

**TA Report 12-24-09** (Please Note attachments are available at town hall or you can call or email me and I will mail you any attachment you would like)

**SPECIAL ELECTION MARCH 3, 2009, NOON TO 6PM.** A Special Election will be held for the position of Selectman in Shutesbury. Nomination papers are available in the Town Clerk's office. If you have any questions please call the Town Clerk at 259-1204.

**Friendly Reminder: CLEAN YOUR CHIMNEYS AND STOVE FLU PIPES!** The fire department had 2 chimney fire calls in 12 hours Sunday night/Monday morning. Two more stove related calls during the day. If you are heating with wood take an extra minute to make sure everything is in good order.



**HOLIDAY LUNCHEON** Marilyn Tibbetts, and Muriel Gross hosted another festive meal for seniors and a number of town staff at town hall. It was lots of fun. Thank you. If you are interested in the Tuesday Senior Lunch program please contact Muriel or Marilyn.

**FIRE STATION GASOLINE LEAK** The Selectboard decided to work with DEP in applying for LUST funds for the phase II/III clean up of the Shutesbury fire station. This opportunity resulted from DEP Springfield discussion with DEP Boston about ways to assist Shutesbury with the gasoline clean up. A newly discovered outbreak of gasoline into the neighboring wetland has made the issue more urgent. The town has taken the immediate response steps that DEP recommended and will be working on the Immediate Response Action. Alan Weiss, a licensed site professional will work with the town in this interim phase while the application for the LUST program is being processed.

The Selectboard decided to proceed under the guidance of DEP and the LUST fund program for the next phases. There is not a way to determine what the long term costs will be in advance. Under the DEP directed LUST program DEP will write the scope of services and take the lowest bidder. The work will be done and then the cost recovery will be determined. Cost recovery is subject to broad interpretation depending on individual situations. Cost recovery could mean an immediate lump sum repayment or repayment over time, or less than full repayment. And there is no way to know the details of terms before we move forward. We will have an opportunity to sit down with DEP Boston and go through all our questions if we are accepted into the program.

I contacted Stan Rosenberg's office. Mary Jane Bacon, the Senator's aid, researched the LUST program, their process and discussed it with Stan. From their experience DEP is effective and efficient in the projects they are involved in. DEP is accountable for how the money is spent through a system of reports. Mary Jane Bacon found them knowledgeable about our situation.

We look forward to hearing from DEP.

ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS! STAY WARM!

Becky Torres, Town Administrator, please call or email if you have questions.