SECTION

9

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 Boards Relevant Groups	Timeframe	Status
1. Promote and support farming, forest management, and land resource-	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	
based businesses.	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. Participate in the FRCOG process with Shelburne officials and forest owners to discuss, analyze and help plan an agreed-upon framework for the National Forest Designation project proposed by USFS, communicate with landowners, and make recommendations to the Select Board and FRCOG regarding next steps.	Open Space Committee; Agriculture Commission; Select Board; Franklin Land Trust; Franklin Regional Council of Governments; Conservation Commission	2014-2015	
	D. 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	

Objective	Action	Responsible Boards Relevant Groups	Timeframe	Status
	E. 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	
	F. Develop and implement a broad spectrum of strategies (i.e., branding, cooperatives, marketing, and markets) to promote Shelburne-grown/produced, land resource based products within the town and beyond.	Agricultural Commission; Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association	2014 and ongoing	
	G. 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	
	H. Post on a Website and produce a brochure showing Shelburne farms and locally-produced agricultural products.	Agricultural Commission; Franklin Regional Council of Governments; Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association	2014-2015	
	I. 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	2015	

Goal I. Ensure that the Town of Shelburne sustains its rural, agricultural, historic, and small town character. **Responsible Boards** Objective Action Timeframe Status **Relevant Groups** J. Collaborate with area Agricultural Commissions to develop Agricultural Commission; and promote an Agricultural Tour in the area, similar to Neighboring town the "Crafts of Colrain" tour. Agricultural Commissions; 2015-2017 Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association K. Collaborate with area Agricultural Commissions to Agriculture Commission; develop a proposal and secure purchasing contracts with Mohawk Regional School the Mohawk School District for the purchase of a Committee: 2015-2018 percentage of locally produced meat, milk, eggs, fruit and District member town vegetables used by the district. **Agricultural Commissions** L. In conjunction with area Agricultural Commissions, Agriculture Commission; research the pros and cons of and options for using low Franklin Regional Council grade wood products, biomass and/or locally produced of Governments; pelletized wood in school and municipal boilers. Mohawk Regional School Committee; 2015-2019 Select Board; District member town **Agricultural Commissions** M. Create a Task Force to explore the process and propose next steps to gaining Green Energy Certification for the Select Board 2014-2015 Town. N. Extract and analyze USDA census data on Shelburne farms Agricultural Commission; to better understand economics of farming, identify Franklin Regional Council needs of farmers and impacts of farming on the 2014-2015 of Governments community.

Objective	Action	Responsible Boards Relevant Groups	Timeframe	Status
	O. 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; CISA	2015-2017	
	P. Convene work groups of farmers representing different products (fiber, milk, meat, waste wood, etc.) to explore processing needs and options in western New England,	Agricultural Commission; CISA; Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association	2015-2018	
	Q. Develop a long term strategy to insure that the APR program pays fair market value for farmland.	Agricultural Commission; Open Space Committee	2015-2017	
	R. 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	
	S. Create a K-12 agriculture-based curriculum/activities, including field trips to Shelburne farms and agricultural resources. Review Hawlemont School agricultural program and identify best practices to use throughout the school system.	Agricultural Commission; Hawlemont School; Mohawk Regional School District	2015-2018	
	T. Create a Natural Resources curriculum with hands-on field work based on the Connecticut River Watershed Council model to raise awareness and engage young people in resource conservation and preservation issues.	Connecticut River Watershed Council; Mohawk Regional School District; Boy Scouts	2015-2017	

Objective	Action	Responsible Boards Relevant Groups	Timeframe	Status
2. Pursue strategies to protect land with significant agricultural, open	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;	2014	
space, historic and/or natural resource value from development.	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. Conduct public education discussions and provide materials about conservation strategies the Town might adopt to advance the preservation of open space. (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 landscapes, features, and	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; Franklin Regional Council of Governments; Cemetery Commission	2015-2016	

Goal I. Ensure that the Town of Shelburne sustains its rural, agricultural, historic, and small town character. **Responsible Boards** Objective Action Timeframe Status Relevant Groups Historical Commission/ B. Develop a comprehensive scenic inventory including structures. historic roads and corridors to promote their protection. Historic Society; Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association; 2016 Franklin Regional Council of Governments; Open Space Committee C. Work with the town and state highway departments to Bay State Roads; respect the rural character and natural resources of the Open Space Committee; town and minimize the spread of invasive species while 2015 Select Board; engaged in roadwork. **Highway Department** D. Develop interpretive materials, guidebooks, and self-Historical Commission/ guided tours to important cultural/historic sites and make Historic Society; information available to the public. Greater Shelburne Falls 2015-2018 **Business Association** E. Create a local history curriculum for K-12 students that Historical Commission/ encourages field trips to historic/cultural sites in the Historic Society: 2015-2019 School District town. 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 Select Board 2014 public support for public shade trees.

Objective	Action	Responsible Boards Relevant Groups	Timeframe	Status
	H. Work with the Long Range Planning Committee to ensure future funding and support for historic buildings such as Memorial Hall and the Pratt Memorial Library, as well as funding for open space and land preservation.	Long-Range Planning Committee; Finance Committee; Select Board; Memorial Hall Association; Pratt Memorial Library Board; Open Space Committee	2014-2019	
	Appoint a Capital Improvements Committee to plan for, develop funding options, and implement strategies for the protection and preservation of the Town's historic resources, infrastructure and landscapes.	Select Board; Finance Committee	2014 and ongoing	
Identify and omote policies d strategies that sure economic d residential evelopment that	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	
otects the orking landscapes, ral character and tural resources of	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	2014-2015	

the Town.

Objective	Action	Responsible Boards Relevant Groups	Timeframe	Status
	C. Review the Mohawk Trail Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan and 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 Area Business Association; Franklin Regional Council of Governments	2014-2015	
	D. In conjunction with the work of the Planning Board on zoning bylaw revision, educate the public through educational materials and open forums about zoning and planning options and strategies (e.g. cluster zoning, etc) to protect Shelburne's working landscapes, 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 tables 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 Long Range Planning Committee	2015	
	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	

Objective	Action	Responsible Boards Relevant Groups	Timeframe	Status
	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, including design standards for culverts and structures that support movement of wildlife in sub-divisions and developments.	Planning Board; Open Space Committee; Agricultural Commission	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 revisions 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; Agricultural Commission	May 2014 Town Meeting	

Goal I. Ensure that the Town of Shelburne sustains its rural, agricultural, historic, and small town character. **Responsible Boards** Objective Action Timeframe Status **Relevant Groups** L. Develop a focus group dealing with issues and proposed Select Board; solutions relative to Shelburne Falls village sustainability, Housing Authority; Planning Board; including commercial viability, traffic and parking issues, and residential support needs, while maintaining small **Greater Shelburne Falls** town character. Area Business Association: 2015-2016 Council on Aging; Town of Buckland; Shelburne Falls Area Partnership M. Work with the Planning Board and Historic Commission to Planning Board; develop voluntary design standards for new development Historic Commission; and reconstruction in the village centers to ensure **Greater Shelburne Falls** preservation of the historic cultural districts in Shelburne Area Business Association Falls and Shelburne Center. N. Work with the Economic Development Commission and Open Space Committee; the Long-Range Planning Committee to balance **Economic Development** development needs with open space/rural character Commission; needs to ensure the protection of agricultural and natural Long-Range Planning 2015-2019 Committee: resources. Select Board 5. Develop sources A. Identify and pursue state and private grants for the Open Space Committee; of revenue to fund protection of open space that are appropriate and 2014 and Select Board: conservation and applicable to Shelburne's OSRP goals. ongoing **Agricultural Commission** natural resource

Objective	Action	Responsible Boards Relevant Groups	Timeframe	Status
protection.	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; Pratt Memorial Library Board; Long-Range Planning Committee; Memorial Hall Association; Franklin Land Trust; Franklin Regional Council of Governments	2014-2017	
	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	

Objective	Action	Responsible Boards Relevant Groups	Timeframe	Status
	E. Seek grant sources to obtain support for updating the town Master Plan to address rural, small-town sustainability.	Planning Board; Select Board; Finance Committee; Agricultural Commission; Open Space Committee; Long-Range Planning Committee; Franklin Regional Council of Governments	2015-2018	
	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	
	G. Work with the Long-Range Planning Committee and the Capital Improvements Committee to advocate for and establish planned budgeting for open space, historic preservation and agricultural preservation.	Agricultural Commission; Open Space Committee; Historic Commission; Long-Range Planning Committee; Capital Improvements Committee; Select Board; Finance Committee	2014 and ongoing	

Objective	Action	Responsible Boards Relevant Groups	Timeframe	Status
Work to promote watershed-wide planning and water quality protection	A. Identify wetland resources that would benefit from conservation.	Open Space Committee; Franklin Regional Council of Governments	2015-2016	
initiatives to conserve and protect waterways, aquifers, and public	B. Identify, prioritize, and secure (through public and/or private protection) potential public water sources and surrounding watershed areas.	Water District; Open Space Committee	2015-2018	
and private drinking water supplies.	C. Provide home/landowners with information on best practices to use to protect water supplies such as rain barrels, cisterns, rain gardens, salt use, herbicide run-off, etc.	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; Bay State Roads	2015-2017	

Objective	Action	Responsible Boards Relevant Groups	Timeframe	Status
	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	
	G. Coordinate with Emergency Management Director and Planning Board to develop strategies to protect, preserve and restore as necessary 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	
	Review the status of remaining construction and demolition dumping sites on private property.	Board of Health; Select Board	2014-2016	

Objective	Action	Responsible Boards Relevant Groups	Timeframe	Status
	J. Identify, locate and map underground fuel storage tanks in Shelburne and assess their risk and potential impact on water resources and agricultural areas, and recommend mitigation strategies.	Agricultural Commission; Highway Department; Fire Department; Emergency Management Director; Franklin Regional Council of Governments;	2014-2016	
2. Identify, prioritize, and protect important natural habitats, wildlife corridors, and other significant natural resources in	A. Identify and prioritize land and/or water features critical for wildlife/native plant communities/rare species and work with Town officials and willing landowners for public and/or private protection.	Open Space Committee; Franklin Land Trust; Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program; Conservation Commission; Agricultural Commission	2014-2018	
Shelburne giving special attention to those that expand and/or enhance existing protected lands, both in town and in the region.	B. Conduct an inventory of existing culverts and wildlife passage structures and assess installations to ensure they facilitate native fish and wildlife movement. Incorporate latest 'best practice' design standards in new construction projects and sub-division regulations.	Open Space Committee; Highway Department; Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program; Conservation Commission; Mass Department of Ecological Restoration; Planning Board; Agricultural Commission	2015-2017	

Objective	Action	Responsible Boards Relevant Groups	Timeframe	Status
	C. Explore ways to coordinate the identification and monitoring of species locations, numbers and movements, and propose interventions to maintain biodiversity in Shelburne.	Open Space Committee; Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program; Mass Department of Ecological Restoration; Deerfield River Watershed Association	2015-2019	
	D. Work with willing landowners to identify opportunities and pursue funding and actions for land protection.	Open Space Committee; Agricultural Commission: Franklin Land Trust; Department Conservation Resources; Natural Resources Conservation Service	2014-2020	
	E. Work with willing landowners to identify opportunities and pursue funding for conservation activities.	Open Space Committee; Agricultural Commission; Franklin Land Trust; Department Conservation Resources; Natural Resources Conservation Service.	2014-2020	
	F. Inventory and prioritize high risk areas of invasive species on public property and on property of willing landowners, and organize eradication efforts.	Open Space Committee; Conservation Commission; Agricultural Commission;	2014 and ongoing	

Objective	Action	Responsible Boards Relevant Groups	Timeframe	Status
		Highway Department; Scouting and Youth Groups; Consultants		
	G. Provide outreach to and education for Town officials and landowners on best strategies for invasive species eradication/control.	Open Space Committee; Conte Refuge; Bay State Roads; Highway Department; Agricultural Commission	2014 and ongoing	
	H. 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; Deerfield River Watershed Association; Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association	2014 and ongoing	
	I. 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	

Objective	Action	Responsible Boards Relevant Groups	Timeframe	Status
	J. Develop a policy statement that deals with town ownership of conservation land.	Select Board; Conservation Commission; Open Space Committee; Agricultural Commission	2015	
	K. Explore expanding the scope and charter of the Open Space Committee to develop strategies to better coordinate natural resources planning and protection for the Town.	Select Board; Conservation Commission; Open Space Committee; Agricultural Commission	2015-2016	

Objective	Action	Responsible Boards Relevant Groups	Timeframe	Status
Maintain the quality of current programs and	A. Maintain and improve outdoor courts at the Cowell to accommodate basketball, tennis and ice skating.	Recreation Committee; Select Board	2014-2015 and ongoing	
facilities	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, nearby towns, businesses, schools and organizations.	Recreation Committee; Greater Shelburne Falls Area 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	

Objective	Action	Responsible Boards Relevant Groups	Timeframe	Status
	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; snowmobile clubs; Franklin Land Trust	2014-2015	
	D. Look at feasibility of developing hiking trails that originate in the village.	Recreation Committee; Open Space Committee; Select Board	2014-2016	
	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. Maintain and expand cultural offerings at Memorial Hall	Memorial Hall Association	ongoing	
	H. Engage the community in the design and funding of infrastructure improvements to the Memorial Hall theater such as seating, lighting, energy efficiency, etc.	Memorial Hall Association; Select Board	2014-2018	
	I. Explore options for a public playground in town.	Recreation Committee; Select Board	2015-2017	

Objective	Action	Responsible Boards Relevant Groups	Timeframe	Status
	J. Explore options for a public park/picnic area in town.	Recreation Committee; Select Board	2016-2018	
	K. Investigate location and funding for a fitness trail in the village.	Recreation Committee; Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association	2014-2015	
	L. Explore access to the rivers for recreational activities.	Deerfield River Watershed Association; Recreation Committee; Select Board; Town of Buckland; TransCanada	2014-2019	
	M. Look into options for creating a public swimming/town beach area.	Deerfield River Watershed Association; Recreation Committee; Select Board; Town of Buckland; TransCanada	2014-2017	
	N. Convene a work group of interested residents to explore options, locations and funding for a village-based community garden.	Agricultural Commission; Select Board	2014-2016	

Objective	Action	Responsible Boards Relevant Groups	Timeframe	Status
	O. Look at feasibility of developing a Discovery Center or display in conjunction with the Village Information Center.	Village Information Center; Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association; Deerfield River Watershed Association	2015-2018	
3. Increase awareness of recreational opportunities in the	A. Develop communications for distribution to targeted populations, such as Buckland Shelburne Elementary School, Senior Center.	Recreation Committee	2014 and ongoing	
greater Shelburne area.	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	

Objective	Action	Responsible Boards Relevant Groups	Timeframe	Status
	E. Carry out annual awareness-action-and-cleanup day in partnership with community groups.	Recreation Committee; Deerfield River Watershed Association; Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association; Connecticut River Watershed Council; Franklin Solid Waste District; Scouts and youth groups	2014-2015 and annually	