



Town of Shelburne, Vermont

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Town Manager Report: January 2026



From the desk of Matt Lawless

Staff Promotions

Outstanding Town employees stepped up to fill two critical roles. I'm proud of their career growth with the Town.

Patricia Carpenter took on the new role of Deputy Town Manager. This provides stronger succession and emergency leadership to the Town. It also strengthens project management and financial efficiency as the Town undertakes major efforts of infrastructure development.

Joshua Flore is our new Police Chief. Over 30 years' experience in Shelburne provide him strong credentials and outstanding community relationships. He will continue to strive for the efficient, effective, and ethical public safety which Shelburne expects.



Fire Department Promotions

Shelburne Fire Department has an outstanding roster of volunteers. They recently made four promotions in the command team:

- Captain Ben Rivard**
- Captain Zander Preis**
- Lieutenant Garrett Gruendling**
- Lieutenant Charles Jones**

The department responds to over 300 emergencies per year. They are trained and equipped brush fires, water and ice rescue, highway crashes, hazardous materials, structure fires, and more. The four promoted fire officers hold top qualifications both in fire service (from technical rescue to boat operations) and in their day jobs (from nursing to sailing). The spirit of volunteerism is alive and well.



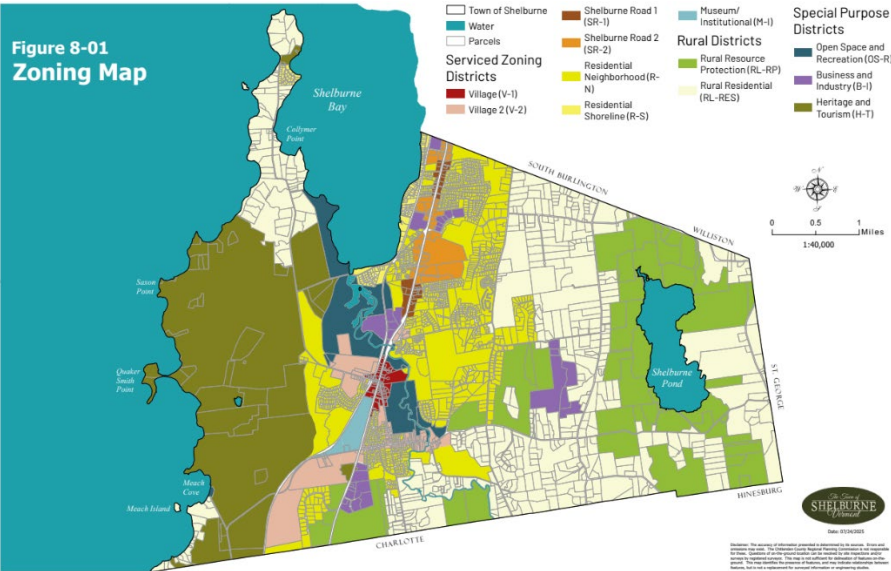
Town Meeting preview

Shelburne's democratic tradition continues strong. Town Meeting this year follows the recent format. The community meeting on Monday night includes dinner and is a great way to meet neighbors and learn about the services in our community, even how to volunteer.

Local elections are on Tuesday, March 3, with several options for early voting. There are local offices on the ballot, and the budget and debt projects for both the Town government and the school district. Please get involved and participate. Your voice and vote matter!

Notable Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

- February 10:** Regular Selectboard meeting
- Feb. 12:** joint Selectboard-Planning Comm.
- February 16:** Offices closed for Presidents Day
- March 2:** informational Town Meeting
- March 3:** local elections



Curious what the new zoning means for your property? Just ask our staff!

What's new around town

Zoning update complete

After a three-year public process, the Selectboard adopted the updated Unified Land Use Regulations. It's the first such rewrite since the original zoning of 1963.

The new regulations advance the Town's strategic goals. At the board meeting, Planning Commission chair Steve Kendall said, "We accomplished a lot of our goals. We've done a really good thing here for the town. Making it consistent with state laws, balance and moderation: economic development, housing, bike-ped., conservation."



ExperienceShelburne.org

Experience Shelburne was established to guide community and economic development with community input. Together, we strengthen quality of life while preserving what makes our town special—engaging residents, businesses, and visitors to experience and contribute to the best of Shelburne.

Recently a series of community meetings shared its mission, first-year progress, and plans for nurturing Shelburne's future.

A new website shares the energy of this effort and ways that you can learn more and get involved.

Farmers Market

Sarah Stillman continues as an outstanding market manager, now with support from more new volunteers in community and economic development. You can join them on market day! Local food is a big part of Shelburne's history, identity, and future. This is the bedrock of community & economic development: creating health and wealth among neighbors. Old and new businesses can grow to meet our needs.

The winter market is still happening every Saturday at Town Hall, and vendor registration is open for the summer market. Learn more at experienceshelburne.org/market-vendors.html

Volunteering Together

Vermont community depends on volunteerism. From established institutions like the volunteer Fire Department to new efforts like Experience Shelburne, we have many ways to get involved, make a difference, and meet neighbors in a new way. Our work of public service is better when we share it!

There are always opportunities to step up and serve. But this is the time of year when we take applications for expiring terms on many of our committees. To learn more, stop by the town office or send a message to our staff.