

Shutesbury Board of Health
December 3, 2025, 7 pm
Virtual meeting

Members present: Catherine Hilton, chair; Arleen Read, Garrett Simonsen, board members.

Members absent: Wm Levine, Norene Pease.

Guest: Tom Siefert

Actions taken:

Minutes of previous meeting accepted unanimously (motion by Garrett, second by Arleen).

38 Montague Road DWCP repair: The board agreed to vote on issuing the permit despite the fact that the address was mistakenly posted in the agenda as 83 Montague Road. Mike Theroux recommends approval. Motion by Garrett, second by Arleen, unanimous in favor.

Discussion:

BESS regulation: discussion focused on the webinar of November 18 and the draft model zoning bylaw from the state. It appears that an application for a commercial-sized BESS in Shutesbury is extremely unlikely, given site constraints: there is already a 4MWh BESS associated with the solar installation on Pratt Corner Road, and this is probably taking up all the interconnectivity of the electrical substation down the road. Nevertheless, smaller residential or municipal BESSes associated with rooftop or pole-mounted solar arrays already exist and will presumably continue to be built. The board found the tiers of aggregate energy capacity defined in the draft bylaw to be useful for the purposes of regulation.

Several questions were raised: Is there an emergency response plan in place for the BESS on Pratt Corner Road? How many small residential BESSes already exist in town? What is the status of “home-made” storage arrangements using, for example, car batteries? How can a regulation be crafted to adapt to evolving battery technology? Arleen will contact Michael DeChiara about the Pratt Corner Road installation. Cat will talk with Lenny Czerwonka, fire chief and emergency management director.

56 Wendell Road: Cat reported that she has handed this problem over to the town administrator, who will bring it before the Select Board. Garrett suggested that all documentation be passed on as well.

Cat ended the meeting at 7:30 pm.