

**Combined Results from the
Community Forum on the Future of Shrewsbury
April 24, 2012**

Overview

Hosting Organizations:

The Community Forum on the Future of Shrewsbury was hosted by:
the Shrewsbury Conservation Commission,
the Shrewsbury Selectboard,
the Shrewsbury Planning Commission,
the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department

Facilitator:

This meeting was facilitated by Nancy Bell of The Conservation Fund and a town resident. These responses were compiled by Leah Mital-Skiff, a graduate student at the University of Vermont. .

Invitations:

All residents were invited with a direct mail flyer, by notices in the Shrewsbury Times newsletter, flyers were posted in public locations in town, sandwich signs were posted on main roads around town and hosting organizations delivered invitations at their public meetings.

Venue:

Meeting was held Tuesday, April 24, 2012 from 6-9pm at the Shrewsbury Meeting House. A light meal and beverages were served to the participants midway through the evening. Approximately 110 townspeople attended.

Meeting Structure:

Participants broke into working groups at tables. There were 10 tables of 10+/- each. Each table answered 6 questions and marked areas or information of note on maps of the town. A graduate student from the University of Vermont was the 'scribe' at each of 9 tables, Connie Youngstrom, a resident and Conservation Commission member was scribe at the remaining table. Scribes were directed to write what participants said, using their exact words. Participants were directed to not let the scribe move on until their thoughts were recorded as stated. Every effort was made to copy every detail of what was said word for word from the paper copies into this document. This document summarizes the textual responses to the 6 questions. The geographical information from notes made on the maps will be supplied separately on a map.

Overview of process of summarizing results:

The compilation of responses has been grouped into general themes that concentrated or focused on certain topics. The numbers in parentheses by an item in the results, such as *The Community (10)*, represent the number of tables at which a specific item or topic was mentioned. Individual comments and additional details are noted to preserve the actual individual statements made.

The following pages are the compiled responses of Shrewsbury residents to six questions:

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Question 1: What do you love about where you live/this place we call Shrewsbury?

Community, People, History, Civic Volunteerism

- The community (10) - quaintness, inclusiveness, “kids can’t get away with anything”, welcoming difference and diversity, diverse political and worldviews, freedom to be who you are, great place to raise a family (2), simplicity of lifestyle, friendly residents (4), intergenerational friendships, cooperation, compassion, sense of community, community spirit, we love our neighbors, always bumping into people you know, lack of bureaucracy, direct access to fixing problems, a neighbor is a neighbor, much less of an “us and them” than other towns, I haven’t lived here long, but felt comfortable quickly, security (2), camaraderie, community pride, Sub-communities
- The people (10) – creative, smart, people get involved and help (5), when you are in the ditch, your neighbor helps you get out, volunteer opportunities and volunteerism (3), generosity and sharing, eclectic mix of people (2), support for new ideas, funerals – everyone comes out and says hello, knowing each other, privacy, sparse population (said sarcastically due to high taxes), on and off-gridders, the kids, Jim Jeffords, Grace’s artwork, Grace, Cathy and her suppers, crafty people, pockets of hidden talent (3), artistic community (2), resourceful/practical people, independent/self sufficient people (2), working institutions makes it possible to stay here – people who run them and programs
- You don’t realize how spectacular it is unless you have lived somewhere else, my home is my favorite place
- The ceiling between church and state
- Local Music (8) - Muddy Rhodes Blues Band (3), the Meeting House organ upstairs
- Community organizations - Bone Builders (3), Prayer Shawl Group
- History of the town (3), stone walls, John C Stuart and Sons (because of building), historic buildings

Businesses/Organizations

- Spring Lake Ranch (4) – draws many people, it has remained the same for so long, conserved land, caring and therapeutic community
- Pierce’s Store (10) – gathering spot (4), baked goods (5), fiddleheads, it was “brought back”, friendly, quaint, convenient, a place to hear the news, sense of stepping back in time (2), diversity of crafts and food, locus of community, important to volunteers, local eggs, squash soup, cozy, warm, woodstove, not a museum, run by town (2), ritual of going there,
- Working farms – Smith’s – Maplecrest, Sharrow’s - Pine Valley
- There are real businesses in town, not just cafes or quaint shops
- Four Seasons, Over Easy’s, Laurel Glen House, Carrara’s Gun Shop and Hot Oil Undercoating, B&Bs

Municipal Services, Volunteer Organizations

- Road crew (9)– incredible work!, “I love the road crew!”, extraordinary road maintenance (2), response after Irene, no salt, great winter maintenance (better than Rutland), great job grading/ditching to maintain water quality, nice people, we always get home
- Fire Department (9)- dedicated, good people, responsive
- Response to Irene – fire dept, volunteers, road crew
- Library (9) – very current books and films(2), community events, diverse collection, the people who run it (2), flexible, social, cookie exchange, built from scratch, hosts Quaker meeting, programs
- Village centers
- Transfer Station (7)– friendliness (2), recycling (2), come away with as much as you leave, the treasure house, reading room (3), diversity of it
- Shrewsbury Mountain School (8) – small (2), homeschoolers, fields, challenging curriculum, individualized
- Town Hall (7) – access to (3), good gatherings, key still kept outside, everything happens there – weddings, funerals,

- Shrewsbury Times (5) – Connie’s Nature Notes, stimulates involvement and activity, a conduit, source of info and communication
- Great water (4), fresh from the mountains
- Historical Society (4) – exhibits, ability to do research
- Church - church services, community fellowship and its caring for people in town
- Northam Church – no electricity, historic
- Post office (3) – post mistress important to community, rural delivery, will pick up anything
- Meeting House Rock Service
- Shrewsbury Snowbirds – the work they do to keep trails open
- Town government, Selectboard, Development Review Comm., easy to get involved
- Both quiet roads and busy roads for easy access

Natural History/Landscape/Land Use/Places/Location

- Beauty that is also home (3), clean air/water (2), the quiet (5), sense of peace (5), dirt roads (2), snow (2), cleanliness (2) – we take care of our environment, open meadows/fields (6), forest land (3), conserved land – by individuals and organizations,
- privacy (4) - I love my neighbors but want to be far from them, 41 years and never put curtains up,
- stargazing/night sky (2), it’s in Vermont
- landscape is constantly changing, changing seasons, flowers
- Clarendon Gorge (2)
- Trees - variety, a huge sugar maple (1 mile from here as the crow flies), the gnomes hidden in town trees, tree-lined roads without power lines, old growth trees , large trees, wild and cultivated apple trees
- Rural (3) - lack of urban sprawl, sparse development, balanced rate of development, proximity to city – not too far, not too close, close enough to shopping
- Topography and elevation (3), mountains, not too hot – breeze, lack of mosquitoes, ridgeline, Pinnacle, geology
- Views (5) - view from Lottery Road (2), views on Keiffer Road, of mountains and valleys, everywhere, a beautiful summer evening on the deck
- Crown Point Road
- Sanderson’s Meadows
- Mill River (2), Cold River- alive, beautiful, coming down through mountains, 5 watersheds in town
- Spring Lake (9) – trails, swimming (2), kayaks (2), black flies ☺, no motorized craft, pristine, cleanliness, campsites, loons (4), floating dock, ice skating
- Freeman’s Meadows
- Diversity of the weather
- We coexist with diverse uses of our lands
- CCC Road (4)– We miss it
- Plymbsbury Wildlife Mgmt Area (2), Outing Club - trails (2), swimming area
- Wildlife (5) - bears, birds (2), deer, moose, coyotes, foxes, Lots of birds at my feeder, birdsongs in the morning, wildlife sounds, woodcocks in fields in spring, seasonality of natural world
- Shrewsbury Peak (6) – trails, Bicknell’s thrush, view
- Brown Bridge (5) – covered, historical
- Swinging bridge on the AT over Clarendon Gorge
- Salt Ash Mountain
- Nameless mountain on top of Keiffer Road
- Cemeteries - Bowman’s Mansion and Cemetery, Shrewsbury Center Cemetery, Northam Cemetery geocache
- Trail systems –(6)many diverse, ski trails at the ranch and in Northam, Appalachian Trail through town, AT/LT (5), woodland trails, access,
- The secret shelter, oldest shelter preserved, Clement Shelter, old firing range
- Recreation (10) - hunting (2), fishing (4), shooting, pre-Irene fishing, snowmobiling, everything you can think of. Skiing/snowshoeing (5), great place for dogs (2), great place to play, hiking access (2) – continuous landscape - I can start at my house and walk for 4 hours without crossing a road, birdwalks

Local Agriculture, products, wild edibles

Locally-raised/grown food (6) - CSAs, cider, hard cider, syrup, meats, honey, berries, maple syrup, eggs, Fretz's honey and berries, Kreuger maple fudge, Connie's goat cheese and yoghurt, Camp Bonafide – local food co-op

- Farms (4) - farmers, town is inviting to farming, Sharrow Farm, Organic farming, working landscape, barns, Cows, horses, chickens, Open and productive land, Orville Woods – farming cooperative
- Gardens (2), orchards (2)
- gathering fiddleheads(2), ramps, roadkill barbecues,
- maple sugaring (3), sugarhouses (3) - each is different, wood heat,
- the ranch farm stand was brought back, re-emergence of local agriculture,
- New agricultural growth

Events/Traditions –

- 4th of July party (2)
- Town Meeting (2)– traditional, bring it back
- Potlucks (3) at Town Hall, good dishes, good parties and celebration
- Mardi Gras (4)
- Green Up Day
- Formal gatherings, community e-mails, Yankee Swap
- Parent recess
- Spaghetti dinner
- This community forum
- Ham Suppers (4)
- 250th anniversary, Fireworks
- keeping traditions alive – ice cutting, grafting, wild crafting, cider, music
- Swimming lessons

Question 2: What is your vision for its future?

Community, people, demographics, affordable living, civic Engagement

- Diversity (8) – eclectic mix
 - Ethnic diversity (2)
 - Economic diversity (5) – decrease gap between rich and poor
 - Age diversity (8)
- Keeping, attracting younger residents (10) - more young people living here and engaged in community, young people being able to return, vitality of town to attract young people,
- Helping older residents (9) - older people being able to stay, services to seniors, more children, aging and living in place – volunteers supporting people to stay, meals on wheels, neighbors helping neighbors, senior watch, less isolation, shuttle service
- Band together smaller communities to come together as a whole (2)
- Affordable Living (10) -young people to be able to come back, afford to make a living, raise kids here (4), older generation being able to stay (3), lower taxes (4), affordable housing (3), jobs, job network, affordable land, keep tax base with seasonals and others being able to stay
- Civic participation (7) – increased voting and municipal participation, More opportunity for engagement between citizens and elected officials (local and state), more people younger than 50 involved, in programs, library, a tax break for joining community events, getting people invested in community, ways to get involved if you don't have kids in the school, everyone to feel comfortable to be involved, non-partisan politics, more community meetings, simple government (as it is now)
- Welcoming committee (2) -Formal policy on how to be a good neighbor, welcome wagon
- Community work projects – i.e. splitting wood for town garage, to get things done while being social
- Available rental properties
- shared resources (2)– from what is produced in town (wood, etc), seed swap, plants
- Keep (and build more) community spirit, maintain small community where everyone knows each other (2), loving our neighbors

- Be a town where people can work here (not a bedroom community)
- No illegal drugs
- Zero population growth, stay small
- All pets spayed and neutered (including barn cats)

Businesses/Organizations

- Reopen the Old Barn (2)
- Open a pub (2), Pizza in 5 minutes, local burger joint, café open in the evening
- Open Laurel Glen House to public/community
- Pierce's Store (5) – maintain, support more, more events in annex
- Collaboration between Camp Bonafide and Pierce's Store
- More stores, small industry (4) – home cottage industries and small businesses (4)
- return of hardware store
- Waldorf School
- Green enterprises
- Maintain relationship between town and Spring Lake Ranch (2)
- Commercial revitalization of Cuttingsville (hardware store, general store, restaurant)
- Community day care for children and elders, emergency childcare for parents who work
- Summer program for kids to involve them in community
- Housesitting services

Development, planning, infrastructure, transportation, repairs, physical improvements

- Repair and re- open CCC road (2)
- Repair and re-open Brown Bridge (2)
- Get back to pre-Irene conditions
- Clean up Cold River – give firewood to town, use volunteers
- Restore and maintain damaged section of AT/LT
- No litter (3) – on roads, beer cans in woods, junk in front of people's houses, clean up hazardous places, more recycling – individual and town
- maintain rural aspect of town (3), maintain current rate of development, responsible zoning, no chain stores, no second homes, limited second homes, no McMansion development, no condos, no Okemo-like development
- participate in state and regional planning
- high speed internet (3)
- better cell phone service (3) - cell tower on Shunpike Road?
- Transportation (3) – rideshare carpool, train to Rutland, more buses, transport for seniors
- Safer entrance on Lincoln Hill Road from Rt. 103
- Local currency (2) – time bank– for goods, services, materials
- Energy conservation (4) – self sufficiency, town plan for community-scale wind, hydro, every house weatherized, solar panels on every house (2)
- More town-owned forests, properties – town could generate revenue
- Avoid sprawl and fragmentation (3)– clustered living (2), intergenerational living/loving, co-housing, commercial development to happen in village centers
- Preserve barns (3), stone walls, old buildings, encourage property beautification, have community response to abandoned buildings
- Homes (new or renovated) are built sustainably, using natural or recycled/recyclable materials and are resource independent.

Municipal Services, Volunteer Organizations,

- Fire Department - more young volunteers, more interest
- Have a police man or woman, neighborhood watch
- Emergency services (2) - upgrade communications, better coordination between emergency responders
- Shrewsbury Mountain School (8) – invest in, keep as center of community, trails around school for environmental education, high quality public education

- Historical Society (3) more interest, update Shrewsbury Town History Book past 1976
- Better town website, online communication
- Re-establish town meeting (7)
- Library – expand collection, Transfer station –keep free for residents, Meeting house – keep available
- Upgrade and expand use of community center, lightweight tables in town hall
- Maintain, enforce the speed limits (2), enforce health ordinance – i.e. septic
- Hold forum to plan for town’s connectivity
- Maintain safety, no burglaries, vandalism in town
- Health clinic in town for acute care, people who can be called on for 24-hour care
- Nutrition center
- Community church to continue (3), library (2), new families to bring children into Christian fellowship
- Maintain Shrewsbury Times
- More donations to food shelf

Local Agriculture, products, wild edibles

- More local food production (9) CSAs, community gardens, more farms – within walking/biking distance of every resident, self-sufficiency, less reliance on outside, more dairy farms, more farms, be a Mecca for farmers, not agricultural showcasing
- Community root cellar, community composting, in-town slaughter capacity, distribution center for locally growth products

Natural History/Landscape/Land Use/Places/Location/Environmental

- Land remains as open working landscape(6)- owned by people who live in town full-time, agriculture, silviculture, political support of, tax structure to support
- More conserved land (5) – privately and through land trusts
- Non-posted land for hunting, public access to conserved lands
- Continued access to state lands for hunting, fishing, skiing, snowshoe, snowmobiling
- Wildlife habitat (2) – maintain, expand diversity of wildlife habitat, frog/salamander protection under roads
- VT Audubon and Staying Connected
- Chemical free (2) - townwide policy an enforcement on spraying herbicides
- Maintain quality environment (7)– clean water, air, maintain trees, less light pollution
- Keep lakes and streams clean, Spring Lake in current condition (2) – motor free
- Maintain landscape (5)- scenic roads, open meadows, woodlands, unpaved roads (2)
- Trails (5) – cross-town path by landowner permission, non-motorized multi-use crossing private property, more trails, coordinated system of trails
- Diversity of land use
- Maple lanes along roads
- Fewer invasive species – garlic mustard, wild parsnip

Events/Traditions –

- 2 Green-Up days
- more events (4) - community seasonal parties, event of the month, continue to attract a variety of people, picnics, a fun committee
- more time to visit and volunteer (and less on the computer and trying to make money)
- More opportunities to get outside and play – observation skills, sensory exploration, memory making, creativity imagination, exercise, self confidence
- Extend recreation networks
- Festival/”color war” for different parts of town – year-round
- Gathering places - for exploration, more meeting places, one central meeting place, a community center that is more than a building, establish a park in town center
- Town meeting celebration and potluck at the school
- Bluegrass festival – generate income, Shrewsbury garden tour
- Remember the history of Shrewsbury

- The preservation of everything we love (on Question 1) (4), don't change a thing (2), change is good, little change

Question 3: What do you see as threats to that vision?

Environmental, Land Use

- Pollution (2)– acid rain,
- global climate change (6) – loss of jobs due to, changing forests, landscape, more insects, more flooding
- invasive species (4) – altering forests (maple, ash, hemlock), plant and insect
- natural disasters
- illegal burning
- environmental degradation, water quality
- not learning the lessons from Irene
- overpopulation - global pressures trickling down
- Land changing ownership, change in land use
- Agriculture (2) - Loss of agricultural base, commitment to local ag,
- Open land (2)
- Loss of ridgelines - development for cell towers, wind turbines, condos
- Leaving up the increasing maple sugaring lines year-round
- utilities on right of way and effect on dirt roads
- Fracking

Economic

- Affordable living (9) - 2nd homes for out of town people, high cost of living, high taxes, seniors unable to stay, lack of affordable housing, high cost of land,
- Economy (3)– property taxes, income, impact on tax base, loss of jobs
- Reaction against unemployment resulting in deregulation
- Rutland losing its vibrancy
- Local goods – lack of demand, lack of supply
- Pressure of money coming into town (3)
- Artificial low costs of oil

Societal, External factors

- Inability to keep up with the pace of change, too much electronics, internet
- Corporate interests (3)– big business compromising state and local levels to not care about community, corporate personhood, consolidation of power and wealth, power to conceal clear information
- Light pollution, expanding airports, GMOs, Monsanto, nuclear power
- State level – unsupportive government regulations, homogeneity of the state – losing identity, restaurant chains, etc.
- Litigiousness – hoop jumping, lawyering, cover-your-ass, paperwork, copies

Planning

- Fragmentation/development (7) - Subdivision of open lands, condos, sprawl, habitat fragmentation, the desire to build in the woods, Lack of thoughtful planning, open land disappearing
- Development in neighboring towns
- redistricting
- Conflict between accessibility and overdevelopment
- Lack of town meeting - inability to get together in person and work together for solutions
- Lack of transportation infrastructure
- Velco,

Community, lifestyle, attitude, population, politics

- Not paying attention to the things you do like, taking things for granted, indifference, complacency and entitlement
- Lack of time, interest (3) – having to work too much to participate, volunteer, have fun, build community

- NIMBY'ism preventing good decisions about energy production, people choosing self interest over good of community
- Lack of volunteers(4), apathy, lack of people willing to serve town, ignorance, lack of under 40 civic participation, same faces at meetings, someone else will do it attitude
- Lack of communication (4) - Conflicting opinions, needs, wants, mean neighbors, feuds, rigid thinking, political infighting, lack of tolerance, lack of true listening, extreme individualism
- 2nd home owners (6) – not looking for community, don't support schools, effect on taxes, general environment, school, flatlanders
- Drug problems (3) – trafficking from Rutland, violence, burglaries (2)
- Isolation within the community (2), loss of community
- Aging community (4) - loss of school age population, loss of young people due to lack of work, loss of younger people moving in, student loans not allowing young people to farm
- Overpopulation that threaten rural feeling, change in population dynamics
- Lack of encouragement for people to stay
- Having affordable housing – may cause drop in property values, increase in crime

Question 4: What do you see as solutions?

Environmental, Land Use

- Build cell towers
- Re-localizing
- Thinking globally about things that affect Shrewsbury – like Act 250
- Monitor growth, planning
- zoning (3),– thoughtful, strict, take watersheds into consideration, views, beauty of town
- Sustainable living practices
- Focus more on suggestions from conservation committee
- More organic farming (2), more farming in general
- Solar rather than wind
- More outdoor recreation offerings
- Town planning documents encourage sustainable building techniques; local builders, contractors have the knowledge and skill to work with residents to accomplish their housing goals economically and effectively

Economic, businesses, infrastructure

- More manufacturing jobs, small manufacturing jobs, other jobs
- More money-making enterprises to lower property taxes
- Small businesses, a pub (2), cheese factory
- Better communication (5)– social media, Front Porch Forum, town website, e-mail (like Betsy Jesser's lost dog e-mails), telephone tree, mechanism for neighbors helping neighbors, mechanism for being aware of community resources
- High speed internet access (2), cell service, kill technology bugs
- Agricultural infrastructure(2) – reframed tax structure to support open land and farming
- more support of local enterprises, products, businesses (2) – CSA's, co-op, Pierce's, farm products
- stronger infrastructure to support different age groups
- better transportation (2) - around town, better networks, high speed rail
- community work space for various projects
- barter system for goods and services

Community, Civic Engagement, Events

- Reinstate Town Meeting (4)
- Collaboration with neighboring towns, extensive networking, have a point person in each community
- Social facilitation reps (2) – town mothers, town social director or board
- Active and socially engaged community organizations/institutions (3) – like church, schools that include more people
- Civic participation (6) - encourage people to get involved, just ask people, make them feel important, expectation that town members will attend 2-4 meeting/year, appreciate work in the community, instill pride in community work, can-do attitude, more average people involved on planning level, find the right forums to bring people of diverse perspectives

to participate, create buy-in, find common ground, learn from one another, specific outcomes from community meetings, follow through (3)- take information from forum into action with planning and board decisions, little decisions add up; redo the government – this town is run by committees, keep politicians out of our business

- community work projects (3)–i.e. trail-building, required participation
- Sense of belonging, pride and worth, willingness to make sacrifices, community ownership, support neighbors’ concerns, improve neighborhood watch
- Increased self-reliance
- Increase population
- More community events (7), better turnout for more parades, celebrations, parties, projects, town picnics, activities for young people
- Encourage leadership in the community – simply ask, draw them in with meaningful work and issues,
- Bring back the grad students
- Education (7) - Community education with respect to the threats, multi-generational, alternative, research what others have done, teaching children (and everyone) how to be part of a community, stewards of land(3)– by example, natural surroundings, respect for others, responsibility to contribute, reasoned discourse, increase people’s skills, anti-drug ed for children, continue Four Winds Env Ed in school
- Companionship, services for seniors
- Pastoral care - home visits
- Have a party for summer people
- All of the answers to Question 2

Question 5: Who would you need to be to fulfill your vision?

- Compassionate (3), cooperative (4), energetic (4), thoughtful, respected, healthy (2), resilient, committed, patient, outgoing, assertive (2), interested, a little more aggressive (2), a bit more reserved so as not to intrude, friendly, honest, reliable, creative (2), articulate, 20-40 years younger, committed to follow-through, humor, passion, honesty, integrity, confident, disciplined, trusting, humble, kind, positive, focused
- Open/tolerant (6) - Willing to listen (6) and communicate (4), compromise, open to larger community rather than just sub-community, willing to discuss things you don’t agree with, inclusive – of all ages, types, groups, walks of life, put aside personal biases, collaborative, compromise, treat others as we would like to be treated
- take risks (3), responsibility
- Engaged/involved in community (8) - join in on town events (it’s always fun), organize, participate, social, attend town meeting, a good neighbor, make it happen, step forward, be supportive (2), in planning, problem solving, politically active, caring about the town, say yes more than no, ability to act and react, generous, sharing personal strengths, devoted to the issue, not be too busy to participate
- Educated (2) – on community issues, initiatives, products, insightful, be aware
- get over stigma of asking for help, able to delegate
- volunteer (3), willing to take action, commit more time to Shrewsbury, be available to provide services that strengthen infrastructure - health care, elder care, child care, transportation
- wealthy/have money (2), a good grant writer, have time or make time, retired to have time to do all of this
- environmentally conscious (2), aware of larger world, take the long view (2) and immediate view
- leader (3) - a good leader, experienced, step up and share a good idea, be willing to also follow, facilitator (2); ability to make a plan, carry it out and be flexible to change; organized at community level
- a community that attracts entrepreneurial people, that strengthens artistic draw of area and strengthens talent
- a community (4) - not just one person (3), think outside myself, be ourselves (2) and band together,
- Recognize our identity as part of Shrewsbury
- ability to not have it all and pick one part of the vision to work on
- Eleanor Roosevelt, Mother Nature, Mayor Bloomberg (able to get things done), Paul Bunyon, Joan Kune – vaccine campaign, great organizer, Harry Chen – he believes in vaccinations, emperor/king of Shrewsbury

Question 6: One action you are willing to commit to fulfill the vision?

- Volunteer at the library, be a library trustee, become involved in staffing the library
- Stay in the Fire Dept as long as I can breathe, volunteer on Fire Dept
- Serve on School Board, volunteer at school, run for public office, join Betsy's neighborhood watch
- Pierce's – shop more and shop big there
- Teach tennis at Maynard Courts
- Lead more nature walks, explore wetlands with kids
- Attend more community meetings (6) - 5 public/community events per year, one every 2 months, show up and be engaged (2), keep attending community forums and events, attend a meeting I have never attended, show up AND bring someone
- Reach out to the community in my own way, give more to the community (2), get to know my neighbors better (2), volunteer (4), say hello, introduce myself (2), be kind to my neighbors, get to know 2nd homers, make time for my community, be positive, listen
- Hold each other responsible for these commitments
- Have Green Up Day every day, be at Green Up Day, clean up the town
- Do something I think is important
- Education....enforcement, nourish children and youth, teach next generation to value Shrewsbury
- Shrewsbury "Passport" in elementary school – stamped for places visited/things learned
- Reduce, reuse, recycle
- Better communication, not stand in anyone's way
- Contribute to a town organization, stay on planning commission
- Communicate about limiting size of new construction and using existing structures
- Continue to offer community dances, dance at community dances, teach square dancing
- Find out about a community networking org – example Monadnock
- Support and advertise the Helping Hand Fund, facilitate linking people's needs and resources
- Start a group exchange dinner group/rotating dinner party
- Design and work on a specific program and strengthen services (health, childcare, transport), help people stay more healthy
- Generate interest in a bluegrass festival
- Help neighbors in town if Irene comes around again, help remove trees from banks of Cold River
- Investigate forming a time bank in town
- Keep on keepin' on
- Keep burning local wood, use land to grow vegetables start a small berry farm (to attract turkeys to shoot and make raspberry wine), keep farming
- Working on living in place idea
- Help create a local food system for all income levels, Work on distribution of locally grown stuff, compile a source list of local products, buy local (2), help someone grow their own food
- Organize to conserve farm land, keep pushing for land acquisition for town recreation and preservation, , work with Conservation commission on wildlife habitat issues
- Work on coordinating trail system, repair AT/LT, clean trails
- Listen and vote, work with gratitude, be supportive, encourage commitment, compliment/thank one person for being a volunteer
- Weatherize my own home
- Plant fruit (and maybe nut) trees
- Help to prepare wood for town garage
- Spearhead the park in central Shrewsbury
- Do a report on Jim Jeffords