

Shrewsbury Planning Commission
MINUTES
September 17, 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 7:08
Attendees: Laura Black, Conner Self, Melissa Reichert, Louise Duda, Michelle Greene, Connie Youngstrom, and Pam Darrow.
2. Approval of agenda, review and/or revision
Laura suggested that we move Town Plan work wildlife to third on the agenda. Agenda approved with the change in order.
3. Wildlife Section
Some Shrewsbury Conservation Commission members joined us for review of the Wildlife section. Melissa described the sources that she used to create the document: Conserving Vermont's Natural Heritage, Community Strategies for Vermont's Forests and Wildlife, and Biofinder 4.0 Technical Abstracts. She suggested that the text box could be formatted differently. Laura suggested we add the recent removal of the 2 dams to the riparian areas. She also suggested adding the movement of animals north due to climate change as well as bird migration. She used the migration map that Jens presented from The Nature Conservancy. She was not sure if it should go into wildlife or climate resilience. This exemplifies the need for the corridors to be conserved. Louise has suggested additional language around the lynx. She recalls the lynx being sighted earlier around the swinging bridge.
4. Rounds and mail (SPC members' updates and review PC mail received)
Melissa met with Linda Shelvey and Michelle Greene to discuss the possibility of doing wildlife crossing surveys in a few more locations and also discussed the idea of culvert inventory and rehabilitation of perched culverts.
Laura noted the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is supposed to be integrated into other plans and procedures. The Town has an emergency management ordinance. There is grant funding coming out for capital improvement plan projects. Laura is interested in this project.
Conner has not heard from Sean on the maps and will check on them.
5. Acceptance of meeting minutes of August 25, 2026.

Meeting minutes accepted as written.

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

- Sidebars and updated layout from Sean – Laura worked with Sean and we agreed on the sidebar, graphic and text format.
- Sections to review – Wildlife, Housing, Energy (maybe), Education any other sections ready for review
Facilities Section - Laura added emergency management, the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan description, and that the town maintains a radio antenna on Kinsman Hill to the Facilities Section. She also added some policies.
Housing section – We looked at the Census data for housing units versus the Zoning Administrators and these numbers do not match. Melissa commented on calling out the elderly housing needs and the addition of mobile homes as somewhat prejudicial. We discussed that what we really need is a better mix of housing as far as sizes and that mobile homes are just housing units. We agreed that the figures for median income for renters and owners seem to be incorrect and need to be verified and changed. Laura will continue to work on the Housing Section.
- Town Plan Maps – discussed in Rounds.

We also briefly discussed the Future Land Use Section which needs to be discussed and drafted.

7. To do list review – same list as before

- Meadowlands review - proceed per 10/08/24 notes

Next meeting, September 29, 2026

8. Adjourn

Planning Commission, Chair

Date