

SECTION 8

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following Goals and Objectives were formulated from the results of an Open Community Visioning Forum held October 24, 2012, a town wide Open Space and Recreation Planning Survey distributed by mail and available on-line in January 2013, and extensive discussions with Town boards and committees summer-fall 2013.

To start the goal setting process, over 60 Shelburne residents gathered at a Visioning Forum to identify issues of concern as well as possible solutions. This information was used by the Open Space/Recreation Plan Update Sub-committee to create a survey that was mailed to over 860 Shelburne households. 339 responses were received---close to 1/3 of all the town's households. (see appendix xx)

Although the responses may not reflect the opinions of all residents, they do represent a significant source of community input that was used to identify the open space and recreation resources most important to Shelburne residents. While the responses to the survey revealed there is overwhelming citizen support for the maintenance of Shelburne's rural, small town and agricultural character, the ideas and strategies to achieve this are wide-ranging and disparate. Therefore, further analysis of the survey results was conducted by Town boards including the Select Board, Agricultural Commission, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Recreation Committee, and Open Space Committee which then formulated draft action plans to address the goals and objectives identified. These goals, objectives and action plans were edited and codified by the Open Space and Recreation Plan planning committee, with final review by Boards and in an Open Space Committee discussion forum with representatives from many Town Boards and Committees/Commissions participating.

GOALS

- I. **Ensure that the Town of Shelburne sustains its rural, agricultural, historic, and small town character.**

Objectives

1. Promote and support farming, forest management, and land resource-based businesses.
2. Pursue strategies to protect land with significant agricultural, open space, historic and/or natural resource value from development.

3. Identify and promote protection of culturally and historically significant landscapes, features, and structures.
4. Identify and promote policies and strategies that ensure economic and residential development that protects the rural character and natural resources of the Town.
5. Develop sources of revenue to fund conservation and natural resource protection.

II. Ensure that the Town of Shelburne maintains and improves the quality of its significant natural resources including: rivers, ponds, streams, aquifers, and wetlands; drinking water supplies; clean air; native wildlife populations and plant communities.

Objectives

1. Work to promote watershed-wide planning and water quality protection initiatives to conserve and protect waterways, aquifers, and public and private drinking water supplies.
2. Identify, prioritize, and protect important natural habitats, wildlife corridors, and other significant natural resources in Shelburne, giving special attention to those that expand and/or enhance existing protected lands, both in town and in the region.

III. Ensure that the Town of Shelburne maintains and improves the quality, quantity, and accessibility of its recreational resources to best serve the needs of its residents.

Objectives

1. Maintain the quality of current programs and facilities.
2. Expand recreational opportunities and accessibility for Shelburne residents of all age groups.
3. Increase awareness of recreational opportunities in the greater Shelburne area.