

Shrewsbury Planning Commission
MINUTES
February 24, 2026
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 7:03
Attendees: Laura Black, Conner Self, Melissa Reichert and Sean Beatty from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC)
2. Approval of agenda, review and/or revision
Agenda approved as presented.
3. Meeting with Sean Beatty from Rutland Regional Planning Commission
Sean came did a RRPC Enhanced Consultation on the Town Plan (see attached). Sean went through our plan and pointed out strong points. Sean thought the maps looked pretty good but we want to make changes. Connor liked the Mount Holly maps. Melissa liked the insets of maps in the Tinmouth plan. We would like to add some of the graphics that are in Tinmouth. Sean also went through some weaknesses such as a lack of graphics and photos. He reviewed the state requirements, and we need to update the expiration dates to be 8 years. The housing standards are going to change so we may have to make changes based on the Land Use Review Board maps. We need to add a Flood Resiliency section, habitat connectors and an education chapter.

We gave Sean the outline of the document and he thought it was an improvement. We also gave him the schedule for the plan.

We reviewed the data needs. There may be some issues getting some of the slope and elevation data. We reviewed the map analysis that Connor prepared. The transportation map has new requirements. It has to include bridges and culverts. We may not be able to put trails on the transportation map. We should add the National Historic Landmarks.

4. Rounds and mail (SPC members' updates and review PC mail received)
Tabled to next meeting
5. Acceptance of meeting minutes of February 12, 2026
Tabled to next meeting.

6. 2027 Town Plan work: Review and discuss information and sections on:

- Invasive plants
- Transportation

Tabled to next meeting

7. Continue review of maps and information from meeting with SCC and Jens Hilke on the Wildlife Road Crossing/Tracking project

Tabled to next meeting

8. To do list review – same list as before

- Natural Resources Section Melissa
- Scenic Resources - Melissa
- Town Plan Maps discussion – see 11/12/24 minutes
- Meadowlands review - proceed per 10/08/24 notes

Next meeting March 10

9. Adjourn

Planning Commission, Chair

Date

RRPC ENHANCED CONSULTATION FORM

MUNICIPALITY: SHREWSBURY

2/23/26

DATE OF CONSULTATION:

TOWN ATTENDEES: PLANNING COMMISSION

4/3/27

DATE OF PLAN EXPIRATION:

RRPC ATTENDEES: SEAN BEATTY

E.C. TYPE: DEVEL VS. IMPLEM

1) PRESENT THE OUTLINED TIMELINE FOR ADOPTING A PLAN CONSISTENT WITH STATE LAW.

1A) IS THE MUNICIPALITY ACTIVELY WORKING ON IT'S PLANNING PROCESS (YES/NO)?

YES, STARTED UPDATING IN LATE 2025

1B) DESCRIBE THE CURRENT STATUS AND EXPECTED TIMELINE FOR THE PLANNING PROCESS.

WILL EXPIRE APRIL 3, 2027 – ROUGHLY 14 MONTHS AWAY

APRIL 3RD 2027 ADOPTION DATE

2) PRESENT MUNICIPAL PLAN ASSESSMENT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE CONSISTENT WITH STATE LAW.

2A) DOES THE MUNICIPALITIES PLAN ALIGN WITH STATE GOALS (YES/NO)?

YES

2B) DOES THE MUNICIPALITIES PLAN ALIGN ALL STATE REQUIREMENTS (YES/NO)? TEXT

PARTIAL – COULD BENEFIT FROM . . .

FLOOD RESILIENCY SECTION

STAND ALONE EDUCATION SECTION

MUNICIPAL PLAN ASSESSMENT:

Strengths – What aspects of the town plan are most effective?

- Strong intro narrative
- Strong Natural Resources and Land Use Analysis
- Numbered policy statements
- Data integration into narrative
- Recent (2019) Maps

Planning Weaknesses – What aspects of the town plan are least effective?

- Chapter transitions are abrupt (smooth out by starting each new chapter on its own page)
- Long text-heavy chapters (Natural Resources, Land Use, Energy)
- Data presentation (too text-based)
 - o Tables and charts are rare
 - o Add visual comparisons
- Policies are a bit overwhelming in certain sections
 - o Can be combined and condensed in multiple spots
- Needs visuals or illustrations
- Repetition of sections in different chapters

24 V.S.A Weaknesses – What aspects of the town plan don't align with state law and RP (including all new state requirements)?

- Expiration is not 5 years, it's now 8 years (implementation)
- Housing standards are very outdated (for modern compliance, needs to be data-driven)
 - o Housing needs
 - o Inventory by type/tenure
 - o Regional price comparison
 - o Affordability analysis
 - o Future projections
- Flood Resiliency requirements
 - o Standalone Flood Resilience element
 - o River Corridor maps (State River Corridors)
- Mapped and labeled "Habitat Connectors." (Local & State)
- Stronger Childcare section

Opportunities – What would make the town plan more effective?

- Add more visuals (charts, diagrams, photos, graphs, etc.)
- Strengthen chapter summaries and introductions (maybe no summaries)
- More sub headers (Visual Hierarchy) (outline is already solving)
- Consolidate repetitive topics (Outline is already solving)
- Integrate maps into narrative (Found on page. EX) (Map inset into writing)