

TA Report 10.12.12

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP PLANT THE NEW TOWN HALL ARRANGEMENT OF SHRUBS AND FLOWERS, OCTOBER 14, SUNDAY AT 2:00PM

Come get your hands dirty, and make our town hall beautiful. Join the Shutesbury Garden Club plant in front of Town Hall on Sunday, October 14 starting at 2:00 p.m. Paul Vlach will dig the holes with his Kubota BX24 - subcompact tractor with a front loader and backhoe but we are still looking for muscle to haul around the shrubs and larger plants. If you are interested in helping please call Penny Jacques at 259-1828.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9th, The Selectboard held a “School Regionalization

Discussion” at Town Hall. Here is a list of some of the questions gathered at the listening session during the 10/9/12 Selectboard meeting. The minutes of this meeting will be available on line after 10/23/12 at Shutesbury.org if you are interested. We have a few answers but mostly we all have questions. What are your concerns? What is important to you about this issue? Please share your questions.

- Would we be adopting the regional policies?
- If we do agree to regionalize and we don't like it, what are our options?
- What would happen to us if other towns in Union 28 leave?
- Would we still have our own school committee?
- How would we elect people to the regional school committee? What would our representation be?
- How do we make this financially sustainable? Can we share equipment? Can we share teachers? Is it easier to share if we are in one region?
- How would special education services be distributed?
- Would local control over Shutesbury's educational approach be lost?
- If we become a region, would we still be able to fund the instrumental music program?
- If we got down to 50 students: are we servicing the vast majority of residents if we only are serving 50 children?
- What would be the educational benefits to the children?
- Are you doing it on your own before the state says you have to go to all of Franklin County?
- Can the state override this decision?
- Does Amherst have stem rays, literacy and math centers where teachers work with others?
- How does Amherst represent their schools on the school committee?
- What kind of local control can we have in the hiring process?
- What is that makes your school your school?

Why consider regionalization? Because the number of students has been declining all over Massachusetts. With the addition of charter schools and students ability to choose which school to attend there is more competition for funding and for students. State education financial aid was cut and now is level. It is not keeping up with educational costs. The towns have supported high quality education for years. But how do we plan for and create long-term educational and financial sustainability of our quality school system? We are bringing in outside consultants to help answer these questions. Their work will happen over the next few months.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, November 13, 2012, 7pm at Town Hall

WIREDWEST Update

Here is Shutesbury's tally to date. Our goal is 80% response. Please help, tell your neighbors. Now we are at the hardest part! Many people have responded. But we need ALL of US to show our interest. **WE NEED YOU!**

WE ARE AT **40%** AND COUNTING...MAIL YOUR CARD TODAY!
OR GO ONLINE NOW! LINK IS BELOW IN BLUE.

Town	Housing Units	Pledges	Internet	Phone	TV/Video
Shutesbury	807	326	40%	324	240

If you have high speed internet now, DSL or satellite it is STILL CRITICAL You RESPOND, show your interest. WHY? Because this is tomorrow's technology answer, tomorrow and 30 years into the future. You want to have the most competitive, highest quality service possible. FIBER TO THE HOME is electricity in 1950.

Your record of interest will be used to write the WiredWest Cooperative business plan to solicit support for a bond, the financial king pin for the future of the new fiber network. The more people who show interest the better terms we get on financing. It is up to you. The survey is available online at Shutesbury.org or here <https://hugo.jf-olm.com/~wiretnet/card.php>. Fill out SUPPORT CARDS for WIRED WEST online. Show your interest and support for affordable, state of the art, fiber optic cable to the home to bring you **internet, telephone and television service**. WiredWest will offer service similar to Comcast triple play service- telephone, television and internet, but at faster speeds than the DSL you now have. EVEN IF you have DSL it is critical you respond and submit a card because DSL is not keeping up with the needs of the future and Verizon is not investing in our area. If you have questions please call. CARDS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE LIBRARY AND TOWN HALL. And you can fill it out online through the Shutesbury.org website.

COMPOSTERS AVAILABLE AT TOWN HALL

The Town Recycling Committee provides composters to town residents at a subsidized price of \$20. They are black magic! Watch your compost grow.

COUNCIL ON AGING POT LUCK LUNCHEON AT TOWN HALL, noon, Tuesday November 13, 2012. Call Marilyn Tibbetts at, 259-1976 by Friday November 9, 2012, to let her know you are coming and what you are bringing. See you there. The food is excellent!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Becky Torres, Shutesbury Town Administrator, townadmin@shutesbury.org 259-1214