

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AGENDA  
MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021, 7:00 PM  
(All Voting by Australian Balloting on Tuesday, March 2, 2021)

**FROM THE OFFICIAL WARNING OF THE TOWN MEETING**

WARNING – ANNUAL TOWN MEETING The legal voters of the Town of Shelburne are hereby notified and warned to meet via Zoom (details below) on Monday, March 1, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. to hear about and act upon any items not involving voting by Australian Ballot; and to hold a public hearing on items to be voted by Australian Ballot. The Meeting will then be adjourned and reconvened in the Shelburne Town Center Gym on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 to vote for Town Officers and to transact any business involving voting by Australian Ballot from the hours of 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

ZOOM LOGIN DETAILS:

Join VIRTUAL TOWN MEETING Zoom Meeting,

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 7:00 P.M.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89563991866?pwd=T0ZUVTFaSURVTzltVytjdmVRdHhhUT09>

Meeting ID: 895 6399 1866

Passcode: zzQ73J

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 895 6399 1866

Passcode: 376220

**TOWN MEETING**

Tom Little, Moderator called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Moderator Little noted that the authority to hold this Meeting virtually, using the Zoom remote meeting platform, is (a) Act 92 of the General Assembly (2020); (b) Executive Orders from Governor Phil Scott; and (c) the express authorization of the Selectboard.

He instructed those attending the meeting to mute their computer or other device, or phone, unless recognized and called on by him to speak. When done speaking, each speaker should please re-mute.

Do not use multiple devices at the same time.

Moderator Little invited everyone to please rise for the presentation of the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Shelburne Boy Scout Troop # 602. The Senior Patrol Leader (Brendan Hawko) led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Troop Bugler (Fisher Irwin) sounded "To the Colors" as they presented the flag.

Troop #602: Brian Irwin - Troop Leader. Scouts present: Brendan Hawko - Senior Patrol Leader, Fisher Irwin - Bugler, Drew Buley, Aiden Curley, Gabe Dartt, Noah Delaney, Rhett Gardener, Will Kallock, Daniel Knight, Nick Russell, and Charlie Schramm.

Everyone remained standing for the Star-Spangled Banner and our National Anthem – sung by Hilary Sales, music teacher at the Shelburne Community School.

We heard a recorded presentation of the Vermont State Song. It was noted that tomorrow, March 2 is Town Meeting Day, an integral part of Vermont's community participation in democratic rule, which first took place in Bennington in 1762. Almost 30 years later, on March 4, 1791, Vermont was admitted as the 14th state of the United States.

Thus, we are celebrating both Town Meeting Day and Vermont's 230th birthday with a reading of the lyrics and performance of the official Vermont State Song, "These Green Mountains," composed by Diane Martin and arranged by Rita Buglass Gluck and Matt LaRocca. The lyrics are read by our senior U.S. Senator, Patrick J. Leahy; the State Song is performed by the Vermont Symphony Orchestra.

Our Town Poet Laureate, Rick Bessette, read a poem he wrote for this occasion. "In this time of stress, I hope you will all find the time to find your own chapel," said Poet Laureate Bessette.

CHAPEL IN THE WOODS  
"THE COMPANIONSHIP OF TREES"

This morning I went to the forest  
To visit a place that I know.  
I call it "chapel in the woods",  
When I'm troubled, It's where I go.

Great hemlocks towering to the sky.  
Their canopies grown together,  
Give shelter to those that linger here  
From that of inclement weather.

While resting my back against hemlock  
I ponder my thoughts of this day.  
Sharing space with flora and fauna,  
Listening to what is conveyed.

The choir is made up of songbirds  
That sing to a cool Autumn breeze,  
And rustling leaves in the tree tops  
Have only the forest to please.

I came for solitude and silence  
And companionship of the trees.  
I leave with a peace in mind and heart.  
A gift from the birds and the breeze.

WRITTEN BY  
RICK BESSETTE  
SHELBURNE'S POET LAUREATE  
09-20-2020

Moderator Little introduced Jim Brangan to present this year's Colleen Haag award.

This is the 5th year of the Colleen Haag Award. The Colleen Haag Public Service award is to honor her and those who by his or her actions exemplifies the spirit of public service. Someone who has shared time, talent, and energy for the betterment of our community. Someone who inspires purpose, drives lasting solutions, and makes a difference.

Mr. Brangan thanked the town employees and the volunteers who serve on Shelburne's 26 committees, boards, and commissions. And especially to Shelburne's Fire and Rescue Squads who were on the front lines of this COVID-19 global pandemic. Thank you all for your service. Special thanks to Lisa Merrill and last year's award winner Gail Albert for serving on this public service award committee.

The 2021 Colleen Haag Award nominees are Pat Anderson, Peggy Couteau, Paul Goodrich, Roz Graham, Joplin James, Michael and Valerie Woods Lewis, Doreatha Penar. Thank you for your notable service.

This year's winner is Susan Stock who has been chair of the Shelburne Food Shelf for the past three years. She was nominated by the Food Shelf Board of Directors. After Val Martel (founder) passed away, Susan spearheaded the program Food That's In, School Is Out to make sure kids have breakfast and lunch on the school breaks and over the summer. Fostered relationships with businesses in town. And with Rotary to get Turkeys at the holidays. She is genuine, empathic, selfless, and humble. When Susan was offered the award, She said that's not necessary.

Susan said Good Evening and Thank you, commenting that this award really goes to all the Food Shelf volunteers and the Board. She thanked all the donors for their generosity. She thanked the Town for use of the space in the Town Center and the extended space allotted during the pandemic. Pre-pandemic the Food Shelf served 60 households a month. The pandemic has increased that need. With people out of work and parents who need to stay home for virtual learning, some people need to choose between medicine and food. To date the Food Shelf is serving up to 130 people a month. We also help with one time payments to help cover utilities.

Moderator Little congratulated Susan Stock, the Board of Directors, and all the volunteers of the food shelf.

Moderator Little announced a heads up – “we have a special surprise for this Meeting, and shortly before 8:00 p.m. I will pause the meeting for that surprise.”

The Annual Town Report and the Town Audit Report are posted on the home page of the town website - [SHELBURNEVT.ORG](http://SHELBURNEVT.ORG).

THANK-YOU's to Marcy Webster and Ken French from the Media Factory, which is responsible for setting up and operating the technology making this virtual, remote Meeting possible.

Moderator Little introduced Diana Vachon, Town Clerk; and Lee Krohn, Town Manager. Among other duties, Lee and Diana will be assisting me in spotting people who want to ask questions from the virtual “floor.”

Voting Procedures. We are not voting on any Articles tonight, and no other voting will be in order. All voting is by Australian ballot tomorrow.

Moderator Little explained the rules and courtesies of debate as follows:

- Mute your computer or other device, or phone, unless you have been recognized and called on by me to speak. When you are done speaking, please re-mute.
- Do not use multiple devices at the same time.
- Use the chat function in the Zoom Screen to ask questions.
- Robert's Rules of Order apply.
- One person alone may have the floor at a time
- If you have a question, please phrase it in the form of a question
- Once recognized, please unmute, introduce yourself, ask your question, and re-mute yourself.
- If you have a question about parliamentary procedure, the form of a motion, etc., please address your question to the Moderator.
- Behavior 1 warning, 2 mute, 3 is removed from Zoom.
- Hearing no objection, each speaker will be limited to two (2) minutes, and someone who has spoken from the floor on a question will not be permitted to speak a second time until all who wish to speak a first time have been heard.

- When a question raises a point that can best be answered by someone who is not a Town resident, I will ask if there is any objection to having that person speak for the limited purpose of answering the question.

Moderator Little introduced Jerry Storey, Chair of the Selectboard. Chair Storey welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced the rest of Selectboard: Jaime Heins Vice Chair, Mike Ashooh, Mary Kehoe, and Kate Lalley.

Moderator Little gave floor to Lee Krohn to acknowledge retiring Selectboard members. Jaime Heins and Mary Kehoe. He presented a plaque for Mary Kehoe recognizing her service to the Development Review Board and the Selectboard. He presented a plaque to Jaime Heins recognizing his service on the Planning Commission and the Selectboard. Town Manager Krohn thanked them for their dedicated service to the Town of Shelburne.

Moderator Little thanked them all. And he gave the floor back to Town Manager Krohn for the Town Report dedication.

Town Manager Krohn spoke of COVID and its challenges. The dedication is done in three parts:

1. A Valued Community Leader - Thomas A. Little we recognize you for your many years of service to the Town and State in many various roles. Thank you for your steady hand at the helm. Moderator Little expressed gratitude and appreciation.
2. Extraordinary Community Volunteer Service: we recognized the Board of the Shelburne Food Shelf and all the volunteers who worked hard to service the community in need for time, spirit and dedication.
3. Professional Performance by Town Staff and First Responders for staying the course and doing what needed to be done. We thank the Town Residents for their respect while we worked out how to adapt safely to COVID. And we thank our First Responders for putting their lives on the line responding to emergency calls.

Lots of virtual applause!

Moderator Little asked the participants to turn to pages 12-13 of the Annual Town Report for official warning of this Meeting. We review and discuss six Articles tonight, which will be voted on tomorrow.

Last year's meeting was summarized on pp. 36-40.

**Article I:** Shall the Town accept the report of the Town officers and the Auditor's report for Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020).

(The Auditor's Report is found on the Town Website and is not in the Town Report. The Town Officer reports are at pp. 41-69.)

Questions on any of the reports? Seeing nothing in the chat, we moved on to Article II.

**Article II:** Shall the Town set the compensation to be paid to the Selectboard for Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022) at \$1,500 for the Chair and \$1,200 for each other Selectboard member?

[Note: Current salaries are Chair \$1,500.00, all others are \$1,200.00.]

Is there anyone who would like to address or ask a question. Cate Cross was recognized to speak on Article II. She spoke in support of the article. She stated that the stipend may help to pay for family care and make it possible for more folks with young children to run for office.

No one else asked to address the meeting. Moving on to Article III.

Presentation: Tom Little.

**Article III:** To elect all Town officers as required by law.

- Town Meeting Moderator for one-year term
- Selectboard member for a two-year term
- Selectboard member for a three-year term
- CVSD School Director for a three-year term
- Town Clerk for a three-year term
- Chittenden Water Representative for a three-year term

Cate Cross is running for the three-year term on the Selectboard.

Luce Hillman is running for the two-year term on the Selectboard.

Tom Little is running for Moderator.

Barbra Marden is running for CVSD School Director.

Diana Vachon is running for Town Clerk.

Pete Gadue is running for Chittenden Water District Representative

Under Vermont's Town Meeting law, questions and debate are not in order on this Article.

**Article IV** Shall the Town adopt the Selectboard's proposed budget of \$9,597,895, of which \$7,303,518 is to be raised by taxes?

We vote on this tomorrow by Australian ballot. The proposed general fund budget starts at page 14 of the Town Report.

The Selectboard made a presentation on the budget. Jerry Storey, Selectboard Chair, introduced Town Manager Lee Krohn to lead the discussion of the budget.

Town Manager Krohn gave credit to Selectboard's hard work to keep the expenditures at a 0.2% increase. With an increase in Grand List of 0.4%, there is actually a 0.2% decrease from last year's budget.

He focused on costs, retirement of debt, and external assessments which were flat or decreasing. The net effect is a 0.2% increase in the municipal tax rate.

Equalized tax rates in the State. Shelburne's is the 3rd lowest in Chittenden County.

Questions or Comments? Seeing no requests in the chat, the Meeting moved on to Article V.

**Article V** Shall the Town raise an additional \$50,000, above and beyond the \$7,303,518 in taxes referenced in Article 4 above, for the purpose of obtaining options and/or acquiring land or rights in land to preserve natural resources and open space; any unspent portion of that amount to be put into the Open Space Fund?

We vote on this tomorrow by Australian ballot.

There is a report from the Shelburne Natural Resources Committee in the Town Report on Open Spaces Fund.

Ken Albert was recognized from the floor. Gail Albert is available to answer questions. The Town has voted overwhelmingly for this item in the past 23-30 years. It gives us access to LaPlatte Nature Park and Bread and Butter Farm, and places all over Town.

8:00 PM Our surprise interlude with Fritz Horton:

“Good evening everybody! Tonight, we have a treat for you!

I am up in the Town Hall clock tower representing Shelburne's Historical Society and 90 folks who have contributed almost \$16,000 to restore our Town Hall Clock and Bell.

As many of you know, in 1927 -- 94 years ago -- Electra Havemeyer Webb, gave this beautiful Town Hall to all of us in memory of her father, Henry Havemeyer. All furniture, crockery and even a player piano on the stage were included.

Those present at the building opening gave Mrs. Webb a standing ovation, and since then the Town has honored her gift by continually using the building as intended until closing it early last year for the pandemic. Today, we have a fully restored our Town Hall, joined to the new Town Library and prepared to serve new post-pandemic needs in ways we're sure Mrs. Webb would approve.

Here in the clock tower, she installed a new, state-of-the-art Seth-Thomas No. 16B Tower Clock, and in the Belfry above, a 900 lb. bronze bell given to her by her late in-laws, William Seward and Lila Osgood Webb.

In its early years, the clock and bell served as our “community timepiece,” marking every hour every day and every night. Though some folks owned wall clocks and pocket watches then, unless they were trying to catch a bus or train, few really cared what time it was. The Town Clock told them all they needed to know.

But here in the clock tower, exposed to the heat and cold, the Seth Thomas was often several minutes fast or slow. By mid-century, most of us relied on our electronic clocks and watches from companies like Timex or Bulova for the time at any moment. Some folks often became annoyed at the Town Clock’s bell tolling the hour several minutes early or late.

In 1987 – 60 years after it was installed – the Shelburne Historical Society funded extensive service to the clock to increase its accuracy – to no avail. Soon, frustrated by many complaints to the Town Clerk’s office, someone flipped the switch “Off,” and the clock ran down, silencing the bell.

Now, almost 30 years have passed since that day, and the clock is still stopped -- the bell silent and almost forgotten – until tonight.

Right now, even though the clockworks are in the shop for repair the bell will toll the hour for the first time in almost 30 years. You see, the bell is no longer connected to the clock but to the new electronically controlled black box over there that pulls that chain to ring the bell in the belfry above my head. When returned to service in July, old Seth-Thomas will probably keep the same “relaxed” time, but most will not notice that as they listen to the big bronze bell toll the hour right on time.

In a bit more than a minute, no matter where you are, you will hear the bell toll the 8:00 hour...LIVE. Tomorrow and for some time to come, if you’re in the village, you will hear it toll on the hour every day, 8 am to 8 pm, on what I call “Tourist Time”.

So, we members of our Historical Society thank you, our donors and, of course, Mrs. Electra Havemeyer Webb, wherever you are!!!”

Rick Bessette read a poem he wrote to honor this moment:

“OUR COMMUNITY TIMEPIECE”

The year nineteen twenty seven,  
On a cold November night,  
A dedication took place here,  
Its tribute fitting and right

A new town hall with clock and bell  
Electra Webb had gifted

In memory of her family.  
Our town's burden was lifted.

For years, the old Seth- Thomas clock  
Would chime each passing hour,  
But with age the clock and brass bell  
Had inconsistent power.

Soon weary of the bell's ringing  
minutes too early or late,  
We stopped the pendulum swinging,  
Technology sealed its fate.

Decades later our clock is fixed.  
Again, its hands move on time.  
Accurate to the second now,  
With its bell to strike and chime.

Written by Rick Bessette Shelburne's poet Laureate 01/22/2021

Listen for the clock chime tomorrow at 8 AM!

No questions or comments on Article V. No questions in the chat. Moving on to Article IV.

**Article VI:** Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Shelburne in an amount not to exceed One Million, One Hundred and Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$1,120,000), subject to reduction from available state and federal grants-in-aid and other financial resources, be issued for the purpose of purchasing a parcel of land ("Lot 6A") from Rice Lumber Co., Inc. and constructing shared infrastructure with Pizzagalli Properties/Road to Hana, Inc. d/b/a Healthy Living Market and Café, all for the purpose of a prospective, future Fire/Rescue Station or for such other municipal purpose as the voters of the Town of Shelburne may determine at a future time?

Town Manager Krohn gave a brief review of the plan for a Fire/Rescue Station to be built on the land to be purchased if Article VI is approved. There is no obligation to dedicate to Fire & Rescue, but both facilities are in dire need of updating. He stated the construction and associated financing of any future Fire/Rescue Station shall be subject to approval by the legal voters of Shelburne. The costs of any such future Fire/Rescue Station cannot be determined at this time.

Questions?  
Comments?

Town Manager Krohn - this is the same property we looked at last year - Lot 6A subdivided by Rice Lumber. Healthy Living will build on the front parcel. It is situated

on the corner of Route 7 and Longmeadow Drive. It is more centrally located than our current Fire and Rescue Stations. The Fire Department building is currently cramped, and the traffic is challenging. Rescue is in a more dire condition. The building was built by Dunbar Bostwick and meant for use for five years. They have been there 30 years now, and room for improvement at this point is nil.

\$650,000 price tag was negotiated down. The additional funds for infrastructure and other built in unforeseen contingencies are higher than normal. It is a fixed cost not to exceed the state amount in Article VI. Healthy Living will cover anything additional. The road will be called Healthy Way. The driveway goes all the way back to the property line. Water, sewer, and power would be shared on a 50/50 basis.

Douglas Marden was recognized and asked a series of questions.

\$1.2 million dollar bond request. That looks like just the start. What other tasks will be required and other costs to build? What is the bond requirement for this? What about restoration to existing buildings?

Lee Krohn responded and explained that there would be other costs for architectural design, construction costs, this most likely will be 3-4 years down the road.

Exiting fire and rescue buildings, there are an array of the suggestions for prospective ideas, from tear it down to more parking and green space, to an indoor farmers market, Shelburne Craft School, and/or other Town Departments. We will cross that bridge, if we get there.

There are a number of existing debts that are winding down. There will always be capital projects to run the Town. Upgrading the wastewater treatment plants have been in two years of discussions, which will be expensive. These are good questions.

Moderator Little reread the Article.

Seeing no other questions in the chat, that brings us to other business.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Is there any other business for this meeting related to Town concerns?

Ken Scott, Shelburne Representative from the Champlain Valley School District (CVSD), who introduced the other two Shelburne members of the CVSD Board, Russ Caffry and Barbra Marden, gave a presentation on the CVSD Budget.

Good evening - Mr. Scott shared his screen showing the CVSD budget presentation.

He shared the COVID-19 effects on CVSD and two years' worth of budgets affected. There is no planning for COVID. There were two years' worth of budgets affected by COVID. We came out quite well. Thanks to the hard work of the administration, there were no deficits. The CVSD acquired \$2 million to help cover costs of COVID for virtual learning and getting kids back into school. They handled challenges with some wonderful creativity. The Food Shelf got food to the kids that needed it. He thanked the School Cafeteria Staff that made the transition from cafeteria to home delivery.

They were able to pull off an online schooling for hundreds of students, created within a few months. Staff have done some wonderful, wonderful things.

Points of Pride:

- Deb Killkelley was recognized as a Nationally Certified teacher
- Jessica West was awarded the UVM Teacher of the Year 2020 award for CVSD.
- Eric Brunvand was awarded the VAMLE Master of Middle Level Teaching 2020.
- Rachel Petraska was awarded Vermont School Counselor of the Year in 2020.
- SCS Students and adults led the effort in raising the Black Lives Matter flag in June 2020.

CVSD is planning for five days a week full in school attendance to start in the fall. And to develop our budget, we start with the goals. Our budgeting process assumes a return to normal in-person instruction for all grade levels, salary negotiations, benefits +9.8% health insurance, utilities and fuel costs per US-EIA forecast, and workers comp and other insurance +10%, class sizes and instructional budget and operational budget considerations. We are dealing with a couple major issues: salaries, their health insurance, and special ed have immediate needs to be met.

He recognized the hard work by Jean Jenson to review the budget and bring the numbers down. The percentage change with revenue applied is a 1.0% increase. This impacts Shelburne residents for fiscal year 2022 with a 0.2% increase from the previous year.

All Articles have been moved to Australian ballot. And they are to be voted on tomorrow.

Any questions?

Are copies of the slides available on the website? Yes. Go to the CVSD website and on top of page click on "budget."

No questions in the chat. Moderator Little thanked Mr Scott, Mr. Caffrey and Ms. Marden for all their work on the CVSD budget

Town Manager Lee Krohn was recognized and said he hoped everyone has reviewed the Town Report. He thanked Nini Anger and Sue Craig for their hard work on getting the Town Report done and out the door. We worked hard to make it more readable and share how we have run the town. It's a nice historical record of our Town.

Town Meeting Abstract - 03/01/2021

See the Annual CVSD Report, starting with the Warnings at pages 27-34 of the Town Report.

Following the Other Business, and seeing no objection, Moderator Little declared that the Meeting will stand in recess until 7:00 a.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

Moderator Little reminded all that the polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., at the Shelburne Town Center gymnasium.

Special thanks to Town Clerk Diana Vachon, Town Manager Lee Krohn, and Assistant to the Town Manager Nini Anger – for all of their planning and organizational work for this meeting. He thanked Marcy and Ken from the Media Factory again.

More special thanks to Diana for the many hours she and her polling place workers and volunteers will put in tomorrow – and for the many hours they have already put in processing mail-in ballots!

We now stand in recess until tomorrow morning, Tuesday, March 2, 2021, at 7:00 a.m. for Australian balloting on the Town and CVSD Meeting Articles.

The Meeting adjourned 8:30 PM.

Thank you.

High participation was 76 attendees.