

## **TA Report APRIL 1, 11**

### **250 SHUTESBURY Always cooler**

#### **250<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY STEERING COMMITTEE ACTIVELY SEEKING NEW MEMBERS**

Our next meeting is this coming Wednesday, April 6 at 9:30 a.m., upstairs at Town Hall. Come see what we're up to, ask questions, and consider joining us! We would be delighted to recommend the names of two or three new people for appointment by the Board of Selectman. Thanks! Janis S. Gray, Co-chair, Shutesbury 250th Anniversary Steering Committee

**WIRED WEST DELEGATE MEETING Saturday April 2, 2011 at STCC** A draft business plan will be presented along with by-laws, timelines, a draft marketing plan. **Will hold an informational meeting in Shutesbury on Monday, April 11, at 7pm** at town hall to share updates.

**Shutesbury Farmer & Artisan Market PLANT START SALE at ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MAY 7, 8:30am til noon** This year we are hoping for a beautiful sunny first Saturday in May. The kind of day that makes you want to root around in your garden. Turn over the soil, check out your compost, tie up your beans and peas, refresh your flowerbeds. All you need to make the day perfect is a couple hours at the elementary school steeping yourself in good old New England politics, the real deal, Annual Town Meeting. You can vote for elected officials, share in the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration cheering on a visiting dignitary, eat some Shutesbury birthday cake, review the budget, listen to committee reports, vote on a new highway truck, hear about Shutesbury's own money pit, the gasoline leak at the fire station, and generally, share time with friends and neighbors, make your vote count, ask questions of the finance committee that have put in hours and hours crafting the budget that is responsible for your tax bills, and finally buy some Shutesbury grown starts for your garden with out driving down the hill so you can be back home in your garden by noon!

**MARCH 31, 7:00pm MEETING of the Union 28 Selectboards and Swift River School Committee at the Leverett Town Hall** The meeting was well attended. The Leverett Selectboard moderated a lively discussion. The issue on the table was a letter outlining a proposal for special legislation that would set a proportional share assessment equal to what each unit, town or district, currently pays their own employees. For example, Erving, which pays 86% of their employee health insurance would be assessed for 86% of their share of Union 28 employee health insurance, while Shutesbury would be assessed for 75% of their share of Union 28 employee health insurance. The town assessments would be totaled up and then the Union 28 employee will pay the difference. Currently the members are paying whatever premium assessment is paid by the "lead" town, the town that has the highest enrollment. Current enrollment percentages are Erving, 27.33%, Leverett, 25.96 %, Shutesbury, 23.7 % and Swift River School District (towns of New Salem and Wendell), 23.01%. The "lead" town has changed twelve times in the last dozen years. The issue is further complicated this year by the issue of retiree health insurance. Until this year no Union 28 employees have received health insurance.

The different groups agreed to take the letter back to their respective bodies of authority, review the letter, submit requested edits, and vote on the issue by April 21, 2011. If all agree the letter will be signed and sent to our Legislators. We are preparing a warrant article in the event the process requires a Town Meeting vote.

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