



Trail maintenance (Jim Perry)

## 9 Ten-Year Action Plan

The Ten-Year Action Plan fulfills the Open Space and Recreation Plan objectives. The objectives address open space, natural resources, recreation, and community development needs. The quantity and quality of accessible open space relates directly to the state of Shelburne's environment, the Town's recreational opportunities, and the quality of future development in Shelburne. The community survey overwhelmingly called for preserving open space and water quality and increasing public access to the Deerfield River and natural areas. The goals in this Plan aim to address the values expressed by Shelburne community members.

On the following table, the objectives are listed in the far left column are followed in the same row by *Recommended Actions*, *Participating Board or Group*, *Start date*, and *Potential Funding Sources*. Implementing the Open Space and Recreation Plan will require the participation of the Open Space Committee, as well as the involvement of many other Town groups; other participating entities are suggested in the *Participating Board or Group* column in the action plan. Boards and organizations listed are suggestions of those who might be involved, and do not necessarily reflect a commitment to work on these items in the time frame shown in the table.

Many of these actions may be constrained by a lack of volunteer time, in addition to funding limitations. Where money is required, such as to permanently protect open space, it does not have to be provided by the Town alone. The Community Preservation Act recently approved by the Town will serve as an important funding source for open space protection and for the development of recreational opportunities. State and federal governmental agencies, private non-profit conservation agencies, and

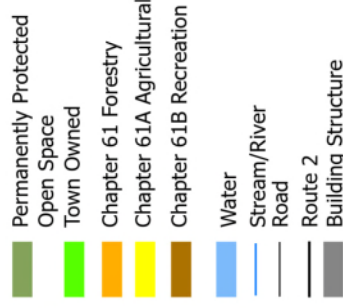
foundations are also potential sources of funding. These sources are more likely to invest in land protection and recreation projects that have a broad base of community support.

Under the primary stewardship of an Open Space Committee, the Town can achieve the action steps listed below over time. It will be important to establish the Town's top priorities. The Open Space Committee has prioritized action steps by the goals and objectives listed in the previous chapter. The Open Space and Recreation Committees have identified priority actions highlighted in light yellow in Table 24, and priority actions are also featured on the *Ten-Year Action Plan Map* at the end of this section. Any project the Town decides to take on will ensure avenues for public input and comment.

# Town of Shelburne

# Open Space & Recreation Plan 2024

# Action Plan



**Please see Sections 8 & 9 for the full list of goals, objectives, and Action Items developed as part of the OSRP update.**



Sources: Map produced by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments Planning Department. GIS data sources include MassDOT, MassGIS and FRCOG. Depicted boundaries are approximate and are intended for planning purposes only, not to be used for survey.

Franklin Regional  
Council of Governments

**Identify priority areas for protection, such as the Patten District, using newly developed criteria.**

**Promote the development of new trails.**  
Work with interested parties to look at building/expanding hiking trails as well as other types of trails in Shelburne. Examine potential for multi-use, horseback riding, mountain biking, and dog walking trails.

Update the 2008 Land Evaluation Workbook for use when the town has opportunities to exercise its right-of-first-refusal when Chapter 61, 61A and 61B lands come up for sale. Use the results of the 2022-2023 Open Space and Recreation Community Survey. This plan, and the latest version of Biomap to make this update.

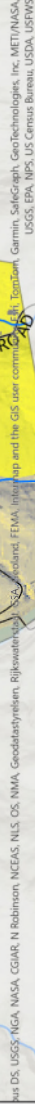
**Continue to work on creating a trail along the Deerfield River that can be accessed from the village of Shelburne Falls**

**Promote the development of new trails. Work with interested parties to look at building/ expanding hiking trails as well as other types of trails in Shelburne. Examine potential for multi-use, horseback riding, mountain biking and dog walking trails.**

**Work with the three landowners, Eversource, MA DCR, and Central Rivers Power, to provide a permanent solution for improving and maintaining the access road to Wilcox Hollow.**

**Make recreation and open space information easy to find on the town website.**

**Continue to maintain and upgrade the building and grounds of the Cowell Gymnasium**



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

OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>1</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>2</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>Goal A:</b> Sustain and enhance the small town, rural feel of Shelburne as reflected by large tracts of farm and forested lands, its ridgelines with views, and its lively village in Shelburne Falls.				
<b>A1.</b> Promote and support the viability of farms and forests in Shelburne.	Continue participating in the Woodlands Partnership of Northwestern Massachusetts (Woodlands Partnership).	Selectboard	2024	Woodlands Partnership of Northwestern Massachusetts
	Actively pursue applications for Woodlands Partnership Implementation Grants to fund OSRP goals.	Open Space Committee	2024	Woodlands Partnership
	Convene the Agricultural Commission 2-4 times per year, and identify and work on projects consistent with the mission of the Agricultural Commission.	Agricultural Commission	2024	Volunteer time
<b>A2.</b> Identify and protect lands that have ecological, historical, agricultural, cultural, and recreational significance, including places that are significant to indigenous peoples.	Consult with state- and federally-recognized Tribes in the area as well as indigenous ally groups like Nolumbeka Project, the Oketeau Center, and the Atowi Project, to better understand places of indigenous value in Shelburne and use the information in prioritizing areas to protect.	Open Space Committee; FRCOG	2024	Volunteer time; Cultural Council grant

<sup>1</sup> Any action highlighted in yellow is considered a high priority. The high priority designation was determined through the OSRP Community Survey, Community Forum, and by the Recreation and/or Open Space Committees.

<sup>2</sup> For action items that are considered to be ongoing efforts, the start date is given as 2024. Many of the action items can be worked on simultaneously. Also, the start date for a given action item is not set in stone. The Participating Board/Group could change the start date for a specific action item, as it deems appropriate, in consultation with the Open Space Committee. The start date is also dependent on available funding.

OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>1</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>2</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>A2 (continued).</b> Identify and protect lands that have ecological, historical, agricultural, cultural, and recreational significance, including places that are significant to indigenous peoples.	Update the 2008 Land Evaluation Workbook <sup>3</sup> for use when the town has opportunities to exercise its right-of-first-refusal when Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B lands come up for sale. Use the results of the 2022-2023 Open Space and Recreation Community Survey, this plan, and the latest version of Biomap to make this update.	Open Space Committee; Recreation Committee	2025	Volunteer time
	Incorporate information learned from consultation with indigenous peoples into the Land Evaluation Workbook and use this information to identify priority areas for protection.	Open Space Committee	2025	Volunteer time
	Identify priority areas for protection, such as the Patten District, using newly developed criteria.	Open Space Committee; Agricultural Commission; Conservation Commission	2025	Volunteer time
	Identify and document historical sites in Shelburne.	Shelburne Historical Society	2025	Community Preservation Act (CPA); Mass. Historical Commission

<sup>3</sup> The Land Evaluation Workbook is a document that is part of Shelburne's right of first refusal policy ([https://www.townofshelburne.com/files/Chap\\_61\\_Review\\_Procedure.pdf](https://www.townofshelburne.com/files/Chap_61_Review_Procedure.pdf)). It can be found online at [https://townofshelburne.com/g/47/Open-Space-Committee#section\\_1081](https://townofshelburne.com/g/47/Open-Space-Committee#section_1081)

OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>1</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>2</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>A2 (continued).</b> Identify and protect lands that have ecological, historical, agricultural, cultural, and recreational significance, including places that are significant to indigenous peoples.	Respond to Right-of-First-Refusal opportunities by engaging Shelburne's Selectboard, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Assessors, and other relevant Boards & Committees in the process.	Open Space Committee; Conservation Partners	2024	Volunteer time
	Use the Right-of First-Refusal process for determining, on a case-by-case basis, whether Shelburne should own permanently protected open space in fee, accept a conservation restriction, or encourage ownership by others.	Open Space Committee; Conservation Commission; Finance Committee	2024	Volunteer time
	Hold periodic workshops on estate planning and land management options in coordination with the MassWoods Program, UMass Extension.	Franklin Land Trust; Open Space Committee	2026	Town funds; Volunteers
<b>A3.</b> Create public spaces in Shelburne Falls village where residents of all ages can meet, socialize, eat together, stay active, and enjoy arts and culture.	Assess whether there are small lots in Shelburne Falls village that could be acquired for the purposes of developing permanent open space or pocket parks in the village.	Select Board; Open Space Committee; Recreation Committee	2025	CPA; PARC grant program
	Enhance existing parks in Shelburne Falls village by installing benches, tables, new vegetation, or play structures.	Select Board; Recreation Committee	2024	CPA
	Support the development of public spaces in downtown Shelburne Falls that addresses uses, design, and solutions for the Singley Lot, the Pothole area, and other parcels.	Select Board; Open Space Committee	2024	Community One Stop grants

OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>1</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>2</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>A3 (continued).</b> Create public spaces in Shelburne Falls village where residents of all ages can meet, socialize, eat together, stay active, and enjoy arts and culture.	Work with downtown businesses and Town boards to establish seasonal or permanent bathroom facilities that are open to the public.	Franklin County Chamber of Commerce; Select Board	2024	Woodlands Partnership of Northwestern MA for capital expense; opt in and earmark meals tax for maintenance <sup>4</sup>
<b>A4.</b> Propose changes to zoning bylaws that reflect desired characteristics in the village and rural areas, enabling trail construction and housing diversity, while still protecting open space.	Continue to implement the 2018 Shelburne Housing Plan <sup>5</sup>	Planning Board; FRCOG	2024	Community One Stop; FRCOG's Improve Housing to Improve Health (IH2) Grant
	Eliminate special permit requirement for municipal and nonprofit trails in Shelburne zoning bylaw to simplify trail-making process and to make more consistent with other zoning bylaws in the region.	Shelburne Planning Board; Shelburne Open Space Committee	2024	Volunteer time
<b>A5.</b> Explore adopting zoning measures that protect water resources, encourage climate resiliency, keep skies dark at night, enhance access to recreation and trails, and preserve scenic views.	Work with FRCOG to update the floodplain bylaw using the 2020 MA Model Floodplain Bylaw and support the Planning Board in drafting updates to the Zoning Bylaw.	Planning Board; FRCOG	2024	Volunteer time; DLTA; s.319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant Program

<sup>4</sup> Although the Town has adopted the Local Rooms Tax, the Town has not adopted the local meals tax or the short-term rental community impact tax. If either are adopted, the Select Board and Finance Committee could decide that revenues collected from these visitor-related services be dedicated to fund services that support the village center business district, such as maintenance of a public toilet and similar services.

<sup>5</sup> The Housing Plan can be reviewed on the Town website at [https://townofshelburne.com/files/Shelburne\\_Housing\\_Plan\\_2017.pdf](https://townofshelburne.com/files/Shelburne_Housing_Plan_2017.pdf).

OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>1</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>2</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>A5 (continued).</b> Explore adopting zoning measures that protect water resources, encourage climate resiliency, keep skies dark at night, enhance access to recreation and trails, and preserve scenic views.	Collaborate with the Town of Buckland to adopt ridgeline protection bylaws for both towns to prevent further visual impacts within Shelburne Falls village and to prevent erosion and forest fragmentation. <sup>6</sup>	Shelburne Planning Board; Buckland Planning Board	2025	Volunteer time; DLTA
	Compare Shelburne’s Open Space Development provision in zoning bylaws to MassAudubon’s “best practices” for Open Space Zoning and consider changes to Shelburne’s bylaws that differ from best practices <sup>7</sup>	Planning Board	2026	DLTA
<b>Goal B:</b> Maintain and improve the quality of Shelburne’s natural resources for today and the future.				
<b>B1.</b> Encourage strategic land conservation to protect natural habitats, wildlife corridors, forests with significant carbon sequestration potential, contiguous undeveloped tracts of land, and plants or places that are significant to indigenous peoples.	Learn more about how other Community Preservation Act towns have successfully used CPA funds for open space and recreation projects to guide effective use of Shelburne CPA funds for protection of high priority open space.	Open Space Committee; Recreation Committee	2024	Volunteer time
	Work with willing landowners to protect BioMap priority habitat as identified on parcels identified in the Plant and Wildlife Map in this OSRP.	Open Space Committee	2025	Volunteer time

<sup>6</sup> The Planning Boards may wish to review Hadley’s zoning bylaw, section 5.8, which attempts to limit development impacting views of the Holyoke Range.

<sup>7</sup> See “Download the Bylaw Review Tool” section of <https://www.massaudubon.org/our-work/climate-change/local-climate-resilient-communities/land-use-rules>. Worksheet #5 covers the Open Space Development Analysis.

OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>1</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>2</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>B1 (continued).</b> Encourage strategic land conservation to protect natural habitats, wildlife corridors, forests with significant carbon sequestration potential, contiguous undeveloped tracts of land, and plants or places that are significant to indigenous peoples.	Develop an updated whitepaper describing how the Town can receive lands for conservation purposes that can be transferred to a land trust or other land conservation agencies. Post and promote on the Open Space Committee's webpage and elsewhere.	Open Space Committee; Franklin Land Trust	2025	Volunteer time
	Work with local and regional land conservation trusts (e.g., Franklin Land Trust and Hilltown Land Trust) and state conservation agencies like Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to encourage private conservation efforts and to provide resources for landowners interested in protecting their land.	Open Space Committee	2026	Volunteer time
	Attend the annual Massachusetts Land Trust Conference and events hosted by the Massachusetts Open Space Network to learn of efforts underway that Shelburne could implement.	Open Space Committee	2024	Volunteer time
	Explore the option of a municipal carbon project, or provide outreach to landowners about their options	Open Space Committee with help from land trusts and DCR; Energy Committee	2027	Free initial consultation with MassAudubon

OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>1</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>2</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>B2.</b> Execute water quality protection initiatives to conserve and protect rivers, groundwater, wetlands, and lakes, along with their riparian areas.	Work with the Conservation Commission and planning board to review the wetlands regulations, zoning bylaw, and subdivision rules and regulations to ensure that wetlands and water quality are adequately protected.	Conservation Commission; Planning Board; Open Space & Recreation Committee; FRCOG	2025	DLTA
	Assist riparian landowners to improve the water quality of streams such as Dragon and Hinsdale Brooks by developing natural buffer strips to increase shading and reduce impacts from bacteria.	Franklin Conservation District; Selectboard; Conservation Commission	2024	NRCS; s.319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant Program; Woodlands Partnership
<b>B3.</b> Identify infrastructure and lands that are vulnerable to extreme flooding, droughts, and temperatures resulting from climate change and complete projects that reduce Shelburne's vulnerability.	Complete the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Plan by July 1, 2024.	Shelburne MVP Project Liaison; Consultant	2024	MVP Planning Grant
<b>B4.</b> Identify and promote land use practices that improve and sustain healthy landscapes that can provide local food, recreation, wildlife habitat, and community living for current and future generations.	Create an invasive plant management plan to prioritize areas and actions.	Tree Warden; Open Space Committee; Conservation Commission; Highway Department; MassDOT	2026	MVP; Volunteer time

OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>1</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>2</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>B4 (continued).</b> Identify and promote land use practices that improve and sustain healthy landscapes that can provide local food, recreation, wildlife habitat, and community living for current and future generations.	Implement recommendations of the Shelburne Pollinator Action Plan from 2021. <sup>8</sup>	Open Space Committee	2025	Volunteer time; Franklin Conservation District's Lawn Conversion Grant Program
	Sponsor educational events and materials for residents concerning the management of invasive plant species, invasive pests, and diseases affecting vegetation, including food crops and trees.	Open Space Committee; Agricultural Commission; Tree Warden; Conservation Commission; UMass Extension; Highway Department	2027	Volunteer time; MDAR grants <sup>9</sup>
	Engage with MassDOT (through FRCOG) about whether there are any appropriate locations for animal crossing tunnels under Route 2.	Conservation Commission; Deerfield River Watershed Association; FRCOG; MassDOT	2026	MassWildlife Habitat Management grant

<sup>8</sup> Shelburne's Pollinator Plan is found online at [https://frcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Shelburne-Pollinator-Action-Plan\\_FINAL\\_2021.pdf](https://frcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Shelburne-Pollinator-Action-Plan_FINAL_2021.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>1</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>2</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>Goal C:</b> Offer recreational facilities and programming for residents of all ages and abilities, especially those that connect people with Shelburne's rich natural environment and landscapes.				
<b>C1.</b> Continue to offer high quality recreational programming and facilities for all ages and abilities.	Continue the process of resuming youth and other programming that stopped during the pandemic	Recreation Committee; Cowell Gym Director	2024	Volunteer time
	Continue to develop recreation programming in response to residents' interest.	Recreation Committee	2024	Cowell operating budget; program fees; Cultural Council grants
	Develop additional programming at the Cowell Gym during school vacation periods.	Recreation Committee; Cowell Gym Director	2025	Cowell operating budget; program fees
	Continue to maintain and upgrade the building and grounds of the Cowell Gymnasium.	Recreation Committee; Select Board; Highway Department	2024	PARC grant; CPA
	Renovate the Arms Academy field and look to expand its use.	Recreation Committee	2024	Woodlands Partnership Grant; PARC grant
<b>C2.</b> Identify, protect, and enhance river access points to the Deerfield River.	Work with private landowners, power companies, MA DFW and DCR, and river users to identify river access sites. Acquire land for this purpose if necessary.	Open Space Committee; Recreation Committee; Deerfield River Watershed Association; Select Board	2025	CPA; PARC grant program

OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>1</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>2</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>C2 (continued).</b> Identify, protect, and enhance river access points to the Deerfield River.	Remove invasive plants from the town-owned Lillian Davenport property.	Open Space Committee; Recreation Committee	2026	Woodlands Partnership Funding; Volunteer time
	When the Deerfield River Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2022 becomes law, designate an Open Space Committee member to serve on the local advisory committee. <sup>10</sup>	Open Space Committee	2027	Volunteer time
	Research and implement river access locations downstream of Dam No. 3 (Salmon Falls) and within a short walk from Shelburne Falls Village.	Open Space Committee; Deerfield River Watershed Association	2026	Volunteer time
	Work with the three landowners, Eversource, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and Central Rivers Power (owner of Gardner Falls Dam), to provide a permanent solution for improving and maintaining the access road down to Wilcox Hollow. <sup>11</sup>	Open Space Committee; Deerfield River Watershed Association; Connecticut River Conservancy	2024	Operating budget of land owners
<b>C3.</b> Work with nonprofit and private landowners to maintain and expand the number of trails in Shelburne.	Continue to maintain and promote existing trails in Shelburne.	Open Space Committee Recreation Committee	2024	Woodlands Partnership Grants, CPA; Volunteer time

<sup>10</sup> Find up to date information on the progress of the bill here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/4631/text?r=2&s=1>

<sup>11</sup> Wilcox Hollow is a recreational amenity required under the Gardner Falls FERC license P-2334, but the access road crosses land owned by three entities.

OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>1</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>2</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>C3 (continued).</b> Work with nonprofit and private landowners to maintain and expand the number of trails in Shelburne.	Continue to work on creating a trail along the Deerfield River that can be accessed from the Village of Shelburne Falls.	Open Space Committee; Recreation Committee	2024	Woodlands Partnership Grants, State Trail Grants; CPA; Volunteer time
	Upgrade and expand educational signage program.	Open Space Committee; Recreation Committee	2025	Woodlands Partnership Grants, CPA; Volunteer time
	Promote the development of new trails. Work with interested parties to look at building/expanding hiking trails as well as other types of trails in Shelburne. Examine potential for multi-use, horseback riding, mountain biking, and dog walking trails.	Open Space Committee; Recreation Committee	2025	Woodlands Partnership Grants, State Trail Grants; CPA; Volunteer time
<b>C4.</b> Identify the best prospects for safe roadside and off-road biking, walking, running, and jogging; work to develop those facilities.	Develop a Complete Streets Plan and participate in the MassDOT Complete Streets funding program.	Select Board Highway Superintendent	2024	MassDOT; FRCOG can assist town with application.
	Support the creation of opportunities for bicycling in Shelburne, both on and off the roads.	Open Space Committee; Recreation Committee	2026	Volunteer time; MassTrails
	Work with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) to explore the creation of new off-road paths in town.	Recreation Committee; FRCOG	2025	Community Preservation Act; FRCOG Unified Planning Work Program

OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>1</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>2</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>C4 (continued).</b> Identify the best prospects for safe roadside and off-road biking, walking, running, and jogging; work to develop those facilities.	Review and provide comment on FRCOG's updated regional bicycle plan (planned for federal fiscal year 2024). Provide recommendations for specific locations.	Shelburne residents; Recreation Committee	2024	Volunteer time
	Explore options for linking walking options in Shelburne Falls village to locations outside the village.	Open Space Committee; Recreation Committee; FRCOG	2025	MassTrails
<b>C5.</b> Provide access to natural areas.	Develop a plan for creating access to natural areas.	Open Space Committee; Franklin Land Trust	2026	Volunteer time; CPA
<b>Goal D:</b> Promote community involvement in open space and recreation. .				
<b>D1.</b> Continue to engage the community in open space and recreation efforts.	Engage and recruit residents to actively participate in volunteering and implementing this Plan even if they are not on a town committee.	Recreation Committee; Open Space Committee; Select Board	2024	Volunteer time
	Update community members on open space and recreation by email, the town website, the town e-newsletter, and social media.	Recreation Committee; Open Space Committee	2024	Volunteer time

OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>1</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>2</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>D1 (continued).</b> Continue to engage the community in open space and recreation efforts.	Partner on the development of Open Space and Recreational Opportunities with The Town of Buckland and the Franklin Land Trust.	Town of Buckland and the Franklin Land Trust and its representatives interested in Open Space and Recreation.	2025	Volunteer time
	Involve the schools, Arms Library; and the Shelburne Falls Senior Center in a variety of student and adult walks and educational and community service projects.	Mohawk Trail Regional School District; Arms Library; Shelburne Falls Senior Center	2024	Volunteer time
<b>D2.</b> Improve availability of public information on recreation and open space in Shelburne.	Make recreation and open space information easy to find on the town website.	Recreation Committee; Open Space Committee; Select Board	2024	Volunteer time
	Establish a positive culture of respectful use. Consider doing this in cooperation with surrounding towns.	Recreation Committee; Franklin Conservation District; Deerfield River Watershed Association; FRCOG	2025	Town funds; Deerfield Hydro trust fund grant (every 4 years); volunteer time