

What do you value most about Shutesbury?

Town of Shutesbury Commission Visioning Meeting

- Value elevations (cooler summer)
↳ climate
Snow winter
- NATURE: woods what attracted 24 yrs ago.
↳ stayed for the community
- Rote RURAL Feel: Sense of space
w/n community
- Lake Wyola: Activity
↳ proximity / 140/150 P-6
- Institutions: School
: Town Hall (old school) } Scale
: Administration
- Scale community & proximity to
larger 30K pop. / Amherst 10min/20min
- Small population 2010 \$771
- Open Space → Ac. "Farming"
- Nature & community combination
↳ gathering spaces. (Nature)

What do you value most about Shutesbury?

Town of Shutesbury Community Visioning Workshop

- Rural setting: Beauty, Quiet, dark sky, Deer land, Wild life, Respect
- Open town mtg: ATM May
: Every vote counts
- Public Safety
- Wild life
- Neighborhoods → interdependence
- Small town have opportunity for individual
to contribute / participate committees
- Library: Sponsors cultural activities
Programs (lots)
- Sirius → 25/30 residents
- State Park → Shutesbury shares w/
everybody
- State owned land
- local mrkts / town hall
- Historical Resources
↳ old town hall → holds a lot of history
- Education → School system well supported

What do you value most about Shutesbury?

- Rural character: Experience of Beauty
- Quiet / Dark Skys → Peaceful
- Historic Resources: Buildings
 - ↳ Connection
 - : Stone walls
 - : Dams / Foundations
- Elem. Schools w/ local control
 - 50 staff / 120 students
- Natural Resources available to residents; non-residents
- Connection to people
 - ↳ you are known / not anon
 - ↳ Connectivity w/ea other
- Spaciousness → Nature, Physical space
- Volunteerism
- Nature / Trails / Library →
- Nurturing: Happy / Joyful / Grounding
- Progressive minded / Considering Greater good
- Large / open tracks of land / trails

What do you value most about Shutesbury?

- People: Well-educated
- Neighborly
- Involved

- Explore history
- Families w/ generational connection
- Variety of ways to connect
- Socially

- Lake Wyda → Activities Social Summer

- Rural / location wooded / Amherst

- "The Hill" → Bicycle
- Community building opportunities

- Sirius Community

- Woodlands → Beauty, hiking exercise

- Diversity of population → Backgrounds

- Space → Surroundings
- → Rural character
- → Splendor
- → Knowledge

- Voter turnout → everyone participates

- Natural Resources

- Amherst regional school "International"

- Environment(s) for raising school-aged / grandchildren → Range

- Reservoir →

- Familiar Faces → Know many

- Feeling of safety

- Tenacity of getting thru conflicts:

- Elementary School & library as resources

- Proximity to 5 college communities
- Educational Culture ←
- Amherst UN Mass
- Hampshire Mt. Holyoke

What do you value most about Shutesbury?

- 90ac SIRIUS organic gardens
- eco. village
- educational workshops
- 35 years. Baker Rd.
- educational center
- close to Quabbin Res.
- Lake Wyola
- 3 conf centers / retreats
- Privacy of setting
- ↳ surroundings
- Community / knowledge of people
- Shutesbury Athletic Club
- Sirius community w/in Shutesbury
- Natural Beauty

- Independent thinking →
- Families. generational history /
↳ presence.
- Library → Kayak
- Heartstone Village

●●●● Lack of cell service/internet

●●●● Property tax burden

invasive plants

Speeding cars on dirt roads

● Lack of public spaces for comfortable, informal community gathering

● Dependence on cars
Lack of public transportation

●●●● Stroke holding
Too much satellite for solar power

● Air quality and noise from reme diation equipment at town hall

●●●● Speeding motor boats at Lake Wipola
Lack of structure conversations
Engaging with respect conversations

● Lack of new library

Small meeting spaces

●●●● Poor attendance market # vendors

●●●● Nox

●●●● Nox elder friendly

●●●● No marching band - community building

●●●● Nox

●●●● Drive thru for pizza, milk

●●●● Drive thru for everything

●●●● Drive thru for everything

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What is your least favorite thing about Shutesbury?

What is your least favorite thing about Shutesbury?

Absence of an accepted forum/
where conflict can be
resolved

Lack of industry/
tax base

- Bad sides of a small town too
- Divisiveness + Polarization as a result of disagreement over issues (ie. the library)

Lack of a place to
gather.

- Old vs. New - conflicting opinions about continuing growth, gentrification, increasing taxes

Under utilized commons

Debates where people don't
feel listened to or heard.

Difference of desire to
understand other people's
for.

No survival center
services for poor
What is your least favorite thing about Shutesbury?

Dirt roads
Road maintenance

Library too small

(No Bike paths (road))

Library adequate to serve community

Lack of awareness of economic diversity - lack of understanding of economic disadvantaged.

High Property Taxes

Lack of physical infrastructure (Senior ctr., library, boys + girls club, comp. access)

Large public accessible space.

- Walking on roads - no place to walk - need sidewalks

- No Broadband

- No Town Center - functional downtown - no barber shop/coffee shop -

- Far from normal conveniences

- No Take out

- Divisive Communication over issues people are passionate about

- Us vs. Them, Old vs New

- No assisted living (aging in place assistance)

- No public transportation

Lack of action on building maintenance

What is your least favorite thing about Shutesbury?

Town of Shutesbury Community Visioning Workshop

- Having to drive everywhere
- Lack of services - limited library, internet
- Lack of open government and tolerance
- citizens are judgmental
- We have a hard time understanding
- Lack of common narrative
- no Broadband

VERIZON
Corporations



Confederate flag on Montague Rd

What is your least favorite thing about Shutesbury?

● Lack of Internet

● Painful Politics

● Lack of Transportation / Car dependence

● Lack of basic needs -
convenience goods
co-op

● Ineffective + unenforced dog policies
lax, unattended, barking dogs

● Lack of a gathering place

● Poor cell phone service

● Steadily ↑ Property taxes

● Lack of interest in driving revenue into town
Business, solar project
Revenue that brings value

● Poor access to volunteer

● Small, historical facility

● Poor opportunity for inter generation

● Lack of opportunity for isolation
come thru

● Potential facilities
esp. as people age

● Poor town placed facilities
Poor town placed facilities

What would you change about Shutesbury?

Town of Shutesbury Community Visioning Workshop

- Butter on popcorn closer to ocean
 - Nice big library/community meeting space ●
 - More adequate town buildings - functional, contemporary, better maintained, modern facilities
 - ~~More~~ Less restrictive housing/family restrictions - extended
 - Shared living accommodations
 - More aging in place services
 - Easier access to basic staples - bread, milk, etc
 - Coffee shop
 - Better internet + cell service
 - Change dynamics around issues
 - Improve public discourse
 - Engagem + of younger people - sport, social, recreation
 - Public transportation
 - Ability to bike, walk, run safely on roads
 - More fire + ambulance service
 - More opportunities for social gatherings/activities ●
 - Comfortable meeting/activities space
 - More utilization of Senior lounge ● ●
 - Erase us vs them attitudes - find common ground ●
 - Attract young families to town
 - More affordable housing
 - Raise awareness of economic differences
 - Shelter for those who have those needs
 - Provide services for people in need
- Apply for more grants
Rely less on volunteers more on paid employees
Have a makers space ●
Replace School auditorium curtain

What would you change about Shutesbury?

Town of Shutesbury, Community Visioning Workshop

Have a little store ●●●●●

●● More connection between town + Sirius

Bike/walking paths on main streets

●● More gathering spaces - adult ed/recreation ●

Limit motor boats on Lake Wyola - size, speed,

Lower property taxes ●

Make Internet happen

Bring more people to farmers market

More sustainable energy - homes, public land, geothermal ●●

Charging stations

Public transportation ☺☺

See more people ~~to~~ volunteering (clamoring)

More community space

New library ●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●

More municipal solar farms ●●●

Long range planning for self sustaining energy

Senior housing

More aging in place services

Support services for elderly/disadvantaged/neighbors

More family attractions

Space for small business + artists to work

More public gardens

Get rid of invasive species

Get rid of mold in buildings

What would you change about Shutesbury?

Town of Shutesbury Community Visioning Workshop

- Lower taxes
- Less polarized town ● ●
- Better cell + Internet reception ● ● ●
- Unmoldy community gathering space
- Pleasant " " "
- Increased civic engagement ●
- Lower energy costs
- Encourage small businesses
- Internet cafe
- Cushman type location (Cushman Market)
- Bigger library w/ cafe, internet, ● ● ● ●
- Better Senior Services - housing, meals on wheels,
- ~~Encourage~~ Attract young families to live here
- "Take it or leave it" location
- Less invasive species
- Take better care of dirt roads
- Post police blog

What would you change about Shutesbury?

Town of Shutesbury Community Visioning Workshop

- IMPROVE INTERNET SERVICE
- ENCOURAGE LOCAL BUSINESS - have locals shop here - general store
- Start public transportation
- INCREASE UTILIZATION of town buildings including school
- public water supply well for clean water
- private drinking water protection assistance
- more respectful dialog/transparency
- More places for community events
- Greater inclusion of SIVUS residents
- Carpooling
- Visiting nurse service
- INCREASE Intergenerational support
- INCREASE community participation
- create needs + offering system/directory
- provide childcare @ town events
- Town sponsored workshops + Events (CPR, 1ST AID)
- ONGOING town communication group ●

What would you change about Shutesbury?

- Redo Pelham Hill rd to the way it was -

Sidewalks / Bike paths

● Build town center - gen. store, fountain, bandstand parky,

● Change the way we have discussion about divisive issues - build consensus ●

Better communication

Better communication about new issues

Find ways to access/inform public about issues

Elderly support

Frame problems

Greater involvement of residents

● Ability to agree on common ground + vision

● Make town more affordable

● Lower property taxes ● ●

Find different funding sources

What about Shutesbury should stay the same?

Town of Shutesbury Community Visioning Workshop

- rural / living in the woods → walk in woods w/o being in someone's backyard.
- population (not more, not fewer) → but grow w/ young families ← not smaller (tax base).
- keepings > school independent → control, big asset to community, independence, local (↓ in school pop).
- natural beauty → just driving home (experience).
→ nights are dark (no light pollution), Lake Wyola, sunset @ top of hill @ town hall
→ temp chg in ... - summer hiking paths, ponds
- community spirit → celebrate Shutesbury, dancing + dinners @ AC, ukelele jam

Large tracts of forested land ●●

listening to the community

- volunteer involvement
- governance largely by volunteers (not professionals)

→ helpfulness + pleasantness of people at library + town hall
Civil servants - fire, police

four season recreational opportunities
skiing, biking, hiking, swimming
paddling, snowshoeing, skating } keep paths + trails we have

Shutesbury Athletic Club

Library + Kayak → active + interesting library

What about Shutesbury should stay the same?

Town of Shutesbury Community Visioning Workshop

- lack of traffic
- open woodlands — trees, quiet, wildlife understory
- hiking trails
- Lake Wyola — ~~clean water~~ ● ●
- rural character — wooded, night sky, dirt roads control
- beautiful own elementary school — local ~~sch~~, great, ●
- quiet
- Clean drinking water ● ●
- Safety — crime rate is low, safe to raise children ●
- Climate — always cooler
- programs — school, library, COA, hist. comm. CMC (Community Network for Children)
- library programs — (but not buildings)
- local control — long tradition, independence, self-governing, self-reliance
- volunteerism (including town gov.)

- New zoning — open space, ~~town center~~
- low density (building) (population)
- Artsy nature (studio art tour, holiday mkt)
- farmers market
- well-kept secret
- neighborliness
- supportive nature of fire + police
- friendly police dept. ●

What about Shutesbury should stay the same?

Natural resources ●

trash collection. curbside ● ●

nature - paths, woods, go out door,

diverse population - different backgrounds

large volunteer participation in Town government

liberal spirit

location → Quabbin Res. ceremonial state Am., distance to Boston

● participation + access to 5-college community

unposted private land = no "No Trespassing" signs

● lake → access to Lake Wyola (swimmers/kayakers); Wendell State Forest ● ●

● kayakers fine library also fishing rods

● Farmers Market (or grow)

● Garden Tours - attract visitors

● hiking trails, skiing, (X-country out back door).

↳ welcoming

privacy of settings of homes (low density of development) (zoning)

● Bulky Waste Day

Community Traditions - Halloween Pancake Breakfast
Dancing Spaghetti Supper
Celebrate Shutesbury

● Athletic Club - good resource, live music, meetings
Holiday Fair

● Rural Road Network (small-time roads)

distance to Boston

● ● Annual Town Meeting - Open
Population (sustain)

● Unfragmented Back Land - huge blocks
1000s acres

● Historic Assets - buildings + Landscapes

Monument on Green, Church, school houses

History still part of present

What about Shutesbury should stay the same?

elementary - heart of community; no lead → public water supply is clean → attractive for families

historic → old time New England, unspoiled, buildings

- School house, Old Town Hall
- Daniel Shays - owned property
- Drinking Water

People

woods, stars, abundant wildlife

- Athletic Club - free live music, benefits, food nights
- Neighborhood around SIRIUS → attract outside (green building)
- Library - historic building (but size)
- Lake Wyola - state beach
- Housy phone lines (buzz + crackle)
- Fire week shows - 3rd of July, ^{boat} parade
- Dirty roads that drop off (discourage cut throvs)
- Beerfest - Craft Brewers
- Main roads in great shape (Town maintenance)
- Town Commem
- Celebrate Shutesbury
- Incredible fire dept., police dept.
- Farmers Market
- Bulky Waste Days - community, ~~free~~ Swap week
- Small, home-based businesses - variety
- Garbage pickup (curbside pickup)
- People not on top of each other
- Post Office - original instructions
- Quiet, Clear Air at night
- Montague, Road.
- Village Co-op
- Dairy Farm Wendell

What about Shutesbury should stay the same?

Town of Shutesbury Community Visioning Workshop

- Native - walks in the woods, living amidst trees, openness, wildlife
- Mixture of ages + backgrounds in town
- Lake - healthy, ^{public} accessible ●
- Rural feel - dirt roads, lots of trees, working farms, no streetlights
- Elementary school - great quality; community of kids, kids are known, life-long friends
- Self-sufficiency, independent thinking → openness to new people + ideas
- Sense of cooperation when people are in need
- Extensive forest - big blocks of unbroken forest (Quabbin watershed)
- Informality / familiarity in community ● ●
- Bright library services ●
- Live Town Meeting
- Focus on alternative energy sources - interest in continuing to make progress

related to size

Real open space (fields)
 Not Amherst - congested
 like busy

Coming back up the hill

Historical buildings ●

Quality of air, water, environment

S-curves

Athletic Club ● ● ● ●

Trails

● People are friendly

Library - small but vibrant, meets needs
 kayak, other resources

P.O. office

● Police + Fire doing a great job

Farmers Market (but grow)

Cider + doughnuts on Halloween

Senior potluck 1st Tuesday.

← level of volunteerism - giving of themselves to make Shutesbury work

What factors will challenge Shutesbury now and in the future?

Internal

External

Too much growth
Not enough growth

Climate Change
U Mass Changes

● Attracting young families

Water Shortage/drought

● School population

inability to
Marketing
homes
with limited
technology

Regionalization Changes
ie Schools

● Broadband issue

Lack of viability of
small businesses

● Cell Service issue

● Property Tax burden

Closure of businesses in
Leverett/Wendell

● Ability to attract volunteers
to Town Gov't

State infrastructure
State support for Services

● Ability to communicate over
differences

Aging Population - Aging in place
Challenges

→ Lake Wyola water quality
Protecting Water Sources

Inadequate/aging

● Community building structure

Reliance on fossil fuels

Wood Stakes | Air Quality
 Town of Shutesbury Community Visioning Workshop
 Arrives toward
 Change

What factors will challenge Shutesbury now and in the future?

Internal

External

Town of Shutesbury Community Visioning Workshop

• Declining School Pop.

• Lack of internet/Broadband ←

• Decrease in property values →

• Water contamination

• Aging population / lack of infrastructure to age in place

• How to make Shutesbury more attractive to families

• Need for continued expertise in town government (volunteers) encouraging young people

• Developing a common narrative that respects differences

• Increase of cost of living / raising children

• Climate Change

• Energy prices

• Regional school issues ie. lead in H₂O

• Attracting more diverse population

• Lack of Federal / State funding

What factors will challenge Shutesbury now and in the future?

Internal

External

- Broad band
- High Taxes / Budget
- Deteriorating infrastructure ↔
- Cell Signal - Lack of
- Too much increase/decrease in Population

Dirt Road issues
Lack of volunteers

• Aging Population - Lack of services ~~###~~ Transport medical etc. support

• Lack of Gathering Space / Shop / coffee

• Library size problematic

• Supporting School

• Drug Problems

• Politics

• Regionalization of Schools K-12

• Sharing High Schools

• Public Ownership of land
Potential ~~financial~~ financial issues

• Resource Exploitation
i.e. clearcuts

• Drought / Water issues

• Waste disposal issues

What factors will challenge Shutesbury now and in the future?

Town of Shutesbury Community Visioning Workshop

Internal

- Aging of town volunteers (replacements?)
- Lack of central meeting Place
- Lack of informal social gathering places
- Lack of marketplace Venues / retail economy gas/food etc.
- Lack of commercial tax base
- Healing from past divisive issues

External

- Public Policy - State / Federal mandates
- Regionalization pressures
- State of larger economy

What factors will challenge Shutesbury now and in the future?

Internal

- Broadband
- Population Chg.
- Taxes/infrastructure
- lack of consensus

Divergence between median income / Property taxes

- Declining enrollment in School

Cost of pensions and obep

- Civil discourse / communication

Rural character changes/definitions
gentrification ~~justifica~~

External

- State Budget
- Climate Change
- School Funding

Lack of commercial / support tax base

Divisiveness of groups
people in town - library
15: issues ed. school - library
municipal plods.

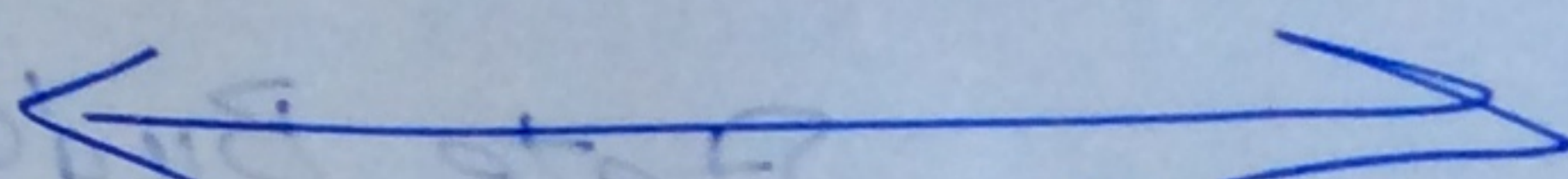
Population Growth / 1022
Affordability for young

Availability / sustainability of
people
Natural Resources
Water Quality / issues / ground pt

Town of Shutesbury Community Visioning Workshop

Internal

External



●●● Internet access

● Aging Population

●● Challenge of paying property taxes

● Lack of commercial enterprises to support tax base

● Divisiveness ~~is~~ among people in ~~town~~ town re: issues eg. school - library municipal bldgs.

Population Growth / loss

●● Affordability for young people

●● Availability / sustainability of Natural Resources

Water Quality issues / drought

●● Change in Revenue
● non sustainable funding

Loss of State Revenue

Climate Change

Ecological Sustainability

Animal habitat loss
animals encroaching

Fear of Change

● Adapting to non-fossil fuel paradigm

● new economic imperatives

Changes w/ 5 Colleges (employers)

Decrease in school age Population