



Town of Shelburne, Vermont

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Town Manager Report: March 2025



From the desk of Matt Lawless

Town Meeting

On March 3 Shelburne's community will gather for the 237th Town Meeting. A New England tradition, it remains the best day to learn local civics, have a voice in the community's future, and meet fellow residents. Please join us at the Community School! Dinner is at 5pm, then the meeting convenes at 7pm. The election is the next day, Tuesday.



What to expect on Town Meeting

- A dinner by Cucina Antina.
- Girl Scout cookies.
- Meet over 100 neighbors and public servants.
- Learn about volunteer opportunities.
- An elected moderator to run the main meeting.
- Live voting on specific questions.
- Discussion about the schools' and Town budget.
- A printed handbook with all the details.
- Your welcome into Vermont tradition
- Come and join us on Monday night!

State Legislators at work

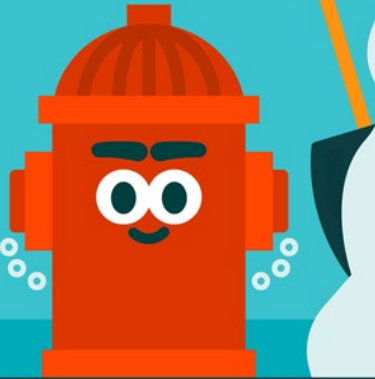
Vermont's legislative session is near its halfway point, and Shelburne's members are hard at work. They hold monthly updates at the library to share progress and hear from residents. They'll also attend Town Meeting and discuss issues over dinner in small groups. Your voice makes a difference, so keep in touch and share your perspective at every opportunity!

Notable Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

- March 3:** Town Meeting
- March 4:** Local elections
- March 11, 25:** Regular Selectboard meetings
- March 25:** JRR Tolkein Day (library events)
- All month:** sign up for spring and summer Rec!

What's new around town

Fire hydrants are fire safety



Every minute you spend clearing a hydrant is one less minute a fire can burn freely. #AdoptAHydrant

Take
care.

Adopt a Hydrant

Heavy snows have some surprising knock-on effects on public services. Risk of house fires increases in deep cold. What happens when fire hydrants are covered by snow? The fire response is harder and more dangerous.

If you have a fire hydrant on or near your property, consider adopting it. All it takes is to clear three feet around the hydrant. Just a little more shoveling after your driveway is done, could save your house or your neighbor's.

Those vertical rods attached to our hydrants are so they can be seen in deep snow. Volunteer firefighters shoveling snow during a fire is not the best time! So consider adopting your local fire hydrant.

Photo by Take Care Tahoe



Photo by Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Live Staking for spring

[Shelburne News ran an op-ed of mine](#), mostly unrelated to management. I've enjoyed volunteering with nature groups and sharing an easy way to improve wetland habitats. Many water-loving tree species have the ability to root from a simple cutting. So the technique of "live staking," almost a simple as a stick in the mud, can create new trees like willow and birch. The tail end of winter is a good time to do this, when plants are still dormant, so I'll be out in the swamp soon, enjoying a productive walk.

Honoring Al Fortin

The February 10 funeral of Allen Fortin brought together hundreds of family, friends, and colleagues in public safety. From all around Vermont, a procession of police vehicles escorted the hearse to the family church in Hinesburg. Many of the Town's current and retired staff came together to honor his memory.

Al's public service included work for Shelburne from 1989 to 2018, retiring as a lieutenant. He also served in the army, and worked as a lieutenant for the the sheriff's office until his death. His work saved and improved many lives, especially through his commitment to traffic safety. We extend our love and support to his family in their grief.



Photo by Lee Krohn