



# Town of Shelburne, Vermont

CHARTERED 1763

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## *Town Manager's Monthly Report: July 2023*



Lake Champlain remains high

### **Floods Across Vermont: How We Can Help**

Our Shelburne community avoided the disastrous flooding which hit much the state. As of July 28, a presidential major disaster remains in effect for the entire state.

We can help our neighbors by volunteering at [Vermont.gov/Volunteer](https://Vermont.gov/Volunteer). United Way donations and Red Cross blood drives are also important.

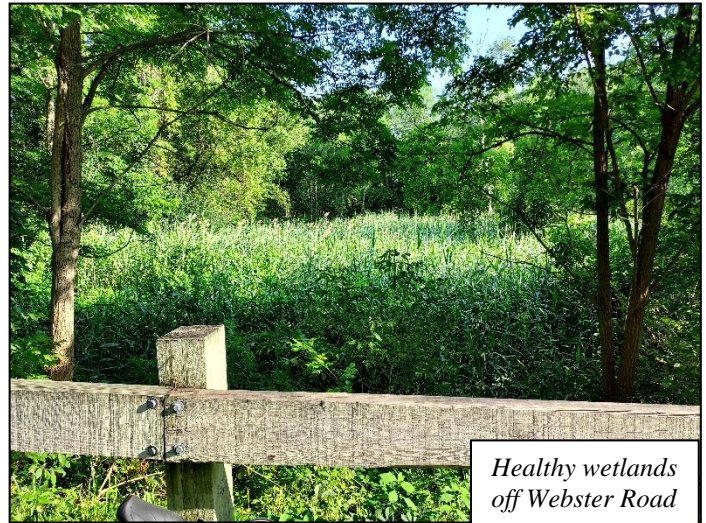
These floods show the importance of preparedness in every household. What would you have done? Consider making a kit of emergency supplies.

### **Wetlands Benefit Everyone**

Heavy rain has me feeling very grateful for the marshes and swamps around Shelburne. They are an important habitat for frogs and birds you can hear calling, but they also protect us. These areas reduce flooding by detaining heavy rainfall and slowing down the discharge to creeks and rivers.

What's in a name? Wetland is the category; a marsh is mostly grassy; a swamp is mostly trees. This area has both, especially around Shelburne Pond and the LaPlatte River.

Stormwater programs improve both natural and artificial wetlands. Constructed ponds and rain gardens are part of modern development. Your \$5.20 monthly fee makes a difference for public health, the environment, and the safety of our town as severe storms become more frequent.



Healthy wetlands off Webster Road

### **Notable Upcoming Public Meetings & Events**

**August 1:** Community Concert and Fireworks

**August 8:** Selectboard considers a grant application helping Champlain Housing Trust

**August 10:** Planning Commission works on zoning

**August 22:** Community Visit at the Field House, Selectboard regular meeting cancelled.

## Paying the Bills: Utility Rates Increasing

The Water Commission and the Selectboard voted recently to increase rates for services. Shelburne customers' next bill will show the increased rates. Not every property has water or sewer service, but every property owner pays a stormwater fee as we work together to reduce dangerous runoff and keep Lake Champlain clean. Nobody likes to see a bill increase. In this case, however, the Town is acting responsibly to plan ahead for the future. In infrastructure, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Water, wastewater, and stormwater are all capital-intensive: large parts of the budget go to heavy machinery, pipes, and buildings. That's different from a police department, for example, where most of the budget is personnel costs. The biggest upcoming infrastructure project in town is the wastewater plant consolidation. In the coming years, several water mains will also need major work to prevent leaks and maintain water quality. The Town will also begin larger investments in stream rehabilitation and other green infrastructure. Modest rate increases today prevent a spike in rates later.

*Facilities such as this tank need maintenance and upgrades*



*Businesses like Fiddlehead require lots of high-quality water*



### Key Performance Indicators

Every month, this space has basic statistics about the Town's most important operations and results. I am still learning the ropes and assessing these details with our department heads.

2023 Certificates of Occupancy: 34  
(25-50 for the year is the plan goal)  
Water Loss Rate, April-June: 16.7%  
(10%-20% is the target range)  
Beach Passes issued this summer: 632  
Average Fire response time 13:21 minutes  
Miles of Town maintained road: 59.4  
Grand List Value: \$16,626,197  
Taxable parcels: 3,067

### Did you know...

The Town of Shelburne's payroll is about \$100,000 per week? It peaks in the summer, when lifeguards and other seasonal staff push the employee count over 100. Several jobs are vacant, and we are hiring now!



*Police officers training at an outdoor firing range.*

### Join In!

There are notable vacancies on the Bike & Pedestrian Path Committee, Natural Resources & Conservation Committee, Tree Committee, Dog Park Committee, and the new Climate & Energy Committee. All Town residents are welcome to be involved in public service and volunteerism together.