

Shutesbury Board of Health
April 16, 2020, 7 pm
Virtual meeting

Present: Ken Rotondi, chair; Catherine Hilton, clerk; Norene Pease, Arleen Read, Al Werner, board members; Garrett Simonsen, guest.

Minutes of April 8 meeting approved.

The hearing regarding 34 Lake Drive has been scheduled for April 22. There is an abutter who has concerns; Cat will call.

Al mounted and installed several tick warning signs at trailheads around town; he will try to determine where else such signs are needed and how many.

A permit has been requested by Beaver Solutions to install a leveling device on Town Farm Road. Waiting for ConCom action before issuing.

Mosquito Control District: because Annual Town Meeting has been moved to late June, it is probably impossible for Shutesbury to participate this year. Norene will ask Carolyn Ness about possibilities. Possibly we can go ahead with the town meeting vote and appropriate money to be spent in 2021 (before the end of the fiscal year).

Cat attended an initial meeting of the Core Team working on the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program, which is designed to develop municipal resilience in the face of climate change. There will be workshops in mid-May to identify areas of particular concern.

COVID-19:

The board agreed that we will continue our policy of protecting privacy by not disclosing more than the DPH discloses about COVID-19 cases. For towns of less than 50,000, the new town-by-town listing does not give specific numbers until there are five cases or more; it was pointed out that this does not provide the same privacy protection in a town of 1,600 as in a town of 40,000. A link to the DPH website has been added to the COVID-19 page of the town website; Arleen will provide data for the MACC Common Operating Picture. Cat and Arleen attended a Select Board meeting in which the SB agreed to write a letter supporting BOH decisions.

Arleen discussed the plan for contact tracing, which will be at least partially provided by Partners in Health and the Academic Public Health Volunteers. There are uncertainties about exactly how this process will work. The budget for state aid through the district includes payment for contact tracing and public health nursing; Norene will look into what other uses for these funds are appropriate.

Arleen will contact Jessica Carlson-Belanger to look into possible need for food and other support for families in town. Some resources can be posted on the website. This is a potential legitimate use for some of the funding.

Concerns have been raised about the Post Office as a possible site for virus transmission. Cat will circulate a draft of a sign warning postal patrons to maintain social distance, wear masks, etc.; Ken will take this to the PO and discuss the situation with Chuck.

Adjourned 8:20 pm.