



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY
Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building
100 Maple Avenue
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545-5398

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

March 7, 2022

LOCATION: Selectmen's Meeting Room

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jason Molina, Chair
Debra Mooney, Vice Chair
Melanie Magee, Clerk
Rajesh Velagapudi, At Large Member
James LeMay, Parks & Cemetery Commission Representative (online)
Martha Gach, Conservation Commission Representative
Gail Aslanian, Historical Commission Representative
Steven Boulay, Planning Board Representative
Kathleen McSweeney, Housing Authority Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Bernard Cahill, Director of Planning and Economic Development
Rowen McAllister, Assistant Town Planner

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Jason Molina offered one change to the text of the Minutes of the February 2, 2022 meeting and the change was approved unanimously.

The CPC Budget Article, which will go to the Finance Committee for review and subsequently to Town Meeting, was voted on and approved unanimously. The Committee then discussed our timeline and progress toward finalizing our two workstreams of preparing paper forms and documents, and setting up our public forum.

Some committee members briefly related the results of asking for suggestions on resources and needs. Steve noted that the public library has some historical artifacts, and Jim mentioned the Parks and Cemetery interest in parks, trails, and water quality. Gail and Kathy consulted with the Historical Commission. Their biggest issue currently is the condition of the oldest gravestones in Mountain View Cemetery.

The Public Forum working group discussed the logistics of the night (March 29, 2022, in the public library). It was noted that we need at least a five-member quorum, as this is an official meeting of the committee. Details of publicity for the event were discussed.

Jason described how the process and applications working group looked at the equivalent documents and procedures from 8 or 9 comparable towns. Common findings included a useful two-step application procedure, with the first step only determining eligibility (whether the proposed project was allowable under the Community Preservation Act) and the second step being the full detailed application for funding. Further considerations were scoring criteria, final wrap-up of completed projects, and special circumstances, such as time- sensitive situations outside of the normal deadlines.

Jason led a quick review of the draft of the Community Preservation Plan. Additional information gathered from the public forum will be added as it becomes available.

Martha noted that we should maintain communication with the other relevant boards, and look for the quickest, most convenient ways to get their input. Melanie noted that while our proposed application forms are likely to ask about the future maintenance of projects, we do not fund maintenance, and the question is only to anticipate future difficulties. Debra addressed a circumstance where someone might wish to consult with the CPC soon and it was decided that we will not be able to address specific projects yet. We are not currently seeking applicants but advise those interested to come to the March 29 public forum with their questions. Any questions about eligibility that cannot be answered locally may be addressed to the Community Preservation Coalition website.

Jason noted that the town will, in a few years, be celebrating its 300th anniversary and noted that this is an excellent reminder to think about what aspects of the town we most need to preserve.

The next scheduled meeting of the committee will be on **April 11, 2022**.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Magee, Clerk