



Town of Shelburne, Vermont

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Town Manager Report: October 2025



From the desk of Matt Lawless

Celebrating a new neighborhood

Shelburne had some great news in September! We welcomed Sen. Peter Welch, Rep. Becca Balint, and many other guests to cut the ribbon dedicating Bay Ridge, our newest small neighborhood. Champlain Housing Trust and Evernorth redeveloped the former Econo Lodge has 94 new homes into a mix of townhouses and apartments. Construction used many different funding sources, including a waiver of some Town fees and grants that we supported. Some of the new residents already work in Shelburne and can now live closer to work. It was proud day marking the completion of a long project, and we will see the benefits of Bay Ridge for many years to come.



Labor Partnership

Shelburne has a proud tradition of organized labor contributing to excellence in the community. The Town's staff has representation from two unions, and both contracts are entering negotiations to update and improve the partnership. On both sides, a lot of work goes into the bargaining process, and the results connect to the annual budget.



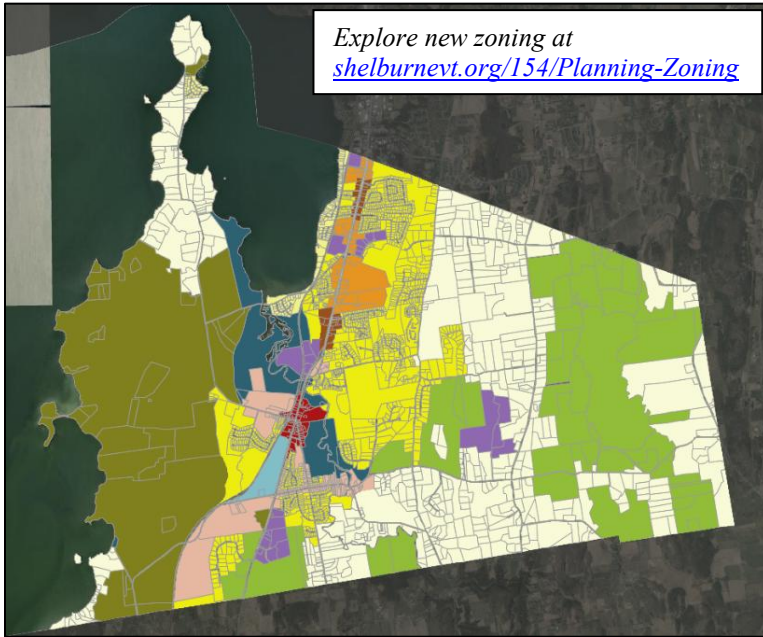
Bond vote passes

By a vote of the 671-111, the community voted to re-certify a set of project bonds. From the pedestrian bridge and beach house to an ambulance and dump truck, these projects were all approved at previous town meetings. But procedural errors required a do-over. Our routines have improved to prevent this from happening again, and we can secure the low-interest, long-term funding for these projects. The Selectboard and staff appreciate the community's support.



Notable Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

- October 12:** Hi, Neighbor event at Harrington
- October 11:** Fire dept. pancake breakfast
- October 18:** Community heritage potluck
- October 28:** Selectboard focus on budget
- October 26:** Halloween parade and events

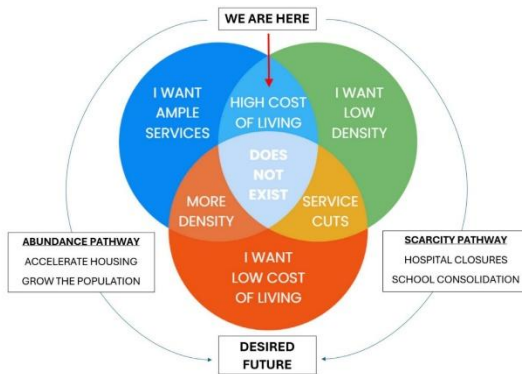


What's new around town

Zoning update heads to Selectboard

Another big achievement by our staff and volunteers in September, was the Planning Commission's final vote to recommend a new zoning bylaw. This concludes a long process of research and community discussion. The Selectboard will now hold more public hearings and consider final passage of the new zoning.

The new bylaws support Shelburne's goals for high quality, sustainable development and are easier for the public to use. They meet and exceed new Vermont requirements related to housing and environmental protection.



Budget process

Each Selectboard meeting through the next several months will include some attention to the Town's budget process. Budget planning goes in advance of Town Meeting in March. The budget is how we set priorities and invest in the future of Shelburne. As in previous years, the trends of inflation and cost of living contend with our desire to improve our public services. We have opportunities to innovate, but budgeting also requires choices about where to invest more and where to cut back. All staff are involved in ideas for the budget, and all input is welcome from residents and businesses.

Advancing grants

The Town has great potential to do more with grants funding for our community projects. So we're proud to welcome to the team our new Grants Administrator, Gillian Nanton! Gillian brings outstanding experience from a decade of service in Burlington's office of Community and Economic Development, with prior public service at the United Nations Development Program. She holds graduate degrees from both the USA and Jamaica. From public safety and workforce housing to parks and the natural environment, she will help achieve the Town's goals. Please meet Gillian soon and consider the opportunities!

Global partnership

Here's welcoming and introducing Han Nguyen! Shelburne is fortunate to help host a professional fellow funded through the US State Department. It's called the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative. Han works for Vietnam National Broadcaster in Hanoi and holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from France, Australia and the United Kingdom. For the month of October, Han will help with community outreach and project support around the Town. Say hello and share the best of Vermont with him this fall!