

SHUTESBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes for Nov. 3, 2003
Shutesbury Town Hall

Members present: Chairman Eric Stocker, Russ Wilson, Al Beswick, Patrick J. Callahan.
Guests present: Selectmen Becky Torres and Ralph Armstrong. Also Leslie Bracebridge.

The meeting was convened at 7:06 p.m.

Eric discussed the need for another special Town Meeting to take a vote on the Leverett/Cooleyville/Prescott road project because of voting irregularities that nullified the vote taken on Oct. 23. One other matter was the failure of the Finance Committee to publicize its recommendation on the road project seven days in advance as stipulated by the committee's bylaws. There was discussion of the bylaws and Al pointed out several places where there is unclear language. He offered to rework the language of bylaws.

Ralph and Becky said there were multiple voting and procedural problems at the Oct. 23 special Town Meeting that were the basis for another one on Nov. 12. Al expressed his frustration with the special Town Meeting process. Ralph and Becky said that in addition to the discrepancy in the number of ballots cast and the number of voters who registered, there was also a problem with the way the question was called. It required a 2/3 vote, but was passed on only a majority vote. And the Finance Committee recommendation was not on the warrant.

The Finance Committee then voted its recommendation that the \$166,300 for the road project be funded from free cash. The vote was 3-1 in favor with Eric, Patrick, and Russ voting yes and Al voting no.

The committee then approved the minutes of the Oct. 21 meeting.

The next meeting is set for Nov. 25 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by Patrick J. Callahan.