

Shutesbury Selectboard Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2023 Virtual Meeting Format

Selectboard members present: Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil, Co-Chair and Eric Stocker

Staff present: Becky Torres/Town Administrator

Volunteers & Other Staff present: Gregor McGregor, Nathan Murphy, Mary David, Meryl Mandell, April Stein, Michael DeChiara, Gail Fleischaker, Deacon Fungus, Jeff Lacy, Jeff Weston, Ashleigh Pyecroft, Pam Ososky

Guests: Garrett Simonsen, Joseph's Ipad, Sandra's Ipad, Tom Siefert, Amanda Alix, Joyce Brauhn, Mary's Ipad, Mike S., Frank McGinn, III, Town Hall Meeting Room, Mark Roblee, Suzanne Lyon, Shanon's dad, Robert Raymond, Kenneth Holt, Jon Thompson, Penny Jaques, Geddes, Gary Rehorka, Don Wakoluk, Tracy McNaughton, Steven Bressler, Sharon Weizenbaum, Stephen Dallmus, Kevin Weir, Mark Rivers, Dale Houle, Janice Stone, Catherine's Iphone, Susan Millinger, Cliff Read, Elaine Puleo, Rob Kibler, Linda Bills, Kate Cell, Panlillo, Arleen Read, Donna MacNicol, Cynthia Banfield-Weir, Michele Regan-Ladd, Penelope Kim, Craig's Ipad, Jane, Elizabeth Fernandez O'Brien, Mary Jo, Kathy Carey, Richard Seelig, Joann, Mark Protti, Mary Lou Conca, Brian Colleran, Bert Fernandez

Farrell calls the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

Agenda Review: As posted.

Public Comment:

Review of Minutes: Minutes of August 8, 2023 and August 9, 2023 were approved.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to approve the August 8, 2023 minutes; Stocker moves. Roll call vote: Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to approve the August 9, 2023 minutes; Stocker moves. Roll call vote: Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

Discussion Topics:

1. Appoint Assistant Electrical Inspector: Josh Kingsbury was appointed as the new Assistant Electrical Inspector as recommended by the current electrical inspector.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to appoint Josh Kingsbury for the assistant electrical inspector; Stocker moves. Roll call vote: Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

2. Appoint new Planning Board member, appoint ZBA associate member: Jeff Lacy officially resigned from Planning Board as of 9/12/23. Ashleigh Pyecroft was appointed as a full PB member. Jeff Lacy verbally resigned as a ZBA member and will send resignation via email. Jon Thompson is appointed as a full ZBA member. Jeff Lacy was appointed as an associate ZBA member.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to appoint Ashleigh Pyecroft to the Planning Board; Nathan Murphy moves; Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; Murphy: aye; Weston: aye; DeChiara: aye; Bressler: aye; Raymond: aye; Bonnar: aye; the motion carries.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to accept John Thompson's resignation from the ZBA; Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to appoint John Thompson as a ZBA member; Stocker moves. Roll call vote: Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to appoint Jeff Lacy as a ZBA associate member; Stocker moves. Roll call vote: Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

3. Planning Board discussion with Selectboard of Planning Board associate member Home Rule Petition testimony to Legislature : Two years ago TM passed a vote to request a Home Rule Petition and this is now in front of the Joint Committee for Municipal Government. The committee is collecting testimony and the deadline is 9/13/23. DeChiara has written draft testimony and it was approved by the PB. The SB votes to sign on to DeChiara's testimony. DeChiara will amend his testimony to state "writing on behalf of the PB and the SB".

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to sign on to the PB testimony for the home rule petition; Stocker moves. Roll call vote: Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

4. Review of the Shutesbury Local Wetland Bylaw Regulations with Attorney Gregor McGregor: Makepeace-O'Neil addresses the discussions on NextDoor and wants to clarify some misinformation. It is being said the SB did not invite ConCom to tonight's meeting and that is not the case. The SB and ConCom met on 8/9/23 in a joint meeting. ConCom was invited along with Elisabeth Goodman however the ConCom chair declined that invite. Attorney McGregor is here to go over his comments on the draft regulations being proposed by ConCom. McGregor has identified some of the changes made, however, there are still issues remaining. See McGregor's review attached. McGregor advises the SB that Shutesbury's Wetlands Bylaw is out of date and recommends Shutesbury adopt the current MACC model bylaw. The MACC model has been adopted by many towns and it would solve a lot of the problematic provisions identified in the regulations. Adopting the MACC model is a relatively simple process. McGregor also reminds the SB they are the Chief Executive Officials of the Town. The SB are the gate keeper for TM. The SB can adopt the MACC model bylaw at TM but McGregor has never seen it done at a STM.
5. Mary Jo Maffei's presentation of potential Shutesbury Knotweed Task Force: A knotweed task force has been created that includes Mary Jo Maffei, Pam Ososky and Brian Collier. Collier is an expert on knotweed. Ososky has been active in supporting pollinators for more than 20 years. Knotweed is extremely invasive, it takes over completely and if left uncontrolled it will take over our native pollinator plants. The task force has many ideas and wants to be flexible and helpful to the town. The task force hopes to get involved in state wide efforts and work with the legislature and allied environmental groups as well as the town. The SB asks the task force to provide a proposal for consideration at a future meeting. Meryl Mandell along with Liz Lacy did a survey about 12 years ago and noted every location knotweed was seen in town. The task force is looking for new members and Maffei asks anyone interested in joining to email her at maryjomaffei22@gmail.com or call 413-265-6390.
6. Selectboard and COA review of Council on Aging recent transportation survey: JoAnn Bernhard, co-chair of the COA has been working on transportation issues for seniors in town. A survey was done but the response was less than hoped for. Most residents of Shutesbury go to Amherst, Hadley and Northampton area and fewer go to Franklin County areas. Shutesbury is already in the Franklin Country Transit Authority Region and Michael Perrault, Deputy Administrator of the FRTA needs an email from the SB requesting the "Demand Response Program" begin in Shutesbury. The Demand Response Program is available to all seniors, veterans, nursing home residents and disabled residents. There are two other programs, one is the access program which is not limited by age. There is also a med ride program from FRTA which has volunteer drivers who take residents outside of Franklin County to appointments. The med ride would be used for appointments outside of Franklin County. Village Neighbors also provides volunteer drivers for village neighbor participants. FRTA has

expressed some problems with not having enough vans and drivers to cover all of Franklin County which extends to the hill towns.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to provide an email to Michael Perrault at the FRTA for the demand response program that Joann outlined; Stocker moves and Makepeace-O'Neil seconds. Roll call vote: Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

7. Cemetery Commissions CPA contract review with the Selectboard: The Cemetery Commission has brought this forward asking for approval of the CPA Grant Agreement for historic gravestone restoration at West Cemetery. The CPA started a new process and when a project is approved at TM the CPA will prepare a contract between the committee and the SB making it clear that if a project does not develop the applicant will return the funds if they are not used within three years.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to sign the Community Preservation Grant agreement for the Shutesbury Cemetery Commission; Stocker moves and Makepeace-O'Neil seconds. Roll call vote: Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

8. Approval of November Turkey Trot Event: The library turkey trot even in November was approved by the BOH, Police Chief, Fire Chief and the SB.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to approve the November Turkey Trot event; Stocker moves and Makepeace-O'Neil seconds. Roll call vote: Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

9. Unanticipated Business: The Highway Search Committee has recommended that Steve Sullivan be appointed as Shutesbury's new Highway Superintendent. There were two applicants both rated very highly after the interview process however Sullivan rated higher. The SB voted to appoint Steve Sullivan as Shutesbury's Highway Superintendent.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to appoint Steve Sullivan as Shutesbury's Highway Superintendent; Stocker moves and Makepeace-O'Neil seconds. Roll call vote: Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

10. Town Administrator Updates: A town announce went out today advising the culvert project started back up last Monday. They are working on the water control system which had been partially installed before the rain came Friday night. One report indicated 4 inches of rain fell in 2.5 hours and there was an oversaturation of the site. The Highway Department helped maintain the site. Steve Sullivan and the TA visited the site and located all the issues with erosion controls and Sullivan made the necessary repairs. Monday MAS Building and Bridge returned to the site and began their work. They inspected all the erosion controls and their conditions. MAS has to dig six feet below the current culvert level to make the bypass pipe even with the culvert and stream bed. Due to the expected rain and the high groundwater levels it was decided that they would come back Thursday and hope to complete the bypass by Monday. The SES roof will have its final punch list walk through tomorrow. The engineer is coming back to do one final walk through. There is another issue at the school. After the four inches of rain it did flood the court yard and caused water to seep into library and the new carpet that was installed in August was damp. The building committee will be meeting at the site to discuss a potential minor change to the gutters to allow for more flow. There are currently two drywalls that exist there and Carlos will be cleaning those out. The building committee will also work on replacing the windows so the rotted window will not leak. One of the Library Trustees' has passed and the Trustees' are in discussion about a replacement that the SB will be involved in. Mary Anne Antonellis will be in touch to setup a dual appointment. PFAS work continues.

Makepeace-O'Neil Motions to Adjourn (7:51 pm); Stocker moves and Makepeace-O'Neil seconds.
Roll call vote: Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

Administrative Actions:

1. Appointment Letters;

Documents and Other Items Used at the Meeting:

1. Testimony to the Joint Committee on Municipal and Regional Government
2. McGregor List of Legal Concerns regarding ConCom Draft Regulations
3. Knotweed Flyer
4. Michael Perreault Correspondence
5. CPA Grant Agreement for Shutesbury Cemetery Commission

Respectfully submitted,
Geneva Bickford,
Administrative Secretary

** A full version of the 9/12/23 SB meeting is available to view on the Town of Shutesbury's YouTube page at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4ajoOcJsNzf5DBgMTZgcJA>