

**STATE OF VERMONT  
Bennington County, SS:  
TOWN OF SHAFTSBURY**

**March 2024 Annual Town Meeting Warning**

Shaftsbury residents, qualified to vote at the Annual Town Meeting, are hereby notified and warned to meet in person at the Shaftsbury Elementary School 150 Buck Hill Road or virtually via zoom on **Monday, March 4, 2024, at 6:00 PM** to hold a public information hearing. Upon completion of the information session, the Meeting will stand adjourned until **Tuesday, March 5, 2024, from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM** when voting by Australian ballot will commence at the Town Garage on North Road for the election of town officers and consideration of ballot articles.

Shaftsbury residents may submit an application to the Town Clerk to have their names added to the voter checklist no later than **12:00 PM on Monday, March 4, 2024 or at the Town Garage on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 from 7am to 7pm** to be eligible to vote on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at the polls. Any voter unable to come to the polls may apply for an early voter ballot with the Town Clerk until **12:00 PM on Monday, March 4, 2024**. Registration to vote can be done online by going to **MVP.VERMONT.gov**. Residents registering on Election Day must do so only at the polling place of their physical residence.

## **TOWN OF SHAFTSBURY**

### **IN PERSON and REMOTE PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING**

#### **NOTICE and AGENDA**

The Selectboard for the Town of Shaftsbury will hold a public informational hearing in person at the Shaftsbury Elementary School, 150 Buck Hill Road and by electronic means on March 4, 2024 at 6:00pm to discuss the Australian ballot articles on the 2024 Town Meeting Warning.

**Information on how to access the remote hearing:**

Shaftsbury Town is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Shaftsbury Town Meeting

Time: Mar 4, 2024 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84477826859>

Meeting ID: 844 7782 6859

---

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,84477826859# US

+13092053325,,84477826859# US

---

Dial by your location

- +1 305 224 1968 US
- +1 309 205 3325 US
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 646 931 3860 US
- +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 360 209 5623 US
- +1 386 347 5053 US
- +1 507 473 4847 US
- +1 564 217 2000 US
- +1 669 444 9171 US
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 689 278 1000 US
- +1 719 359 4580 US
- +1 253 205 0468 US
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 844 7782 6859

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kbvEV5ZM21>

Please review our "Informational Handout for Remote Public Hearings" to understand how these electronic hearing will be managed.

To ensure smooth access, we recommend that you test your remote hearing software in advance of the meeting. **If you have difficulty accessing the hearing, email [webmaster@shaftsburyvt.gov](mailto:webmaster@shaftsburyvt.gov).**

### **Notice on hybrid public meetings**

This meeting is a hybrid meeting, which means that some or all of the public body is meeting remotely and some are meeting physically in a previously noticed location where the public may attend to observe, listen, and participate contemporaneously. One member of this public body or other staff is present at the location to ensure the public can participate, if desired.

Please note that while we will strive to provide means for those attending remotely to participate in the public comment period, there may be technical difficulties or reasons that otherwise prevent or interrupt remote public participation. Therefore, it is important to note that the Open Meeting Law only ensures the public's right to participate and comment at a public meeting by attending at the designated physical location as posted in the notice and agenda.

### **YOU CANNOT VOTE AT TOWN MEETING VIA ZOOM**

### **BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED FROM THE FLOOR ON MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2024 AT 6:00 PM IN THE SHAFTSBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 150 BUCK HILL ROAD.**

- To hear reports of the Town Officers and take action thereon.
- To Determine:
  - A. Shall Selectboard members each receive an annual stipend of \$750?
  - B. Shall the Board of Auditors be paid a wage at the rate of \$15.00 per hour?
  - C. Shall the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Constable be paid a wage at the rate of \$15.00 per hour?
- Shall the Town authorize collection of taxes on real or personal property by its Treasurer, which are due in hand on or before, **Tuesday November 12<sup>th</sup>** at 5:00 PM or likewise postmarked no later than **November 12<sup>th</sup>** ?
- Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$2,740,081 to defray the Town's general and highway expenses for Fiscal Year 2025, the amount of such sum to be raised by property taxes and to be reduced by non-tax revenues and reserve funds?

- To transact any other non-binding business as legally may come before said meeting at this time.

## **AGENDA**

**The agenda items will be discussed but not voted on. Voting will be by Australian ballot on Tuesday March 4, 2024.**

1. Review and discuss Articles 1,2, and 3: Shall the voters authorize amendments to the Shaftsbury Zoning Bylaws?
  - Public Comments
2. Review and discuss Article 4: Community Appropriations
  - Public comments
3. Discussion of other non-binding business
  - Public comment

**BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT  
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024  
7:00 AM TO 7:00 PM  
Town Garage North Road**

- 1. Shall the voters of the Town of Shaftsbury approve the following amendment to the Shaftsbury Zoning Bylaws:**

*New section:* “Road frontage requirements in the R40 and R80 zones shall be reduced to 75’, where the new lots so created are no more than one and a half times the minimum size for that zoning district.”

*(Note: this might also be placed in the Rural Zones table.)*

- 2. Shall the voters of the Town of Shaftsbury approve the following amendment to the Shaftsbury Zoning Bylaws:**

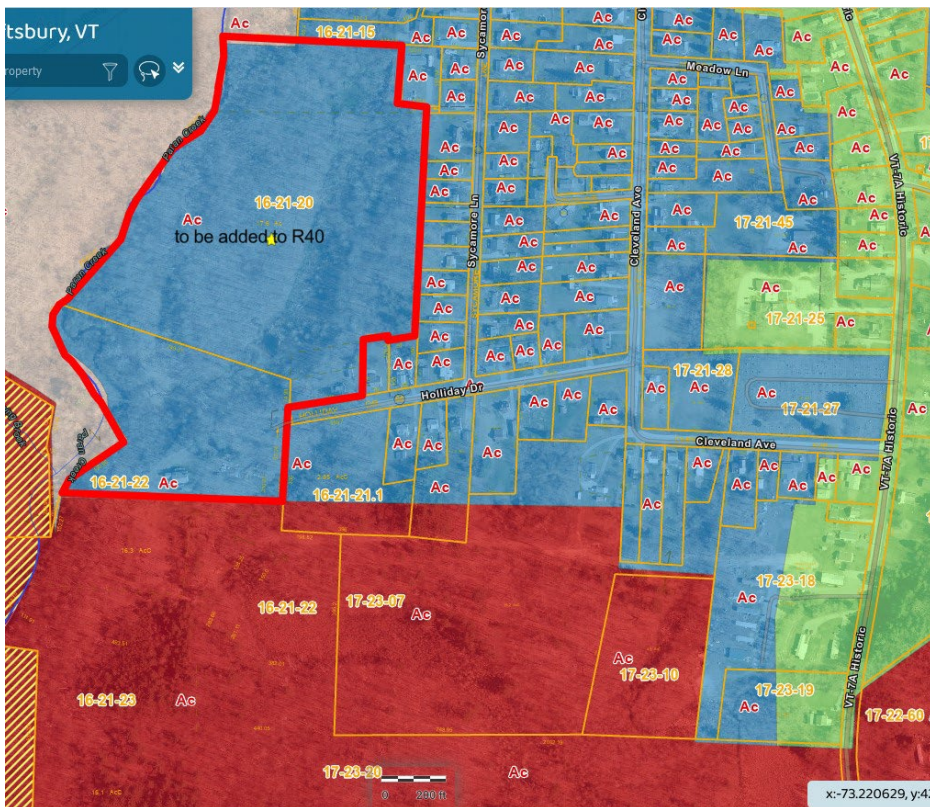
*revised 3.3.2:*

“If an application is submitted for a proposed use that is not identified in these Bylaws as a permitted or conditionally permitted use for the district, the Development Review Board shall review and evaluate the proposed use as a conditional use, pursuant to Zoning Bylaw §3.4. The Development Review Board shall not grant a permit for the unlisted use if any individual impact, as listed in Zoning Bylaw §3.4, is greater than the impact reasonably expected for a permitted use in the subject district. The Development Review Board shall grant a permit, impose conditions on the permit or deny the application consistent with the provisions of Zoning By law §3.4.”

3. Shall the voters of the Town of Shaftsbury approve the following amendment to the Shaftsbury Zoning Bylaws:

Zoning map change (to facilitate definition of area to be covered by new firearms ordinance)

Rezoning in the VR district to R40: We will suggest that parcels 16 21 20.1 and 16 21 22 as recorded in the Town Grand List are to be placed in the R40 zone.



### Proposed changes to Shaftsbury Zoning Map

Area outlined in red is now Village Residential (VR). The change from VR to R40 will align the Village Residential Zone with the area covered by the new Municipal Firearms Ordinance. The area outlined in red is known locally as a traditional hunting ground.

4. Shall the Town vote to exempt Tonconic Community Grange from payment of property tax for a period of five years?

5. Community Appropriations to Determine:

- 1) Shall the Town appropriate \$5,225 to Bennington Area Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice?
- 2) Shall the Town appropriate \$5,000 to the Bennington Coalition for the Homeless?
- 3) Shall the Town appropriate \$1,000 to the Bennington Free Clinic?
- 4) Shall the Town appropriate \$18,630 to the Bennington Free Library?
- 5) Shall the Town appropriate \$600 to Bennington Little League?
- 6) Shall the Town appropriate \$4,500 to the Bennington Project Independence, Inc.?
- 7) Shall the Town appropriate \$1,700 to the Bennington Rutland Opportunity Council?
- 8) Shall the Town appropriate \$600 to the Center for Restorative Justice?
- 9) Shall the Town appropriate \$200 to the Green-Up Vermont?
- 10) Shall the Town appropriate \$25,200 to the John G. McCullough Free Library?
- 11) Shall the Town appropriate \$2,000 to the Martha Canfield Library?
- 12) Shall the Town appropriate \$2,500 to the Paran Recreations, Inc.?
- 13) Shall the Town appropriate \$1,500 to the Park McCullough House
- 14) Shall the Town appropriate \$450 to the Project Against Violent Encounters?
- 15) Shall the Town appropriate \$950 to the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program?
- 16) Shall the Town appropriate \$2,500 to the Shaftsbury Historical Society, Inc.?
- 17) Shall the Town appropriate \$1,000 to the Sunrise Family Resource Center?
- 18) Shall the Town appropriate \$1,100 to the SW Vermont Council on Aging?
- 19) Shall the Town appropriate \$900 to the Tutorial Center?
- 20) Shall the Town appropriate \$300 to the VT Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired?
- 21) Shall the Town appropriate \$1,000 to the VT Center for Independent Living?
- 22) Shall the Town appropriate \$5,000 to Shires Media Partnership (WBTN)
- 23) Shall the Town appropriate \$750 to Bennington Senior Center?
- 24) Shall the Town appropriate \$475 to Bennington County Conservation District?
- 25) Shall the Town appropriate \$1,000 to Monty's House Wildlife Rehabilitations

DATED at Shaftsbury, Vermont this 16th day of **January, 2024**.

**TOWN OF SHAFTSBURY SELECTBOARD**

---

Art Whitman, Chair

Tony Krulikowski, Vice Chair

Martha Cornwell,

---

Naomi Miller

---

Mike Cichanowski

# Remote Only Public Informational Hearing Handout

## Town of Shaftsbury

### **Public Informational Hearing**

The process for using the Australian ballot system at town meeting requires a public informational hearing as a precursor to the vote. The Selectboard must hold an informational hearing when a town uses this system of voting on any public or budget question. The informational hearing, which is administered by the Selectboard, must be held within the 10 days immediately preceding the town meeting at which the Australian ballot system of voting is to be used. The purpose of the informational hearing is to afford the electorate an opportunity to discuss the article(s) on which they will be voting. The hearing serves as the debate component that would otherwise accompany voting when conducted from the floor.

The Selectboard of the town of Shaftsbury will offer in person and remote access via electronic means to its public informational hearing. Whenever feasible, the public should, at minimum, be able to access and participate in the remote hearing by dialing in through telephone.

### **Accessing a Meeting**

Please refer to the remote only public informational hearing notice and agenda for information on how to access the hearing remotely. Please note that whether you join by telephone, computer, or device, you may be put on hold or in a waiting "room" until granted access to the hearing. You also may be muted or restricted from using any chat function until the public comment portion of the hearing.

### **Participation**

All meetings will be conducted in accordance with the Selectboard's Rules of Procedure , to the extent practicable. The moderator will follow the public informational hearing agenda and, when feasible, allow members of the public attending remotely to participate through voice (audio) means or alternatively using any chat function during the designated public comment periods on the agenda and at other applicable times as needed.

While the moderator will attempt to provide those attending remotely the same reasonable opportunity to comment, please be aware that technical and other issues may interfere or possibly even prevent that opportunity from occurring.

Initially, the meeting's host/organizer will mute all remote attendees. This is necessary to control background noise. The host/organizer will then unmute remote participants or allow participants to unmute themselves when invited to speak by the moderator.

Please review the following guidelines:

- The moderator will invite comment:
  - during the public comment period as designated on the agenda; and
  - other times as determined by the moderator.

- When a remote participant/attendee is unmuted, they must state their name before commenting.

When the Selectboard adjourns the hearing, the host/organizer will end the electronic meeting by turning off/closing the remote meeting software. Remote attendees will be automatically disconnected.

The hearing will be recorded unless unusual circumstances make it impossible to do so. Minutes and other public records that are part of the hearing will be made available in accordance with VT's Open Meeting and Public Records Laws.

**YOU CANNOT VOTE AT TOWN MEETING VIA ZOOM**