

Shrewsbury Planning Commission
MINUTES
June 10, 2025
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Shrewsbury Town Office
9823 Cold River Rd., Shrewsbury VT

Shrewsbury Planning Commission

7:00 to 7:15 p.m. Open to public input

Following public input:

1. Call to order
Meeting called to order at 7:06
Attendees: Laura Black virtually, Conner Self, and Melissa Reichert.
2. Approval of agenda, review and/or revision
Agenda approved as presented.
3. Rounds and mail (SPC members' updates and review PC mail received)
The draft Rutland Regional Plan is now posted on their website and they are taking comments until July 11. Laura noted there is no mention of Emerald Ash Borer in the draft Regional Plan or the expense of the cost of removal of the ash trees to towns. Melissa brought up that the Clarendon Gorge Bridge is open. The Conservation Commission discussed the definition of Meadowlands and is going to ask us for a definition.
4. Acceptance of meeting minutes of April 22, 2024
Meeting minutes accepted as written.
5. Forest Health Focus Group take aways
The impacts of climate change on forest health is worth discussing in the plan. Melissa looked at information on the Forest Service Atlas and found a spreadsheet that shows tree species in decline and those on the increase. The idea of property owners working together on forest management and sharing ideas with each other is worth including in the plan. The idea that it is hard to regenerate some trees due to deer browse is noteworthy. There are differences of opinion on deer population and number of hunters. It would be good to talk to Fish and Wildlife or Tim Carey, Game Warden. Laura is going to reach out to John McCann in Mount Holly on Emerald Ash Borer. It would be good to know information on timber harvesting quantities for the town. The County Forester may be able to provide information on this.
6. Plan the next Focus Group
Melissa reviewed the ideas from the meeting with the Conservation Commission about combining Pollinators, meadowlands and agriculture. She reviewed the list of potential invitees: Pollinator

Habitat Focus Group Invitees – SCC; Master Gardeners (Connie); Tim Stout; Pam Darrow (Beekeepers-Dick B, Dave Fretz, Val ____); Also people who maintain meadows and agricultural lands such as Smiths, Sharrows, Connor, Ryan, Jessers, Orville. We will have the Focus group on this topic on July 8. Laura will do an announcement for the Times. Conner will contact farmers – Caravan Gardens, Ryan, the Ranch; Laura will contact Dave Fretz, Dick Brigham, Tim Stout, Sharrows; and Melissa will contact Pam, Connie, and Smiths.

Melissa suggested that we could have a meeting on education, childcare, housing and invite Stephen Abatiell, Kim Williams, Gretchen Gould, the Ranch, Scott and Lindsay Courcelle, Joan Aleshire, Adrienne Raymond, Kristen Cimonetti. Maybe could include Elder care – Sally Dienzer.

7. Town Plan revision strategy and work items—Data needs list, Graphics request list
The Regional Plan has a lot of data and graphs that are worth examining. We reviewed the data and graphics list. Much of it needs to be calculated by Nic Stark at Rutland Regional. Melissa is going to contact the state about Climate data and the geology. Laura will contact Nic about data and Adrienne about subdivision numbers.

The next meeting we will get back to the organization of the Plan document.

8. To do list review – same list as before
 - Scenic Resources - Melissa
 - Town Plan Maps discussion – see 11/12/24 minutes
 - Meadowlands review - proceed per 10/08/24 notes

Next meeting June 24, 2025

9. Adjourn

Planning Commission, Chair

Date