



Town of Shelburne, Vermont

CHARTERED 1763

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Town Manager's Report: April 2024

From the desk of Matt Lawless



Selectboard Strategy

The Selectboard held a special all-day meeting on a beautiful Saturday in April. The board felt highly motivated to set priorities and strategy, and they welcomed the perspective of Chunka Mui, who took office in March. Studying financial trends, state law, and they own diverse viewpoints, they found agreement on an overall vision and several specific goals. This strategic plan will guide staff work in the coming year. Such cohesive, focused leadership makes all of the Town's work more effective. Stay tuned for frequent progress updates on the board's top priorities!



Board strategy 2024

Great Eclipse!

Shelburne's community came together and hosted thousands of visitors from around the world, as Vermont enjoyed the total eclipse of 2024. Many local businesses sold out their ticketed events, and the Town's own block party with Shelburne Athletic Club was a hit. Town staff across departments worked together to make it a special day, from Jimmie Mack and the dispatchers providing information to Michael Hibben and the library team moving out to the ball fields. There were no health and safety problems, and we shared a magical moment. We can also build on this success with more community celebrations and partnerships!

Thanks to everyone who came together for this special day in Shelburne!



Notable Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

- May 1:** No Mow May begins. Protect pollinators!
- May 4:** Green Up Day
- May 14:** Selectboard focus on utility budgets
- May 18:** Farmers Market launches on the Parade
- May 27:** Memorial Day holiday

Next Generation of Leadership

Come July, Shelburne and Vermont will welcome Allison “Fredri” Hayes to the community of professional local government management. The Selectboard approved funding for a new staff position focused on grants, project management, and community engagement. These goals align perfectly with a fellowship run through the International City/County Management Association. I served in such a role in Virginia, ten years ago, learning the ropes in one community before leading in another. Ms. Hayes will do the same. She is a recent Masters graduate of the University of Arkansas, the captain of their rugby team and a strong advocate for bipartisan, efficient public policy. She advanced through a highly competitive placement process to make a match with Shelburne. Her work will touch multiple departments, committees, and partner agencies. It’s good news!

What’s new around town



Fredri Hayes (bottom left) on the pitch



Supplemental Funding

I appreciated that the Selectboard took swift action to fund their strategic priorities. In my experience, the budget truly communicates the values. Shelburne’s charter enables budget adjustments in the fourth quarter of the year, so savings in one area convert to action others. Among other things, the board voted to:

- Improve community outreach: contract for help with newsletters, graphics, and media.
- Build our team: full-time Paramedics start before July 1.
- Use technology for transparency: digitize all ordinances for easier online reference.
- Uphold public safety: modernize police equipment to match the State Police.
- Partner for the environment: support the Marshall Woods reforestation at Shelburne Farms.



Marshall Webb in the woods

What We Believe in Shelburne

This word cloud comes from the Selectboard’s planning, combined with Shelburne Forward Together.

Vision for Shelburne

Shelburne is a beautiful, cohesive community with a bright future and outstanding quality of life. We enjoy our walkable village and scenic rural area. Our local economy is growing, and a network of paths unifies our natural environment. A diverse community flourishes with strong partnerships. We listen, plan carefully, and take bold action to sustain our healthy town.

