

## **TA Report 2.27.10**

**FIRE STATION GASOLINE LEAK** – Joel Harris, environmental scientist for O'Reilly, Talbot and Okun, came to Shutesbury on Thursday morning to perform soil gas tests beneath buildings and took water samples from the fire station and 3 others. Not all the soil gas tests worked out so 2 of the houses will have in depth air quality tests done. The snow was an obstacle for the (GPR) ground penetrating radar survey this stormy week. The GPR survey is rescheduled for next week.

I want to extend my great appreciation to the residents for welcoming us into their homes and accommodating the disruption of the testing process. Thank you very, very much.



**GREEN COMMUNITIES ACTION PLAN** continued Monday, 2/22. The Planning Board, Building and Energy Committees, Selectman, and Franklin Regional Council of Government Planner, reviewed the action plan to become a Green Community.

The biggest 2 issues continue to be “as of right zoning” and whether or not the community will or should adopt the STRETCH building code. Appropriate alternative energy generation technologies for Shutesbury were discussed as well. PLEASE, LET ME KNOW what green technologies you think fit best in Shutesbury. Do you want a wind turbine or solar farm near your house? Your responses are being collected to gain a pulse of the communities thinking about alternative energy projects. PLEASE LET ME KNOW...

I still am in search of a clear comparison the 2009 Massachusetts Building Code and the STRETCH Code being considered through a recommendation from the Green Communities Division. Are the performance and prescriptive requirements burdensome to builders, homeowners and businesses or do they pay for themselves over a reasonable length of time? What are the exact differences? Does the STRETCH Code require that reasonable, good sense ideas are abandoned? Or is the STRETCH Code, in fact, just a couple years away from being a new standard?

Please, if anyone has a good handle on this subject, help me make a grid that identifies and articulates where the difference in standards are. Thank you for your help in advance.

**SOLAR PV GRANT FUNDING** This week I had a request to explore using the Clean Energy Choice grant funds to augment the 5 kWatt Solar project to 7.5kWatt or 10 kWatt. The original project is now fully funded and we have \$20,000 plus possible rebates to move forward. I will have to go out to bid again for this second unit, but it should be doable within the original construction timeline. Please let me know if you have any thoughts about the increased project behind town hall, thank you.

Shutesbury was awarded an Energy and Efficiency Block Grant for pole mounted solar panels behind town hall, insulation and thermostats for town hall, highway barn ventilation, heating ducts, and circulation fans. This grant will fund the 5kWatt solar project fully and free up the Clean Energy Choice funds for another project, potentially a 10kWatt system behind town hall.

**SCHOOL COUNCIL SURVEY** The gardens are coming! This year the School Council is working on a school improvement plan. To fulfill their goal of communitywide input they have set up a survey on monkey.com, here is the address:  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/C3ZYP6J>.

**BROADBAND** powerpoint available of the February 3, 2010, open forum in Northampton. Web address is <http://www.massbroadband.org/>. Different groups are working to bring in the middle mile and the last mile. MBI and WMass Connect are working on the middle mile and stimulus funding. Local Broadband Committees are working on the last mile. We need it all for fiber to go to every home and business. Half of us in town have DSL, half have DIAL UP. Dial up shuts your home phone down to incoming calls and can leave your kids stranded in roadways and in town, a long way from home. Most internet sites don't function or can not be accessed with the snail pace of dial up. Photos can't be sent. Videos can't be viewed.

Fill out the survey maps and put pen to paper and articulate demand and need. What lifestyle changes occur when the internet and email are unavailable?

**WRITE LETTERS OF NEED AND DEMAND** to support **BROADBAND** in your neighborhood. Check out

<http://www.westernmaconnect.org/page.php?PageID=2526&PageName=Letter+of+Need+and+Demand> Do what you can to help. Please write a letter to the address below (this week):

The address is: **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

To be included in the final application package, the letter of need and demand must be either mailed to Sharon Ferry, WesternMA Connect, Inc., 75 South Church Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201 and **postmarked by Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**; or email a scanned letter or letter with electronic signature **no later than 5 pm on Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>** to [sharon@westernmaconnect.org](mailto:sharon@westernmaconnect.org). **DO NOT MAIL LETTER DIRECTLY TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY STRICKLING!**

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

Openings on:

Conservation Commission

Building Committee – 1 left! Going fast-

Lake Wyola Advisory Committee

Water Resources Committee

And

Recreation Committee – Here we need a lot of help.

Please let me know if you are interested!

Thanks-

Becky