

TA Report 2.5.10

FIRE STATION GASOLINE LEAK Shutesbury officials confirmed a meeting scheduled with DEP and their new LSP Jim Okun, O'Reilly, Talbot & Okun, in Springfield for Tuesday 2/9/10.

CENSUS BUREAU JOB TESTING AT TOWN HALL CANCELLED! Testing for the 2010 Census Bureau jobs will take place at the Shutesbury Town Hall, 1 Cooleyville Road on Tuesday, February 16, 23 and March 2 at 2:00pm is **CANCELLED**. Jake Bishop has informed me they have gotten enough applicants for the Shutesbury area and do not need to hold another session at town hall. Thanks for your interest. **CENSUS BUREAU JOB CANCELLED!**

AMHERST PELHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 4 TOWN MEETING SATURDAY, 2/6/10, AT AMHERST REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY Selectboard, Finance Committee, School Committee reps will be in attendance as well as Senator Stan Rosenberg and Representative Ellen Story. Updated revenue assumptions and budget projections of state funding, E&D Funding and school choice funding will be presented. There will be a discussion of the regional school budget, an explanation of changes in programming, staffing, and operation of facilities. Assessments to each community will be presented using various FY2011 budget scenarios. Member towns will discuss their financial limitations in terms of ability to pay assessments.

BROADBAND

MBI, Massachusetts Broadband Institute, held a meeting in Northampton at the High School on Wednesday night, 2/3/10. Director Judy Dumont fielded questions on future plans of the MBI in light of the rejection of their \$126 million ARRA Stimulus grant application. Less ambitious applications were funded, 1400 were not. MBI will scale back their request in the Round 2 application. MBI is asking for local help, writing letters of need for broadband and filling out mapping survey online. Mapping survey responses can also be called in to MBI at, Phone: (508) 870-0312. MBI is appealing to third parties to build out the last mile of fiber to less populated areas. The last mile build out is key for unserved and underserved communities of western Massachusetts such as Shutesbury.

There was lively debate at the meeting over the role of the Institute in facilitating the needs of private industry balanced with the public service piece of bringing hi speed wireless or fiber to all communities. A new grassroots group is being formed, Western Mass. Community Fiber Network, that aspires to facilitate communities working together to fund the last mile and gain benefits of fee revenue for their investment in infrastructure.

IF, you have not filled out a survey for MBI at:

<http://www.massbroadband.org/mapping/survey.html>

PLEASE DO SO TODAY! This survey is used in state and federal reports to determine what internet service is available by household all over the state. 243 of 850 households have filled out the survey as of today. PLEASE SUBMIT your SURVEY (map attached).

Green Communities Planning will continue Wednesday, 2/10, at 7:00pm, during a Planning Board Meeting with the Building and Energy Committees. Franklin Regional Council of Government Planner, Pat Smith, will be working with us to create an action plan to become a Green Community. One open question is what are appropriate alternative technologies for Shutesbury? The Green Communities Act is looking for power generation as of right zoning for wind turbines of 600 kWatt minimum, and solar fields of 250 kWatt minimum. Would you be happy with a 300 foot wind turbine abutting your property (with a 1000' fall zone) or on public land? Would you be happy with a field of solar panels in a cleared area near your home or on

public land? Please share your thoughts about this through return email. I would love to hear from you, write, call or come to the meeting. These facilities need to be sited within a reasonable distance of hi tension power lines. At first glance these generation scenarios are difficult to achieve in Shutesbury. As of right zoning for alternative energy, research and development may be possible.

We also hope to discuss the green building code, the STRETCH CODE, and review pros and cons of adopting the STRETCH CODE in Shutesbury. Adoption of the Stretch code is one of the 5 criteria in becoming a Green Community.



Have a good week-

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