

Town of Shutesbury Master Plan

Summary of Online Survey Responses (as of 11/28/2016)

- 182 respondents, though not all individuals responded to every question.
- Location - The five zones were represented fairly evenly. Zone 5 had the least respondents (22 people, representing 12.57% of participants); Zone 1 had the most (42 people; 24%), followed by Zone 4 (37; 21.14%) and then Zone 3 (34; 19.43%).
- Gender - 96 (52.46%) respondents were female, 73 (39.89%) were male, and 14 (7.65%) preferred not to say.
- Age – Most (39.78%) respondents were over age 60, followed by individuals ages 50 to 59 (28.73%), followed by individuals ages 40 to 49 (13.81%).
- Household Size – 40.88% of respondents lived in two family households; 25.97% lived in households of four or more people.

In general, responses to the five questions in the online survey were perfectly compatible—both in terms of topic and the number of times it appeared—with those from the first community visioning workshop. I've included any new material below:

What do you value most about Shutesbury? (129/283)

- Accessory apartment (attached and detached) zoning rules
- Another two votes for lack of crime, another for safe community
- Liked "no significant commercial businesses". "Sparsely populated."
- "Tradition of self-reliance."
- "I valued that the teachers took a deep interest in each of my kids"
- Additional comments about *clean* water and *clean* air. Responsible forest management.
- Temenos (another non-profit)
- "NOTHING"
- "It's got a bit of everything that makes this area special: a friendly little lake, a friendly little library, a friendly little school, a friendly little post office, the hills and woods I can't do without, artists, Magyvers, intellectuals, woodsmen and woodswomen, and of course the one guy who makes it easy to loathe him. (Every town needs at least one, apparently.) Personalities abound, and there's room for everyone. I love it. The air smells fantastic and the landscape is enchanting. Also, the deer and the bald eagles that occasionally visit, the martin that twinkles up at us in the shoulder seasons, the fearless and charming little critters that make our home feel like a vacation. Far enough away from the Valley crush that the wildlife actually does come out to play."

What is your least favorite thing about Shutesbury? (127/283)

- General Comment: Lots of interesting additions about the Library debate. May be worth a read.
- Additional vote for increased walkability of town center
- "The housing laws regarding how houses need to conform to laws that have nothing to do with safety, but more to do with property values."
- "Having to use town garbage bags: inconvenient and bad for the planet because I end up having to put several kitchen garbage bags into the bigger sized town bag"
- "A too big police department."
- Community:
 - o "Once your child is out of elementary school, there is no sense of community, no place to see neighbors."

- "Next Door Shutesbury" is seen by many as extremely valuable, and a way to reach out to each other. I stopped subscribing because I couldn't stand the vitriol expressed by members. I cancelled my subscription to the site because of the angry, awful discussions that were being spewed around the solar project. Sad to me."

What would you change about Shutesbury? (119/283)

- "Eliminate our police department. Crime is not a big problem here, and it's very difficult to see how our police department do much to cope with the little crime we have. It's expensive and the resources could be better spent elsewhere."
- "Cut expenses, why does fire chief need a car paid for by town, pay mileage instead, forget about new library there are many wonderful libraries around us that we can use, cut police force and stop cruising Shutesbury roads, we will call if there is a problem. Cut expenses to the bone Different tax rate for elderly on fixed income and no children in school."
- Lots of statements about broadband.
- Maybe a progressive property tax, or an income tax that only affects affluent families, so we can increase our revenues without forcing people with more modest incomes out of town. Also, more respect for concerns of Native Americans about sites for large building projects like the proposed solar array. Finally, use technology to conduct town meetings online (webinar or Skype-type platform?) as well as in person, to facilitate participation of people like me who have to work odd hours out of town.
- That taxes weren't as high and/Or that people living in shutesbury were able to volunteer in a way to benefit the town of shutesbury, to get a break on taxes. It would also promote community involvement and would greatly benefit the town
- Diversity:
 - "Find ways to have a more racially and ethnically diverse populations-through affordable housing and some form of public transportation. Encourage more individuals-younger people in particular-to volunteer on town committees. Have older citizens provide childcare, dinners, to help people with young children be able to volunteer. Healing-which has happened to a large extent. We are a community and need to remember that."
 - "More people of color in high positions--like the elementary school, the town hall, the post office, the 'athletic' club, the library--geeze--this is quite the white place to live."
 - "More racially/economically diverse it would be great to have twice daily bus route into amherst and greenfield small library"
- "The development on lake wyola should follow the bylaws. Why are we allowing three story buildings?"
- "Relax bylaws to allow more business and residential development."
- Pave Montague Road (x2)

What about Shutesbury should stay the same? (124/283)

- "Land for hunting"
- Zoning
- "Preservation of native artifacts."
- "The Wheelock Tract--This is a Native American Ceremonial and Burial site. If you really think hard all of these Unites States are. No one--not Cowls, not Jones, not anyone--has the right to come in and rip apart the sacRED earth to install a solar plant--This is not green energy--do you think we are stupid!? This is green dollars bills in the hands of Lake Street Developers and the rest-- The electrical energy this plant will generate will go to Springfield! Fifty thousand dollars a year you claim Shutesbury will gain? Big freak'n deal!"

What factors will challenge Shutesbury now and in the future? (115/283)

- "New xenophobic policies of the incoming Trump administration, as well as reduced federal government funding."

- "Taxation based primarily on property is and will continue to be a limiting factor. Diversity of population: while good, it can also pose problems. (Here I'm thinking of length of residence and years of education as diversities. We don't have enough diversity of race and ethnic origin. So I guess being a predominantly white population is a challenge.)"
- Lots of statements about high speed internet.
- Some statements about "unscrupulous carpetbagger developers"
- "Shutesbury's reputation regarding managing town conflicts, think Library The inability of residents to be able to talk to each other without getting rigid. I attended the first visioning session for a little while and 2 people began to go at it taking positions and not listening or backing down. I left."
- "Limited buildable land and finite potable water, in the face of population pressures from the south, perhaps."

Imagine yourself 15 years in the future...What would you like a newspaper headline to read for an article about Shutesbury?

- No Headlines (x4)
- Idea of Balance (Affordability + Infrastructure + Community, or any other three things)
- Agreement, Healing
 - o "Shutesbury works together on ??? Project!"
 - o "Shutesbury Models Open Dialogue & Civil Discourse - New Library Dedicated"
 - o "Shutesbury votes unanimously for..."
- Welcoming (x2)
 - o "A Town That Cares for Its Citizens, a Town of People that Care"
 - o "Shutesbury leads the way in progressive, compassionate values and sustainable living strategies, with diversity increased 300% over the past 15 years! Serves as model for diverse community development for other rural communities across the nation!"
- Progressive Values
- Model for "high quality living in a small rural setting", "Happiest Residents in the Entire State (Or US)"
- "One of the Smallest Towns in Mass with some of the Lowest Taxes" (x2)
- "Shutesbury is THE New Place to Live, Land Values are through the Roof"
- New Library (x4)
 - o "Shutesbury finally gets new library for free!"
- Green Energy/Sustainability (x4), Solar Array
 - o "Shutesbury MA Sustainable Agriculture Project sets new productivity record", "Shutesbury forestry and agricultural businesses flourish as population continues to dwindle"
 - o "Shutesbury Powered by 100% Green Energy"
 - o "Shutesbury wins State, National Awards as Green Energy Community"
 - o "Shutesbury has home solar systems, geo-thermal and wind turbines in almost every household and is bustling with farmers and home gardeners selling their milk, vegetables, fruit, meat and mushrooms."
- Shutesbury Elementary school continues to lead the way in immersing students in the arts,music,band, and becoming world citizens
- "Senior housing apts / assisted living units open in the LW park farmhouse!", "Roadtown Senior Housing Village Adds Six New Units"
- Shutesbury Center Complex Grand Opening! Come sample award winning cuisine, get a free health checkup, check your email, and get an oil change! Bus tickets also on sale!
- High Speed Internet Access
 - o "The Shutesbury Shop celebrates its ten year anniversary with a joint concert of the Elementary School chorus along with their international sister-school compatriots who were Skyped in thanks to the amazing broadband connection."
- Public Transportation
 - o "New Bus Stop at the Affordable Housing Complex Downtown by the Coffee Shop and Co-op"
- The Road from Refugee to Resident: Shutesbury Celebrates Contributions of Syrian Families Who Fled War
- New Quabbin National Park dedicated to saving New Englands forest ecosystems.