



Town of Shelburne, Vermont

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Town Manager's Report: May 2024

From the desk of Matt Lawless



Spring!

Shelburne's beautiful springtime has fun for everyone, and great opportunities to appreciate our environment.

The Selectboard made two springtime declarations at recent meetings. An Arbor Day resolution spoke to the value of trees all over town, from village streets to protected forests. And a vote to observe No Mow May highlighted the importance of longer grass and meadows for pollinating insects. Every little of habitat helps.



Meadow and friends at Shelburne Farms

Idea for Community Solar Panels

The Town spends serious money on electric bills for all our buildings, lights, and motors. The Climate & Energy Committee explored the idea of saving money and helping the environment by placing solar panels on Town land. The Selectboard endorsed the preferred site of about an acre behind the post office –no conflict with the walking paths or sledding hill. Design work will continue, with lots of details still to be figured out. It's an exciting idea!

Notable Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

- June 4:** Staff & volunteer meeting on team culture
- June 7:** First Friday at Shelburne Museum (free!)
- June 19:** office closed for Juneteenth holiday
- June 20:** Back to the Beach party for staff & community, dedicating the new beachhouse!



Fire Department Practice

It was an honor and privilege to join the volunteer firefighters at an active training on their Rice Lumber site. They use the lot, some modified shipping containers, and other equipment to practice their teamwork and lifesaving skills. In this photo, they have simulated a house fire and work through a rapid response. There's a real fire burning inside the steel box!

They used all of their vehicles and had about 20 volunteers on the scene. The roster is a dedicated group with impressive skills, from new recruits to long-serving veterans.



What's new around town



Big Birds

Biking around town, I see all kinds of wildlife. A flock of turkeys caught my eye from Spear Street the other day. They like the mixed habitats of Shelburne and are a good example of creatures we can encourage with minor changes to our landscaping: give them a wide variety of grasses and trees for foraging and shelter.



Market Season

The farmers market starts in May every year, with a great mix of vendors from all over the region. It's a fine start to a weekend in Shelburne, shopping at the market and continuing all around town to our other shops, parks, and trails.



\$2 Bus Rides

GMT fares are back, but the app makes it easy to plan a trip! For the farmers market, museum, and other spots around town, the bus works.



New at the Museum

Shelburne Museum is a community treasure with something for everyone. Their latest exhibit is new art from around New England, with some surreal and spooky energy. I love it!

Town employees have free admission to the museum and are welcome there any time. A stroll around the grounds or quick look in the galleries makes a nice change of pace, on a lunch break or after work. Try it!

Emilie Stark-Menneg, Iris Spring, 2022