

PLANNING FOR SHUTESBURY'S FUTURE: BEGINNING THE MASTER PLAN

Dear Shutesbury resident:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. It has been designed to determine what citizens want for **the future of Shutesbury**. The Shutesbury Master Plan Committee would like to create a comprehensive Master Plan for the Town. A Master Plan is a long range plan that guides development in the Town towards a vision of what residents would like the future to be. It is also a comprehensive plan that looks at all aspects of the community. Most of all, it is a plan that is created by and for the citizens of Shutesbury. This is your first opportunity to take part in the creation of the Master Plan. The results of this survey will be used to create Goals and Objectives, which will provide a framework for the Master Plan. Your answers will remain anonymous. Thank you for your help.

If you, or any family members would like additional copies of the survey, they are available at the Library and at the Post Office.

Please return the survey in the pre-stamped envelope by _____ to the Shutesbury Master Plan Committee or see the back cover of this survey for additional return options.

Your opinion is important and your participation in this process is greatly appreciated!

Chair, Master Plan Committee

Chair, Board of Selectmen

WHY DO YOU LIKE LIVING HERE?

This set of questions deals with the quality of life in Shutesbury.

Q1. How important was each of the following in your decision to move to Shutesbury? Please circle a number for each item where 1 = Very Important; 2 = Important; and 3 = Not Important. If you were born in Shutesbury, please skip to Q2.

| | | Very Important | Important | Not Important |
|----|---|----------------|-----------|---------------|
| a. | Rural or small town character | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| b. | Open fields, forests, trails | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| c. | Peace and quiet | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| d. | Access to Lake Wyola | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| e. | Proximity to the Quabbin | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| f. | Air/water quality | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| g. | Public services | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| h. | Local climate | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| i. | Safety from crime and vandalism | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| j. | Public school system | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| k. | Affordable housing | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| l. | Recreational opportunities | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| m. | Friends or relatives here | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| n. | Access to Sirius or Temenos | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| o. | Five-college area | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| p. | Easy commuting | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| q. | Job opportunities in the region | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| r. | Ability to be involved in Town government | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| s. | Other (please list) _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| t. | _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| u. | _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 |

Q2. How important is each of the following to your satisfaction with living in Shutesbury? Please circle a number for each item where 1 = Very Important; 2 = Important; and 3 = Not Important.

| | | Very Important | Important | Not Important |
|----|---|----------------|-----------|---------------|
| a. | Rural or small town character | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| b. | Open fields, forests, trails | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| c. | Peace and quiet | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| d. | Access to Lake Wyola | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| e. | Proximity to the Quabbin | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| f. | Air/water quality | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| g. | Public services | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| h. | Local climate | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| i. | Safety from crime and vandalism | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| j. | Public school system | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| k. | Affordable housing | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| l. | Recreational opportunities | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| m. | Friends or relatives here | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| n. | Access to Sirius or Temenos | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| o. | Five-college area | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| p. | Easy commuting | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| q. | Job opportunities in the region | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| r. | Ability to be involved in Town government | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| s. | Other (please list) _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| t. | _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| u. | _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 |

Q3. Do you expect to leave Shutesbury within the next five years?

___ Yes ___ No

Q4. If yes, why? *If you answered no to Q3, please skip to Q5.*

NATURAL RESOURCES

The next few questions ask your opinion about Shutesbury's natural resources.

Q5. How important is it to conserve the following natural resources and scenic resources? *Please circle a number for each item where 1 = Very Important; 2 = Important; and 3 = Not Important.*

| | | Very Important | Important | Not Important |
|----|----------------------|----------------|-----------|---------------|
| a. | Dirt roads | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| b. | Forests | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| c. | Open fields | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| d. | Rural character | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| e. | Scenic views | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| f. | Stone walls | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| g. | Lakes and streams | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| h. | Wetlands | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| i. | Wildlife habitat | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| j. | Clean drinking water | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| k. | Clean air | 1 | 2 | 3 |

Q6. Which actions do you support to protect/conservate open space and natural resources? *Please circle a number for each item where 1 = Strongly Support; 2 = Support; and 3 = Don't Support.*

| | | Strongly Support | Support | Don't Support |
|----|---|------------------|---------|---------------|
| a. | Town purchase of conservation land | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| b. | Town purchase of development rights | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| c. | Zoning changes for open space protection/conservation | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| d. | No additional Town actions should be taken | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| e. | Acceptance of conservation land | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| f. | Acceptance of development rights | 1 | 2 | 3 |

Q7. Please refer to the Town map below. What part of Town do you live in? Please place an "X" on the map in the approximate location of your house/apartment? Please refer to the table below the map. What types of recreation do you participate in? Please place a check mark in the box to the right of any activity listed that you participate in. Then for each one that you participate in, tell us where you do this activity in Shutesbury, and let us know if you have any comments about the resources in Town that support that activity.

| | Activity | Where do you do the activity? | Comments |
|----|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| a. | Bicycling | | |
| | Mountain biking | | |
| b. | Bird watching | | |
| c. | Canoeing/kayaking/rowing | | |
| d. | Fishing | | |
| e. | Hiking | | |
| f. | Horse riding | | |
| g. | Hunting | | |
| h. | Motorboating/water skiing | | |
| i. | Sailing | | |
| j. | Snowmobiling | | |
| k. | Swimming | | |
| l. | Walking | | |
| m. | X-country skiing | | |
| n. | Rollerblading/skateboarding | | |
| o. | Use of mototrized off-road vehicles | | |
| p. | Dancing | | |
| q. | Field/organized sports | | |
| | Other (please list below) | | |
| r. | | | |
| s. | | | |
| t. | | | |
| u. | | | |

Q8. What does rural character mean to you? Please circle a number for each item where 1 = Very Important; 2 = Important; and 3 = Not Important. For example, if you feel that an item listed is a necessary component of rural character, you would circle either 1 or 2, depending on how strongly you felt about it.

| | | Very Important | Important | Not Important |
|----|--|----------------|-----------|---------------|
| a. | Large road side trees | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| b. | Dirt roads | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| c. | Historic stone walls and foundation holes | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| d. | Historic structures | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| e. | Vernal Pools | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| f. | Lake Wyolaq | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| g. | Moose, bear, bobcat, fox, and other wild animals | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| h. | Open fields | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| i. | Farm houses | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| j. | Scenic views | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| k. | Narrow windy roads | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| l. | Large forested areas | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| m. | Walking and hiking trails | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| n. | Low traffic volume/slow speeds | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| o. | Farm animals | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| p. | Quiet | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| q. | Lower housing density | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| r. | Absence of city lights | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| s. | Babbling brooks | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | Other (Please list) | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| t. | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| u. | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| v. | | 1 | 2 | 3 |

HOUSING

The following questions ask you to identify your position on various housing issues.

Q9. What types of future residential development would you favor for Shelburne? Please circle a number for each item where 1 = Favor; 2 = Oppose; and 3 = Unsure.

| | | Favor | Oppose | Unsure |
|----|--|-------|--------|--------|
| a. | Single family residential: 2 acre or larger lots | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| b. | Duplex (Two-family) residential: 3 acre or larger lots | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| c. | Apartments | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| d. | Condominiums | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| e. | Conversion of single family housing to multi-family units | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| f. | Cluster residential: development of houses in clusters on a small part of the property so that the remaining land is protected as open space | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| g. | Other (please list) _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| h. | _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| i. | _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| j. | _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 |

Q10. There are various types of elderly housing: Assisted Living, Managed Care, and Congregate Housing. In all cases the added burden from these units on our Town expenses would be less than the burden from normal family dwellings because there are no school-aged children added to the Town when the units are occupied. How do you feel about promoting the following types of Elderly Housing in Shutesbury? Please circle a number for each item where 1 = Agree; 2 = Don't Know; and 3 = Disagree.

| | | Agree | Don't Know | Disagree |
|----|--|-------|------------|----------|
| a. | Elder Housing - <i>This very common type of elderly housing involves individual dwelling units within one stand-alone residence.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| b. | Congregate Housing - <i>Usually this involves individual apartments within a shared space. A team of multi-disciplinary service providers provide shared meals, activities, and case management.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| c. | Assisted Living / Supportive Housing - <i>This type is less common and more service rich of the three types. This is simply a Congregate Housing facility with a higher degree of service provided including meals, health care management, laundry, activities etc.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 |

Q11. Are you in favor of Special Needs Housing in Shutesbury? Please circle a number for each item where 1 = Favor; 2 = Don't Know; and 3 = Oppose.

| | | Favor | Don't Know | Oppose |
|----|--|-------|------------|--------|
| a. | Housing for the Mentally Disabled - <i>A local mental health care provider will usually rent a local residence, which may be staffed full or part time.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| b. | Housing for the Physically Disabled - <i>This may take the form of upgrading an existing residence to be wheelchair accessible and to contain community rooms.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 |

Q12. The following lists a variety of housing issues. Please indicate how important each issue is to you. Circle a number for each item where 1 = Favor; 2 = Don't Know; and 3 = Oppose.

| | | Favor | Don't Know | Oppose |
|----|---|-------|------------|--------|
| a. | Development of elderly housing | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| b. | Lead paint removal assistance program to meet State mandates | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| c. | Financial assistance to help comply with the State's Title 5 septic system mandates | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| d. | Development of programs that support first-time home buyers | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| e. | Development of affordable housing for low and moderate income families | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| f. | Grants for rehabilitation of low and moderate income housing | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| g. | Other (please list) _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| h. | _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| i. | _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| j. | _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 |

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Given the property tax situation in Shutesbury, many have asked how other communities have lower taxes but still offer good Town services. The answer is usually Town revenues from taxes on business property. Shutesbury presently has only a few businesses. The following questions relate to the issue of business in Shutesbury.

Q13. Please indicate whether you oppose, don't care about, or whether you support increases in the following types of development. Circle a number for each item where 1 = Favor; 2 = Don't Care; and 3 = Oppose.

| | | Favor | Don't Care | Oppose |
|----|---|-------|------------|--------|
| a. | Dentist | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| b. | Doctor | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| c. | Veterinarian | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| d. | Small Manufacturing - 25 employees or fewer, goods pickup and delivery trucking | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| e. | Software Development – 25 employees or fewer, very little truck traffic | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| f. | Distribution/Warehouse/Depot – heavy truck traffic | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| g. | Retail Stores | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| h. | Gas Station/Convenience Store | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| i. | Crop/Truck Farming | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| j. | Home Businesses | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| k. | Arts and Crafts | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| l. | Bed & Breakfast | 1 | 2 | 3 |

Q14. Please check the most appropriate box for the two questions below.

| | | Oppose | Don't Care | Support |
|----|---|--------|------------|---------|
| a. | The Town should have a separate and higher tax for commercial businesses? | | | |
| b. | The Town should have a separate and higher tax rate for residential? | | | |

Q15. Please list any creative idea you might have for increasing Town revenues in ways other than property taxes.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

The next six questions ask you to consider Shutesbury's long-term capital needs and evaluate the importance of various municipal services including the school system, the library, and recreational programs in Town. Capital Improvement Programming is planning for the Town's future spending.

Q16. Which of the following would you like to see over the next ten years? Please circle a number for each item where 1 = Very Important; 2 = Important; and 3 = Not Important.

| | | Very Important | Important | Not Important |
|----|---|----------------|-----------|---------------|
| a. | 24 hour police department | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| b. | Ambulance service | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| c. | Better maintained roads | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| d. | Department of Public Works building | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| e. | Expanded school facilities | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| f. | Full-time fire department | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| g. | Management of conservation lands | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| h. | More paved roads | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| i. | New highway maintenance equipment | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| j. | New expanded library | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| k. | Open space acquisition | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| l. | Recreational facilities | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| m. | Renovation of the School | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| n. | Renovation of the Fire Station | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| o. | Renovation of the Town Hall Annex | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| p. | Renovation of the Town Hall | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| q. | Renovation of the Highway Department facilities | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| r. | Town sewer | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| s. | Town water | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| t. | More/improved public parks | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| u. | Other (please list) _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| v. | _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| w. | _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 |

Q17. Would you like to see the Town spend more, less, or the same amount of money on each of the following municipal budget items? Please check the appropriate box for each item.

| | Budget Item | More | Less | Same |
|----|--|------|------|------|
| a. | Administrative services | | | |
| b. | Community events | | | |
| c. | Conservation of natural resources | | | |
| d. | Fire protection | | | |
| e. | Ambulance services | | | |
| f. | Library | | | |
| g. | Planning | | | |
| h. | Police protection (e.g. patrolling local roads, number of hours available) | | | |
| i. | Recreation | | | |
| j. | Roads (e.g. condition of roads and level of maintenance) | | | |
| k. | Schools | | | |
| l. | Youth programs and services | | | |
| m. | Other (please list) _____ | | | |
| n. | _____ | | | |
| o. | _____ | | | |

Q18. What are the key issues the Town should address? Please place a check in the box to the right of the top five issues. In the comments box, briefly explain what it is that is so important about each of the top five issues.

| | Issue | | Comments |
|----|---|--|-----------------|
| a. | School class sizes | | |
| b. | The school curriculum | | |
| c. | General Government hours | | |
| d. | Recreational fields | | |
| e. | Bike trails | | |
| f. | Hiking trails | | |
| g. | Street lighting | | |
| h. | The likelihood that a procedure to accept private roads is adopted | | |
| i. | Accessibility of the Town and School newsletters (i.e. on line) | | |
| j. | Quality of mapping and associated filing | | |
| k. | Accessibility and comprehension of Shutesbury's bylaws and policies | | |
| l. | Other (please list) | | |
| m. | | | |
| n. | | | |

Q19. Would you like to use a transit service if it came to Shutesbury? ___ Yes ___ No
If you answered No to Q19, please skip to Q22.

Q20. Where would you like the transit service to go? Please check the destination(s) that you would favor.

- Amherst
- Greenfield
- Northampton
- Other _____
- _____

Q21. How often would you use the transit service? _____ Daily _____ Weekly

ZONING AND LAND USE

The following questions deal with zoning and land use issues in Shutesbury.

Q22. Do you agree with the following statements? Please circle a number for each item where 1 = Agree; 2 = Don't Know/Don't Care; and 3 = Disagree.

| | | Agree | Don't Know/ Don't Care | Disagree |
|----|--|-------|---------------------------|----------|
| a. | Zoning should be changed to allow some types of commercial uses by right. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| b. | Zoning should be changed to allow some light manufacturing in some areas by right. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| c. | Zoning should not be changed. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| d. | The zoning bylaws should limit communication towers to different districts. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| e. | Shutesbury should make it easier for builders to build affordable housing. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| f. | Encourage development of houses in clusters on a small part of the property so that the remaining land is protected. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| g. | Encourage development of houses in the back of property so that land along the roads may be protected as agricultural land, forest, or open space. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| h. | Encourage development of houses along the roads so that land in the back may be protected as agricultural land, forest, or open space. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| i. | Zoning should restrict multiple family/duplex housing. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| j. | Existing high density areas of Town should have special zoning to control development. | 1 | 2 | 3 |

Q23. Massachusetts General Law Ch. 40, s. 15C authorizes a municipality, upon recommendation of its planning board, conservation commission, or historical commission to designate local "scenic roads." The purpose of this statute is to provide for planning board review of the cutting or removal of trees or the alteration of stone walls incidental to work on the scenic road. How important do you believe it is to maintain scenic conditions (for example, large trees and stone walls) along roads in Shutesbury? Please circle the number of the statement, which you agree with the most.

1 = very important to Shutesbury's rural character!

2 = important.

3 = I'm ambivalent.

4 = I don't like large trees along roads.

5 = I hate trees and stone walls along roads. They should all be cut down and removed.

Q24. Would you favor establishment of a telecommunications tower on Town-owned property rather than on private property in Shutesbury, which would generate modest income (between \$12,000 and \$24,000 per year) for the Town annually? Please circle the number of the statement, which you agree with the most.

1 = yes, definitely!

2 = no towers on Town-owned land; towers on private land only.

3 = I don't know

Q25. List the top five (5) issues you believe the Master Plan needs to focus on?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Q26. What do you wish we had asked?

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

This set of questions asks you to offer some information about yourself. These answers simply help in the analysis process and will remain anonymous. You may skip any question that you would rather not answer.

Q27. What is your age? Please circle the range of ages that includes your age.

- 1. 0 – 19 years old
- 2. 20 – 44 years old
- 3. 45 – 64 years old
- 4. 65 – 78 years old
- 5. 79 years old or Older

Q28. Please write your street address.

Q29. Are you a full-time resident or a seasonal resident? *Please check one.*

Full-time Resident

Seasonal Resident

Q30. Do you have a home-based business or profession?

Yes No

Q31. Please check off the location where you work.

Amherst

Greenfield

Shutesbury

Northampton

Northern Franklin County

Eastern Franklin County

Boston

Other _____

Q32. Have you ever served on a Town committee? *Please check one.*

Yes No

Q33. How long have you lived in Shutesbury? *Please fill in the number of years and/ or months.*

_____ years _____ months.

You have finished! Thank you for completing the survey. Do you have any other thoughts regarding the creation of the Master Plan or the Goals and Objectives? We welcome your comments on the next page or you can submit them on a separate piece of paper.

Comments:

Thank you again for completing the survey. Please fill out the form below to enter the prize drawing to win a variety of prizes generously donated by Shutesbury residents. **There are three ways to return your survey and entry form: 1)** leave the entry form attached to your survey, return the survey in the pre-stamped return envelope, and we will remove the entry form before we begin any analysis so your responses remain anonymous; **2)** drop the survey and entry form off at the Shutesbury Town Hall, the Public Library, or the Shutesbury Post Office. There will be a box for surveys and a box for entry forms; **3)** send the survey and the entry form back in two separate envelopes to the Shutesbury Master Plan Committee.

Mailing the survey: Please return the survey in the pre-stamped envelope by _____ to:
Shutesbury Master Plan Committee, Town of Shutesbury

att. Master Plan Survey

About the drop-off points:

Entry Prize Form

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Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____