

SHERBORN GENERAL PLAN 2017: MAJOR SECTIONS and GOALS

Guiding Principles

Preserve Sherborn's most valued assets

- Excellent schools
- Clean water resources and healthy, resilient forests
- Rural environment, farms, trails and open space
- Historic assets and scenic roads

While working toward positive change

- Financial sustainability of the Town
- Greater diversity of housing options
- Vibrant, attractive, walkable Town Center on a small village scale

NATURAL RESOURCES and OPEN SPACE

Vision: Sherborn's rural character and healthy environment will be preserved by continued protection of its open spaces, natural resources of clean water, resilient forests and wildlife, and agricultural heritage.

GOALS:

- I. Maintain the long-term quality and quantity of Sherborn's water resources.
- II. Protect Sherborn's forests and overall biodiversity, for environmental health and climate control.
- III. Preserve Sherborn's rural character and scenic beauty by protecting and maintaining open space.
- IV. Implement policies that promote the retention and economic sustainability of agricultural lands.

CULTURAL and COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vision: A continuous system of trails and walkways will connect Sherborn's neighborhoods to each other and to the Town Center, diverse recreational resources will support the health and community engagement of residents of all ages, and the rich legacy of historic homes, landscapes and stone wall-lined scenic roads will be maintained.

GOALS:

- I. Protect, improve and expand the use of open space as a recreational resource.
- II. Maintain and improve Sherborn's organized recreational facilities and programs.
- III. Promote preservation of Sherborn's historic assets.
- IV. Maintain Community Resources, Public Facilities and Services.

TOWN CENTER

Vision: The Town Center will be an inviting, attractive social hub with small shops, easy pedestrian and bicycle access, and gathering places for the community to meet and interact.

GOALS:

- I. Preserve the most valued features of the existing Town Center.
- II. Enhance the social vitality and function of the existing Town Center through incremental improvements.
- III. Support current businesses and consider new business and housing opportunities in the Town Center within existing infrastructure constraints.
- IV. Develop a realistic, comprehensive long term plan for Town Center that addresses the challenges not met by the incremental changes in goals I - III.
- V. Work toward implementation of the comprehensive plan for Town Center

HOUSING

***Vision:** Housing options in Sherborn will accommodate residents of diverse ages and economic resources, while remaining consistent with the Town's semi-rural atmosphere, environmental health and sustainability.*

GOALS:

- I. Manage and guide the development of affordable housing to fulfill State requirements in a manner that maximizes local initiatives and minimizes adverse economic and environmental impacts.
- II. Increase the diversity of housing options in Sherborn to accommodate residents of different ages and economic resources.
- III. Preserve Sherborn’s character by ensuring that housing is consistent with preservation of the Town's semi-rural atmosphere, scenic open space, natural resources, and environmental health.
- IV. Make Sherborn a sustainable community by minimizing energy consumption and environmental impacts on the town, the region and the earth.

CIRCULATION

***Vision:** Pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles will safely share the scenic roads throughout Sherborn, and will travel safely along primary roads to and through Town Center.*

GOALS:

- I. Keep town center road design on a small village scale.
- II. Improve safety and access to and through Town Center for pedestrians and bicycles.
- III. Optimize traffic safety for all users on primary, secondary and tertiary roads throughout town.
- IV. Preserve character of scenic roads (viewscales, stone walls and trees) throughout town.
- V. Optimize the cost-effectiveness of road maintenance and improvement.

LAND USE & ZONING

Overview of Zoning

Zoning implications of specific recommendations in this Plan

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

***Vision:** Growth and change will be carefully managed to achieve and maintain long term financial stability while preserving the semi-rural character of Sherborn that we cherish.*

Note that potential fiscal and economic implications of specific recommendations, strategies and actions are integrated throughout all sections, including the Implementation Plan.

Organization of the Plan:

MAJOR SECTIONS

I, II, III. GOALS

A, B, C Recommendations

1, 2, 3 Strategies

a, b, c Specific Actions

IMPLEMENTATION and TRACKING PLAN This section will specify:

- * Person or Committee responsible for each action item; * Resources (human and financial) required;
- * Realistic time frame (5, 10, 20, 30 years); * Track progress and adjust over time.