

Shutesbury Board of Health
July 21, 2021, 7 pm
Virtual meeting

Present: Norene Pease, chair; Catherine Hilton, clerk; Wm Levine, Arleen Read, Garrett Simonsen, board members; guests as noted below.

Minutes of meeting of June 23 approved as written.

Election: the clerk position was left vacant because we are negotiating for a paid clerk who is not a board member. It was decided that a vice-chair is unnecessary for the time being. The board unanimously voted to elect Cat chair and continue all existing committee assignments.

Arleen reported on a campylobacter outbreak following a June 19 catered event in Shutesbury. Of 50 guests there were two confirmed positive cases, one in Shutesbury, and six suspected cases that were not tested. Arleen prepared a clinical case form and DPH investigated the caterer.

Linda Scott and Susan Gomberg, representing the Council on Aging, joined the meeting to ask about resuming foot clinic operations at Town Hall. Masks are to be worn, the ventilation system turned on, and if anyone answers yes to any question on a standard COVID questionnaire their appointment is to be cancelled.

Arleen also asked about shelter plans for extreme weather. Norene and Garrett will bring this up at the next Emergency Management Team meeting.

Arleen left the meeting at this point.

The board also agreed that a planned meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners with the library trustees, Select Board, and Finance Committee – 18-20 people in all – can take place in the large meeting room in Town Hall (about 900 square feet). Masks are to be worn, the ventilation system is to be used, and chairs are to be spaced to provide whatever social distance is possible. The public will be able to view this meeting but not participate or attend in person.

Septic system repair permits: 117 Leverett Road (H-6) and 64 Cushman Road (V-10) to be issued. Fees are paid and Charlie recommends approval. 21-23 Wilson Road (O-93) was issued by Cat between meetings, as it was urgent.

Brad Foster, 579 West Pelham Road (U-30) joined the meeting to propose two possible new well sites. The board agreed on one of them and will issue the well permit when the application is received.

Noreen described the upcoming focus groups on COVID response being planned by FRCOG. The board will try to schedule a time the week of August 9. Other EDS staff will be invited to either attend the focus group meeting or submit answers to any of the questions that interest them.

Lake Wyola: North Beach is closed because of *E.coli*; the state beach has been closed for several days, but we don't know the value (they test *Enterococci*). The other Lake Wyola Association beaches passed, but barely; this is not unusual after heavy rains such as we have recently experienced. LWA and the BOH posted the North Beach on July 20; it will be retested on July 22. Permanent posting signs are being prepared and should be available on Friday. Cat and Norene will do some other lake water testing on Monday unless the July 22 results are very good.

Celebrate Shutesbury 2021: We will be asked for our input on safety protocols as the date approaches.

PFAS study: Caprice Shaw of DEP is handling the site investigations in Shutesbury; she has sent out letters to a number of households requesting permission to enter homes to test well water. The list of addresses in the Fire Station area is identical to the list that was contacted by the board; there is a smaller group in the Wendell/Locks Pond neighborhood. A well far down Pelham Hill Road has reportedly had a positive result but we don't yet know the value. So far there are two wells in the W/LP area and one on Leverett Road with values below the threshold of 20ppt.

We now have some information on our website about filtration systems, which we will mention in our next public message on this topic.

Mosquito spraying opt-out: our application was denied, and so were the applications of all towns where the risk level is deemed "moderate." Jo Comerford sent a letter to EEA requesting clarification about the criteria – if any -- used to evaluate the alternative plans and a reconsideration of the applications.

Adjourn 8:15