



**2024 Special Town Meeting Warrant
Town of Shutesbury
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
December 3, 2024**

To one of the Constables of the Town of Shutesbury in the County of Franklin,
Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, to meet at **6:00 p.m.** on Tuesday the **Third** day of December, at the Shutesbury Elementary School at 23 West Pelham Rd. in said Shutesbury, in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Four, then and there to act on the following articles.

Article 1. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$25,000 from Free Cash, or Stabilization for the Police Dept. to be used to fund a Private Duty Detail Account pursuant to MGL c. 44, Sec 53C, for the purpose of making timely payments to officers for their Private Duty Detail work, or take any action relative thereto.

**(Sponsor: Selectboard) Finance Committee recommends (6-0)
Requires a majority vote for Free Cash and two-thirds vote for Stabilization.**

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$136,000 from the CPA Undesignated fund balance to the Amherst Regional Public Schools for the purposes of the rehabilitation, renovation, and improvement of the track and field athletic facilities at the Amherst Regional High School, an Open Space/Recreation project, as described in the Amherst Regional Public Schools' August 20, 2024 application to the Shutesbury Community Preservation Committee or take any other action relative thereto.

**(Sponsor: Regional School Committee) Finance Committee recommends (4-1-1)
Requires a majority vote.**

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$20,000 from Free Cash, or Stabilization to the Town Administrator's salary line in the budget, for the purpose of funding TA transition costs related to ITA salary, current TA vacation accrual payout and increase to the salary of the new Town Administrator year take any other action relative thereto.

**(Sponsor: Selectboard) Finance Committee recommends, (6-0)
Requires a majority vote for Free Cash and two-thirds vote for Stabilization.**

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$25,000 from Free Cash, or Stabilization to fund the Finance Committee Reserve fund, or take any action relative thereto.

**(Sponsor: Finance Committee) Finance Committee recommends, (7-0)
Requires a majority vote for Free Cash and two-thirds vote for Stabilization.**

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$2,541.00 from Free Cash, or Stabilization to increase funding of the FY25 budget line Library Assistant/Aides or take any action relative thereto.

**(Sponsor: Library Trustees) Finance Committee, (5-2).
Requires a majority vote for Free Cash and two-thirds vote for Stabilization.**

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$876.00 from Free Cash to pay prior year bills of \$756.00 to Berkshire Springs HOD and \$120.00 to Encore Fire Protection. Or take any action relative thereto.

**(Sponsor: Selectboard) Finance Committee (7-0)
Requires a 9/10 vote for Free Cash.**

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to petition the General Court for a special act in the form set forth below, providing that lawful noncitizen permanent residents of the Town of Shutesbury be permitted to vote in local elections; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court; and provided further that the Selectboard is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of chapter 51 of the General Laws, or any other general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, lawful permanent residents 18 years or older who reside in Shutesbury may, upon application, have their name entered on a list of registered voters established by the Town Clerk for the town known as the Town of Shutesbury and may thereafter vote in all Shutesbury town meetings, elections and actions, and serve on elected and appointed Shutesbury municipal boards, commissions and committees.

SECTION 2. The Selectboard of the town known as the Town of Shutesbury may formulate regulations and guidelines to implement the purpose of this act.

SECTION 3. Nothing in this act shall be construed to confer upon lawful permanent residents the right to vote for any state or federal office or any state or federal ballot question or take any action relative thereto.

(Sponsor: Selectboard)

Requires majority vote.

Article 8. Resolution to Make Shutesbury a Pollinator-Friendly Community

To see if the Town will vote to approve the following non-binding resolution to designate Shutesbury as a pollinator-friendly community (as several nearby towns have done) and to prioritize native plantings and pollinator-friendly practices in municipal landscaping and restoration efforts.

PREAMBLE:

WHEREAS bees, moths, butterflies, and other pollinators are an essential component of a healthy ecosystem and provide ecological services that support plant and animal life.

WHEREAS, locally grown fruits and vegetables, such as apples, blueberries, strawberries, squash, melons, and tomatoes depend on pollinators.

WHEREAS most local bird species rely on vast quantities of caterpillars in order to thrive and reproduce.

WHEREAS many native caterpillars and other beneficial insects have very specific feeding needs that can only be satisfied with the native plant species they have co-evolved with.

WHEREAS considerable scientific research has documented the ongoing steep decline of many insect species (estimated at 45% overall in the last 40 years).

WHEREAS our local ecosystems that support pollinators are under tremendous threat from climate change, habitat loss and fragmentation, proliferation of non-native plant species, the expanded use of pesticides, light pollution, and the spread of pollutants, pathogens, and parasites.

WHEREAS, the repeated use of herbicides, including glyphosate and other toxic chemicals, to manage utility and road rights-of-way indiscriminately kills native vegetation and strongly disrupts pollinator habitat and soil biology, as it is toxic to beneficial soil microflora and invertebrates in soil, particularly when applied by broad spraying.

WHEREAS the Town of Shutesbury is cognizant of the need for safe and healthy landscapes for its residents and habitat for necessary pollinators.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Shutesbury is hereby declared a Pollinator-Friendly Community and that the Town urges Shutesbury property owners, residents, the Shutesbury Select Board, Town Departments and Committees, land trusts, and business owners to adopt the following pollinator-friendly practices:

- Prioritize the planting of native species in landscaping, land management, and restoration efforts.

- Avoid the use of insecticides and minimize the use of other types of pesticides (including herbicides, fungicides, and rodenticides).
- Develop a Shutesbury Pollinator Habitat Action Plan that includes public education about protecting pollinators and their habitats.

Or take any other action in relation thereto.

Hereof fail not, and make do return of this warrant, with your doings thereon, at the time and place of the meeting. Given under our hands this twelfth day of November two thousand and twenty-four.

Shutesbury Selectboard

Rita Farrell, Co-Chair

Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil, Co-Chair

Eric Stocker

I, the undersigned Constable for the Town of Shutesbury, certify that I posted attested copies of the Warrant for the above-mentioned meeting at the Locks Pond Bulletin Board, the Shutesbury Post Office, and the Town Hall in said town at least fourteen (14) days before the time of holding said meeting.

(TOWN SEAL) Constable _____
Date _____