



## TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building  
100 Maple Avenue  
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545-5338

### Shrewsbury Community Preservation Committee Bylaw

#### DRAFT

*(Approved by the Board of Selectmen on March 16, 2021. Effective following approval by Town Meeting on May 22, 2021)*

### **Chapter 1: Establishment**

There is hereby established a Community Preservation Committee, consisting of nine (9) voting members pursuant to MGL Chapter 44B (the "Act"). The composition of the committee, the appointment authority and the term of office for the committee members shall be as follows:

One member of the Shrewsbury Conservation Commission as designated by that Commission.

One member of the Shrewsbury Historical Commission as designated by that Commission.

One member of the Shrewsbury Planning Board as designated by that Board.

One member of the Shrewsbury Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Commission as designated by that Commission.

One member of the Shrewsbury Housing Authority as designated by the Authority.

Four (4) members to be appointed at large by the Shrewsbury Board of Selectmen. At large members must be residents of Shrewsbury.

The members appointed by the Conservation Commission, the Historical Commission, the Planning Board, the Parks Recreation and Cemetery Commission, and the Housing Authority shall be appointed annually for a term of one year. The four (4) at large members appointed by the Board of Selectmen are appointed as follows: The at large members shall first be appointed in staggered terms (two (2) appointees for 3 year terms; One (1) appointee for a 2 year term; One (1) appointee for a 1 year term) and subsequently be appointed for a term of three years. After the initial appointment of the

members of the Committee, any vacancy occurring in the Committee from any cause may be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by the Commission, Board or Authority, as the case may be, which made the initial appointment, for the remainder of the unexpired term. Such appointment shall be made not less than seven days following notice of intent to fill such vacancy.

Should any of the Commissions, Boards, Councils, or Committees who have appointment authority under this Chapter be no longer in existence for whatever reason, the appointment authority for that Commission, Board, Council, or Committee shall become the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen.

The Committee shall elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman from among its members and shall elect a Secretary who need not be a member of the Committee. After having a public hearing and requesting recommendations from Town boards and committees, the Committee shall adopt policies, rules and regulations for conducting its affairs and for carrying out its responsibilities. Any member of the Committee may, after a public hearing before the Commission, Board or Authority which appointed the said member, be removed for cause by majority vote of such Commission, Board or Authority.

## **Chapter 2: Duties**

(1). The Community Preservation Committee shall study the needs, possibilities, and resources of the Town regarding community preservation. The Committee shall consult with existing municipal boards, including the Conservation Commission, the Historical Commission, the Planning Board, the Board of Selectmen, the Parks and Cemetery Commission and the Housing Authority, or persons acting in those capacities or performing like duties, in conducting such studies. As part of its study, the Committee shall hold one or more public informational hearings on the needs, possibilities and resources of the Town regarding community preservation possibilities and resources, notice of which shall be posted publicly and published for each of two weeks preceding a hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town.

(2). The Community Preservation Committee, upon completion of a public hearing on each project, shall make recommendations to the Town Meeting for the acquisition, creation and preservation of open space; for the acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of historic resources; for the acquisition, creation and preservation of land for recreational use; for the creation, preservation and support of community housing; and for the rehabilitation or restoration of open space, land for recreational use and community housing that is acquired or created as provided in this section. With respect to community housing, the Community Preservation Committee shall recommend, wherever possible, the reuse of existing buildings or construction of new buildings on previously developed sites.

(3). The Community Preservation Committee may include, in its recommendation to the Town Meeting, a recommendation to set aside for later spending funds for specific purposes that are consistent with community preservation but for which sufficient revenues are not then available in the Community Preservation Fund to accomplish that specific purpose or to set aside for later spending for general purposes that are consistent with community preservation. The Community Preservation Committee may recommend the issuance of general obligation bonds or notes in anticipation of revenues to be raised pursuant to section 3 of the Act.

In every fiscal year, the Community Preservation Committee shall recommend either that the legislative body spend, or set aside for later spending, not less than 10% of the annual revenues in the Community Preservation Fund in each of the following areas for (a) open space (not including land for recreational use), (b) historic resources; and (c) community housing.

As provided in the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act, no expenditures shall be made from the Community Preservation Fund without the approval of Town Meeting.

(4). The Community Preservation Committee shall present their recommended articles for inclusion on the Annual Town Meeting warrant and any Special Town Meeting warrant within the timeframe established by the Board of Selectmen for the warrant process.

### **Chapter 3: Requirement for a quorum and cost estimates**

The Community Preservation Committee shall comply with the provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.39, 23B. The Community Preservation Committee shall not meet or conduct business without the presence of a quorum. A majority of the members of the Community Preservation Committee shall constitute a quorum. The Community Preservation Committee shall approve its actions by majority vote. Recommendations to the Town Meeting shall include the Community Preservation Committee's anticipated costs.

### **Chapter 4: Amendments**

This Chapter may be amended from time to time by a majority vote of the Town Meeting, provided that the amendments would not cause a conflict to occur with MGL, Chapter 44B.

### **Chapter 5: Severability**

In case any section, paragraph or part of this chapter be for any reason declared invalid or unconstitutional by any court of last resort, every other section, paragraph or part shall continue in full force and effect.

### **Chapter 6: Effective Date**

This bylaw shall take effect after all requirements of MGL Chapter 40, Section 32 have been met, including approval by the Attorney General of the Commonwealth, and the Town has accepted Chapter 44B, Section 3-7 inclusive. Each appointing authority shall have 30 days after approval by the Attorney General to make its initial appointments.