

Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Implementation Grant Application Form

Fiscal Year 2021

Please do not reformat this form – use the fillable pdf form

Please print double-sided

Please fasten application package with a binder clip, no three-ring or plastic binders!

-
1. **Municipality or Municipalities:** __Town of Shelburne_____
 2. **Project Name:** __*Continue Hiking Trail Development in Shelburne*_____
 3. **Contact Person:**__ Terry J. Narkewicz, Town Administrator

Address: __51 Bridge Street,

_____ Shelburne Falls

Zip: __01370 , MA _____

Telephone: __ (413) 625-0300 _____

Email: __ townadmin@TOWNOFSHELURNEMA.GOV _____

Please note: the contact person is the official representative for this project, usually not the chief municipal officer.

4. **Briefly describe the project and tasks planned to complete the project on TWO or less attached pages.** Use the Evaluation Criteria as an outline for the description to ensure the maximum score possible for your project. Also explain how the site will be maintained (if appropriate for the project type) or next steps the municipality plans to take once this grant is completed based on the completed project. (how will the project help further projects that meet the MTWP goals).

Grant Description

Alignment with Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership Goals

The Town of Shelburne is a founding member of the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership and is committed to the goals of the Partnership. This project, to continue to develop hiking trails in Shelburne, will continue the work begun under the first MTWP round of implementation grants. The project will further the goals of the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership to increase economic development related to sustainable forestry and natural resource-based tourism in the municipalities. The proposed trail work, when completed, will directly link the village of Shelburne Falls economic area with the forested areas along the Deerfield River, encouraging visitors to Shelburne Falls to explore the natural resources areas along the river, on Mt Massaemett and on Greenfield Mountain.

Tasks in this proposal outlined under "Project Definition" suitable for funding include:

- Completion of studies or implementation projects, such as signage, tourism facilities or woods roads or trail repairs, to support natural resource-based tourism related to hiking, bicycling, rafting, hunting, fishing or other outdoor recreational activities;
- Completion of studies or implementation projects, such as educational exhibits about sustainable forestry to support local sustainable forestry projects or natural resource-based tourism;
- Design, planning or other activities to prepare the community to apply for other grants or funding to further the MTWP goals;

Background

The Mahican-Mohawk Trail is recognized as a significant statewide long distance trail in *Commonwealth Connections, a Greenway Vision for Massachusetts*. Trail work in Shelburne helps advance the recommendation to, "Protect and promote long-distance trail corridors as primary spines of the Massachusetts Greenway and Trail System." Today, approximately 30 miles of the planned trail are open in Massachusetts on a former rail corridor, woodland path, and rural roads. In addition, another 10 miles can be paddled as a water trail on the Deerfield River. Although primarily envisioned as a hiking trail, different segments are also appropriate for biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, and paddling.

Using Town and DCR funds, The Shelburne Open Space Committee has completed an extensive trail assessment of a segment of the Mahican-Mohawk Trail from Wilcox Hollow to Deerfield Avenue, primarily on Town-owned land. (The feasibility study was completed in December 2019 by Josh Ryan of Timber and Stone LLC, and is available for review in the offices of the Franklin Land Trust.) Currently, using MTWP Implementation Grant funds from Round I, the Town is working with an engineering firm to conduct a geotechnical assessment that may include borings to obtain additional geotechnical information about steep, wet, fill slope portions of the proposed trail route, primarily on town property. The first part of this evaluation will determine feasibility of completing the connection with Deerfield Avenue, and assess and evaluate the stability of slopes above and at the proposed trail location, with the goal of eventually completing an elevated walkway at the Deerfield Avenue end of the trail. The OSC has obtained permission from landowners to conduct an assessment, and borings on their land, if necessary.

In addition, the Open Space Committee has been working on developing and maintaining other trails in town, including further public access to woodlands on Mt Massaemett via the Tower Trail and the Ridge Trail, and the Wooded Loop trails on Greenfield Mountain. This has included constructing new trails, enhanced signage, educational interpretative panels, and clearing of brush and invasive species which will continue under the proposed grant.

Public Participation and Alignment with Town Goals

In 2013 the Open Space Committee conducted a survey of Shelburne residents. Results demonstrated strong town support for additional hiking trails from the village. The Mahican-Mohawk Trail, the Tower Trail, the Ridge Trail, and the Wooded Loop Trail system of trails provide local hiking opportunities. The development of these trail sections expands the town's trail network, and also enhances the area's recreational opportunities. The proposed Shelburne Falls trail connection was identified and recommended as part of the *Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Plan (2014)*. (See plan on file at DCR and Town Office or on Shelburne Open Space Web page at

<https://www.townofshelburne.com/g/47/Open-Space-Committee>)

Relevant Shelburne OSRP Section 9 Action Plan Items:

- Goal 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.
 - 2. Expand recreational opportunities and accessibility for Shelburne residents of all age groups.
 - C. Develop an action plan for improvement, expansion, and maintenance of current and future public hiking/skiing/snowshoeing/snowmobiling trails.
 - D. Look at feasibility of developing hiking trails that originate in the village.
 - J. Explore options for a public park/picnic area in town.

Completion of the design and engineering work under this grant will position the town to apply for a DCR recreational Trails Grant in 2021 to complete construction of this Mahican-Mohawk Trail segment.

Project Tasks

Findings from engineering studies conducted under MTWP Grant 1 will determine the exact task list and completion timetable for this grant.

Task 1: Engineering Design

Continue explorations of Deerfield Ave end of M-M Trail with Guntlow Assoc. Wetlands delineation, topographical survey, and structural design with detail plans of trail crossing

Task 2: Wetlands permitting

MA DEP application for proposed trail work not exempted including MESA and NHESP mapped areas.

Task 3: Property Survey of trail route from Deerfield Ave to end of town land

Survey of proposed trail route from Mill St through to town land in preparation for Zoning Board approval and easement acquisition.

Task 4: Clear invasive species on trail route from Deerfield Ave to end of town land

Clear invasive plant species from MM trail route and other trails as necessary. (Primarily dense infestations of Japanese Knotweed and Japanese Barberry)

Task 5: Trail kiosk and signs

Identify locations and install trailhead kiosk, trail directional signs, tree identification signs, and interpretive sign on climate change and forest health on Shelburne Trails

Task 6: Grant Administration

Budget and Local Match

	Local in-kind match	Grant Funds
Task 1: Continue engineering design of M-M Trail explorations with Guntlow Assoc proposal part 2B wetlands delineation, topographical survey and design		\$10,000
OSC, Rec Comm labor 3 staff 10 hrs @ \$50/hr	\$1,500	
Task 2: Wetlands permitting by Guntlow Assoc proposal Part 3		\$3,500
OSC, Rec Comm labor 3 staff 8 hrs @ \$50/hr	\$1,200	
Task 3: Property survey of trail route from Deerfield Ave to end of town land		\$2,000
OSC, Rec Comm labor 3 staff 5 hrs @ \$50/hr	\$750	
Task 4: Clearing of invasive species from trail route and on town land		\$2,000
12 hrs 10 volunteers labor @ \$30/hr	\$3,600	
Task 5: Trail kiosk and signs graphic design and materials		\$1,000
15 hrs 2 staff @ \$50/hr	\$1,500	
Task 6: Grant Administration		\$1,500
10 hrs 2 staff OSC labor @50/hr	\$1,000	
Project Total	\$9,550	\$20,000

These trail projects are widely supported by Town and area groups. Letters of support are attached from: Select Board to Bob O'Connor; Vote of the Select Board endorsing grant; Franklin Land Trust; Franklin Regional Council of Governments; Shelburne Open Space Committee; Shelburne Recreation Committee; Deerfield River Watershed Association; and the Greater Shelburne Falls Business Association.

Town of Shelburne
Office of the Select Board

51 Bridge Street
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
Townadmin@townofshelburnema.gov

June 17, 2020

Mr. Robert O'Connor
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Implementation Grant

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

At its meeting on June 17, 2020, the Shelburne Select Board voted to provide a letter of support and approve the grant proposal to the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership to continue engineering studies needed to develop the Deerfield Avenue end of the Mahican-Mohawk Trail, and to further educational and directional signage on hiking trails in Shelburne.

Thank you for your consideration.



Matthew Marchese, Chair
Shelburne Select Board

Town of Shelburne

Office of the Select Board

51 Bridge Street
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
Townadmin@townofshelburnema.gov

June 17, 2020

Mr. Robert O'Connor
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Implementation Grant for Shelburne Trail Development

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

The Town of Shelburne is pleased to submit this application and a letter of support for a Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership grant to further engineering work on the Mahican-Mohawk Trail and trail development in Shelburne.

This project will support local and regional recreational tourism efforts that is a key goal of the MTWP. Visitors to Shelburne Falls are critical to supporting the retail stores, restaurants and Bed & Breakfast establishments in the village and the MTWP region. Trail development projects were identified in Shelburne's Open Space & Recreation Plan and will build upon planning and design work completed under a 2018 DCR Mass Trails grant and Round I MTWP Implementation grant. The engineering work in this grant will also lay the groundwork for a DCR Recreational Trails grant for 2021.

We look forward to advancing trail development on the Mahican-Mohawk Trail and on Mt Massemet and Greenfield Mountain with your assistance.

Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,



Matthew Marchese, Chair
Shelburne Select Board



June 10, 2020

Mr. Robert O'Connor
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Implementation Grants

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) enthusiastically supports the Town of Shelburne's application to the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership for funding to develop a segment of trail that will connect the Mahican-Mohawk Trail to the village of Shelburne Falls. This project will create a valuable trail connection within the community of Shelburne, and also establish a link to a regionally significant trail. The Mahican-Mohawk Trail is recognized as a significant statewide long distance trail in *Commonwealth Connections*, the Massachusetts statewide greenway plan.

The construction of the trail connection supports the work of the Mahican-Mohawk Trail Committee to develop a 100-mile trail from the Connecticut River in Massachusetts to the Hudson River in New York State. The FRCOG has worked with the Mahican-Mohawk Trail Committee to assist in the development of the trail, facilitate the maintenance of the existing trail sections, and promote the use of the trail. In 2018, the FRCOG, working with the Franklin Land Trust (FLT) and with the support of the Shelburne Open Space Committee, was awarded a MassTrails grant to complete an assessment and design for a connection from the existing FLT trailhead on Route 2 to the village of Shelburne Falls. The trail design work is completed, and this project is a recommendation of the trail assessment.

While the Mahican-Mohawk Trail is a significant long distance trail, this section will provide a local hiking opportunity. The proposed trail connection will create a new, highly visible section of the trail that will be accessible to the residents of the village of Shelburne Falls. The development of this trail section also expands the town's trail network, and also enhances the area's recreational opportunities. This project further supports the FRCOG's work to enhance livability and encourage healthy lifestyles by encouraging resident to walk more. The new trail section will be accessible from the existing sidewalk network on South Maple Street within the village of Shelburne Falls.

I urge you to approve this request for funding through the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership for engineering work to develop this valuable local and regional recreational resource. Thank you for your support of this very important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth Giannini".

Elizabeth A. Giannini, AICP
Senior Transportation Planner II





P.O. Box 450
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
(413) 625-9151 Executive Director
(413) 625-9152 Donor Services
www.franklinlandtrust.org

Officers:

*Paul Cooper, President
(Hawley)*
*Thomas Luck, Vice President
(Leyden)*
*Jaap Molinar, Treasurer
(Deerfield)*
*Barbara Miller, Clerk
(Ashfield)*

Board of Directors:

Tony Borton (Conway)
Jan Carr (Heath)
Nina Coler (Ashfield)
Lloyd Crawford (Hawley)
Ruah Donnelly (Conway)
Olaf Thorp, (Boston)

Staff:

Thomas S. Curren
Executive Director

Conservation and Stewardship
Alain Peteroy
Director of Land Conservation
Emily Boss
Land Protection Specialist
William Sloan Anderson
Head Land Steward

Fundraising and Outreach
Mary Lynn Sabourin, CFRE
Director of Philanthropy
Melissa Patterson
*Director of Community
Outreach & Education*
Linda Alvord
Administrative Assistant
Marie Henry
Financial Administrator

Robert O'Connor
MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Implementation Grant Application

6/15/2020

Dear Mr. O'Connor,

The Franklin Land Trust (FLT) fully supports the Town of Shelburne's Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership (MTWP) grant application to Continue Hiking Trail Development in Shelburne on the Mahican Mohawk Trail and other trails maintained by the Shelburne Open Space Committee. FLT is a member of the Friends of the Mahican Mohawk Trail and has been involved with Mahican Mohawk trail efforts since 1997. Additionally, FLT's mission supports the creation and enhancement of recreational trails in Franklin County and surrounding towns.

In 2019, FLT partnered with Franklin Regional Council of Governments, the Shelburne Open Space Committee, the Shelburne Recreation Committee and the Deerfield River Watershed Association to complete an assessment of a potential trail extension that would connect the Mahican Mohawk trail to the center of Shelburne Falls from FLT's Mohawk Trail Conservation Area. The assessment was funded by the Mass Trails grant program and will be used to inform future planning and construction efforts.

The proposed application to Continue Hiking Trail Development in Shelburne would further efforts to make this important trail connection and provide additional signage and stewardship on other trails maintained by the Shelburne Open Space Committee. FLT believes that the proposed Mahican Mohawk trail connection and the enhancement of other trails in Shelburne will address the town of Shelburne's identified need to provide more hiking trails in the village as outlined in the 2014 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

This project supports the goals of the MTWP, specifically to increase economic development related to sustainable forestry and natural resource-based tourism in the MTWP towns. Recreational trails in Shelburne will encourage visitors to Shelburne Falls to explore the natural resources areas along the Deerfield River and forested lands surrounding the town.

FLT is pleased to support the town of Shelburne's application to the MTWP grant program. We look forward to working with our colleagues in advancement of our common objectives to provide more natural resource-based recreational opportunities in the MTWP region.

Sincerely,

Melissa Patterson-Serrill
Director of Community Outreach & Education



DEERFIELD RIVER
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

15 Bank Row, Suite A, Greenfield, MA 01301

June 12, 2020

Mr. Robert O'Connor
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Re: MOHAWK TRAIL WOODLANDS PARTNERSHIP - IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS ENV 21DCS 04
Dated: March 16, 2020

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

The Deerfield River Watershed Association (DRWA), a member of the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership, fully supports the Franklin Regional Council of Government (FRCOG) and Shelburne Open Space Committee in their efforts to improve the Mahican-Mohawk Trail in Franklin County by continuing engineering studies for further trail development and connecting into downtown Shelburne Falls, and their work with private landowners to create and maintain other trails within the Town of Shelburne.

Each year the DRWA allocates approximately \$500 to \$1,000 toward heavy maintenance of the Shelburne and Conway sections of the Mahican-Mohawk Trail and organizes volunteer efforts for trail clearing and public safety. The DRWA has been a long-term advocate for the trail, serves on the Mahican-Mohawk Trail Council, and works in cooperation with numerous public and private parties including landowners, town boards, and several other groups including the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), to help ensure improved trail awareness, mapping, and access along the scenic Deerfield River.

The Deerfield River Watershed Association believes that the proposed projects within its watershed will enhance trail user experience and safety, strengthen a community stewardship ethic, and continue work on a critical extension of the Mahican-Mohawk Trail that will one day could be the most visible and most used trail segment. Support of the Partnership Implementation Grant for these proposed trail projects will solidify and extend the significant accomplishments made on the Mahican-Mohawk trail and other trails to date.

Work on the Mahican-Mohawk Trail and other trails within the Town of Shelburne is consistent with our desire to promote nature-based education and recreation, as well as environmentally responsible economic development of watershed resources. The Deerfield River Watershed Association enthusiastically supports this grant application.

Sincerely,

Jim Perry

President, Deerfield River Watershed Association



75 Bridge Street, P.O. Box 42
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
413-625-2526
info@shelburnefalls.com
www.gsfaba.org
www.shelburnefalls.com

June 14, 2020

Matthew Marchese, Chairman
Shelburne Select Board
51 Bridge Street
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

Dear Matt:

The Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association (GSFABA) enthusiastically supports Shelburne's grant proposal to the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership for the proposed Shelburne Falls River Trail that will connect to and become a part of the Mahican-Mohawk Trail. Support from the Woodlands Partnership will help the Village of Shelburne Falls and surrounding towns in numerous ways.

The Business Association has been working closely with the Open Space and Recreation Committee to raise funding for the new Shelburne Falls River Trail because marketing recreational opportunities is one more way to attract people to Shelburne Falls and improve the overall economy of West County.

At present, the village is known for its quintessential "main street," architecture, and Bridge of Flowers, is recognized as an events and dining destination, and is a cornerstone of the Creative Economy in the state.

With the new River Trail, Shelburne Falls will become part of the region's outdoor recreation economy. Locals and vacationers, who enjoy the outdoors will be drawn the village to hike the new trail along the Deerfield River. Once here, they will likely shop and eat or take advantage of the many services in the village from gas station to laundromat to library. These visitors and vacationers will help businesses on Bridge, State and Conway Streets to prosper and the Towns of Buckland and Shelburne to thrive.¹

Additionally, the new River Trail will add to the trail system in West County and augment the recreational economy that is centered in Charlemont. Together, the two town centers can market West County as an entire vacation package with many things for people to see and do in the area.

The Business Association encourages the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership to support Shelburne's proposal which complements the Business Association's economic development projects in the Village of Shelburne Falls and the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Whit Sanford".

Whit Sanford
Secretary

¹ GSFABA Mission: *strengthen and sustain our region's economy by helping businesses prosper and communities thrive.*

Town of Shelburne

Recreation Committee

51 Bridge Street
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

June 14, 2020

Mr. Robert O'Connor
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Shelburne Falls Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Implementation Grant

Dear Mr. O'Connor,

It is again with great enthusiasm that the Shelburne Recreation Committee writes a letter in support of the grant application filed by the town of Shelburne. This grant application will continue to lay the ground work for construction of a trail joining Deerfield Avenue to town owned land along the Deerfield River. It will allow us to continue the engineering work funded by our previous grant, and cover the permitting and surveying costs needed prior to trail construction.

As mentioned in our previous letter of support, the Shelburne Recreation Committee has long had goals of providing Shelburne residents access to the Deerfield River and of developing a picnic area along the river. Additionally, this project aligns perfectly with the view of town residents as expressed in the 2013 Open Space and Recreation Survey. About two-thirds of the 330 respondents listed "additional hiking trails" and "hiking from the village of Shelburne Falls" as something they "definitely would use" or "might use." (The percentages for "definitely would use" were 44.2% and 37.3% respectively, and for "might use" were 25.9% and 28.6% respectively.) These were the top two choices of the fourteen recreational resources on which residents were asked to weigh in as part of the survey. The third most popular choice was, "picnic/park areas."

In 2019 the town did a feasibility study on extending the Mahican-Mohawk Trail into the village with an access point off Deerfield Avenue (just below the Potholes). The study made clear that parts of extending the Mahican-Mohawk trail to Deerfield Avenue would be expensive. By applying for this grant, the town is committed to making the most expensive part of this trail construction a reality.

The Shelburne Recreation Committee wholeheartedly supports this grant application and once again hopes you will look favorably on this request.

Sincerely,

Norman Beebe, Chair
Shelburne Recreation Committee

Town of Shelburne

Open Space Committee

51 Bridge Street
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

June 17, 2020

Mr. Robert O'Connor
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Shelburne Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Implementation Grant ENV 21DCS 04

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

The Shelburne Open Space Committee voted unanimously to support the MTWP grant application of the Town of Shelburne to continue engineering and trail development work on the Mahican- Mohawk Trail, the Mt Massemet trails and the Wooded Loop Trails in Shelburne.

In 2013, the Open Space Committee conducted a town-wide survey on open space issues. This survey was mailed to over 800 households, and made available to residents online and in public places like town hall and the library. We received 330 completed surveys with overwhelming support for open space issues.

In response to the survey question, "Would you or a family member use the following recreational resources if provided in Shelburne?", 142 respondents (44.2%) said that they "definitely would use" and an additional 83 respondents (25.9%) said they "might use" *Additional hiking trails*. Furthermore, 120 respondents (37.3%) said that they "definitely would use" and 92 respondents (28.6%) "might use" *Hiking from the village of Shelburne Falls*.

As a result of these responses, we included specific action steps in our 2013-20 Open Space and Recreation Plan to further explore and develop trails in the Town. Subsequently we have pursued strategies to conduct engineering studies of how to implement a river trail connecting the village to the existing Mahican-Mohawk Trail, linking it through land owned by the town. In addition, we have continued work on the trails on Mt Massemet and Greenfield Mountain.

To support this project, the Open Space Committee has made a significant commitment of in-kind services and volunteer labor to extend the effectiveness of the grant dollars.

We are pleased to support the grant application to continue this work and hope you will look favorably on the request so that we may work on Shelburne trails so they may offer even greater public access.

Laurence K. Flaccus, Co-chair, Shelburne Open Space Committee,
On behalf of the Shelburne Open Space Committee
cc: Shelburne Select Board