

Town of Shelburne

Open Space Committee

2007 Annual Report

The Open Space Committee is grateful to the many citizens who overwhelmingly voted at Town meeting to continue their support of the Open Space Committee. Throughout the year the Committee continued to advocate for open space in Shelburne, and worked to carry out the directives of the Town and initiatives identified in the Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Plan approved by the Town in 2004. Activities included:

- Clarified and adopted a definition of 'open space;'
- Reviewed the changes to the Chapter 61 legislation;
- Published a brochure and solicited contributions to the Open Space Donation Account for the preservation of open space in Shelburne;
- Participated in the Ad-Hoc Zoning task force to review and update the Bylaws and recommended provisions to maximize the preservation of open space in potential developments;
- Drafted guidelines for reviewing and evaluating open space parcels and used the draft guidelines to review the Right of First Refusal offered on the Rainville property;
- Provided input on the Shelburne Community Development Strategy;
- Appointed a representative to and participated in the Mahican-Mohawk Trail Council;
- Participated with the Conservation Commission on securing a Conservation Restriction on a parcel of open space owned by the Audubon Society;
- Established a page on the Town Website with comprehensive information about open space including the Open Space and Recreation Plan and Committee activities;
- Held informational sessions on the Umass Dept of Natural Resources Conservation and Prioritization Mapping Project and the Agricultural Protection Restriction program;
- Began a process to gather and preserve various maps relating to open space to facilitate citizen access to the information and tools.

Open space is defined as, " land that is undeveloped, generally without paved roads or permanent structures, which includes, but is not be limited to, land to protect existing and future well fields, aquifers and recharge areas, watershed land, agricultural land, grasslands, fields, forest land, fresh water marshes and other wetlands, river, stream, lake and pond frontage, lands to protect scenic vistas, land for wildlife or nature preserve and land for active or passive recreational use such as the use of land for community gardens, trails, and noncommercial youth and adult sports, and the use of land as a park, playground or athletic field."

Through the efforts of many citizens using techniques such as covenants, conservation restrictions, Agricultural Preservation Restrictions and tax incentives, (such as Chapter 61) Shelburne has preserved over 8,000 acres of agricultural land, woodlands and open space in the Town with some level of protection from development.

It is the privilege of the Open Space Committee to work with landowners as stewards of open space, and we are grateful for the support of many townspeople committed to preserving open space, agriculture and the rural character of the Town, and to the many individuals who have contributed to the Open Space Contribution Account this year which now totals almost \$5,000.

At-large Members:

Christine Baronas
Cynthia Boettner
Eugene Butler
Russell Davenport
Joel Dwight
Larry Flaccus

James Gamache
Linda Herrera
Rita Jaros
David Patrick
David Schochet

Board Representative Members:

Norman Beebe, Recreation Committee
Norm Davenport, Conservation Commission
Chris Davenport, Planning Board
Caroline Wheeler, Agricultural Commission