New zoning districts proposed for Shutesbury
Jeff Lacy, Planning Board

Shutesbury's Master Plan of 2004 recommends a number of changes in the Town's Zoning Bylaw to implement the plan's goals, some of which are:

- managed growth in the most appropriate locations;
- retention of rural character;
- protection of the environment, particularly forest resources;
- more affordable and diverse housing opportunities;
- a more vital town center, and
- continued home occupation and commercial opportunities for residents.

More recently, the Planning Board sent a survey to all households in Town asking detailed questions about possible zoning changes. In addition to incorporating this input, the Planning Board will hold a number of workshops for residents and meetings with town boards in the upcoming months, and will be discussing the new zoning proposals at its regular meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays at 7:00pm in the Town Hall (all are welcome).

This community process will produce a new zoning bylaw, which will be on the warrant at a future Town Meeting. The most striking difference in the proposed bylaw is the creation of four new zoning districts from the one we now have.

The proposed districts as of this date are:

**Forest Conservation (FC):** (most interior land beginning 500 feet back from town roads)

The purpose of the Forest Conservation District is to preserve large areas of interior forestland in order to maintain forestry as a viable industry and to protect watersheds, recreational land, natural resources, and wildlife habitat. The FC District is (Continued on page 6)

Help get Shutesbury out of the broadband black hole

The Shutesbury-Leverett Broadband Committee and the Wendell Broadband Committee are working to get support from the MA Joint Committee on Telecom., Utilities and Energy for high speed Internet for all of us.

We've made some inroads, but in order for Sen. Stan Rosenberg and Rep. Steve Kulik to support this issue, they have to hear loud and clear from us that this is very important for their constituents.

They need to get many calls and slow-mailed letters! (E-mailing is OK but not as effective.) Tell them why broadband is essential for you (work, education, etc.) and ask them to work with Sens. Morrissey and Pacheco on the Joint Committee to get us some help!

Timing is of the essence. Take five minutes and write your letter and make that phone call today! Help keep Shutesbury a viable option for work-at-home current and future residents, and for our kids--and help move us into the 21st century!

If you are among the precious few who already have DSL, be a community supporter and write a letter for your neighbor whom Verizon will not serve.

Rep. Stephen Kulik, 1 Sugarloaf St., South Deerfield, MA 01373
413.665.7200
Rep.StephenKulik@hou.state.ma.us

Sen. Stan Rosenberg, 1 Prince St., Northampton, MA 01060
413.587.6259
Stan.Rosenberg@state.ma.us

See the Shutesbury-Leverett Broadband Committee website: www.slbc.us

Celebrate Shutesbury September 23!

The annual town festival, Celebrate Shutesbury, will be held on Saturday, September 23 from 10:00am to 3:00pm on the town common. We are looking forward to a beautiful day with activities for the young and not-so-young!

This year's festivities will once again include Shutesbury Celebrates, recognition of a town resident who has contributed to making Shutesbury the wonderful place that it is. We are accepting nominations for a person or (Continued on page 6)

ADA Committee calls for reinforcements!
Martina Carroll, ADA Committee

The ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Committee is urgently seeking new members. Currently we only have one member, which is not a workable situation. Knowledge of disability issues valuable, but any interested individual will be welcome. Please contact Town Administrator David Dann at 259-1214.
Dear Shutesbury taxpayers,

Happy New (Fiscal) Year! With the beginning of the new fiscal year, you will be receiving the first quarter real estate tax bill for Fiscal 2007. The amount of the bill is approximately 25% of last year's total bill. Any exemption you were granted in FY 06 will be reflected in the third and fourth quarter bills for FY 07. Please remember the following mailing and due dates for your FY 07 real estate and personal property tax bills:

Mailed on or before:  
June 30, 2006  
DUE: August 1, 2006

Mailed on or before:  
September 30, 2006  
DUE: November 1, 2006

Mailed on or before:  
December 31, 2006  
DUE: February 1, 2007

Mailed on or before:  
March 31, 2007  
DUE: May 1, 2007

If the payment for your bill is received after the due date, the interest that accrued will be reflected on the next bill except for the bill due May 1, which will result in a letter followed by a demand notice with the extra fee and interest. Therefore, it is very important that you plan ahead and mail your payment in time to arrive by the due date.

(Continued on page 4)
There's a lot going on at Town Hall
David Dann, Town Administrator

As always, Shutesbury is in the midst of a wide variety of activity.

The **Library Accessibility Committee** finished its charge to design a plan for making the library handicapped accessible. Town Meeting approved the funding. The work will now be handed over to the Buildings Committee to oversee the construction and implementation phase.

In addition, the Buildings Committee is also working with the **Library Trustees** on their other needed building repairs.

The **Leverett/Cooleyville/Prescott Road** design work is nearing completion, with the project hopefully going out to bid the end of July.

The **Energy Committee** has completed its first clean energy project, a photovoltaic (solar) project for the elementary school. The installation is scheduled for early this summer. The solar panel project will have an important educational component for the children. This project is paid for by grants and our active participation in the Green-up program.

The Energy Committee is also determining the feasibility of a second clean energy project, a Wind Turbine, to be located behind Town Hall.

The **Select Board** is actively discussing the Community Preservation Act (CPA). We have a Community Preservation CD-R available if anyone would like to borrow the disk.

The **Conservation Commission** is about to hire its first part-time clerk.

The **Planning Board** is working on drafting new zoning bylaws.

**Town Hall** will soon become a possible shelter during natural disasters with the installation of a new generator.

If these projects do not interest you, but you would like to become involved in our town, call me at 259-1214. We will find something that fits.

Enjoy the summer: It always seems too short.

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Buildings Committee is keeping busy!
Dale Houle, Secretary, **Shutesbury Buildings Committee**

The Shutesbury Buildings Committee was re-established in late 2004 for the purpose of addressing pressing building problems. The Old Town Hall and fire station roofs were leaking badly. Also, portions of the fire station were in disrepair, and some building elements were never finished. These projects were successfully completed in 2005, as well as a long-standing structural defect in the Elementary School gym roof.

This year our committee is continuing with the same approach, which is to insure that our existing buildings will work well into the foreseeable future.

The Old Town Hall, fire station and parts of the Town Hall will be painted very soon. The design of the library access and bathroom project is moving forward and should be put out to bid around the end of June. Painting and repairs on the existing library building are also planned.

In addition, we hope to improve the insulation at the fire station and the two town halls as the heating costs are steadily escalating.

The next large project centers on improving the facilities at the highway department. The original garage, built in 1972, has roof leaks and is generally rusting. In addition, the facility does not fully comply with DEP regulations concerning hazardous material storage. Therefore a proposal will be made to re-roof and re-side the existing main garage and to connect (with a small addition) the main building with the rear garage. This will relieve cramped working conditions and create proper containment areas.

Another aspect will be to build a 20’ x 40’ addition to the rear garage to store the salt substitute now being used during the winter months.

New issues are always popping up and questions or suggestions are welcomed.

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Take a hike! Meet your neighbors! Protect Shutesbury's wetlands!
Linda Rotondi, **Shutesbury Conservation Commission**

You can do this all in one easy step by joining the Shutesbury Conservation Commission. We are currently looking for TWO new members to replace those who have moved on to their next big adventures.

We meet in Town Hall on the second and forth Thursdays of each month (only on the second Thursday during the winter months). Drop in to check us out. Our meeting begins at 7:00pm. You can also leave inquiries at 259-2123, mailbox option #2.

Interpreting state regulations and town bylaws is much more fun in hiking boots.

Students: This is great for your resume!

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Holding on to our heritage

Members of the Shutesbury Historical Commission foster interest in the town's heritage by the collection, preservation, and restoration of items of historical value. We gladly conduct research on any historical matter. We welcome residents to attend our business meetings currently held on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00pm.

If our meetings don't match your needs or schedule, volunteers are welcome at any time to help with restoration, research and cataloguing. The Commission could especially benefit from digital preservation support.

If you have an interest in our history and have old photos, documents or artifacts that you could share long enough for us to record electronically, or if you would like to share an idea or offer your help, please call our Chairman, **Barbara Goodhind**, at 259-1428. Meeting attendance is welcome, but not required, for one to become part of the Historical Commission team.
What a turnout!

Thank you to the crowd that came to "stuff, fold and staple" the Spring issue of Our Town. They worked so hard, in fact, that they burned our desk staplers out!

Stapling at blazing speed were Catherine Hilton, Bill Elliott, Marilyn Tibbetts, Becky Torres, Tom Harding, Ken Hartwright, Debra Pichanick, Al Springer, Leslie Bracebridge and Joan Hanson.

If you would like to join future “mailing parties” to prepare editions of Our Town or other town publications for the mail, please call the Town Clerk’s office at 259-1204 to be added to our list of people to call.

We welcome your help whenever or wherever it suits you best: daytime, nighttime, at home or at Town Hall.

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Taxes, continued from page 2

Don’t forget to contact the Board of Assessors if you no longer have a vehicle on which you have received a motor vehicle excise tax bill. This should be done as soon as you receive the bill so the bill can be adjusted promptly. However, you should always pay the bill and then apply for the abatement.

Since all fees and interest become part of the bill when issued, an abatement of part of the bill will still require you to pay any fees or interest that have accrued prior to payment. You will need to supply the Assessors with a bill of sale and a copy of a plate return receipt from the Registry of Motor Vehicles or a copy of a new registration for the same license plate to obtain the abatement. The abatement application is available on the Town’s web site.

If you wish to pay your bill in person, please call the office first at 259-1615 to check my office hours.

To drop of payments, there is a locked box outside my office door. If you want a receipt, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Have a safe summer.

Family Network reaches out to little ones

Since 1998, the Erving School Union #28 has been funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Education/MA Family Network to provide outreach, education and support services for families with children under 4 years of age living in the towns of Shutesbury, Leverett, Erving, New Salem and Wendell.

We offer play groups at the school gym; Parent Council meetings; workshops based on assessed families’ needs; field trips; and frequent fun events for the entire family. We also make Home Visits with our Baby Gift Bags to families with newborns to welcome them into our program.

If you have just moved into Shutesbury, have a child under four years of age, are pregnant or have a newborn, then please call Naz Mohamed-Ahamed at 413-423-3337 or email mohamed@erving.com to be put on our mailing list.

This is a wonderful way to meet other Family Network families with young children in your and neighboring towns.

Spandex not required
(all about the Shutesbury Athletic Club)

Harry Wilson, member, SAC Board of Directors

Founded by local young men in 1957, the Shutesbury Athletic Club at 282 Wendell Road is a non-profit gathering place for adults and children. Local businesses Clark Trucking, Dihlmann’s Store, The Lake Wyola Lodge, Plaza Lumber, Sepanek’s Package Store and Vernell’s Turkey Farm contributed the club's seed money.

The club has sponsored Shutesbury’s team in the Amherst Softball League for almost 50 years. The team has won many championships over the years, culminating in two second place wins in the World Championships.

In addition to offering special events, the club provides food, beverages, pool, horseshoes and other activities regularly. Opinions on local and national events are free!

Although the club is a members-only organization by state law, guests are welcome and memberships are affordable. The club has a large hall which is available to rent by members for public or private parties. Planned public events for this summer are available on our website (www.shutesburyac.com) as well as listed below.

Club hours are:

Monday: 5:00 - 10:00pm  
Tuesday: 5:00 - 11:00pm  
Wednesday: 5:00 - 10:00pm  
Thursday: 5:00 - 10:00pm  
Friday: 4:00pm - 1:00am  
Saturday: 12:00pm - 12:00am  
Sunday: 1:00pm - 10:00pm

Upcoming public events:

July 15, 2006 Chicken BBQ & band
August 19, 2006 Steak roast & band

The word from Lake Wyola

The Lake Wyola Association welcomes everyone to join us for these upcoming summer events. They are all held at the Association Building on Shore Drive. See you there!

July 1  Steak Roast, $13, 5:00-7:00pm Giant steaks cooked to order, baked potato, salad, coffee, dessert. Sold out last year. Call 367-0189 for tickets. Dance to follow, 7:30-11:30pm, $2.

July 22  Beer Tasting Festival, 5:00-10:00pm. Local and international beers from Harpoon, People’s Pint, Amherst Brewing, Shelton Brothers and more. Music. Concessions/food.

August 5  Chicken Barbecue, $10, 5:00-7:00pm  Half a chicken with all the fixin’s. Dance to follow, 7:30-11:30pm, $2.

August 26  Tag, Bake and Craft Sale, 9:00-2:00pm. Lots of treasures plus local crafters.
WHY RECYCLE?

FYI:

Environmental Benefits:

- Generate less waste for disposal
- Reduce greenhouse gases
- Reduce industrial consumption of energy and water. (Production from raw materials, such as aluminum or glass, requires large amounts of electricity and fossil fuels.)
- Improve soil with household composting
- Keep toxic substances out of the waste stream by taking advantage of Household Hazardous Waste Day (at Amherst Transfer Station, pre-registration required)
- Reduce costs when new products are produced from reused or recycled materials.
- Reduce the consumption of new raw materials.

Financial Benefits to the Town Residents:

- Curb-side recycling has resulted in a 33% reduction in solid waste.
  2005

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>127.86 tons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cans/bottles</td>
<td>52.82 tons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Un-recycled trash (costs $70.00/ton for disposal)</td>
<td>358.71 tons</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td>539.39 tons</td>
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- Town receives back $28.00/ton for recycled materials. (Minimum of $15.67 is guaranteed until 2012). This resulted in the town receiving $5,244.60 from Waste Management, Inc., of Houston, TX, our recycling provider.
- If paper, cans and bottles were not recycled, residents would have been required to pay an additional $12,642.60 for disposal (180.68 tons x $70.00)
- Our recycling efforts in 2005 resulted in saving the residents of Shutesbury $17,887.20.
also intended to protect substandard rural roads from the traffic that would result from overdevelopment on interior land. Limited development is allowed, but overall density (dwellings/land area) is proposed to be very low (10 acres per dwelling unit, five with bonuses or TDR). However, the development that occurs would be clustered in order to preserve the largest possible areas of open space (minimum of 80% required).

Roadside Residential (RR): (500 feet on both sides of town roads) The purpose of the Roadside Residential District is to maintain the Town's historic pattern of rural settlement (other than in the Town Center and at Lake Wyola), characterized by residences and small home-based businesses scattered along a loose network of roads. This district allows the Town to continue to grow according to this historic pattern and helps to ensure that development occurs primarily on roads that have adequate capacity to carry additional traffic.

Lot sizes are proposed to remain the same as at present (90,000 square feet), but the frontage requirement along roads may be changed according to their condition (paved vs. unpaved). A site plan review process will help the Town work with developers of new multi-family lots to improve the placement of buildings, parking areas, yards, and driveways. Other strategies are being considered which could help to retain some undeveloped frontage along roadways.

Town Center (TC): (approx. Pelham Hill Rd. east to Cooleyville Rd., and north a distance along Wendell Rd.) The purpose of the Town Center District is to enable the historic town center of Shutesbury to maintain its place as the true center of community activity; allow some new development at higher densities than permitted elsewhere; allow for different types of housing; and promote a centrally located mix of residential, commercial, civic, governmental, and recreational uses to serve the local community. Lot size requirements are proposed to be reduced from 90,000 to 45,000 square feet (size of football field), frontage from 250 to 125 feet.

Lake Wyola (LW): (developed areas around Lake Wyola) The purpose of the Lake Wyola District is to allow landowners who own land in the vicinity of Lake Wyola to make reasonable use of their existing developed properties while protecting the water quality of the Lake. Only two changes are proposed: 1) property-line setbacks are proposed to be reduced for accessory structures like garages and sheds, and 2) a 50-foot building setback from the lake is proposed. Note: The purpose of the district is not to establish any occupancy limits.

THE PLANNING BOARD HOPES YOU WILL BECOME INVOLVED. WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

Celebrate, continued from page 1 persons who deserve this honor. Please forward names to us no later than July 15 by e-mail at rita@verizon.net or by mailing SEF at P.O. Box 672, Shutesbury. We are also looking forward to the return of the bounce castle, the slide, bungee jumping, live music, the bike parade and food supplied by the Village Coop. We are hoping for the return of the antique cars, antique appraiser and belly dancing.

New this year will be a demonstration of a Civil War encampment. We will acknowledge the Rosh Hashanah holiday with a holiday activity, and we expect the Police and Fire Departments to join us with their equipment.

If you are interested in volunteering for the planning, set up or clean up of this event, please contact us at the above e-mail or mail address. The Shutesbury Education Foundation supports educational activities in town for all age groups and is supported by contributions from individuals who live in our community. We always welcome contributions, which can be sent to SEF at our P.O. Box 672, Shutesbury. If you or your group is interested in financial support for an activity or program in town, please contact us at the above address.

We look forward to seeing you on September 23!
Hours unchanged!
The Library will be keeping its Sunday and Monday hours throughout the summer this year.

The Library plays an important role in the community, and that role doesn't diminish in the summertime. We hope you'll stop by and take advantage of our air-conditioned space as you browse the new books, audios, DVDs, and periodicals we continue to add to the collection, or take advantage of our DSL and Wireless connections to browse the Internet.

**The Library is open:**
Sundays from 3:30 - 5:30pm
Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00am - noon and 2:00 - 5:00pm,
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 - 7:30pm.

Fragrance-free hours are Sundays from 3:30 - 4:00pm and Wednesdays from 10:00am - noon.

The increased hours will also allow more time for the Summer Reading Program. (See related article.)

The committee has been working on making it easier to keep reading records, so participation requires less paperwork. Summer Reading shouldn't be a chore -- for the children or the parents. We think this new approach will make it more fun for everyone.

**WiFi**
The Library has gone Wireless! Not only do we have computers with DSL connections, we also now have WiFi. You should be able to connect 24/7, indoors or out. So bring your laptop on down and give it a try!

**Construction**
Construction will be starting soon for our new composting toilet and handicap ramp and parking area. In addition, we'll be doing other repairs and renovations to the Library.

Look for a new paint job, as well as repairs to the front porch, clapboards and windows, and the chimney and roof. We hope to be all spiffed up and ready to go by fall!

What's buzzin' at the Library this summer?
The M.N. Spear Memorial Library's "What's Buzzin'" Summer Reading Program promises loads of fun for kids. Spearheaded by the Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library, it kicked off on June 15 and will end with a big bang and a party on September 9.

If you haven't signed up, there's still time. Leap, jump, crawl or fly on over to the library during regular hours. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun! We have an exciting lineup planned, including a variety of bug-related activities and events, from bugs at the library, to bugs at the beach, to bugs in your home! Here's a taste of what the Library has in store.

**Throughout the summer:** The "What's Bugging the Spear?" Bug Count Contest (can you guess how many bugs are in the library?) and the "Travel Bug" book bag (where will our lovable bug and her books go next? Pass it on to a friend or neighbor).

**Wednesday, July 5, 12, 19, 26** at 10:30am there will be Special Buggy stories and crafts at the Lake Wyola State Beach. Led by Gudrun Durham, these are designed for ages 2-5, but all are welcome.

**Wednesday, August 9** - T-shirt day at the Library. Come during the library's regular hours and decorate your very own Summer Reading program t-shirt. Open to Summer Reading program participants only.

**Wednesday, August 16** - 10:30am. "Bugs in the Water" Join entomologist Andrea Rogers for Family Bug Explorations at the town beach at Lake Wyola (by the boat ramp down Randall Road). Register by calling the library at 259-1213.

**Wednesday, August 23** - 10:30am. "Bugs in the Woods" Join entomologist Suzanne Lyons for Family Bug Explorations in the woods (location TBA). Register by calling the library at 259-1213 or stopping in.

**Saturday, September 9** - Summer Reading Extravaganza! Bug Olympics, ice cream, a performance by singer/songwriter Roger Tinknell, "What's bugging the Spear?" bug count contest drawing, and more!So while you're buzzing around this summer, don't forget to read! We may add more programs to this great line-up, so keep checking in at the library.

"What's Buzzin' at your library," the 2006 Statewide Reading Program, is funded by your local library, the Massachusetts Regional Library Systems, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.
HOW TO CONTACT TOWN OFFICIALS

ACCOUNTANT
David Kielson 259-1108

ADA COMMITTEE
Martina Carroll 259-1110

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
David C. Dann 259-1214

ANIMAL INSPECTOR
Denise Chiminiello 259-1020

ASSESSORS
Kenneth Holmberg 259-3790

BOARD OF HEALTH
William Elliott, Chair 259-2122

BUILDINGS COMMITTEE
Dale Houle 259-1696

BUILDING INSPECTOR
Jim Hawkins 772-2026

CEMETERY COMMITTEE
Marilyn Tibbetts 259-1976

COUNCIL ON AGING
Muriel Gross 259-1371

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Leave inquiries at 259-2123

CULTURAL COUNCIL
Renee A. Richard 259-9296

DEPT. OF VETERAN’S SERVICES
Leo J. Parent, Jr. 863-3205

DOG OFFICER
Nancy Long 259-2123

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR
Maurice Gregoire 367-9988

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Robert Mahler, Principal 259-1212

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIR.
Walter Tibbetts 259-1211

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Eric Stocker 259-1478

FIRE DEPARTMENT
Walter Tibbetts, Chief 259-1211

or home 259-1286

HEALTH AGENT
David Zarozinski 549-3710

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
Tim Hunting 259-1215

HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Barbara Goodhind 259-1428

M.N. SPEAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Jane Buchanan, Director 259-1213

LIBRARY TRUSTEES
David Cormier 259-1572

OUR TOWN NEWSLETTER
Janis S. Gray 259-1584

PERSONNEL BOARD
Penelope Kim 259-1326

PLANNING BOARD
Deacon Bonnar 259-1276

PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR
John Letourneau 367-0017

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Chief Thomas E. Harding 259-1279

Dispatch 625-8200

POLICE, FIRE & RESCUE SQUAD 911

RECREATION & OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
Elizabthanl Lacy 259-1764

RECYCLING COORDINATOR
Blaire Robey 259-3796

REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Marianne Jorgensen 259-1842

ROADS COMMITTEE
Vacant Call 259-1214

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Chair TBA Call 259-1212

UNION 28 SCHOOL SUPT.
Joan Wickman 423-3337

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Debra Pichanick 367-9550

Ralph Armstrong 259-1021

SHUTES.-LEV. BROADBAND COMMITTEE
Aron P. Goldman 549-1193

TREASURER
Gabriele Voelker 259-1801

TOWN CLERK
Leslie Bracebridge 259-1204

WEB COMMITTEE
Fred Steinberg 259-9996

TOWN OFFICIALS

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Shutesbury, MA 01072

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