



Town of Shelburne, Vermont

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Town Manager Report: November 2024



From the desk of Matt Lawless

Winter Lights

Shelburne Museum and the Town team worked together to expand Winter Lights this year. Shelburne is twinkling and welcomes everyone for the holidays.

A state grant paid for extra lights around town. And the museum generously invited the Town team to the preview night for Winter Lights. Our staff and families enjoyed some beautiful time outdoors together.



Ticonderoga credit Shelburne Museum



Santa Claus is coming to town

December 6th is the big day! Lighting the tree on the Town Green signals Santa Claus to visit Shelburne's children. We will have community caroling at 5:30pm, then light the tree at 6pm that Friday evening. Town Hall and the library will host more festive music, decorations, and crafts.

This is great team effort among Town departments, with sponsorship by Associates in Orthodontics.

Notable Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

December 6: Tree Lighting and Santa's visit

December 10: Regular Selectboard meeting

December 17: Special Selectboard meeting

Dec. 24: board meeting cancelled

Dec. 25: offices closed for Christmas Day

Holiday Scheduling

Many Town staff take vacation through the holidays, and the pace of our work slows for some. Other staff remain ready and on call for emergency work, from snow storms to frozen pipes.

December 25 and January 1 are Town holidays. Town Offices are closed to the public on Dec. 24, 25, and January 1. Staff may use leave on the 24ths, or catch up in a quiet office.



What's new around town



Completing construction season, thanking our teams
 Two important construction projects finished on time in November. These were both much anticipated efforts, and neighbors came out to thank our team and celebrate the improvements.

Hullcrest Park has a new playground. It's bigger and has new ways to play, including accessible features for everyone to enjoy. The bike and pedestrian bridge at Irish Hill and Falls Road provides a beautiful connection to the village. Both of these projects employed local contractors and used grant funding to minimize the burden upon Town taxpayers. Congratulations to everyone involved!

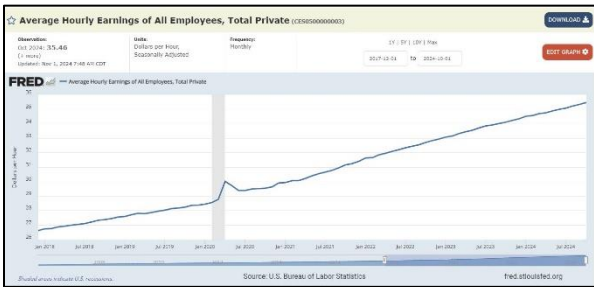


Bridge dedication by Patrick Bilow, playground dedication by Fredi Hayes



Well organized labor, well organized budget
 The Town's AFSCME union contract has a formula for annual raises. This helps us keep up with inflation, budget in a predictable way, and avoid disputes. The formula uses October inflation data for the New England region. In 2024, regional inflation was a little higher than 2023, but lower than 2022 and 2021.

AFSCME members will receive 4% raises effective July 1. I believe that parity for non-union employees is important, and the Town's recommended budget has the same 4% figure for non-union staff.



Good news on grants
 Do you have a bicycle on your Christmas shopping list? We do, thanks to some recent grants awards. Three bits of good news came through recently. The Town won:

- **\$73,000** for vehicle electrification, to buy three e-bikes for the library and our first fleet EV pickup
- **\$200,000** to construct stormwater improvements, improving the health of impaired streams
- **\$700,000** for affordable housing construction, passed through to Champlain Housing Trust's active project at Bay Ridge, where the first of 94 homes will be completed in 2025