

## **TA Report 4.29.11**

### **250 SHUTESBURY Always cooler**

250<sup>th</sup> Chain Saw Demonstration by Tom Houston, Shutesbury Tree Warden  
April 30, Saturday 9am

As part of Shutesbury's 250th Anniversary year, town Tree Warden Tom Houston wants to help 21st century Roadtown residents remain in once piece as they prepare for next winter's chilly days.

As we enter the season for sawing up downed trees and splitting cord wood, he will give tips on the proper use of chain saws, other tools and personal protective equipment.

### **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING IS SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2011 AT 9:00am**

I hope you can join us. The library is celebrating their 200<sup>th</sup> birthday by sharing a cake with the town at Annual Town Meeting. Our legislators, Sen. Rosenberg and Rep. Kulik will be there in the morning for pomp and circumstance, awards and speeches, starting at 9:30am. Committee reports will begin at 9:00am.

**MBI Massachusetts Broadband Institute** had crews from Jacobs Engineering in Shutesbury this week. They were doing visual inspections of the area around existing utility poles and checking out sites for new utility poles. The assessment is being done to evaluate environmental concerns, identifying environmental resources, taking samples of vegetation, soils and hydrology in and around wetlands. The activity was confined to state and local roadways. We are happy to have the MBI, federal and state funded project bringing fiber optic cable into Shutesbury.

**WIRED WEST** is an organization formed by 47 towns that is in the midst of an organizational effort to become a Municipal Lighting Plant Cooperative that all the charter towns become a part of. Next week at Annual Town Meeting there will be a vote to become a Municipal Lighting Plant for the purpose of telecommunications. This is the next step to joining the cooperative. October 26, 2010 the town passed the first vote necessary in this process. Two votes are required and both must pass by a 2/3s majority. The article is in your town newsletter packet that you received today. Please review it. The business plan is available at town hall and more information is available at the Wired West website, <http://wired-west.net>. The purpose of Wired West is run fiber optic cable from the hubs brought in by MBI to every household, business and institution in town.

**SOLAR FARM** The Citizens Energy/Cowls Solar project representatives met with the Conservation Commission on Thursday night in town hall. They reviewed maps and discussed making some improvements to a length of existing logging road to be used as an access road for the project. A registered vernal pool and stream were discussed. The project was downsized from 6 megaWts to 3 megaWts by National Grid. The system will have about 12,000 solar panels.

### **EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE MET WITH SENATOR ROSENBERG AND REP**

**STEVEN KULIK on Thursday April 21.** The Leverett and Pelham officials joined Shutesbury school committee and other officials in a discussion regarding reorganization of K-6 schools. The meeting was moderated by co-chairs of the Educational Study Committee, Elaine Puleo, and Clif Read. They outlined the work done by the committee to date. The Shutesbury committee had met with the Pelham and Leverett Educational Study Committees in February. At that meeting it was decided that representative from each town would meet together to discuss the options and analysis feasibility. Shutesbury wanted input from legislators on the practicality of the concepts and possibility of getting support funding for the changes they are considering. They did not want to waste a lot of time and energy on structures that were deemed infeasible by the legislators. The legislators were positive regarding the outer ring region

concept. A hybrid proposal of forming a new sub region or union and adding it to Union 28 was difficult to explain and in the end Sen. Rosenberg suggested if you can't explain it won't work. The meeting was very informative. The Committee will present an update of their work at Annual Town Meeting and continue with their research and discussions with other towns.

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION** held a forum on Thursday night, April 28, to review the Wetland Protection By Law changes they are bringing before Annual Town Meeting. A copy of the Shutesbury Wetland Protection By Law is included in the newsletter packet. It is also up on the Shutesbury website along with the current Wetland By Law. The major changes were adding vernal pools, to the Conservation Commission jurisdiction. Registered vernal pools are protected by the state statute. The new by law would protect all vernal pools, at least 200 cubic feet. The new local by law redefines the buffer zone as an intrinsic part of the resource area. That means that the regulatory process within 100' of a wetland is subject to a notice of intent not a request for determination process. The request for determination determined if the Conservation Commission has jurisdiction in certain circumstances within 100' buffer zone. With the new by law the jurisdiction is already determined.

The new version is better organized and easier to read, well written and professional.

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250 Daffodils in Bloom!  
To Celebrate Shutesbury's 250<sup>th</sup>!

Thanks to Penny Jacques, Chris Labich, Rita Farrell and Chris Warren

