

## **TA Report 2.12.10**

**LOGO CONTEST for 250<sup>th</sup> SHUTESBURY ANNIVERSARY** The committee is still accepting LOGOs and SLOGANS for a short time. **The 250th Steering Committee** is looking for ideas for logos and slogans for our 250th anniversary in 2011. Please send your ideas to email [250th@shutesbury.org](mailto:250th@shutesbury.org) or snail mail, to P.O. Box 264, Shutesbury MA 01072 or by fax to 259-1101 (note 250th Steering Committee). Logos need to be reproducible in black & white. Work will not be returned. Themes are community, nature, history and diversity. Thank you for your interest.

**FIRE STATION GASOLINE LEAK** – Meeting held, Tuesday, 2/9/10 at DEP, Springfield. Five DEP officials met with the Selectboard, Town Administrator and the Town's Licensed Site Professional. The DEP were approving of the IRA plan to 1) further assess surface water impact, 2) assess soil gas concentrations beneath buildings, 3) resample drinking water supplies and, 4) do a ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey to see if an unknown underground tank exists.

I received a good news today that the amount of LUST funds available for our project increased to \$90,000 from \$60-\$70,000. The next step is to determine the scope of work DEP will execute with possible new information from the IRA report on Ground Penetrating Radar tests.

### **AMHERST PELHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 4 TOWN MEETING SATURDAY, 2/6/10, AT AMHERST REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY**

Regional School Business Manager, Rob Detweiller, presented 3 tiers of cuts and 4 budget assessment scenarios. Amherst Selectboard is unanimous in their support of an override. Pelham, Leverett, and Shutesbury, supported assessment funding levels at an Amherst override level. The four towns reported on each of their financial situations during a 3 hour session.

Senator Stan Rosenberg updated us on current Beacon Hill revenue assumptions, budget projections, and legislative actions. We are most appreciative this legislative season of the work Senator Rosenberg did to stabilize our regional transportation funding in the state budget. He was able to build a coalition to support language that ties chap 70 funding levels to chap 71 funding levels. If one is reduced by 10% they are both reduced by 10%. Regional transportation cannot be cut 75% unless all education funding is cut 75%. In prior recessions chap 71 has been pulverized while chap 70 funding is held harmless impacting regional schools disproportionately. That cannot happen anymore. Thank you to Representative Steve Kulik and Senator Stan Rosenberg for their campaign to protect our communities from education cuts.

### **BROADBAND**

Last Saturday in Northampton a meeting was held of Western Mass. Community Fiber Network. Broadband committees of Franklin and Hampshire County have come together with Southern Berkshire Technology Committee. The goal of the combined group, now 42 towns, is to create (a municipal) open access fiber network that would guarantee to connect anyone who wanted to be connected.

On Saturday two representatives of EC Fiber, a group of 22 rural Vermont towns, told their story of forming an Interlocal Fiber Network that became a Municipal Utility District. They are not yet funded but are prepared to sell bonds on the private market if a next grant application does not come through. They have developed a business model with revenue and cost projections and they have subscriber commitments. If the Western Mass Community Fiber Network uses a Municipal Utility District governance structure they will insulate the cities and towns from direct financial expense and liability while creating a source of revenue for the cities and towns.

IF, you have not filled out a survey for MBI at:  
<http://www.massbroadband.org/mapping/survey.html>

**Green Communities Action Planning** will continue Wednesday, **2/16**, at 7:00pm (2/10 meeting was cancelled because of SNOW), at Selectboard Meeting with the Planning Board, Building and Energy Committees. Franklin Regional Council of Government Planner, Pat Smith, will be working with us to create an action plan to become a Green Community.

One open question is what are appropriate alternative technologies for Shutesbury? The Green Communities Act is looking for power generation, as of right zoning for wind turbines of 600 kWatt minimum, and solar fields of 250 kWatt minimum. Would you be happy with a 300 foot wind turbine abutting your property (with a 1000' fall zone) or on public land? Would you be happy with a field of solar panels in a cleared area near your home or on public land? Please share your thoughts about this through return email. I would love to hear from you, write, call or come to the meeting. These facilities need to be sited within a reasonable distance of hi tension power lines. At first glance these generation scenarios are difficult to achieve in Shutesbury. As of right zoning for alternative energy, research and development may be possible.

Another hot issue is criteria number 5, the STRETCH CODE. We review pros and cons of adopting the STRETCH CODE in Shutesbury. Adoption of the Stretch code is one of the 5 criteria in becoming a Green Community.



Have a good week-  
Becky Torres, Shutesbury Town Administrator  
[townadmin@shutesbury.org](mailto:townadmin@shutesbury.org)  
413-259-1214