

Shutesbury 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey Results
Appendix A, Survey Comments

The following are all the comments written on the returned Open Space and Recreation Plan surveys from 2006. Many thanks to the Leslie and Joan in the Town Clerk's office for compiling them into digital form. "Q1" means Question 1 from the survey etc. All comments are listed below the section where they appeared on the survey.

Q1 – How important was each of the following in your decision to live in Shutesbury?

d. easy commuting

- I don't think it's easy.
- Not!
- Parts of town are not an easy commute.

e. Participatory government

- We like it.
- Expected then (1969)
- Not really. Autocratic Gov.

g. Perception of Community Values

- they were poor (1969)

j. Trails

- don't advertise. Private property

k. Access to Quabbin Land

- What access. Needs to be opened to public

m. Safety from crime and vandalism

- We've had crime and vandalism.
- We've had 2 break-ins!
- Huh! Where do you live?

n. Public school system

- no children
- too bad the elementary school has changed so drastically for the worse – no longer a draw.
- Amherst Regional

o. More affordable housing

- Housing more expensive here
- than what?
- Affordable housing is oxymoron.
- We don't have any.
- Rental-when we moved here in 1992

p. Recreational opportunities

- there aren't many

Other reasons (please list below)

- Healthy place for my kids to grow up
- There should have been a category btwn important & indifferent
- Place for dogs.
- Some distance from work.
- Good schools – small elementary with low ratio of students per teacher

Shutesbury 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey Results
Appendix A, Survey Comments

- Lots were reasonably priced – not as rural as Wendell & New Salem
- elevation (cooler, snow)
- Lake Wyola
- Seasonal – great summer getaway
- Schools, primary and secondary, # 1 reason we moved here
- Wildlife/wildflowers, scenic character
- Low use of chemicals, fragrance free
- Low tax assessments
- The good reasons on this list are undermined by lack of community for those who don't have kids in school.
- Above things are true regionally.
- Average, ordinary people.....not just academics.
- Simple government, low taxes
- Less light pollution (astronomy)
- Open fields
- Few town employees.
- Aggressive thinking.
- X country skiing
- Access to other towns.
- Relation to Amherst Public Schools
- Proximity to Amherst
- Affordable land
- Colder, more snow, milder summers
- Lakefront opportunity, beauty – nature and people
- Lake Wyola
- Proximity to Amherst
- Cultural offering of valley
- Shutesbury as town (was unimportant)
- TV reception

Q2 – How do you feel about protecting the following natural, historical and scenic resources in town?

b. Dirt or gravel roads

- only if maintained
- we're on one

c. Historic cellar holes

- depends
- (?) x 1 (one question mark)

d. Historic buildings

- depends

k. The Old Town Hall

- Too much \$ spent on it.

l. The Spear Memorial Library

- get rid of it and build something better
- new library facility is critical. Not enough info is available on options/what is needed for new uses of current building.
- This is a wonderful resource, but it needs to expand.

Shutesbury 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey Results
Appendix A, Survey Comments

m. The Town Common

- keep it open

o. Scenic Views

- What views?

p. The “S-curves” as they are now.

- But make safety improvements.
- but more safety improvements
- safety is critical
- um, the “scenic” half of these are in Leverett
- (?) x 1 (one question mark)
- Safety hazard

s. Brown’s Pond & wetland

- don’t know what/where this is
- (?) x 8 (eight question mark comments)
- Not the public’s business
- Private property

t. Roaring Brook

- (?) x 3 (three question mark comments)
- On the “S’s”

u. Peace & Quiet

- dogs
- loud college student neighbors – rarely get peace and quiet though.
- Noise by-law needs to be respected at Lake Wyola, esp. spring, summer, fall blasts of firecrackers, fireworks, + cannon. Need permit for July 3rd, 9-10 pm only. Big tradition here and would be proper “outlet” for many folks once a year.

v. Absence of city lights

- Install dawn lights at hwy barn and top of hill to reduce light pollution.
- Great stars

Other (please list)

- Mountain bike trails
- environmentally conscious community
- Atkins Reservoir
- Wooded area around Atkins Reservoir
- wildflower, fern, mushroom habitat, clean aquifers/wells
- Pelham Hill road reduced.
- Well water quality

Q3 – Where would you rather see future development occur?

Along roadsides, to keep large tracts of back land undeveloped.

- but clustered
- Or the less development the better
- Supporting wildlife is contingent upon leaving contiguous tracts of forest intact.

Set back from the road, to keep the roadside view less developed.

- Cluster housing

Shutesbury 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey Results
Appendix A, Survey Comments

- Native trees, mountain laurels, wildflowers

Other options – please list

- Grouped housing away from street that preserves open land is good.
- Depends – but definitely no more duplexes!
- Conservation subdivision
- Along roadsides in central thickly populated areas and set back in unpopulous locations.
- Along roadsides but with easy, obvious access to back lands
- Nowhere
- The town does not need more development.
- Very good question
- Combination- some on road but allow pork chop & back lots. Don't just cut off back lots to accomplish.
- Left to the discretion of the developer
- Would rather see dense pockets of development with large areas left untouched.
- A little bit of both?
- Cluster development keeping large tracts undeveloped & preserving more roadside view.
- Cluster around current development
- A mix of both of the above is necessary, depending on the area of town.
- Cluster housing off (set back) from the main roads. i.e. cul de sac neighborhoods
- A mix of the above.
- Reasonable setback/ businesses req. to build in character – all building plans reviewed to insure they fit w/ New England character (No “McDonald” standard structures)
- Combination of above, cluster housing
- Leverett road or West Pelham – near school
- The less development, the better
- Maybe a mix of both, on a case-by-case or area basis
- Limit development
- Cul de sacs w/ preserved land ‘built in’
- Clustered development
- Cluster housing
- How about a balance
- What ruins a view along roads the most is electric/phone poles and clear cutting forest to create lawns. How about educational materials on the drawbacks of lawns, and benefits of lawn alternatives? Also, some roadsides look terrible because of road work, guardrails, ditches, brush cutting, logging. I enjoy driving by attractive homes and gardens just as much as forest.
- Clustered in a few locations, near roads
- Much depends upon ownership/access/ etc. But every site could be different depending upon resources.
- Clustered housing w/attached open space
- Along roadsides with setbacks from road; setback subdivisions where appropriate environmentally.
- Mixture of both
- None
- Clustered in small neighborhoods off main roads.
- Congregate housing
- It depends on what kind of development. Ex) Development of town buildings could be more visible versus housing could be more discreet.
- Town center
- Cluster housing, community gardens, lower income co-housing available

Shutesbury 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey Results
Appendix A, Survey Comments

- A combination of the above – have development set back somewhat from the roads while limiting development of large tracts of back land.
- Cluster dev., min. setback near common.
- Some clustered housing can be set back just enough from road so as not to be seen (Old Orchard).
- Multiple homes sharing 1 driveway & setback
- Some of each but limited
- Perhaps a few well-planned new roads into “backlands”. Modest homes & cluster housing: simple apt. units for singles, couples, small families, disabled elderly, low(er) income; hospice, mentally ill; small industry, etc.
- Town of Amherst
- Would like to see a development to create a broader tax base.
- Keep development down by increasing lot size to 3 acres. No advantage to town to increase development. Each kid costs \$10,000.
- Landowner should be able to put house where they want.
- Within 1000 feet of present day roads
- No development
- Expand frontage requirement
- Anywhere the land owner wants, on his land, it’s his, why tell him where he has to live.
- Sub divisions
- Housing concentrated with shared open space surrounding clusters of houses.

Q4 – How often do you use the following open space and recreational resources in town?

b. Lake Wyola State Park beach & facilities

- Walks on back side.
- 5 times in 20 years
- if smoking were prohibited and there were motorboat-free days this (*never using State Park, town beach, boat ramp*) would change!!!

c. Randall Rd Town Beach

- canoe and kayak
- (?) x 2 (two question mark comments)

e. Lake Wyola Association beaches

- What? Private property!

g. Powerline rights-of-way

- powerline is too messy for walking
- not any more!

h. Abandoned roads

- private property (Again)

i. Trails on public lands

- x-country skiing

k. State forest land

- Don’t know where it is?

l. Field behind town hall.

- never, but it’s nice to look at
- did regularly when playground

Shutesbury 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey Results
Appendix A, Survey Comments

o. Town Common

- walk on

p. Shutesbury Conservation lands

- Where are they?
- Not sure where they are.

q. M&M hiking trail

- Don't know where this is.
- (?) x 1 (one question mark)

Other places (please list below)

- You folks forgot about people who fish. (add) Rivers for Fishing
- Roads like Montague Rd & Pelham Hill for running...tend to use these things in spurts, i.e. swimming every other day for a month.
- Private beach (*Lake Wyola*)
- Lake Wyola Park trails
- quiet roads-cycling
- snowmobile trails
- All trails in Atkins area
- The cascades
- Ames Pond
- Lake + trails around
- Live on Lake Wyola
- Rattlesnake Gutter Rd. Horse trails private + public land
- Ice skating behind fire station

Q5 – What would encourage you to use these resources more often?

- Time (x3) (three of the same comments)
- knowing where trails or pub / priv.land are
- More dog friendly policies for use.
- More time (free time)
- Signs clarifying which spaces are open to the public
- More trails
- More time in the day. Get rid of standard time – daylight savings time year round.
- Locals have “closed” power line right-of-way west of Montague Road. It's unfriendly, of course, but can they even do this?
- Better information (on the web?). (Don't need to use them to value them)
- Less time at work!
- Information about them, cross-country skiing lessons
- Not of interest
- Knowledge of where the above listed trails/resources are. Less time at work!
- Knowing more about location, access, availability- don't want to trespass unknowingly.
- Information – access info, rte info
- Group activities, community events
- The AT&T right-of-way on the west side of Montague Road – parallel to Leverett Road- has been booby-trapped quite intentionally so people cannot walk or ski on it. Could this be looked into, please?
- More time in my personal schedule
- Knowing they exist for public use would help....never heard of Randall Beach for example.
- If biking and dogs were allowed @ Quabbin

Shutesbury 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey Results
Appendix A, Survey Comments

- Maps and info.
- Longer days, retirement, no black flies, independent wealth, etc.
- Trails marked for e-z hiking.
- Already use the ones we like – more time to enjoy these would be nice
- Better access and public facilities
- Naturalist programs
- Maps describing rights of way and locations
- More free time, more physically able to
- Trail map, permission from private landowner, access to Quabbin for XC skiing
- More snow!
- Knowing more about them – don't know much about trails
- Proximity
- If I knew where they were...freedom from smoke/vehicle exhaust, easy handicapped parking spaces, parking, clear ice for winter skating.
- A map of the places one may hike in town.
- Knowledge about them
- Trail maintenance to circumvent/remove vast mud-pits left by logging skidders.
- nothing
- town maps, www info
- better knee joints
- more time
- Marked trails, maps of open/public areas
- More free time!
- Having a friend in town to go with.
- Knowing where they are and having parking area available.
- If I had more time.
- Publication of location of trails, conservation lands and type of usage.
- Trails near streams or lakes away from traffic.
- Map of trails (public & open to public private trails)
- Develop a well drained baseball/softball field behind fire station.
- More free time mainly, but also not feeling like I'm trespassing on private land and smaller crowds at the State park and beach.
- Improvement of playground + fields, limit snowmobile use to some public trails but not all
- Better parking; maps
- Free parking
- I'm not interested.
- Walking on dirt roads – daily
- Information about them; maps, schedules, availability, a boat!
- Being younger
- Mark trails/land
- Organized activities: hiking clubs, bird watching org., etc.
- Maps
- Younger age
- I don't need public land as I have enough of my own.
- Too old
- Less population
- Being 30 years younger – back then used often
- Longer summers!

Shutesbury 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey Results
Appendix A, Survey Comments

Q6 – Which of the recreational opportunities below would you like to see developed in town?

a. Soccer fields

- exist
- 1 ‘good’ soccer field and playing field.

b. Ice skating rink

- outdoor?
- would prefer safe lake area
- outdoor (x2) (two of the same comments)
- at Lake Wyola

c. Tennis courts

- tennis courts behind town hall.

d. Basketball court

- exists
- basketball court for teenagers

e. Public mountain bike trails

- very low priority
- Insurance cost?

f. public nature/hiking trails

- doesn’t the State Forest have these (*f* & *g*) already at State Beach?

g. public cross-country skiing trails

- Am an avid walker, skier, mtn biker, but we don’t need more trails “developed”.
- X country ski trails with no snowmobiles or all terrain vehicles.

h. Handicapped accessible areas at Lake Wyola

- exist
- already accessible
- isn’t the state beach already accessible?

i. Improved all- purpose playing field

- exists

n. New playground

- exists
- besides the school one??
- w/library behind Town Hall
- eco-safe
- non-toxic materials
- again!

o. Community gathering place

- Coffee shop/ bakery near post office
- in new library
- highest
- something like Wendell General Store
- New Library!
- If it is safe. Town Common is not safe.

Shutesbury 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey Results
Appendix A, Survey Comments

Other (please list)

- What happened with the design plan done in 2002 by Conway School of Landscape Design student?
- These are all great ideas.
- Carver Rd and other places are very accessible
- Cable access
- Public snowmobile trails
- Just leave everything the way it is. No tax dollars for recreation.
- High speed wireless internet access – cell phone service
- Have no personal opinion about others as we would not use these resources. (*Public nature/hiking trails*) and (*Public cross-country skiing trails*) are fairly low cost / could be maintained by volunteers & used by many people. Cause low impact to the env. & can be educational as well can be signed for env value)
- We like Shutesbury pretty much as it is-
- No tax monies for above!
- Fast internet!!
- New library
- (*I – P*) Proximity to Amherst should not require a small town to provide such things.
- ATV trails
-safe trail or sidewalk/bike land between school and common
- focus fields for sports in Amherst, maintain unbroken forests in Shutes., purchase the Jones Cows land.
- Winter access to school gym for family night, diff age groups, etc.
- Library, sidewalks or shoulders on roads that make walking safer
- Community walks/hikes
- A nice town swimming area
- Baseball/softball field behind fire station
- Recreational opportunities that could benefit the greatest number of people and cannot be found elsewhere (or don't already exist) are the most important in town.
- Paved area for in-line skating and skateboarding
- No opinion here, but high priority for families w/children-teens needs. Indoor space for dance, yoga, aerobics, jazzercise, low-cost classes for health, fun, recreation.
- Renovation and community center of the Lake Wyola Park house.
- Horse riding trails

Q7 – Are there specific natural/historical/archaeological areas in Shutesbury that the Town should try to acquire, protect access to, or otherwise protect?

- Lake Wyola public users should pay to use/park boat ramp. These users impact greatly on water quality and charging a fee for use could offset rehabilitation efforts.
- Paint town hall a nicer color, fix church steeple – it's leaning, make town center area look more appealing – planting of trees and shrubs in front of town hall, get rid of the circular drive in front.
- Verifiable sites related to Daniel Shays
- Beehive caves and other areas of archaeological interest
- Banfield APR Land-periodic logging creates havoc, not managed in a friendly, neighborly way.
- Brushy Mtn. corridor, Old Town Rd/ Silvermine Rd, Roaring brook
- The schoolhouse on Schoolhouse Rd. perhaps?
- Protect the town from sprawl-type development by changing the zoning rules.
- Not familiar with these yet.
- Clean water: Lake Wyola, ground water, etc.
- Southbrook Conservation area – enforce no ATV's – wrecking trails – gates? needed

Shutesbury 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey Results
Appendix A, Survey Comments

- Town Hall should not be a house!!
- Reed Road from West Pelham Rd to Pratt Corner Rd – acquire for hiking, etc.
- Town center, Temenos, Atkins Reservoir
- Air quality, water quality, peace & quiet, darkness at night
- All stone walls; they are historical and provide good wildlife habitat - old gravesites within reason – all older, old growth groves/trees
- Brushy Mtn.
- Private-owned land that would better protect Atkins Reservoir. Private-owned land that would better protect perennial streams in town.
- Wooded areas around Atkins Res.
- Animal pound, beehives
- Mature forest with old growth characteristics (mostly on Quabbin Land)
- Old village site – Briggs Road? Other old stone structures, etc. historic buildings, regardless of condition until they can be repaired (such as old house on lot O32)
- Junket Rd foundations, wells, charcoal ovens, beaver ponds, streams, views, amphibian habitat. The s-curves natural beauty – no power lines, no straightening, keeping streams – same w. Prescott Rd. The area around Lake Wyola/Temenos
- Beaver ponds on junkette rd
- Town should promote the preservation of open fields.
- Roaring Brook, Dean Brook
- Beehive caves
- Mineral mountain area, (Jenson Rd), monks caves, wetlands
- All of the Jones land
- Tract of land on west side of Montague Rd.
- Lake Wyola
- Extend land around our recent purchase of the Taylor property.
- Wetlands throughout Town
- Brown's "pond" area
- Cowles land off Montague Rd to preserve trails.
- I would like a trail beside a lake or stream.
- Conduct a cellar hole, monk cave inventory map
- All stoneworks – walls, wells, foundations, etc. are historic treasures that define New England.
- Large tracts of State and Shutesbury forest.
- Old Town Hall – more access and use of
- Protect the few open fields left in town
- Certain stretches of undeveloped road frontage
- Carver Rd – no access to motorized vehicles other than snowmobiles
- Protect as much as possible!
- The schoolhouse @ corner of Baker + Schoolhouse roads
- Old growth forests
- Old growth forests if any exist
- Lake Wyola should be kept and protected.
- All watershed areas – streams, culverts, rivers, Lake Wyola / Quabbin watershed
- My place –Janowitz
- Don't know! Keep all open spaces.
- Less water for the Quabbin. Less water for the Town of Amherst.
- Cellar holes & house foundations
- Archaeological sites
- No. We had what is now Shutesbury State Forest sold it for next to nothing and the State sold the timber for a large sum. Don't waste any more tax payers hard earned money.
- NO

Shutesbury 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey Results
Appendix A, Survey Comments

- High bridge
- Ames pond and stone culvert under Old Wendell Rd.

Q8 – Public use of trails on private property is at the discretion of the private property owner, who can withdraw their permission at any time. Types of activities allowed on public land are determined by the public agency which owns or manages it, including conservation and watershed land. With this in mind, what activities do you support or oppose on public land or your land in town?

b. Horseback riding

- on roads difficult

c. Mountain Biking

- limit trails
- no way

f. Snowmobiling

- Some trails are open to it, some not
- No way
- Limit trails
- Destructive to habitat

g. All Terrain Vehicle use

- no! (2)
- No way
- they ruin the trails and create erosion
- never!!
- if done responsibly, possibly. The trails are very chewed up right now.
- Destructive to habitat

h. Other motorized vehicles

- like what?
- (*oppose*) unless trail etiquette is encouraged, then (*support*)
- No way!
- Destructive to habitat
- (*Snowmobiling, ATV use, Other motorized vehicles*) must be restricted to certain trails and roads so hikers and skiers have separate space.
- Please – NO one crossing our lot
- hunting
- This is hugely confusing – is it for landowners? What “public” land? DCR, MDC, town, Amherst? Good luck analyzing this one – it is way too ambiguous.
- Oppose all use of motorized vehicles on trails, public land.
- No one should use land not theirs.

Q9 – Have you personally experienced problems with motorized vehicles on trails in town? Yes or No

- ATV’s destroy trails. Posted etiquette could never stop this. Snowmobiles are noisy but do not cause damage.
- Not directly (or personally), but the trails are in rough shape. Wet fall and ATV use left deep ruts.
- But in my hometown, ATV’s took over & greatly damaged the terrain.
- String of jeeps heading from trails off Sand Hill Rd.
- ATV’s have plowed up wetlands near our place
- Motorcycle

Shutesbury 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey Results
Appendix A, Survey Comments

- ATV's in Southbrook
- ATV's
- No, and I don't want to!
- Years ago
- This question is unfairly biased. If someone answers "yes", does that mean once in the last 5 years, once a year, once a week? Responses to this question will create a distorted picture of reality... This question is as "loaded" as asking "Have you ever had a problem with (*can't read* (# 76))? Have you ever had a problem with the ConCom?"
- My daughter and I were almost run over by rude snowmobilers.
- I like the way they open up snowy trails to hikers and dog walkers.
- Most people are quite courteous but a few are quite rude & dangerous.

Q10 – The Town acquired the property Lot O32 across from the Highway Department on Leverett Road last year for future municipal use. How do you think it should be used?

a. New library complex

- It would be nice if the library could stay on the common, but if this is the only available space then yes! New library please.
- a good location
- if needed
- It is a high priority and should be attached to the Town Hall
- Put behind town hall
- Depending on needs of our community
- Silly, unnecessary. Every town doesn't need library-with the Jones & the Leverett library.

b. New highway, police, or fire station building

- Police need something.
- don't think this is necessary
- Fire station greatest need
- Depending on needs of our community
- If needed

c. Athletic fields

- Don't we have enough athletic fields already?
- Behind town hall
- You need to look at all the other options

d. Conservation land

- Until future uses are clearly known for the long term, such as additional school space – the current school can not be expanded – we were told when the addition was completed.
- In rear

Other (Please list):

- Recreation Center. I think it should be a facility that can create revenue for the town.
- Why not create library behind Town Hall?
- Store/community ctr
- Energy park
- Community space- all we have is the Shutesbury AC-smoky and unsuitable for children
- Biodiesel station
- Skate park/ snowmobile + BMX raceway
- new school – turn the existing school into library/senior center/town hall/ community building
- tennis court

Shutesbury 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey Results
Appendix A, Survey Comments

- police station
- Community center maybe?
- A town farm w/ greenhouses
- Tower for high-speed internet access
- Community gathering, play, picnic
- school (future)
- save or move old library building
- Low income residences for elderly Shutesbury Citizens and for the chemically sensitive – State funded
- Open to all of these
- This is so hard to answer. I don't know anything about the issue.
- Skating rink
- Senior housing
- Teen center combined with community center
- Limited commercial use – store/coffee shop
- In-town housing
- Retail
- Low income housing/apts./condos, half-way house for ill, homeless, respite care, etc. To explore w/community support
- New Town Hall to include offices for police & library & senior center
- If you take a good look at it in the spring you may realize the only thing it is appropriate for is cows.
- Would be better used as a sub division. More tax revenue. No use because you paid too much for this land – worth only 50,000 not 212,000

Q11 – What interesting wildlife have you seen, or seen signs of in town in the past few years?

- Weasel
- otter (river)
- Turtles(painted)
- Fox
- Many deer
- Porcupine
- Skunk
- I didn't know eagles lived this far south!
- Barred owl
- red fox
- gray tree frogs
- Osprey
- Broad winged hawk
- spotted salamander
- Amazingly all of these I've seen within 2 feet or less of my home, always reminding me how "special" this place is.
- Pileated woodpecker
- Opossum
- turkey vulture
- snapping turtle
- raccoon
- Bear is the only I haven't actually seen
- Red squirrel
- ruffed grouse
- sharpshinned hawks

Shutesbury 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey Results
Appendix A, Survey Comments

- Many kinds of birds & fish
- Blue heron
- Snowy owl
- We live downstream from Lake Wyola w/ stream in front yard – good view. Participate in “Project Feeder Watch” and record all birds each year. Just listed most interesting ones...northern grosbeak, wood ducks, black ducks, northern snow-whet owl, woodcock.
- Mink
- River otters
- Scarlet tanagers
- Big Foot
- Raven
- Sharp tail grouse
- Black squirrel
- Canadian geese
- Red tailed hawk

Q16 – Please circle phrase that best describes your housing situation.

- Landowner for 3 years. Building Residence this year.

Additional Comments

PLEASE get the snowmobiles off Lake Wyola. It's like having a highway in the middle of a playground. I feel my family and I are denied access to the lake because of the snowmobiles. They go so fast and I worry about getting hit. Thank you.

There is practically no areas that encourage dog owners to bring their dogs/ are dog friendly. Perhaps you could allow dogs at certain times only & also provide a dog-doo bag dispenser so owners can clean up after their dogs with ease.

I have trails that many people use on my property. We don't mind the use, but many people go off the trail. We will close the trail if people keep going off it.

Thank you for working on this plan and for seeking input! Carry on!

We should be restricting new development as much as possible, combined with aggressive measures to subsidize and eliminate totally any negative effects for more residents, seniors, and anyone else who is harmed by such restrictions. Thank You!!

These questions alone show me how lucky we are to have such thoughtful insights and ideas generated to protect our environment. (the air, the water, the soil, the animals, and yes, the people) Thank you for your continued interest and action. You're doing a wonderful job!

Open recreational space is important and so is leaving the door open to development later. Zoning out future development is not the answer.

I appreciate conserving land in Shutesbury. I appreciate living industry free. I would be willing to donate my time to develop recreation, etc. lands. Please do not raise my taxes for these projects. Taxes are high already.

As we own on Lake Wyola, we obviously are very concerned about water quality, specifically weed control.

Thanks for volunteering your time and doing what you are doing.

Shutesbury 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey Results
Appendix A, Survey Comments

1. Hook up w/ Morse Hill to get more kids outdoors – build skills
 - run programs thru elem. School, town rec, summer camp opportunities
2. Shutesbury talent show/ open mike ---beat the winter blues and uncover town talent
3. summer concerts/coffee houses – local acts

If future subdivisions are ever approved, I feel that developers should be required to build roads to the standard required for town acceptance – i.e. town would maintain them. Private roads are disastrous for neighborhoods.

Thank you for volunteering to do this important work!

I feel this survey is fairly neutral in tone, that is the questions are not too leading in one direction or another. However, I also feel it should be used as a general guide, and not necessarily a call to specific action. Most of Shutesbury's infrastructure is not in real good shape, therefore improving what we have, rather than add to it, should be a priority.

Unfortunately, this survey doesn't get at the central looming issue that confronts Shutesbury's long-term trajectory. A single landowner, the largest in the state and a real-estate development company, owns a massive amount of the back land (and especially formerly frontage). This fact and the issues that it raises should be openly discussed and confronted. Most of the issues raised here will be moot if that single owner plays its cards the way they would like.

You are doing great work – thank you

Not only is it unpleasant to encounter all terrain vehicles and snowmobiles on trail, smell their exhaust and hear their noise, but every year they keep widening the trails and ripping up soil, leaving a muddy mess.

Thank you for asking.

The appeal of Shutesbury is its rural character and low density of population and buildings. Shutesbury has a trove of historic stoneworks from the 18th and 19th centuries that should be preserved. Shutesbury's focus on land use should be to retain its rural character. All the amenities of life – retail and cultural- are within a 30- minute drive. There's no compelling reason to provide any of this in town; we don't need to duplicate what's available nearby.

Thank you for considering all of us! In answering question #1, I realized the reasons I came to live in Shutesbury (primarily the elementary school) are not necessarily why we chose to stay and ultimately buy a home. (Reasons) are particularly important to me as I have some chemical sensitivities.

Thank you for this good work! Although our original reason (other than the rural setting) for choosing Shutesbury was the well known progressive elementary school, now that our kids are grown it is friends and community and history that keep us here. My major long term concern is whether or not we can continue to afford to live here, i.e. property tax levels.

Thank you. Fine job!

Two safety issues concern us. Wendell Road – too narrow- headed north, the right hand side of the road washes out – we have helped many older folks & women get out of the shoulder due to water. Cell phone tower – they can be attractive or not intrusive. Maybe the town could receive the income from it. We have telephone poles which are very ugly. When the power goes out or in a car it is now a safety issue – especially for handicapped or seniors.

This is a free country, you are suppose to have the freedom to own land and do what you want with it.