

9. COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

1. Introduction

The Community Action Plan, in the original Master Plan draft, presented a summary of all recommendations put forth in that document. Since those recommendations have already been presented in their respective sections, they are not presented again.

The booklet, *The Town Master Plan, Summary of Recommendations*, which contains all the recommendations found in the Town Master Plan, is presented in the front of the Master Plan. This document was published after the Town of Sheffield Planning Board finished its review, revisions and adoption of the Town Master Plan in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws.

The following two sections are from *The Town Master Plan, Summary of Recommendations*.

2. A Community-Wide Effort

Over the past three years many townspeople have given their time, talents and energy to develop the Master Plan. They include those who worked on the Master Plan Steering Committee and many subcommittees, the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board members, and all who attended public forums, took a survey and/or provided comments and encouragement. For a partial listing of these neighbors and townspeople, please see pages i - iii in the Master Plan.

During these past few years this community-wide effort has:

- Established a common base of detailed information about Ashley Falls and Sheffield for the years 2000 – 2002, from which updated information may be derived.
- Documented a broad level of agreement regarding what we want for our community's future.
- Outlined clear policies and specific steps to move Ashley Falls and Sheffield in the directions their townspeople desire.

3. Moving Forward with Master Plan Implementation

(Note: This section replaces “Next Steps to Maintain Momentum” in the draft Master Plan.)

Now that the Planning Board has completed its review and revision of the draft Master Plan and formally adopted a Town Master Plan, the town is ready to begin implementing its recommendations.

Because many Master Plan recommendations require the support of town government, primarily the Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board or the Zoning Board of Appeals, the implementation

group is called the Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee. It is hoped that this committee, and the subcommittees that focus on specific recommendations, will embody the talent, energy and imagination of a rich cross section of our town's population.

Implementing the Master Plan's recommendations is a long-term endeavor. Some Master Plan recommendations have been accomplished while others will require citizen review, voter approval and / or coordination across town organizations. Some recommendations may be implemented through private sector resources. Others will benefit from a partnership between the private and public sectors.

The Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee, working closely with town boards, will prioritize the Master Plan recommendations. The Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee will report to the townspeople on a regular basis.

The Planning Board, because of its special statutory responsibilities for long term planning, will be actively involved with the Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee, as will the Board of Selectmen. The implementation of the Master Plan is an important responsibility of our town's government.

The Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee needs town's people who will give time, talent and energy to realize the plan's recommendations. Some aspects will not be easy. But the Master Plan and its vision of Ashley Falls and Sheffield's future will become a reality with each recommendation's implementation. Each person has a role to play in shaping our town's future.