

### **TA Report 3.16.12**

**OPEN SPACE HEARING** Thursday night at 7:00pm at the town hall reviewed the new draft of the Open Space Plan. I have attached a flyer and there is a display up at town hall outside my office. Highlights of the meeting:

- Explanation of the role of the document. It is not a bylaw, or a regulation, but a resource document, a planning tool.
- Concerns were heard about Open Space Plan reference to motorboat usage. Language in the document will be carefully reviewed, comments taken, edits made.
- The intent of wording of the 150' distance was not to increase the zone by an additional 150' from shore, but a reference to what already exists.
- Water Resources Committee informed the Open Space Committee they have additional maps that would be useful to them.

The Open Space Committee is extending their comment period into April. The Open Space Plan is available on line, at the library and town hall. Comments can be addressed to the Open Space Committee.

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING IS SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2012** Mark your calendar.

**COMMUNITY INNOVATION CHALLENGE GRANTS** did not go to Shutesbury regional projects. The Shutesbury Selectboard endorsed the Wired West Proposal for \$490,000 to help support the costs of research and development of a bond to build out the last mile of fiber optic to the home the over 30 Wired West Cooperative Communities. Shutesbury was also the lead town in a second grant to request \$150,000 of funding to study the potential impacts of K-6 or K-12 regionalization of 2 or 3 or 4 towns in the Amherst Pelham regional school district. Both grants were denied. It is a blow to both projects. Back in search of grant or other funding. Declining enrollments in K-12 schools across the state, along with years of education state aid declining and or level, are creating challenges in providing quality education. All towns are searching to improve how they provide services.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Have you ever wished that you could get email reminders for Shutesbury town committee meetings? May be not all of them, but specific ones? Well it is easier than you ever imagined!

From our Shutesbury Web Master, Fred Steinberg:

The calendar we're using lets anybody who views it "sign up" to get email about upcoming events. You can pick a single event, or a category of events, or all events.

To sign up:

- go to the calendar page: <http://shutesbury.org/calendars>
- click the link for "Main Shutesbury Calendar" to display the calendar in it's own page.
- click the "Options" link at bottom, below the calendar
- click the "Email Subscriptions" link in the menu in the popup window

**MASS BROADBAND INSTITUTE MBI** This week MBI (Fiber Optic Middle Mile architects) contractors were at the elementary school running fiber optic cable from the pole outside the building into the building. It will be between 1-2 years before fiber optic runs to the pole and it is active but it is a promising start of high speed high limit capacity to come.

**WIRED WEST... If a marketing firm wants to do a survey this week, don't hang up! think twice!** If you want to bring high speed internet to everyone in Shutesbury say yes if a marketing firm calls to take a survey. **During the month of March, a market research company will be calling randomly selected residents of WiredWest towns** to determine demand for internet services and other telecom services. This is a necessary component of preparing our business plan. If you are called, please agree to participate in the survey.

**Volunteers Needed:**

On the Personnel Board, Conservation Commission and Recreation Committee

**Elections for Boards will be held at Town Meeting May 5, 2012**

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