



Town of Shelburne, Vermont

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Town Manager's Monthly Report: August 2023



Bumblebee Brook entering LaPlatte River

Announcing Bumblebee Brook!

The town manager's office receives all kinds of formal communication from state and federal agencies. But the United States Geological Survey doesn't reach out very often. It brightened my day on August 17th when staff from the Board on Geographic Names notified the Town that Bumblebee Brook was formally recorded and officially named. It felt like an old-fashioned discovery! A petition effort led by Shelburne's schoolchildren achieved this naming. It celebrates the pollinator species we all depend on.

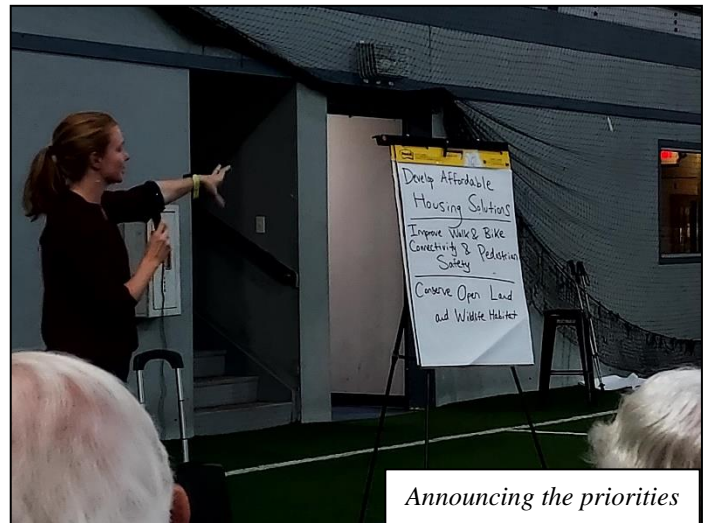
Shelburne Forward Together

In July, the community gathered to brainstorm ideas on how to enhance quality of life in town. In Part 2 of this Rural Development community organizing effort, over 150 residents came out to the field house. Through discussion and two rounds of voting, we arrived at three top priorities:

- Conserve Open Land & Habitats;
- Affordable Housing Solutions; and
- Improve Walk/Bike Connectivity & Safety

On September 28th another gathering with discuss resources to work on these issues, encourage volunteering, and plan specific actions.

These three priorities are not a surprise, but they need a combined effort to make a greater impact. Complex problems like these can't be solved by the Town staff alone. You can step up and get involved to make a difference in Shelburne.



Announcing the priorities

Notable Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

September 4: Town Office closed for Labor Day

September 14: Planning Commission focuses on sections of new zoning bylaws

September 26: Selectboard focus on trails & paths

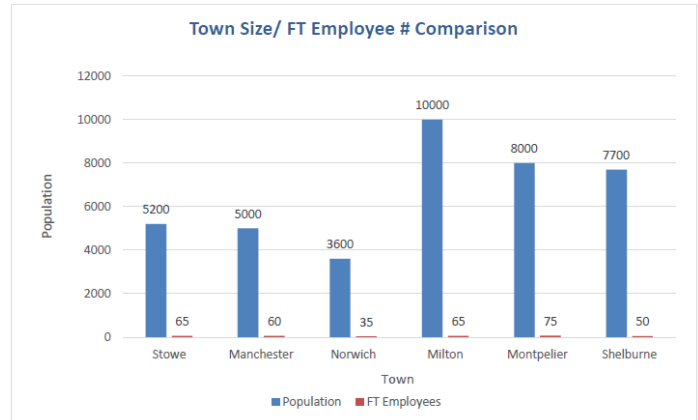
September 28: Community Visit finale

Key Performance Indicators: Benchmarking

A pair of charts caught my attention recently. They provide important context for Town budgeting and understanding what we can and cannot achieve as a community. Among the 20 largest cities and towns in Vermont, Shelburne has the highest property value per capita. This can help the Town provide services with a relatively lower tax rate. Yet the Town of Shelburne workforce is smaller than that of other towns with smaller populations, like Manchester and Stowe. Low staffing reduces the level of services we can provide.

Table 4. Miles of Class 1 TH vs Grand List/Population*

#	Municipality	2020 Population	2023 Equalized Municipal Property Value	Property Value / Population	Miles of Class 1 TH
1	Shelburne	7,682	\$2,112,226,900	\$274,957.94	0
2	Williston	9,980	\$2,729,616,400	\$273,508.66	0
3	South Burlington	20,042	\$4,367,506,300	\$217,917.69	2.3
4	Colchester	17,547	\$3,055,164,400	\$174,113.20	0
5	Hartford	10,604	\$1,828,213,600	\$172,407.92	1.7
6	Essex Town	21,851	\$3,480,621,100	\$159,288.87	0
7	Montpelier	7,966	\$1,168,881,300	\$146,733.78	10.5
8	Milton	10,688	\$1,493,043,200	\$139,693.41	0
9	Burlington	44,703	\$6,084,896,700	\$136,118.31	7.1
10	Middlebury	9,029	\$1,170,724,000	\$129,662.64	3.9
11	Barre Town	7,848	\$961,453,600	\$122,509.38	0
12	Essex Junction	10,473	\$1,200,000,000	\$114,580.35	5.0
13	St. Albans City	6,866	\$781,700,500	\$113,850.93	4.3
14	Brattleboro	12,187	\$1,368,427,600	\$112,285.85	6.4
15	Winooski	8,015	\$857,725,100	\$107,014.98	2.0
16	Bennington	15,345	\$1,254,561,200	\$81,757.00	3.6
17	St. Johnsbury	7,403	\$588,663,000	\$79,516.82	4.7
18	Rutland City	15,934	\$1,210,218,000	\$75,951.93	6.0
19	Springfield	9,089	\$654,915,200	\$72,055.80	2.9
20	Barre City	8,514	\$607,299,400	\$71,329.50	5.5



Our local government is primarily a team of public servants. In order to provide the high level of services residents expect, the Town will need to add staff. In preparing next year's budget, I will study workloads and identify the services where improved staffing will do the most good.



Demonstration project in progress on Spear Street

New, temporary bike lanes! Spear Street shows off some new ideas for safer ways to walk, run, or bike. The pop-up is a project of volunteers, the Local Motion nonprofit, and Town staff. Try it and take the survey before September 10th !

Pierson Library's public EV charger in use



New to the Team

Susan Elliot joins the office as Assistant to the Town Manager. She brings a wealth of Vermont public service experience, notably with the Congressional offices of Howard Dean and Peter Welch. Stop by and say hello!



Susan Elliot at Crater Lake

Join In!

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