



# TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

Board of Selectmen Workshop

REMOTE MEETING:

Google Meet: (US) +1 707-847-8165 PIN: 402 063 842#

Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building

100 Maple Avenue

Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545-5398

Tuesday, July 5, 2022 6:00 PM

## Minutes

### 1. Call to Order

Mr. DePalo read the remote meeting script and called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM, “As a preliminary matter, this is Maurice DePalo, Chair. Please permit me to confirm that all members and persons anticipated on the agenda are present and can hear me.

**Present:** Mr. Maurice DePalo, Chair, Ms. Beth Casavant, Vice-Chair, Ms. Theresa Flynn, Clerk, Mr. John Samia, Selectmen, Ms. Michelle Conlin, Selectmen

**Also Present:** Mr. Kevin Mizikar, Town Manager, Ms. Taylor Galusha, Principal Department Assistant (Board of Selectman and Town Manager)

Good evening. This Open Meeting of the Board of Selectmen is being conducted remotely consistent with – Senate Bill 2475 signed into law by Governor Baker on June 16, 2021 suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, this meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. The Order allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting. For this meeting, the Board of Selectmen is convening by Google Meet as posted on the Town’s Website identifying how the public may join. Please be sure to press \*6 to mute your device. The meeting will not feature public comment.”

### 2. Meeting with VISIONS Inc to discuss matters of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Mr. John Colón and Ms. Wendy Helmkamp were also present from VISIONS to facilitate the training session. They summarized the potential first action steps the Board can take in relation to the Town departments, the Task Force Report, and the DEI Committee for the Town.

The Board discussed the potential role of a DEI committee and how the Task Force Report could be interwoven into their work. They also noted that it would be important to set a scope for what their advisory capacity would be and how they could be a community liaison. They also noted it would be important to consider what the membership of the committee would look like.

The Board noted that this committee could act as a conduit to the Board of Selectmen in a similar way that the Community Preservation Committee acts as a conduit back to Town Meeting. Board members also noted that they do not want this to be an ineffective committee and for it to be active and not just “checking a box.”

The Board established their next steps of reviewing the Task Force Report again together in a workshop, formulate a Leadership Commitment Statement combined with a mission statement for the DEI Committee,

and then work to establish a charter and charge for the DEI Committee. They planned to give an update at their meeting July 12, 2022 and more concrete information and actions at their meeting on July 26, 2022.

The Board members noted that the commitment statement has to be a strong statement from the Board and need to back it up and set the right expectations for the community. They also noted that the statement should be tied to yearly goals for the Board and the Town manager as well. The Board also noted they should consider adding “Belonging: to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion so it would be “Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging” as part of the mission statement too.

**3. Adjourn**

On a motion by Ms. Casavant, seconded by Ms. Flynn, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:01 PM

Respectfully Submitted,



Taylor M. Galusha