



Town of Williamstown

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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MAY 17, 2022 ADJOURNED AND DISSOLVED TO JUNE 14, 2022

REVISION TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND SECTION 6-1 OF THE BY-LAWS

Article 35. To see if the Town will vote to revise Section 6-1 of the Bylaws of the Town of Williamstown by adding the bold, italics language below or take any action in relation thereto.

§ 6-1 Purpose.

The purpose of the Williamstown Affordable Housing Trust shall be to provide for the creation and preservation of affordable housing in the Town of Williamstown for the benefit of low- and moderate-income households ***and for the funding of community housing, as defined in and in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws chapter 44B. Without limiting the foregoing, such purposes shall include the acquisition, creation, preservation and support of community housing.***

The purpose of the proposed revisions to Section 6-1 are to make clear that the Williamstown Affordable Housing Trust Fund has the full range of powers and authorities available to it under its enabling statute, M.G.L. c 44, Section 55C; and to make clear it likewise is authorized to accept Community Preservation Act funds for the full array of statutory purposes available under the Community preservation Act, M.G.L. c44B, Section 5(b)(2).

The proposed revision to Section 6-1 of the Town Code adds a phrase from M.G.L. c 44, Section 55C to the end of the first sentence of §6-1; and adds a new, second sentence to §6-1 using the language of M.G.L. c44B, Section 5(b)(2).

M.G.L. c 44, Section 55C is the enabling statute for municipal affordable housing trust funds. It is the statute by which the Williamstown Affordable Housing Trust Fund was created. The phrase to be added to the first sentence of §6-1 incorporates the full language of Chapter 44, Section 55C subsection (a), second sentence, which reads:

“The purpose of the trust is to provide for the creation and preservation of affordable housing in municipalities for the benefit of low and moderate income households and

for the funding of community housing, as defined in and in accordance with the provisions of chapter 44B.”

The proposed new, second sentence of §6-1 is taken directly from the Community Preservation Act, M.G.L. c Chapter 44B, Section 5(b)(2), which gives the Community Preservation Committee the authority to make recommendations to Town Meeting: “for the acquisition, creation, preservation and support of community housing”.

The Affordable Housing Trust Fund Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 0 - 1

Proceeding: Andrew Hogeland, Chair of the Select Board moved this article and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 35. The Moderator declared article 35 passed by majority vote.

A true copy, attest:

Nicole E. Beverly

Nicole E. Beverly
Town Clerk
April 2, 2024

