplified in my time commitment serving on School Committee. Experience and dedication have elevated my role; I serve as chair for Union #28 and the Collaborative (CES). I have been involved in contract negotiations and in the hiring process for our superintendent and Finance Director. I opposed state efforts forcing regionalization, having analyzed data (finding increased costs and loss of autonomy) I opposed regionalizing with Amherst and I was active in providing evidence to the public and legislators on the adverse impact from charter schools on small/rural districts. I attended the conference on Social Justice and Equity, the Small and Rural Schools Initiative, and the Summit on Poverty. I request your vote to continue this important work.

Jen Malcolm-Brown  
72 Wendell Road  
jmalcolm426@gmail.com  
413-406-6035

Through my children, I have been involved with SES for two years and I volunteer at the school weekly. All children need rich educational opportunities, incorporating STEM and the arts, while fostering responsibility, safety and individuality. However, we must do so under increasing financial pressure. My experience managing and directing a behavioral health clinic has demonstrated my ability to collaborate to ensure high quality services despite increasing financial limitations. Our educators and administrators are deeply committed to the students. In a time of rising expectations and reduced funding, it is our job to support them. A town of civic-minded residents such as ours requires School Committee members with equal parts passion and open-mindedness to represent its members. I am ready for this challenge.

### Select Board

Timothy Logan  
15 Town Farm Road  
nz7c.ham@gmail.com  
480-695-2436

I am a retired C.P.A., having practiced for thirty-three years. I come to the Select Board with no hidden agenda and an open mind. I believe the responsibility of the Select Board is to help implement the needs of the majority of Shutesbury residents in an efficient and fiscally responsible manner and to foster teamwork among the committees, town employees, and Select Board. Should I be elected I will be committed to 1) listening to residents and other committee members, 2) analyzing their concerns and issues, 3) making an objective decision on those issues for the greatest benefit to the community, 4) working as a team member with Town committees and employees, and 5) being transparent in all communication.

### Town Clerk

Susan Mosher  
360 Cooleyville Rd

Statewide, town clerks agree, "Clerks don't run the town; we help the town run." Being the Shutesbury Town Clerk for the last two years has given me the opportunity to facilitate seven elections, license about 600 dogs, answer a wide range of questions from citizens, meet state regulations, provide notary services, and be of assistance to the boards, committees and departments that carry out the work of town government.

Working to keep people informed about our town, I have increased communication using the town website, bulletin boards and even a sandwich board in front of Town Hall.

Please vote for me to continue my efforts as Town Clerk of Shutesbury.

### Note from the Town Collector

Ellen McKay, *Town Collector*

Dear Shutesbury taxpayers,  
Happy spring! Now that the warmer weather is approaching, we are approaching the end of fiscal 2017 and the Town Meeting for fiscal 2018.

**My office hours** are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00am – Noon and Thursday from 8:00-11:00am. Should you need to see me and these times are inconvenient, please call and we can arrange a better time to meet.

Due to the time it takes for mail delivery, it is imperative that you **PLAN ACCORDINGLY** when mailing your payments. Under Mass. General Law, we do NOT use the postmark for date of payment but rather the date of actual receipt. You should mail bills at least **ONE WEEK** before they are due to insure that they are received before the due date.

**If you use on-line banking from your bank** (not the Town's system), please be aware that the bill will come to this office for processing from the lockbox because it is not accompanied by a copy of the bill. To make certain the payment is received on time, please change the mailing address to Town Collector, PO Box 175, Shutesbury, MA 01072-0175. This will eliminate the bill going to the lockbox and being forwarded. PLEASE make sure the memo information is correct and does not reflect information from previous payments (ie: listing real estate or excise bill numbers from previous years or an incorrect type of bill). Since your bill payment is NOT an automatic transfer into the Town's bank account, you must **PLAN ACCORDINGLY** when authorizing the payment. DO NOT set up the payment on the due date, it won't get to the Town until almost a week later which will result in fees and interest.

Your fourth quarter real estate  
**See Collector, page 4**

## Community clean-up

The Third Annual Community Clean-Up is scheduled for Saturday, April 29, from 10:00am – Noon, rain or shine. Friends, families and neighbors walk up one side of their road and down the other, picking up litter that has accumulated over the year. This is an opportunity for the community to help out their town.

In conjunction, student council 5th and 6th graders volunteer to clean up the schoolyard. It is never too early to give and receive the benefits of community service and take pride in our town. These efforts are much appreciated.

This year the trash drop-off site will be in the Highway Department yard. We will have a trash-only dumpster, provided as a community service by our trash hauler, restricted to the same items allowed in weekly trash pick-up. Containers and returnable cans can be collected separately in big recycle bins. For any town trash bags you use, we will replace it with a new bag. If you discover large, illegally dumped items, you can let us know its whereabouts.

Last year we covered most but not all town roads. Invite your neighbors to help make this a community wide effort. We'll have a map to show additional areas that might need some attention. If you looked at your calendar and said, "Oh, rats! I'm out of town on the 29<sup>th</sup>," you may find time earlier in the week to walk your road and pick up trash, making Shutesbury a nicer place to be.

Questions or contact: **Susie Mosher**, 413-259-1550, [sndmoes@verizon.net](mailto:sndmoes@verizon.net)

**Broadband, cont. from page 1** way. Elections for the five-member board will take place in 2018. For the coming year the positions will be appointed by the Select Board.

One positive recent development is that thanks to the advocacy work of many groups and individuals throughout the state, the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) is no longer in charge of the state grant money. Instead, towns like Shutesbury that wish to move forward with their municipally-owned build can receive their Last Mile funds directly to design, engineer and build their broadband networks. Shutesbury's share is \$870,000.

And there is actual progress being

made. We expect service to start in late 2018 or early 2019. Our pole surveys are nearly complete and make-ready work performed by the utility companies to get the poles ready to accept fiber should happen this year, with construction planned for 2018. We know this timeline is later than expected. Please know that we've done everything in our power to get this done faster, but due to delays with the state grant process all towns that are part of the Last Mile build have been unable to move forward until now.

In order to operate our network once it is built, Shutesbury has two affordable and sustainable options. One option is the WiredWest Cooperative. At this time our research shows such a regionally operated network to be the most advantageous and cost-effective option for our town. The other option is to run our network on our own, similar to what Leverett is doing by contracting with companies who will provide the necessary services.

We'll continue analyzing the options but the important point is that we can affordably own and operate our network. In the meantime, the build process will proceed since we need to get it built before it can be run!

You may have seen in the news that Shutesbury received two offers, one from Charter and one from Comcast, to supply broadband to our town. These private providers proposed to use our portion of the state grant money to build, own and operate a broadband network. Our Select Board declined these offers for a number of reasons, including a lack of long-term stability and cost control, outmoded technology, and the potential for delayed timing. The most concerning issue with the cable offers was the lack of 100% coverage, since up to 40 households could have been left out without any service whatsoever. Our town leadership believes that in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century broadband is a necessary utility, not a luxury, so all households should have internet access just as we all have access to electricity, and police and fire services.

With our own network we have the opportunity to invest in our own telecommunications future and maintain control in such a way to act in our townspeople's best interests long into the future.

Please stay up to date on the project at [www.shutesbury.org/broadband](http://www.shutesbury.org/broadband)

**Collector, cont. from page 3** taxes are due May 1. I urge you to pay these bills promptly as the next bill you will be receiving is a demand that will cost you an additional \$ 5.00 plus interest. If you need to set up a payment arrangement on your bill, please contact me as soon as possible. Although interest will accrue on any overdue portion of the bill, you will avoid the additional interest and any collection procedures beyond the demand that will accrue should you leave the entire bill unpaid.

Don't forget to contact the Board of Assessors if you no longer have a vehicle on which you have received a motor vehicle excise tax bill. All bills should be paid in full before you apply for abatement. If this is not done and the bill becomes overdue with additional fees and interest before abatement, these must be paid along with any outstanding balance due on the bill after abatement. Payment of all types of bills MUST be received on or before the due date which is clearly marked on the bill. Please make note of these dates and make your payments accordingly. Always open all envelopes you receive from this office immediately on receipt. The bill you think is a real estate bill (and paid by your bank) may be an excise tax bill for which you are responsible.

Be sure to notify this office if you change your mailing address to avoid a delay in delivery of your mail which is returned to me for forwarding. This can take as much as two weeks which reduces the time you have to pay the bill on time.

Should a demand bill be issued on a motor vehicle excise tax, the law provides 14 days for receipt of payment before a warrant for collection is issued to the Deputy Collector. This results in at least \$ 22.00 in additional fees. Upon mailing of the demand bills, payment of the original bill will NOT be accepted and checks made out in the incorrect amount WILL be returned to the sender.

Some of you have been unable to pay your bills on line. Once a bill is overdue, it is automatically deleted from the system and can't be paid on-line until the demand is issued. If the bill is on warrant, it cannot be paid on-line except through the Deputy Collector.

Have a good spring.

## From the Recycling and Solid Waste Committee

### Shutesbury Bulky Waste Day Saturday, June 3!

Saturday, June 3 is Bulky Waste Day at the Highway Department from 10:00am to 2:00pm for Shutesbury residents. Bring items that are too large for the trash, such as construction waste, mattresses, electronics, etc., etc. We do charge enough to cover the cost of disposing of these items, so bring some cash or your check book too. **DO NOT** bring hazardous waste or fluorescent bulbs to Bulky Waste Day.

### We Need Bulky Waste Day Volunteers!

Please give the RSWC a hand that day if you can. We could use some strong volunteers to help things run smoothly at BWD. We have had several wonderful volunteers in the past, and their help made a huge difference. Many hands make light work! If you would like to volunteer, contact **Gary Bernhard** at 413-259-1235 or [bernhard@uvm.umass.edu](mailto:bernhard@uvm.umass.edu) or **Meryl Mandell** at 413-259-1282 or [merylm@crocker.com](mailto:merylm@crocker.com).

### Please Note!

- ◇ TVs — CRTs and flatscreens — 32 inches or less will be \$20.00. TVs larger than 32 inches will be \$40.00. Computer monitors — CRTs and flatscreens — will be \$10.00. All other electronics are free.
- ◇ All clean, white Styrofoam will be collected at no cost.
- ◇ Bulky rigid plastics (see below) will be collected separately and recycled at the Materials Recovery Facility in Springfield. We will be charging between \$2 and \$5, depending upon the amount, to help cover the cost of the hauling.

#### Acceptable Bulky Rigid Plastics

- Buckets *with* metal handles
- Milk/soda crates
- Laundry baskets
- Lawn furniture
- Landscape & microwave trays
- Totes — any size (*with metal*)
- Toys & Playhouses
- Pet carriers
- Coolers
- Shelving
- Closet organizers
- Dish drainers
- Flower pots (no soil)
- Traffic signs
- Recycling bins
- Garbage cans (any size)
- PVC & PET blister pack

- 5 gallon water bottles
- Plastic Auto Parts
  - Side-view mirrors
  - Headlights and taillights
  - Bumpers
  - Grills
  - Hubcaps

#### Not Acceptable Bulky Rigid Plastics

- PVC Pipe/Tubing
- Vinyl Siding
- Plastic film (grocery bags, etc.)
- Flexible Water Hoses
- Flexible flower pots
- Other recyclable plastics
- Oil/gas/chemical containers

### Free by the Side of the Road

The week before each Bulky Waste Day is “Free-By-the-Side-of-the-Road Week.” If you have items that you no longer need but might be useful to others, place them on the roadside during the week beginning Saturday May 27. **NOTE: Items placed on the roadside that are NOT picked up before Bulky Waste Day must be removed at the end of the week. Put them in trash bags or bring them to Bulky Waste Day. Shutesbury has a “Littering and Dumping Bylaw” that addresses items left by the side of the road longer than two weeks. The text of the bylaw is on the Town website, here: <http://www.shutesbury.org/bylaws>**

Shutesbury Trash  
Bag distribution  
schedule 2017



**Please bring a bag for your bags, or you can get a “Shutesbury Recycles” tote bag when you pick up your bags for a buck. We’re trying to avoid using plastic shopping bags.**

**Note:** We will be selling FY 2018 Leverett Transfer Station (LTS) stickers for \$20 during trash bag distribution. Shutesbury residents can use the LTS for bulky waste disposal and the free take-it-or-leave-it areas. For more information see <http://www.leverett.ma.us/p/53/Transfer-Station>

- Saturday, May 6, 8:30am-2:00pm (Town Meeting)
- Wednesday, May 10, 5:30 – 7:00pm (School Shed)
- Friday, May 12, 2:00 – 4:00pm (School Shed)
- Saturday, May 13, 9:30 – 11:30am (School Shed)
- Tuesday, May 16, 5:30 – 7:00pm (School Shed)
- Saturday, May 20, 9:30 – 11:30am (School Shed)
- Monday, May 22, 5:30 – 7:00pm (School Shed)
- Wednesday, May 31, 5:30 – 7:00pm (School Shed)
- Saturday, June 3, (Bulky Waste Day –Highway Dept. Garage)
- Thursday, June 8, 5:30 – 7:00pm (School Shed)
- Saturday, June 10, 8:30 – 11:00am (Lake Wyola Association Meeting)
- Wednesday, June 14, 5:30 – 7:00pm (School Shed)
- Saturday, June 17, 9:30 – 11:30pm (School Shed)
- Tuesday, June 20, 5:30 – 7:00pm (School Shed)
- Saturday, June 24, 9:30 – 11:30pm (School Shed)
- Monday, June 26, 5:30 – 7:00pm (School Shed)
- Saturday, July 1, 9:30 – 11:30pm (School Shed)

*Find more Recycling and Solid Waste news on page 6.*

## Recycling mercury-bearing waste at Town Hall

Mercury is a strange element. It is the only naturally occurring liquid metal, and it is incredibly dense. An iron bar will float in a bowl of mercury.

Alchemists thought quicksilver (mercury) was the key to the transmutation of lead into gold, and conducted experiments that entailed heating mercury (and, consequently, breathing its vapors).

For many years, mercury was considered a medicine, and, indeed, mercury does have antibacterial and antifungal properties.

*It is also a potent neurotoxin.* Hat makers in the 19<sup>th</sup> century used mercury in their trade, and the phrase “mad as a hatter” referred to people who showed the, uh, mercurial behavior of hat makers: aggressiveness, mood swings, inability to pay attention, etc.

Although we now know that mercury is bad for human beings, we continue to use it in many different ways — in fluorescent lights, thermostats, some electrical switches, and even some of the tennis shoes that light up when kids run and jump — and some manufacturing processes still release mercury vapor into the atmosphere.

Another property of mercury is that it remains in the environment forever, and becomes concentrated in the food chain, especially in fish.

So, what do we do with mercury-bearing waste?

For several years, Shutesbury residents have been able to drop mercury-bearing items and rechargeable batteries off at Town Hall for recycling.

When the containers at Town Hall fill up, we put the nasty stuff in the Universal Waste Shed out back.

Once a year, a company that processes mercury-bearing waste (by binding the mercury to inert material) picks up the waste and takes it off for processing. The Town has to pay for this service, of course, and you can save Shutesbury money by recycling your compact fluorescent bulbs at Home Depot or Lowes.

Here is a list of items that can and can't be recycled at Town Hall.

- Fluorescent lamps of all kinds. **Please no packaging, tape, bubble wrap, cardboard, etc. No broken bulbs and no incandescent bulbs; these can go in the trash.**

- Thermostats, thermometers barometers. **No packaging, please.**
- Rechargeable batteries and button batteries. Place a few batteries in a baggie and place the baggies in the box under the table. **No alkaline (regular, non-rechargeable) batteries; these can go in the trash.**
- Cell phones. Just drop them in the green box.

If you have questions about recycling at Town Hall, contact **Gary Bernhard**, Recycling Coordinator, at [bernhard@uww.umass.edu](mailto:bernhard@uww.umass.edu) or 413-259-1235.

## Contact the Conservation Commission BEFORE starting your project

*The Shutesbury Conservation Commission*

**Don't wait till until your contractor is scheduled to contact us.** With the arrival of warmer weather, many town residents start to think about construction or landscaping projects. New construction, tree removal, grading or excavation, and almost any work done near Lake Wyola must be reviewed by the Commission before work begins. Keep in mind that the Conservation Commission must sign off on all Building Permit Applications whenever digging is required. At the minimum, a site visit is required prior to signing off. As a fully volunteer Commission, we often can't schedule a site visit for at least a week. And if wetlands are nearby, the process is more complex and takes several weeks.

Our knowledgeable clerk, **Linda Avis Scott**, is there to help you through the process. She can help you determine what you need to do and how to go about it. Here's how to start:

1. Leave a message on our answering machine at 413-259-3792 or email [concom@shutesbury.org](mailto:concom@shutesbury.org)
2. Visit Town Hall during Scott's office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00am to 12 noon.
3. Attend one of our meetings (from March to October, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7:00pm and from November to February, on the 2nd Thursday). It's best to call first to get on our agenda.
4. For more information about the

work of the Commission visit our webpage at [www.shutesbury.org/concom](http://www.shutesbury.org/concom)

The Commission wants to help property owners proceed with their projects while simultaneously protecting the valuable wetland resources that benefit all of us.



## Shutesbury Conservation Commission vacancies

Interested in volunteering? Do you love the unique natural beauty of Shutesbury? Would you like to help the town protect and nurture it?

We currently have three vacancies on the Conservation Commission (ConCom) and are actively seeking interested community members to fill them. We are a group of volunteers responsible for protecting the town's natural resources.

Through one to two monthly Thursday evening meetings and site visits all over town, the ConCom administers the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act and the town's Wetlands Bylaw, and manages town conservation land.

If you think this type of work might be for you, contact the Conservation Clerk, **Linda Avis Scott**, at 413-259-3792 or [concom@shutesbury.org](mailto:concom@shutesbury.org), and arrange to attend a meeting to see firsthand what the ConCom work is all about.

## Celebrate Shutesbury in 2017!

**SAVE THE DATE!** Celebrate our fabulous, little town the third Saturday of September — September 16, 2017!

Bake sale, BBQ, kid-friendly activities, live music, historic building openings, arts, crafts, tag sales, emergency responders and vehicles, and book sales have all been parts of Celebrate Shutesbury in the past. Let's keep this great tradition going in 2017!

Please email **Jessica Carlson-Belanger** at [carlsonbelanger@verizon.net](mailto:carlsonbelanger@verizon.net) if you are interested in setting up a booth or helping to organize this event.

This is truly a grass-roots effort and depends on individuals and town boards/committees/groups to keep it alive. Hope to hear from you!

## 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spaghetti Dinner coming soon

The annual Spaghetti Dinner at the Shutesbury Elementary School is right around the corner!

On Friday, May 12, 2017, our school will be transformed into an Italian bistro. Come enjoy a spaghetti meal with all the fixings. Graduating 6<sup>th</sup> graders will wait tables.

There are two seatings, 6:00 and 7:30pm. Tickets can be purchased through a fifth or sixth grader or through the school office. The M.N. Spear Memorial Library will also be selling tickets. Prices are \$8 for adults and \$6 for children and seniors.

All money raised will be used for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade field trips. Hope to see you there!

## Shutesbury Elementary School PTO presents "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?"

This game show/trivia fundraiser will be held in late May at the school, and we invite townsfolk to participate or just come to watch! All participants will pair up with an intelligent, creative fifth grader (in teams of two or more) to answer 5th grade level trivia questions.

Entry fee for participants will be \$10/person (may be sponsored by your Board, Committee, or place of business). There will be a suggested donation at the door for our audience

as well as a bake sale! If you would like to be a participant, please contact **Jessica Carlson-Belanger** at [carlsonbelanger@verizon.net](mailto:carlsonbelanger@verizon.net) or [shutesburypto@gmail.com](mailto:shutesburypto@gmail.com). Look for more info on Nextdoor Shutesbury or the school website – [shutesburyschool.org](http://shutesburyschool.org).

## Developmental screening for 3, 4 and 5 year olds

Developmental screening is available through Shutesbury Elementary School as a first step in a process intended to find children in need of special services and to plan for meeting those needs.

The screening focuses on a child's growth in a number of areas, such as large and small muscle control, speech/language development and concept development. This activity takes about 40 minutes and consists of a number of games that children typically enjoy playing. The screening gives an indication of whether or not a child's skills are developing within the typical range.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's development, would like more information, or wish to set up an appointment, please call **Grace Griecci**, Shutesbury Elementary School's Preschool Teacher at 259-1212 x140 or email her at [griec-cig@shutesburyschool.org](mailto:griec-cig@shutesburyschool.org)

**This screening is available to all families in town, including those with a child not already enrolled in the school's preschool.**

## Shutesbury Early Childhood Program

The Shutesbury Elementary School Community (SES) believes that opportunities for early childhood education are essential components of a good education system.

Early experiences in an environment rich in hands-on materials and activities provide children various opportunities to grow emotionally, physically, socially and cognitively.

We believe that a trans-disciplinary team approach, in which all adults working with children are responsible for a child's learning, is the most effective way of teaching and we also believe that parents are the most important teachers of their children and that their involvement in their child's education is essential.

Our Early Childhood Program is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), which is a mark of a high quality program for young children.

**Your child must be 3 years old on or before September 1, 2017 for preschool enrollment, or 5 years old on or before September 1, 2017 for kindergarten enrollment.**

Please contact the school for Fall/2017 enrollment information. Call **Jessica Carlson-Belanger** at the Main Office of SES, 413-259-1212 x100 [carlson-belangerj@shutesburyschool.org](mailto:carlson-belangerj@shutesburyschool.org) or **Grace Griecci** 413-259-1212 140 [griec-cig@shutesburyschool.org](mailto:griec-cig@shutesburyschool.org)

## Lake Wyola safety regulations

Jennifer Wallace, Co-chair, *Lake Wyola Association Safety Committee*

The Lake Wyola Association Safety Committee looks forward to fun on the lake this season. Here are a few reminders:

All motorboats must travel in a counterclockwise direction.

Lake Speed Limit is 30 mph during the day and Headway Speed (5 mph) from Sunset to Sunrise. Headway Speed (5 mph) at all times in either cove or within 150 ft of shore, and 75 ft of floats or markers that designate swimming areas.

All vessels must have navigation lights

and use them Sunset to Sunrise, and during periods of restricted visibility.

All vessels must have at least one USCG-Approved Personal Flotation Device ("PFD" or "life jacket") for each person on board. Children under 12 years of age must wear an approved "PFD" at all times. Approved "PFDs" must be worn by each person on board a canoe or kayak from September 15th to May 15th at all times.

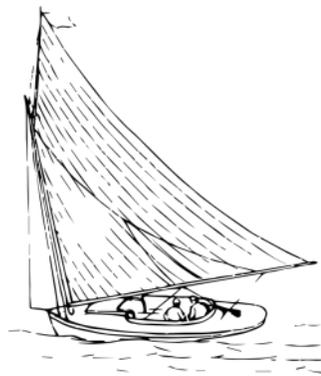
Canoes, kayaks, boards, and sailboats must have navigation lights and use them Sunset to sunrise, and during periods of restricted visibility.

No swimming beyond 150 ft. from shore unless accompanied by a boat. Personal Watercraft (i.e. jet skis, wet bike, or surf jet, so-called) are **PROHIBITED**.

## TO REPORT BOATING VIOLATIONS OR ACCIDENTS

Emergencies: Dial 911 immediately  
Shutesbury Police: 413-259 1279  
Environmental Police: 800-632-8075

**Please help keep Lake Wyola safe and clean.**



# The M. N. Spear Memorial Library

## Open Every Day

The M.N. Spear Memorial Library is open every day. Our hours are as follows:

Monday and Wednesday: 11:00am - 1:00pm and 3:00 - 6:00pm

Tuesday and Thursday: 3:00 - 7:30pm

Friday: 3:00 - 6:00 pm

Saturday: 10:00am - 1:00pm

Sunday: 3:00 - 6:00pm

10 Cooleyville Road  
413-259-1213; [www.mnspear.org](http://www.mnspear.org)  
Mary Anne Antonellis, *Director*

## Valley Gives

Valley Gives, a regional online giving day hosted by the Community Foundation, will be held on Tuesday, May 2.

The Friends of the Library are very excited to announce that the generous donor who contributed a \$2,500 matching gift during the last two Valley Gives events is joining us again.

However, this year, two other families join him to expand the challenge! If we raise \$4,000 in online donations on May 2, those donations will be matched!

You can help! To make a Valley Gives contribution, visit our website ([mnspear.org](http://mnspear.org)) on Tuesday, May 2, click on the Valley Gives link and make a contribution.

Links to our Valley Gives page will also be available through our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/ShutesburyLibrary/>

LIKE us on Facebook for regular Spear Library News and Valley Gives Day reminders.



## Spring Spruce-Ups

In April and May, supporters and donors are contributing to the Friends' New Library Fund by hiring or volunteering for a Spring Spruce-Up. For a \$100 donation, a team of four volunteers will spend one hour doing spring clean-up work in your yard. To volunteer or to schedule a Spruce-Up contact **Susie Mosher**, [sndmoes@verizon.net](mailto:sndmoes@verizon.net).

## What's new at the Library - Wowbrary!

If you would like to know about the newest books, DVDs, and CDs acquired by the M.N. Spear Memorial Library, sign up for Wowbrary. It is free and very cool!

Wowbrary sends you a weekly email highlighting the local library's most recent additions. All titles are neatly categorized to save you time,



with descriptions, reviews, and a click-through to the library for holds. Go to [www.wowbrary.org](http://www.wowbrary.org).

To sign up for Wowbrary, visit [mnspear.org](http://mnspear.org), click the **Newest Arrivals Tab**, then click to see what's new or to sign up for weekly emails.

### Florence Bank Customers' Choice Community Grants

Thanks to generous community support, our New Library Fund continues to grow.

In March, **Susie Mosher**, Friends of the Library Volunteer and **Michele Cunningham**, Library Trustee, accepted a \$947 donation to the Friends of the Library New Library Fund from the Florence Bank Customer's Choice Community Grants Program.

Thank you to everyone who voted for us.

### Ice Cream Social and Pop-Up Playground – June 16

Save the evening of Friday, June 16 for a free ice cream social and pop-up playground. We promise, this event will be fun for everyone. 6 pm, at the Shutesbury Athletic Club

### Commonwealth Catalog

If you can't find an item in one of the 145 C/W MARS Libraries, search the Commonwealth Catalog.

The Commonwealth Catalog is an online resource with access to millions of items from Libraries with unique collections including the Boston Public Library, the UMass Library and many more. Login, search, request and items will be delivered to the Spear Library. To get started, click on the **Commonwealth Catalog Tab** on [mnspear.org](http://mnspear.org).

### Free eBooks

Shutesbury Library users have *free* online access to thousands of eBooks and audiobooks that can be read or listened to on your computer, eReader, tablet or smartphone.

Visit [mnspear.org](http://mnspear.org); click on the **Digital Books & Media Tab**. *Overdrive*, a service offered through our C/W MARS membership and *Axis 360*, a statewide resource, offer access to thousands of titles.

There is some overlap. If you don't find what you are looking for in one resource, search the other.



Michele Cunningham and Susie Mosher with the Florence Bank check.

### Are you ready for your first library card?

If you are five years old (or older) you can apply for your first library card. Visit the library and complete an application.

Library cards are processed Monday through Friday and it usually takes a day or less.

At right, Nick proudly carries his first library card!



### Union #28 Community Network for Children

The *Community Network for Children (CNC)* serves families by acting as a hub to provide information, support and family programs within the communities of Erving, Leverett, New Salem, Wendell and Shutesbury.

Come take part in our programs and play, read and meet up with new and old friends.

Funding is provided through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care Coordinated Family and Community Engagement grant. The CNC supports all families with children from birth through age 8 in our school union.

If you are interested in being on our mailing list to receive the newsletters, please call or email **Gillian Budine**, Coordinator, 978-544-5157 or [Budine@erving.com](mailto:Budine@erving.com).

### Free Gift and Resource Tote Bag!

The Union #28 Community Network for Children (CNC) would like to extend a welcome to your new baby with a free Welcome Baby Gift Bag. Your bag will contain books, health and safety items and valuable information about local services for you and your new baby.

Please call or email Gillian Budine, CNC Coordinator, 978-544-5157 or [Budine@erving.com](mailto:Budine@erving.com)!



TOWN OF SHUTESBURY  
P.O. BOX 276  
SHUTESBURY MA 01072

Return Service Requested

PRSR  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT #305  
AMHERST MA 01002

Resident  
Shutesbury MA 01072

## HOW TO CONTACT TOWN OFFICIALS

Go to [www.shutesbury.org](http://www.shutesbury.org) to find email addresses, or call the appropriate number below.

ACCOUNTANT Gail Weiss	259-1108	ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Jackie Mendonsa, Principal	259-1212	POLICE DEPARTMENT Chief Thomas E. Harding	259-1279
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY Linda Avis Scott	259-6550	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR Walter Tibbetts	259-1211	Dispatch	413-625-8200
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR Rebecca Torres	259-1214	FINANCE COMMITTEE George Arvanitis, Co-Chair	259-1348	RECYCLING COORDINATOR Gary Bernhard	259-1235
ANIMAL INSPECTORS Denise Chiminiello	259-1020	Eric Stocker, Co-Chair	259-1250	REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE Stephen Sullivan	259-1626
Nancy Long	259-1279	FIRE DEPARTMENT Walter Tibbetts, Chief	259-1211	SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE Fred Steinberg	259-9996
ASSESSORS Kenneth Holmberg	259-3790	or at home	259-1286	UNION #28 SCHOOL SUPT. Jennifer Haggerty	413-423-3337
BOARD OF HEALTH Catherine Hilton, Clerk	259-2122	HEALTH AGENT David Zarozinski	549-3710	SELECT BOARD Michael Vinskey, Chair	253-4260
BUILDINGS COMMITTEE Bob Groves	259-1200	HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Tim Hunting	259-1215	Michael DeChiara	259-1059
BUILDING INSPECTOR Jim Hawkins	413-774-3167 x. 113	HISTORICAL COMMISSION Barbara Goodhind	259-1428	Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil	256-0312
CEMETERY COMMISSION Marilyn Tibbetts	259-1976	M.N. SPEAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY Mary Anne Antonellis, Dir.	259-1213	SHUTESBURY BROADBAND COMMITTEE Gayle Huntress	259-1905
COUNCIL ON AGING Med-Ride Program	259-3796	LIBRARY TRUSTEES Kate Cell, Co-Chair	259-9129	Asha Strazzero-Wild	413-478-8368
Marilyn Tibbetts, Chair	259-1976	Molly Moss, Co-Chair	253-6717	TAX COLLECTOR Ellen McKay	259-1615
CONSERVATION COMMISSION Leave inquiries at	259-3792	OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE Leave inquiries at	259-1214	TOWN CLERK Susie Mosher	259-1204
CULTURAL COUNCIL Julie Stepanek, contact	387-5670	OUR TOWN NEWSLETTER Janis S. Gray	259-1584	TOWN MODERATOR Penelope Kim	259-1326
DEPT. OF VETERANS' SERVICES Timothy Nijadlik	772-1571	PERSONNEL BOARD Ralph Armstrong	259-1021	TREASURER Gabriele Voelker	259-1801
DOG OFFICER Nancy Long	259-1279	PLANNING BOARD Deacon Bonnar	259-1276	TREE WARDEN Thomas Houston	259-1508
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR Maurice Gregoire	253-7505	PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR John Letourneau	367-0017	WEB COMMITTEE Jamie Malcolm-Brown	413-362-9996
		<b>POLICE, FIRE &amp; RESCUE SQUAD</b>	<b>911</b>	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS Charles J. DiMare	549-5330