

Shutesbury Selectboard Meeting Minutes  
January 2, 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: Grace Bannasch, Michael DeChiara, Nate Heard, Gail Fleischaker

Guests: Susie Mosher, Steve Sullivan, Penny Kim, Isaac Goldstein, Town Hall Meeting Room, Elizabeth Fernandes-O'Brien

Makepeace-O'Neil calls the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

Agenda Review: As posted.

Public Comment: None

Review of Minutes: Minutes of December 26, 2023 were approved.

**VOTE:** Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to approve the minutes of December 26, 2023; Farrell moves, Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

**Discussion Topics:**

1. Stretch Code Update from ECAC: ECAC discussed a potential procurement policy based on conversations with the Town of Amherst that would move the Shutesbury towards net zero. ECAC will work on the language and come back to the SB. ECAC discussed the Stretch Code and changes that are being made and the possibility of opting into the third stretch code. Chris Mason from Green Communities along with a code consultant will do an information session on 2/26/24 with ECAC. ECAC will come back to the SB after the information session.

2. Review and Appointment of Assistant Town Clerk: Janet Kiely was appointed as the Assistant Town Clerk.

**VOTE:** Farrell makes a Motion to Janet Kiely as the new assistant town clerk; Makepeace-O'Neil moves, Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

3. Review EV Charger Proposal: No Discussion. Update was given in Town Administrator Updates.

4. SB Representative to SES Union Negotiations: The SB selects the TA as the representative.

**VOTE:** Farrell makes a Motion to that our Town Administrator be the SB representative to the elementary school union negotiations; Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

5. Town Administrator Updates – PFAS, Gasoline Cleanup: Elevator issues continue in Town Hall. The emergency battery on the lift has been repaired. There was issues with trash pickup again in Shutesbury after the Monday holiday. Going forward if there is a Monday holiday the hauler will be picking up trash on the regular pickup days. The TA received an update from the Green Communities representative regarding the EV electrical for National Grid saying she would hear from them in 3-5 days. SB was not prepared at the 12/26 meeting to move forward and feels more information is needed and would like to look at other approved vendors even though it is not required. There are

new federal limitations coming out next month regarding PFAS. They are setting a new maximum level. The town will have properties that will need to be upgraded to dual vessels and the cost of testing increases when dual vessels are installed. Two new houses that have been tested and now need filters installed. The TA will provide the SB with a full accounting for the next meeting. The town will need to talk to Green Communities about more funds potentially due to the changes in the federal guidelines and required testing from DEP. Additional testing is necessary at the Valentine's property regarding the gasoline situation. The wells have been found and samples have been taken and the TA should have results soon. Penny Kim missed public comment and wishes everyone happy new year and thanks the SB and appreciates all the hard work.

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

Administrative Actions:

1. Appointment Letter for Janet Kiely, Assistant Town Clerk.

Documents and Other Items Used at the Meeting:

1. Janet Kiely resume;
2. Michael DeChiara ECAC e-mail of 12/29/23; and
3. EV Super Charger proposal information.

Respectfully submitted,  
Geneva Bickford,  
Administrative Secretary

\*\* A full version of the 1/2/24 SB meeting is available to view on the Town of Shutesbury's YouTube page at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4ajoOcJsNzf5DBgMTZgcJA>