

Town of Shutesbury Community Visioning Workshop

Summary of Boards from Public Workshop #2 (12/5/2016)

Themes

1) Town Facilities (~84 Dots)

Many residents named or voted for measures involving the increased utilization of, or improvements to, existing Town facilities. Specifically, those present felt that the Elementary School could be used more at night and during summers, and that the area behind and on the second floor of the Fire Department offered potential. One individual suggested the Town put together a reference guide so that citizens could know what options are available to them.

Residents also suggested facilities they wished existed. Here, they named a community center, a meeting space, a historical archive, a cultural center, and a library. One individual liked the community complex in Dedham; another suggested that the Town buy "The Ark", a private building that is currently for sale.

2) Town Services (~70 Dots)

Many residents supported sharing fire, police, snow plowing, recycling, dispatch (FedEx, UPS), tax assessment, and a community sewage treatment plant with neighboring towns. Another, but less popular option, was reducing the size of the police force (10 dots). The privatization of services like trash was also named, but did not receive any votes.

3) Open Space (~50 Dots)

Open space was also a popular topic. Here, residents talked about improved access to existing open spaces (both physical access and increased hours of operation), the preservation of existing open space, and the creation of more open space. Residents also wanted to improve the quality of the trail network within Shutesbury and in neighboring towns. Several residents spoke about specific spaces in town. This list includes Ames Pond, Morse Hill, Elliott Park, and Lake Wyola.

4) Commercial Uses (~42 Dots)

Residents also mentioned a variety of commercial uses. These included more specific requests—like a general store, a café, a cooperative or artists space, mixed-use high density residential development—and more general requests—like a commercial space with a community gathering place inside. In some cases, these suggestions reflected a desire for the use, and in others, a desire for the commercial tax dollars it would generate.

5) Town-Owned Business (~40 Dots)

The notion of a town-owned business, which emerged as a response to the second question—what changes can be done to adjust revenues and costs?—was met with great enthusiasm. Most of the residents voted for a town-owned solar farm, but some votes went to a town-owned wind facility, and others to the sale of timber from town-owned land.

1: Implications for Municipal Budget: What changes can be done to adjust revenues and costs?

Revenue - Town-Run Business (34 Dots; 19 Lines; 4/4 Boards)

- Town-owned solar (x4) (0 – 18 Dots)
- Town-owned wind/Ridge (0 – 7 Dots)
- Sale of timber from Town-owned land (x2)
- Town Hall fire, Parking Spaces (UMass Amherst) (11 Dots, but listed in the same line as solar)
- Green Industry/Low-Impact

Costs - Services (24 Dots; 12 Lines; 4/4 Boards)

- Services increase with increasing population
- Share/Regionalize Services (Share with Wendell/New Salem)
 - o Community sewage treatment – Lake/Town Center (x2)
 - o Fire
 - o Police
 - o Snow Plowing
 - o Tax Assessment
 - o Recycling
 - o Dispatch (FedEx, UPS)
- Privatize Services
 - o Trash Collection
- Reduction
 - o Reduce services or provide in more ingenious way
- Staffing
 - o Professional/ Volunteer
 - o Staffing Levels

Revenue - Fees (18 Dots; 9 Lines; 4/4 Boards)

- Charge for private use of Town facilities; Renovating and then renting old Town Hall; Rent space in the building at Lake Bennett's
- Charge for trash collection
- Tourism/Recreation
 - o Managed town woodlands
 - o Sirius/Pine Hill/Temenos (Attract visitors to Shutesbury)
 - o Lake Wyola Trailers – Capture Income (Arrow to winter tourism – provide goods and services)
 - o Cross Country Skiing/Snowshoes in Town

Revenue - Taxes (16 Dots; 9 Lines; 4/4 Boards)

- Expand Business/Commercial Tax Base (x4)
 - o Shared worker space/artist studio or incubator (5 Dots)
 - o Mixed use housing - apartments/retail/commercial (5 Dots)
 - o Grocery store, gas station, spa (All things that people buy elsewhere) (3 Dots)
- PILOT Payments (x2)

- Municipal tax on marijuana
- Local optimal taxes – Hotel, Recreation
- Observations/Notes
 - o Willing to pay higher taxes/fees for something but not others
 - o Non-tax revenue

Costs - Facilities (15 Dots; 10 Lines; 3/4 Boards)

- Improving Center of Town (Beautifying, making more welcoming)
- Specific Facilities
 - o Renovating old Town Hall (4 Dots)
 - o Shared Community Space/Community Center (4 Dots)
 - o New/Improved Library Space
 - o Other facilities from visioning
- Fuller use of existing facilities; Reconfigure/rethink use of existing facilities
 - o Use of School at night, during summers (Suggestion to apply for a grant)

Revenue/Costs - Broadband (12 Dots; 3 Lines; 2/4 Boards)

Costs – Transportation (8 Dots; 4 Lines; 3/4 Boards)

- Shuttle service (From here to anywhere and back again; supplement to Pioneer Valley-Franklin)
- Bike path (all the way down the hill, with a pulley/shuttle to get back up)

Revenue/Costs - Education (4 Dots; 2 Lines; 1/4 Board)

- Revenue – School Choice Revenue
- Costs – Change formula for regional school assessment (3 Dots)

Costs – Designate Shutesbury as a Sanctuary Town (4 Dots; 1 Lines; 1/4 Boards)

Revenue - Grants (2 Dots; 3 Lines; 2/4 Boards)

- Grants; State Grant Matches
- Hire a grant writer (Arrow to school at night, during summers)

Costs - Transparency and Education (1 Dot; 3 Lines; 1/4 Boards)

- Education about Costs and Revenues
- Evaluate ROI of Z services
- Presentation of costs – What are we paying for

Revenue – New Staff (1 Dot; 1 Line; 1/4 Boards)

- CPA

Costs – Utilities (1 Dots; 1 Line; 1/4 Boards)

- Improved water supply

Revenue – Increase Population (0 Dots; 1 Line; 1/4 Boards)

Costs –? (0 Dots; 1 Line; 1/4 Boards)

- Bonding costs reducing

2: Future Changes to Shutesbury's Physical Character: Type? Location? Use? Opportunities?

Open Space and Recreation (28 Dots; 7 Lines; 3/4 Boards)

- Preservation of Landscape (Stonewalls) - Town wide - Aesthetics - Protect character of town; No bike paths
- More open space (fields) - Town wide (suitable locations) - Agricultural/pasture - Diversify land form AND Maintenance AND Deforestation / Erosion
- Wood lots: Access - Town wide - (Blank) - (Blank)
- More public access - Wendell Road (Dirt) - Recreation - (Blank)
- (Additional) Town-Owned Beach Boat Ramp - Lake Wyola - Recreation - Community Gathering / Costs
- Trails:
 - o Trail Connection - Town Hall / School - Transportation – Safety
 - o Upgrading Town Trail System (Internal and with other towns) - Town wide and Montague Road (Example) - Rec/Fitness/Access to Resources - Socialization AND Fitness AND Others using trail

Retail (12 Dots; 2 Lines; 2/4 Boards)

- Retail and Commercial - Town wide but Specific Locations - Mixed Use/ High Density Residential - Offset Tax Burden AND Loss of Character / NIMBY
- General Store / Business (All Types) - Town Center - Local Economy - Higher Return AND Year-Round Socialization

Community Gardens (12 Dots; 2 Lines; 2/4 Boards)

- Location:
 - o Around Town Center
 - o Behind Town Hall
- Use:
 - o Agricultural
- Opportunities:
 - o Sustainability
 - o Gathering
 - o Beautification

Transportation (10 Dots; 4 Line; 2/4 Boards)

- Paved Roads:
 - o Type: Pave Roads
 - o Location: Town wide; High Volume Roads
 - o Use: Transportation; Safety
 - o Opportunities:
- Sidewalks - Leverett Road - Transportation - Support Sustainability AND Enhance Safety for All Ages AND Costs / Maintenance / Loss of Character
- Public Transportation - Town to Regional Areas - Transportation (Elder Services AND Alternatives) - Social Services AND Funding AND Population/Outside)

Library (8 Dots; 1 Line; 1/4 Boards)

- Type: New Library

- Location: Town Center
- Use: Meeting Space
- Opportunities: More space, costs, old library

Solar (6 Dots; 2 Lines; 2/4 Boards)

- Type: Solar; Town-Owned Solar Farm
- Location: Wooded Lot or Open Space
- Use: -
- Opportunities: Income

Utilities (6 Dots; 2 Lines; 1/4 Boards)

- Public services (sewer) More densely pop - Lake Wyola/ Atkinds - Residential - Environmental Pop AND Costs
- Water Supply - Town wide - Residential - (Blank)

Housing (4 Dots; 3 Lines; 1/4 Boards)

- Type:
 - o Subdivisions
 - o Affordable Housing
 - o Accessory Apartments
- Location:
 - o Town wide
- Use:
 - o Residential
- Opportunities:
 - o Expense and Limit Development
 - o Diversity in Housing Inventory
 - o High Density Development

Town Center (2 Dots; 2 Lines; 2/4 Boards)

- Develop Town Center - Town Center - Library / Senior Center AND Affordable Housing / Shared Business Resources
- "Community Crossroads" AND Event Space / Workshops AND Gathering / Seclar (?) AND Costs
- Town Center (Cohesive landscape) - Town Center - Communication and Visitors - Performance Space AND Parking AND Traffic Calming

Cooperative Space (2 Dots; 1 Line; 1/4 Boards)

- Cooperative Space - Specific Location - Artisans/ Tool Library AND Workshops (Shared) - (Blank)

Growth (1 Dot; 1 Line; 1/4 Boards)

- Location: Town wide

- Use: Residential/Non-Residential
- Opportunities: Tax base/Character

Land Use and Zoning (0 Dots; 2 Lines; 2/4 Boards)

- Forested Land – Town wide (90%) – Transportation – Speed
- Zoning Bylaws – Town wide – Residential – Protect wildlife habitat corridors and loss of habitat

Local Environmental Impacts (0 Dots; 1 Line; 1/4 Boards)

- Local environmental impacts – Town wide - Resources AND Recreation - Trails/Bike Path AND Open Space AND Remove Land from Development

3: Priorities for Municipal Services: Type? Location?

Services (46 Dots; 14 Lines; 4/4 Boards)

- Continue with services we have today as a priority!
- Essential services: Education, DPW, Police
- Volunteer services: Fire Department (Staff and Volunteer)
- Pursue Regionalization
- Roads
 - o More DPW workers to work on the roads
 - o Increase highway department staff to increase services
- Fire
 - o Staff and Volunteer
 - o Regionalize (5 Dots)
- Police
 - o Less police (10 Dots)
 - o Regionalize police staff and coverage (12 Dots)
- Waste Disposal (7 Dots)
 - o Mixed Stream Recycling
 - o Appreciate – and continue – curbside trash, recycling

Transportation (18 Dots; 3 Lines; 3/4 Boards)

- Add some public transportation (vans, small buses). Good for environment and an aging population.

Sanctuary Town (18 Dots; 1 Line; 1/4 Boards)

- Make Shutesbury a Sanctuary Town

Alternative Banking (12 Dots; 2 Lines; 1/4 Boards)

- Town barter bank (Exchange of services) (8 Dots)
- Sponsor a community bank

Utilities (8 Dot; 2 Lines; 2/4 Boards)

- Electric – Municipal electrical generation that benefits the Town
- Water – Town water supply alternatives

Town Administration (6 Dots; 3 Lines; 3/4 Boards)

- Town mediation for major issues (5 Dots)
- Town administrative offices
- Streamline Town hall paperwork

Healthcare (7 Dots; 4 Lines; 3/4 Boards)

- General Health Clinic/ Mini-Clinic
- Med-ride Service
- Visiting Nurse Service
- More health-care related

Facilities (7 Dots; 4 Lines; 2/4 Boards)

- Volunteer Meeting Space
- Archives
- Cultural Center
- Library:
 - o Library (Staff and Volunteer)
 - o Expanded Library (7 Dots)

Education Series (7 Dots; 3 Lines; 1/4 Boards)

- Alternative Energy
- Private infrastructure (Wells, Septic)
- Driving on dirt roads
- Driving on winter roads

Open Space and Recreation (7 Dots; 2 Lines; 2/4 Boards)

- Better access to the State Park in the evenings, other seasons
- Better public access to the lake

Elder Services (6 Dots; 4 Lines; 3/4 Boards)

- Better Senior Center (x2)
- More Services for Aging in Place

Education (4 Dots; 2 Lines; 2/4 Boards)

- Importing Students
- Link school internships w/ in-town businesses

Broadband (2 Dots; 1 Line; 1/4 Boards)

- Make broadband a municipal service

4: Community Gathering Space to Enhance Living in Shutesbury: Type? Location? Use?

Improve / Create – Facilities (54 Dots; 17 Lines; 4/4 Boards)

- Lots of underutilized spaces! Could we create a reference guide? (Would include ADA, Heated, etc.)
 - o Identified spaces: Sirius (private), Elementary School, Fire Department (outside), Town Hall (outside)
- The Ark (private, for sale). Could be a nice municipal building.
- Library
 - o New/Better Library
 - o Current Library
 - o Community Center with Library Use
- Historic Center
 - o In new library?
- Community Center
 - o In new library?
- Meeting Rooms
 - o Want inviting meeting space, could also be used for workshops, art, yoga, community theater
- Town Hall
 - o Old Town Hall (great space, needs work). The Board of Selectmen currently meeting in town hall. It is also used for music, exercise classes, senior center. It has a kitchen. Town hall basement is listed as a space.
 - o New Town Hall could have an incubator space and a senior center.

Existing / Improve – Open Space (15 Dots; 14 Lines; 4/4 Boards)

- Improve town trail systems (Better network, more explicit, connect other natural features)
- Ames Pond. Abuts Temenos.
- Morse Hill
- Eliot Park
 - o At the Old Town Beach, currently has an annual festival with a Gazebo. You can rent kayaks at the library. Might have a summer camp.
- Lake Wyola
 - o Lake Wyola Building, Lake Wyola Association Hall
 - o Lake Wyola Inn
- Lot 032
 - o Across from Town garage, currently for parties and volleyball
 - o Could become an Amphitheatre, skate park, place for kids
- State Park and Stage Coach Inn (Exists but needs work) This is a State facility.

Future – Café/General Store (11 Dots; 2 Lines; 2/4 Dots)

- Commercial space w/ Community Gathering
- Coffee Shop w/ Bathroom (Near Library)

Existing - Nonprofits (10 Dots; 6 Lines; 3/4 Dots)

- Temenos
 - o Retreat Center
- Sirius (8 Dots)
 - o Intentional community

- Work on town community area

Town Common (9 Dots; 6 Lines; 4/4 Boards)

- Existing: Large Town Common
- Future: Make more inviting
- Future: Community complex like Dedham's (with library, police, school)
- Future: Community Gardens

Future – Artist Spaces (9 Dots; 2 Lines; 2/4 Boards)

- Artist Spaces, Artist Studios with Tool Library
- Leverett Arts Center and Cooperative as a model

Future - Office Space (6 Dots; 2 Line; 1/4 boards)

- Small Office Space (with Broadband)
- Co-working Space

Existing – Parks (5 Dots; 3 Lines; 3/5 Boards)

- Energy (Focus on alternative energy sources, interest in continuing to make progress)
- Water (Clean drinking water)

Existing – Athletic Club (2 Dots; 3 Lines; 3/4 Boards)

- Family-friendly
- Membership-based
- Social Club, Bar, Music, Dancing, Horseshoes, Darts

Senior Lounge (2 Dots; 3 Lines; 2/4 Boards)

Future – Safe Haven (2 Dots; 1 Line; 1/4 Boards)

- Safe Haven for Teens in Center of Town

The Ark (1 Dot; 5 Lines; 4/5 Boards)

- Private, for sale. Could be a nice municipal building.

Transportation (1 Dot; 1 Line; 1/5 Boards)

- Sidewalks between Elementary and Town Center

Existing – Elementary School (0 Dots; 3 Lines; 3/4 Boards)

- School, used for Town Meeting, Adult Basketball, Flu Clinic, Yoga

Existing - Church (0 Dots; 3 Lines; 2/4 Boards)

- On the Town Common (might turn this into an actual gathering place)

Existing – Fire Station (0 Dots; 2 Lines; 2/4 Boards)

- Field behind fire station
- 2nd floor of fire department (Training room has chairs and other furniture)

Pine Brook Camp (0 Dots; 1 Lines; 1/4 Boards)

West School House (0 Dots; 1 Lines; 1/4 Boards)