

SECTION 9

Final Draft 11/10/13

SEVEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN

The Seven-Year Action Plan outlines concrete steps the Town of Shelburne can take to advance accomplishment of the goals and objectives of the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee, in conjunction with Town Boards, Committees and Commissions, and with public input as outlined in Section 10, developed the draft action steps outlined below.

The objectives are organized under each of the three major goals, along with specific action steps to accomplish each objective. Also listed are the boards or groups responsible for implementation, and recommended timeframe. The ongoing status of each action plan will be tracked on this form in the future.

Successful implementation of the action steps and the ultimate accomplishment of the overall Open Space and Recreation goals and objectives will require the participation of town boards, committees and staff, including but not limited to the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, Recreation Commission, and Agricultural Commission in conjunction with private groups, neighboring towns, individuals and volunteers.

Accomplishing the actions identified in this section will require time and commitment from dedicated volunteers. Where money is required, it may be sought from state and federal governmental agencies, private non-profit conservation agencies, foundations, and individual donations in addition to municipal funds. A broad base of community support for the Open Space and Recreation Plan should facilitate fundraising to achieve its goals and objectives.

Table 9-1: Recommended Action Steps to Implement the Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Plan

Goal I. Ensure that the Town of Shelburne sustains its rural, agricultural, historic, and small town character.				
Objective	Action	Responsible Board/Group	Timeframe	Status
1. Promote and support farming, forest management, and land resource-based businesses.	A. Further refine and promote best communication strategies to keep landowners aware of current information and resources addressed by this objective.	Open Space Committee; Agricultural Commission	2014 and ongoing	
	B. Prepare town-wide inventory of public and private forest resources and identify the largest blocks of forest land in order to provide the public with information on productive land/forest best practices, stewardship, and protection.	Open Space Committee; Conservation Commission; Agricultural Commission	2014-2015	
	C. Organize periodic forums/workshops for farm/forest owners to provide an opportunity for the exchange of information, concerns and possible solutions to challenges facing landowners.	Agricultural Commission; Open Space Committee	2014 and ongoing	
	D. Host forums, lectures and “meet the farmer” get-togethers to help connect the general community to the farming community and educate the public on farming practices and issues.	Agricultural Commission	2014 and ongoing	

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Objective	Action	Responsible Board/Group	Timeframe	Status
	E. Develop and implement a broad spectrum of strategies (ie, branding, cooperatives, marketing, and markets) to promote Shelburne-grown/produced, land resource based products.	Agricultural Commission	2014 and ongoing	
	F. Create a “Shelburne-Grown” logo/label for Shelburne farmers to use and encourage stores to carry/highlight locally grown and produced products.	Agricultural Commission	2014	
	G. Collaborate with area Agricultural Commissions and the Grange to host a “locavore” dinner at Fellowship Hall using locally grown products.	Agricultural Commission Neighboring town Agricultural Commissions Shelburne Grange	2014	
	H. Collaborate with groups (e.g.: Massachusetts Woodland Cooperative, CISA, etc.) to provide landowners with comprehensive marketing for all farm products, including timber and fuel wood.	Agricultural Commission	2014	
	I. Develop a long term strategy to insure that the APR program pays fair market value for farmland.	Agricultural Commission; Open Space Committee	2014-2015	
	J. Hold meetings with appropriate state agencies and local officials to hear concerns of farmers/forest managers and to advocate for relief from taxation of farm buildings.	Agricultural Commission; Select Board; Finance Committee; Assessors	2014-2015	

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Objective	Action	Responsible Board/Group	Timeframe	Status
	K. Create a K-12 agriculture based curriculum/activities, including field trips to Shelburne farms and agricultural resources.	Agricultural Commission; Mohawk Regional School District	2015-2017	
2. Pursue strategies to protect land with significant agricultural, open space, historic and/or natural resource value from development.	A. Update the OSC workbook for evaluating land available for Town right of first refusal review and other land protection opportunities.	Open Space Committee; Select Board; Conservation Commission	2014	
	B. Initiate a public discussion regarding the preservation of scenic ridgelines in order to provide guidance for possible zoning revisions for their protection.	Planning Board; Open Space Committee	2015-2018	
	C. Provide public education about conservation strategies the Town might adopt. (i.e., Town purchase of land and/or development rights; Town Acceptance of donated lands, development rights, conservation easements.)	Open Space Committee; Select Board; Agricultural Commission	2014-2015	
	D. Support and work with willing landowners in their efforts to preserve open space, working forests and agricultural land, scenic ridgelines and viewsheds, by providing them with information about estate planning, conservation options, and connecting them with other resources.	Open Space Committee;; Agricultural Commission; Franklin Land Trust	2014 and ongoing	
3. Identify and promote protection of culturally and historically significant	A. Identify and prioritize cultural and historic landscape features and structures for public or private protection.	Historical Commission/ Historic Society; Open Space Committee; Agricultural Commission; Cemetery Commission	2015	

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Objective	Action	Responsible Board/Group	Timeframe	Status
landscapes, features, and structures.	B. Develop a comprehensive scenic inventory including historic roads and corridors to promote their protection.	Historical Commission/ Historic Society; Greater Shelburne Falls Business Association; Open Space Committee	2015	
	C. Work with the town and state highway departments to respect the rural character and natural resources of the town while engaged in roadwork.	Select Board; Highway Department	2014	
	D. Provide interpretive materials, guidebooks, and self-guided tours to important cultural/historic sites.	Historical Commission/ Historic Society; Greater Shelburne Falls Business Association	2014-2016	
	E. Create a local history curriculum for K-12 students that encourages field trips to historic/cultural sites in the town.	Historical Commission/ Historic Society; School District	2015-2017	
	F. Appoint and activate an active Historic Commission.	Select Board	2014	
	G. Appoint a Town Tree Committee to work with the Tree Warden to improve the management, maintenance, and public support for public shade trees.	Select Board	2014	
4. Identify and promote policies and strategies that ensure economic and residential	A. Research available strategies to protect rural character and natural/historical resources, including zoning and non-zoning options, and identify appropriate strategies for the Town of Shelburne.	Open Space Committee; Historical Commission/ Historic Society; Planning Board; Agricultural Commission	2015	

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Objective	Action	Responsible Board/Group	Timeframe	Status
development that protects the rural character and natural resources of the Town.	B. Propose subdivision regulations to allow and encourage development that preserves open space and natural resources.	Planning Board; Select Board; Town Meeting; Open Space Committee	2014	
	C. Engage Route 2 landowners and town citizens in discussions about strategies to address the current inconsistency that the Route 2/Mohawk Trail corridor is designated as both a Scenic Byway and a commercially zoned strip.	Open Space Committee; Planning Board; Select Board; Greater Shelburne Falls Business Association; Franklin Regional Council of Governments	2014-2015	
	D. In conjunction with the work of the Planning Board on zoning bylaw revision, provide public education through educational materials and public forums about zoning and planning options and strategies (e.g. cluster zoning, etc) to protect Shelburne’s rural character and natural resources.	Open Space Committee; Planning Board; Franklin Regional Council of Governments	2014-2016	
	E. Support a periodic review of zoning bylaws and use table so they are consistent with the goals of the Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Plan.	Planning Board; Open Space Committee	2014 and ongoing	
	F. Review the Town Master Plan and identify action items/recommendations that relate to Open Space and Recreation goals.	Open Space Committee	2014	

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Objective	Action	Responsible Board/Group	Timeframe	Status
	G. Provide Town boards and the public with information about the cost of community services associated with different land uses and the impact of development of each type.	Open Space Committee; Planning Board; Agricultural Commission; Franklin Regional Council of Governments	2014	
	H. Work with the Planning Board to develop voluntary guidelines to protect important water and wildlife corridors in areas of residential, commercial and industrial scale development.	Planning Board; Open Space Committee	2015-2016	
	I. Research and make recommendations in regard to zoning bylaw revisions that allow flexible development in support of local agriculture, open space, and rural character.	Planning Board; Open Space Committee; Agricultural Commission	2014-2015	
	J. Review Shelburne sub-division regulations and identify opportunities for revision to support flexible development options in support of local agriculture and rural community.	Planning Board; Open Space Committee; Agricultural Commission	2014-2015	
	K. Develop small-scale wind power and small and large-scale solar energy facility bylaws that address their impact on open space, scenic viewsheds, wildlife habitat, and energy sustainability.	Planning Board; Open Space Committee; Select Board	May 2014 Town Meeting	

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Objective	Action	Responsible Board/Group	Timeframe	Status
	L. Develop a focus group dealing with issues relative to Shelburne Falls village sustainability, including commercial viability, traffic and parking issues, and residential support needs, while maintaining small town character.	Select Board; Housing Authority; Planning Board; Greater Shelburne Falls Business Association; Council on Aging	2015	
	M. Work with the Economic Development Commission to ensure the protection of rural character and natural resources.	Open Space Committee; Select Board	2015-2018	
5. Develop sources of revenue to fund conservation and natural resource protection.	A. Identify and pursue state and private grants for the protection of open space that are appropriate and applicable to Shelburne’s OSRP goals.	Open Space Committee; Select Board; Agricultural Commission	2014 and ongoing	
	B. Explore the adoption of the Community Preservation Act, including holding public forums to discuss the pros and cons of the CPA for the Town of Shelburne.	Select Board; Open Space Committee; Finance Committee; Housing Authority; Historical Commission/ Historic Society	2014-2015	
	C. Continue to submit, and advocate for, annual budget requests for Land Preservation Account and APR Account.	Open Space Committee	annual	
	D. Continue to advocate for and promote the Open Space Donation Account for private contributions to the Town for the conservation and preservation of open space.	Open Space Committee	ongoing	

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Objective	Action	Responsible Board/Group	Timeframe	Status
	E. Seek grant sources to obtain support for updating the town Master Plan (or develop one from scratch) to address rural, small-town sustainability	Planning Board Select Board Finance Committee Agricultural Commission Open Space Committee	2015	
	F. Establish a fund that would allow for gifts and/or fund-raising to provide resources for future projects and/or for a revolving loan fund to assist a farmer in need.	Agricultural Commission	2014 and ongoing	

Goal II. Ensure that the Town of Shelburne maintains and improves the quality of its significant natural resources including: rivers, ponds, streams, aquifers, and wetlands; drinking water supplies; clean air; native wildlife populations and plant communities.

Objective	Action	Responsible Board/Group	Timeframe	Status
1. Work to promote watershed-wide planning and water quality protection initiatives to conserve and protect waterways, aquifers, and public and private drinking water supplies.	A. Identify wetland resources that would benefit from conservation.	Open Space Committee	2015	
	B. Identify, prioritize, and secure (through public and/or private protection) potential public water sources and surrounding watershed areas.	Water District	2015-2018	
	C. Provide home/landowners with information on best practices to use to protect water supplies.	Water District; Board Of Health; Conservation Commission; Agricultural Commission	2014-2015	
	D. Develop a policy statement that deals with town ownership of water related resources	Select Board; Open Space Committee; Conservation Commission	2015	
	E. Work with state and local highway departments, railroads, and utility companies to minimize contaminated road and right of way run-off.	Select Board; Highway Department	2015-2017	
	F. Coordinate with neighboring towns on corridor management plans for waterways.	Franklin Regional Council of Governments; Open Space Committee; Deerfield River Watershed Association Emergency Management Director	2014-2018	

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Objective	Action	Responsible Board/Group	Timeframe	Status
	G. Coordinate with Emergency Management Director and Planning Board to develop strategies to protect and preserve flood plain areas.	Franklin Regional Council of Governments; Open Space Committee; Deerfield River Watershed Association; Emergency Management Director	2015-2018	
	H. Develop Conservation Commission criteria for the review of Conservation Restrictions and Town right of first refusal under Chapter 61.	Conservation Commission	2014-2015	
	I. Review the status of remaining construction and demolition dumping sites on private property.	Board of Health; Select Board	2014-2015	
2. Identify, prioritize, and protect important natural habitats, wildlife corridors, and other significant natural resources in Shelburne giving special attention to those that expand and/or enhance existing protected lands, both in town	A. Identify and prioritize land critical for wildlife/native plant communities/rare species for public or private protection.	Open Space Committee; Franklin Land Trust; Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program; Conservation Commission; Agricultural Commission	2014-2018	
	B. Work with willing landowners to pursue funding and actions for land protection. (See Goal I, Objective #5).	Open Space Committee; Agricultural Commission; Franklin Land Trust; Department Conservation Resources; Natural Resources	2014-2019	

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Objective	Action	Responsible Board/Group	Timeframe	Status
and in the region.		Conservation Service		
	C. Work with willing landowners to pursue funding for conservation activities.	Open Space Committee; Agricultural Commission; Franklin Land Trust; Department Conservation Resources; Natural Resources Conservation Service.	2014-2019	
	D. Inventory invasive species, prioritize, and organize eradication efforts.	Open Space Committee; Conservation Commission; Agricultural Commission; Scouting and Youth Groups; Consultants	2014 and ongoing	
	E. Provide outreach to and education for landowners on best strategies for invasive species eradication/control.	Open Space Committee; Conte Refuge; Agricultural Commission	2014 and ongoing	
	F. Collaborate with federal, state, and non-profit organizations to gather and disseminate via printed media and public forums, educational outreach materials, on natural resource protection and land use.	Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission; Agricultural Commission; Department Conservation Resources; Natural Resources Conservation Service; Franklin Land Trust	2014 and ongoing	

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Objective	Action	Responsible Board/Group	Timeframe	Status
	G. Review current zoning by-laws to identify ways to revise them to support protection of the Town’s critical natural resources.	Planning Board; Open Space Committee	2017-2018	
	H. Develop a policy statement that deals with town ownership of conservation land.	Select Board; Conservation Commission; Open Space Committee; Agricultural Commission	2015	

III. Ensure that the Town of Shelburne maintains and improves the quality, quantity, and accessibility of its recreational resources to best serve the needs of its residents.

Objective	Action	Responsible Board/Group	Timeframe	Status
1. Maintain the quality of current programs and facilities	A. Maintain and improve outdoor courts at the Cowell to accommodate basketball, tennis and ice skating.	Recreation Committee; Select Board	2014-2015	
	B. Continue to advocate for town maintenance of the Cowell Gymnasium.	Recreation Committee; Select Board	ongoing	
	C. Purchase sports equipment to support recreational programs.	Recreation Committee;	ongoing	
	D. Maintain and improve ball fields.	Recreation Committee; Buckland-Shelburne School	2014-2015	
2. Expand recreational opportunities and accessibility for Shelburne residents of all age groups.	A. Invite recreation partnerships with community members, businesses, schools and organizations.	Recreation Committee; Greater Shelburne Falls Business Association; Mohawk Trail Regional School District ; Senior Center	ongoing	
	B. Include consideration of recreational facilities and open space trails/programs during review of the Shelburne Zoning Bylaws, subdivision regulations and Master Plan.	Planning Board; Recreation Committee; Open Space Committee	ongoing	
	C. Develop an action plan for improvement, expansion, and maintenance of current and future public hiking/skiing/snowshoeing/snowmobiling trails.	Recreation Committee; Open Space Committee; Select Board; Scouts and youth groups;	2014-2015	

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Objective	Action	Responsible Board/Group	Timeframe	Status
		snowmobile clubs		
	D. Look at feasibility of developing hiking trails that originate in the village.	Recreation Committee; Open Space Committee; Select Board	2014-2015	
	E. Increase programming and accessibility for seniors.	Recreation Committee; Council on Aging; Senior Center; YMCA	ongoing	
	F. Identify options for increasing library hours, services, and programming.	Arms Library Shelburne Center Library	2014-2016	
	G. Explore options for siting a playground in town.	Recreation Committee; Select Board	2014-2015	
	H. Investigate location and funding for a fitness trail in the village.	Recreation Committee; Greater Shelburne Falls Business Association	2014-2015	
	I. Explore access to the rivers for recreational activities.	Deerfield River Watershed Association; Recreation Committee; Select Board; Town of Buckland; TransCanada	2014-2017	

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Objective	Action	Responsible Board/Group	Timeframe	Status
	J. Look into options for creating a public swimming area.	Deerfield River Watershed Association; Recreation Committee; Select Board; Town of Buckland; TransCanada	2014-2017	
3. Increase awareness of recreational opportunities in the greater Shelburne area.	A. Develop newsletters for distribution to targeted populations, such as BSE, Senior Center.	Recreation Committee	2014 and ongoing	
	B. Make use of the town website by listing activities available and posting the newsletter.	Recreation Committee; Webmaster	2014 and ongoing	
	C. Inventory the town recreation land with published guidelines for community use.	Recreation Committee; Webmaster	2014-2015	
	D. Consider creating and maintaining a Shelburne Recreation Facebook page.	Recreation Committee	2014-2015 and ongoing	
	E. Carry out annual awareness-action-and-cleanup day in partnership with community groups.	Recreation Committee; Deerfield River Watershed Association; Greater Shelburne Falls Business Association; Connecticut River Watershed Council; Franklin Solid Waste District; Scouts and youth groups	2014-2015 and annually	