

## **TOWN OF TOPSFIELD**

### **ZONING BY-LAW**

#### **PREAMBLE**

##### **Short Title.**

This By-Law shall be known and may be cited as the "Zoning By-Law of the Town of Topsfield, Massachusetts", hereinafter referred to as "this By-Law".

##### **Authority.**

This By-Law is adopted pursuant to the Authority granted by Chapter 40A of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and amendments thereto, herein called "Zoning Act".

##### **Purpose.**

This By-Law is enacted for the following purposes: To lessen congestion in the street; to conserve health; to secure safety from fires, flood, panic, and other dangers; to provide adequate light and air; to prevent the overcrowding of land to avoid undue concentration of population; to encourage housing for persons of all income levels; to facilitate the adequate provision of transportation, water, water supply, drainage, sewerage, schools, parks, open space, and other public requirements; to conserve the value of land and buildings including the conservation of natural resources; the promotion of land for agricultural purposes, and the prevention of blight and the pollution of the environment; to encourage the most appropriate use of land throughout the Town; and to preserve and increase its amenities. It is made with reasonable consideration to the character and of the district and to its peculiar uses, with a view to giving direction to land development policies of the Town of Topsfield, including the making of Topsfield a viable and pleasing place to live, work, and play.

(Art. 44, 5/9/78; Art. 23, 5/5/81)

## **ARTICLE I**

### **DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this By-Law, certain terms and words shall have the following meanings. Words used in the present tense include the future; the singular number includes the plural, the singular; the words, "used" or "occupied" include the words "designed", "arranged", "intended", or "offered", to be used or occupied; the words "building", "structure", "lot", "land", or "premises" shall be construed as though followed by the words "or any portion thereof" and the words "shall" and "will" are always mandatory and not merely directory. Terms and words not defined herein but defined in the Building Code\* or Subdivision Regulations shall have the meaning given therein unless a contrary intention clearly appears. Words not defined in either place shall have the meaning given in Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, Third Edition. Uses listed in the Table of Use Regulations under the classes Retail and Service, Trades and Wholesale, Transportation and Industrial shall be further defined by the *North American Industry Classification System--United States*.  
\*Massachusetts State Building Code

1.01 Abandonment.

The act of an owner to discontinue a nonconforming use of a building or premises; or the removal of the characteristic equipment or furnishing used in the performance of the nonconforming use, without its replacement by similar equipment or furnishings; or the use or the replacement of the nonconforming use or building by a conforming use or building.

1.02 Affordable Housing.

Dwelling units for families who qualify with income at or below 80% of the median income as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the cost of the Affordable Housing Dwelling Unit shall not exceed thirty percent (30%) of their annual income.

1.03 Alteration.

Any external construction, reconstruction or other action resulting in a change in the structural parts or height, number of stories or exits, size, use or location of a building or other structure.  
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1.04 Alternative Energy.

See definition under Energy.

1.05 Automatic Teller Machine (ATM).

A free-standing, enclosed or wall-mounted facility for conducting banking business such as withdrawals, deposits and transfers outside of a traditional banking structure.

1.06 Bank.

An establishment providing financial services such as accepting deposits, making loans, and investing funds for clients.

1.07 Basement.

A portion of a building, partly below grade, which has more than one-half (1/2) its height, measured from finished floor to finished ceiling, above the average finished grade of the ground adjoining the building. A basement is not considered a story unless its ceiling is six (6) feet or more above the average finished grade.

1.08 Bed and Breakfast.

An establishment providing short-term lodging in a private home or small building converted for this purpose. A bed and breakfast establishment typically includes a full breakfast in the room rate.

1.09 Beverage Manufacturing.

A facility, licensed under relevant local, state and federal statutes, for the production and packaging of beverages, including alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, for retail sale and for consumption on or off the premises or wholesale distribution, and which may include as an accessory use preparation and/or sale of food for on premises consumption or for take-out and may include outdoor dining. Any such facility may provide samples limited in size, provided that such sampling is allowed under relevant local, state, and federal statutes, regulations and licenses issued thereunder. The facility may host marketing events, special events, and/or factory tours. Live indoor entertainment is allowed as stipulated by the locally-issued Special Permit.

1.10 Board.

The Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Topsfield, Massachusetts.

1.11 Boarding House.

A house in which no more than two (2) furnished lodging units are rented for not less than fourteen (14) days and for which meals are provided but said lodging units do not contain a separate kitchen facilities or kitchen rights to individual borders.

1.12 Buildable Area.

That portion of a lot which is composed of ground dry and permeable enough to permit construction of a dwelling and appurtenances thereto including the installation and use of facilities for disposal of sewage. Buildable Area shall not include any area within a Flood Plain District as defined in Article VI.

1.13 Building Area.

The footprint of all buildings including covered portions of porches and decks.

1.14 Building - Attached.

A building having any portion of one (1) or more walls in common with adjoining buildings.

1.15 Building Line.

A line equidistant to the street line which passes through a specified point of the principal building.

1.16 Building Line, Front.

A building line which passes through the point within the principal building nearest to the street line.

1.17 Building Line, Rear.

A building line which passes through the point within the principal building farthest from the street line.

1.18 Catering.

An establishment, which may include food preparation facilities, primarily engaged in providing event-based food services that prepares and/or supplies food in large quantities for commercial purposes to be delivered and consumed off premises.

1.19 Certificate of Use and Occupancy.

A written form signed by the Inspector of Buildings certifying that the stated and described use, structure and/or lot conforms with this By-Law, or, in the case of a Special Permit or variance with the written instructions of the Board.

1.20 Civic and Social Organization.

A civic, social, sports or fraternal organization which is engaged in promoting the civic and social interests of its members and which is used exclusively by members and their guests and is not conducted as a gainful business.

1.21

Commercial Forestry.

Business enterprises in which timber and trees are cut and taken off for sale.

1.22

Condominium.

The land, the building or buildings, all other improvements and structures thereon, and all easements, rights and appurtenances belonging thereto, which have been submitted to the provisions of Chapter 183A of the Massachusetts General Laws.

1.23

Conference & Event Facility. A facility used by individuals and service, social or professional organizations and businesses for seminars, meetings and professional conferences and social events. The facility may include associated accommodations for food preparation and service, sleeping areas, recreation and athletic facilities, all of which are provided exclusively for the use of patrons of the conference facility.

1.24

Convenience Goods.

Goods including but not limited to food and proprietary goods, and other goods required to meet the daily shopping needs of households.

1.25

Cosmetics, Beauty Supplies, and Perfume Store

An establishment primarily engaged in retailing cosmetics, perfumes, toiletries, and personal grooming products.

1.26

Day Camp For Children.

An establishment operating during day-time school vacation periods and offering primarily outdoor recreational activities or athletic or educational instruction.

1.27

Distribution Center.

An establishment providing services, often referred to as logistics services, related to the distribution of goods. These services can include labeling, breaking bulk, inventory control and management, light assembly, order entry and fulfillment, packaging, pick and pack, price marking and ticketing, and transportation arrangement.

1.28

District.

A zoning district as established by Article II of this By-Law.

1.29

Drive-in/Drive-through Eating Establishment.

Any place or premises used for sale, dispensing, or serving of food, refreshments, or beverages to customers in vehicles.

1.30

Drive-in/Drive-through Establishment.

A business establishment such as banks, cleaners, and the like, wherein customers may be served while in vehicles.

1.31

Driveway.

An open space, located on a lot, used for access to a garage, off-street parking, or loading space.

1.32

Dwelling.

A privately or publicly owned, permanently fixed structure containing a dwelling unit or dwelling units. The term "one family", "two family", or "multifamily" shall not include hotel, bed and

breakfast, lodging house, hospital, trailer, dormitory, rooming house, guest or tourist house, or boarding house.

1.33 Dwelling Unit.

A single housekeeping unit, with cooking, living, sanitary and sleeping facilities

1.34 Earth Removal.

Extraction of soil, loam, sand, gravel, stone or other earth materials for commercial purposes other than site preparation incidental to and necessary for approved developments.

1.35 Energy.

Alternative Energy: Includes but is not limited to combined heat and power, and electric and fuel cell powered vehicles and associated technologies including advanced batteries and recharging stations.

Renewable Energy: Includes but is not limited to solar (photovoltaic and thermal), wind, biomass power conversion or thermal technologies (including the use of wood pellets), ultra-low emissions high efficiency wood pellet boilers and furnaces, low impact hydro-electric and kinetic energy, ocean thermal, wave or tidal energy, geothermal energy, landfill gas energy, fuel cells that use renewable energy and advanced biofuels.

1.36 Essential Services.

Services provided by public utility or governmental agencies through erection, construction, alteration or maintenance of underground or overhead gas, electrical, stream or water transmission and distribution systems; and collection, communication, supply or disposal systems. Facilities necessary for the provision of essential services include poles, wires, mains, drains, sewers, pipes, conduits, cables, fire alarm boxes, police call boxes, traffic signals, hydrants, and other similar equipment and accessories in connection therewith. Specifically excluded from this definition are buildings necessary for the furnishing of adequate service by such public utility or governmental agencies for the public health, safety or general welfare.

1.37 Exception.

The use of a structure or lot or any action upon a premises which may be permitted under this By-Law only upon application to and approval of the Permit Granting Authority in accordance with the provisions of Article V.

1.38 Farm Stand.

An establishment selling farm products produced by the owner of the land on which the stand is located. See MGL 40A for further definition and regulation.

1.39 Farmers Market.

An establishment providing the location for individual private growers of fruit, vegetables and horticultural items to sell their products to the general public during the growing months for their crops.

1.40 Filling.

Any deposit, placement, storage or redistribution of, but not limited to, soil, earth, sand, gravel, rock, loam, or other similar material on any land, wetland, or in water courses and including the conditions resulting therefrom.

1.41 Fitness and Recreational Sports Facility.

An indoor establishment providing fitness and recreational sports instruction featuring exercise and other active physical fitness conditioning or recreational sports activities.

1.42 Floodline.

The limits of flooding from a particular body of water caused by a flood or other natural phenomena whose general frequency or occurrence is once in one hundred (100) years as determined and certified by a registered professional engineer qualified in drainage, or as otherwise defined by this By-Law.

1.43 Floor Area, Gross.

The sum of the areas of the several floors of a building, measured from the exterior faces of the walls. It does not include cellars, unenclosed porches or attics not used for human occupancy or any floor space in accessory buildings or in the main building intended and designed for the parking of motor vehicles in order to meet the requirements of this By-Law, or any such floor space intended and designed for accessory heating and ventilating equipment.

1.44 Floor Area Ratio.

The ratio of the gross floor area to the total area.

1.45 General Merchandise.

A collection of durable and non-durable goods.

1.46 Grade.

The incremental change in elevation between two (2) points divided by their horizontal separation. Grades may be expressed either as a fraction or a percentage.

1.47 Guest House.

A house in which not more than seven (7) furnished lodging units are rented for less than fourteen (14) consecutive days and for which no kitchen rights or individual cooking facilities are available but for which meals are provided.

1.48 Gutter Line.

The lowest line within a roof structure.

1.49 Hardware store.

An establishment selling goods associated with home improvement and repair such as tools, paint and painting supplies, fasteners, small plumbing and electrical goods, but not building supplies such as lumber, roofing materials, windows and other structural materials.

1.50 Height.

The vertical distance from the average finished grade of the ground adjacent to the structure to a line representative of the average of the height at the structure's roof line and its height at the gutter line of the main roof.

1.51 Historic Building.

A building which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and/or the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or a building identified by the Topsfield Historical Commission as being of historical significance and filed with the Massachusetts State Historical Commission.

1.52 Home Farm Product Stand.

Home Farm Product Stand is an establishment located on a residential property and dedicated to the selling of farm products grown or raised on the premises by the owner or the owner's family.

1.53 Home Occupation.

An occupation customarily carried on at home, the use of a room in a dwelling as an office, studio, or work room by a person residing on the premises and in connection with which there is kept no stock in trade nor commodity sold on the premises. See Article III, 3.07.

1.54 Hospital.

An institution certified by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals as an accredited hospital providing health services for in-patient and/or out-patient medical or surgical care of the sick or injured and including related facilities such as, but not limited to, laboratories, out-patient departments, central staff facilities, and staff offices which are an integral part of the institution.

1.55 Hospital, Veterinary.

A building providing for the diagnosis and treatment of ailments of animals other than human and which includes facilities for overnight care.

1.56 Junk.

Any worn out, cast-off or discarded articles or materials which are ready for destruction or disposal or have been collected or stored for salvage or conversion to some use. Any article or material which, unaltered or unchanged or without further reconditioning, can be used for its original purpose as readily as when new, shall not be considered junk.

1.57 Junk Motor Vehicle.

Any motor vehicle not capable of being used as such in its existing condition by reason of being damaged or dismantled or failing to contain parts necessary for operation and otherwise qualifying as junk.

1.58 Loading Space.

An off-street space used for loading or unloading.

1.59 Lodging Unit.

One or more rooms for the use by one or more individuals not living as a single house keeping unit and not having cooking facilities. A "lodging unit" shall include rooms in boarding houses, tourist houses, or rooming houses.

1.60 Lodging House.

A house in which no more than two (2) furnished lodging units are rented for not less than fourteen (14) days and not having separate cooking facilities for each lodging unit but having use of common cooking facilities for all lodging units.

1.61 Lot.

An area of land in one ownership with definite boundaries, used, or available for use, as a site for one or more buildings.

1.62 Lot, Corner.

A lot at the point of intersection of and abutting on two (2) or more intersecting streets.

1.63 Lot Depth.

The mean horizontal distance between the front lot line and the rear lot line measured at right angles to the front lot line.

1.64 Lot Line, Front.

The property line dividing a lot from a street measured at the edge of the (right-of-way). On a corner lot the owner shall designate one street line as the front lot line.

1.65 Lot Line, Rear.

The lot line opposite from the front lot line.

1.66 Lot Line, Side.

Any lot line not a front or rear lot line.

1.67 Lot, Nonconforming.

A lot lawfully existing at the effective date of this By-Law or any subsequent amendment thereto, which is not in accordance with all provisions of this By-Law.

1.68 Lot, Through.

An interior lot, the front and rear lot lines of which abut streets, or a corner lot, two (2) opposite lines of which abut streets.

1.69 Lot Width.

The horizontal distance between the side lot lines as measured parallel to the street line at the minimum front yard depth required by this By-Law.

1.70 Medical Clinic.

Building providing out-patient services used for the diagnosis, treatment or other care of human ailments.

1.71 Marijuana Establishment.

A marijuana cultivator, marijuana testing facility, marijuana product manufacturer, marijuana retailer, or any other type of marijuana-related business, subject to regulation under Chapter 94G of the Massachusetts General Laws; provided, however, that a Registered Medical Marijuana Dispensary shall not be deemed to be a Marijuana Establishment.

1.72 Medical Marijuana Treatment Center.

A not-for-profit entity, as defined by Massachusetts law only, registered by the Department of Public Health, that acquires, cultivates, possesses, processes (including development of related products such as food, tinctures, aerosols, oils or ointments), transfers, transports, sells, distributes, dispenses, or administers marijuana, products containing marijuana, related supplies, or educational materials to qualifying patients or their personal caregivers.

1.73 Mobile Home.

A dwelling unit built on a chassis and containing complete electrical, plumbing and sanitary facilities and designed to be installed on a temporary or permanent foundation for permanent living quarters.

1.74 Single Family Dwelling.

A building containing a single dwelling unit.

1.75 Two Family Dwelling.

A building containing two (2) dwelling units.

1.76 Multi-Family Dwelling.

A building containing at least three (3) and no more than four (4) dwelling units including condominiums.

1.77 Multiple-Family Residences for the Elderly.

The term "Multifamily Residences for the Elderly" shall mean multifamily dwellings, each building of which shall contain not less than two (2) nor more than six (6) independent dwelling units consisting of a suite of rooms, its own bath and toilet facilities and its own kitchen facility. Each such multifamily dwelling building may also include central kitchen and dining facilities for providing meals to the residents thereof and their guests but not to the public and may also provide lounge rooms for the common use of residents and their guests. At the time of occupancy,



in each such dwelling unit, one of the residents must be a person who is fifty-five (55) years of age or over. No Housing for the Elderly Development shall contain more than seventy-five (75) independent dwelling units.

In one of such buildings, a unit may be included for occupancy by a manager of the development and his or her immediate family, one room of which may be used for an office. The manager's unit need not be occupied by a person fifty-five (55) years of age or over.

Except for the unit so used and occupied by the manager, no dwelling unit in a Multifamily Residence for the Elderly shall be resided in by more than three (3) persons.

1.78 Museum.

A building or place that is open to the public on a regular basis and used primarily for the collecting, preservation, study, exhibition and educational use of works of art, scientific specimens, historical artifacts and the like.

1.79 Office.

A place in which functions such as directing, consulting, record keeping, clerical work, and sales (without the presence of merchandise) of a firm are carried on; also a place in which a professional person conducts his professional business.

1.80 Open Space.

The space on a lot unoccupied by buildings, swimming pools, and terraced areas, not devoted to streets, driveways, or off-street parking or loading space.

1.81 Optical Goods Store.

An establishment engaged in (1) retailing and fitting prescription eyeglasses and contact lenses;

(2) retailing prescription eyeglasses in combination with the grinding of lenses to order on the premises;

and (3) selling nonprescription eyeglasses.

1.82 Owner.

The duly authorized agent, attorney, purchaser, devisee, trustee, lessee or any person having vested or equitable interest in the use, structure, or lot in question.

1.83 Permit Granting Authority.

The Board of Appeals, Town of Topsfield, Massachusetts.

1.84 Pharmacy (Drug Store).

An establishment engaged in retailing prescription and nonprescription drugs and medicines.

1.85 Planned Development.

A development involving the construction of two (2) or more principal buildings on the same lot or group of lots for any permitted use which is planned, designed and developed as a unit so as to provide a functional and attractive development.

1.86 Professional, Technical, Scientific and Business Offices.

Establishments housing office and work space for individuals providing professional, technical, scientific, or business expertise and services for others (without the presence of merchandise).

1.87 Pub Brewery.

An eat-in restaurant, licensed under relevant local, state and federal statutes to produce and sell malt beverages at the dining location, whose primary business is the preparation and sale of food to be consumed on the premises, and whose accessory business is the production of malt beverages, including beer and ales, which may include the packaging of such beverages and on-premises sale of such beverages for consumption on or off the premises. Malt beverages produced on the premises, may be sold to other establishments in compliance with relevant state

and federal statutes and regulations, but such sales shall not exceed 40 percent of the establishment's production capacity. Accessory outdoor dining and live indoor entertainment are allowed as stipulated by the locally-issued Special Permit.

1.88 Recreational Facilities.

Outdoor facilities providing space for the pursuit of recreational sports, fitness and athletic activities including playgrounds, athletic playing fields, walking, jogging, horse-back riding and bicycling paths, tennis courts, golf courses, hunting and fishing activities. Publicly owned recreational facilities are owned by a public entity and are open to the general public. Privately owned recreational facilities are owned by a non-profit or by a for-profit entity and are open to the general public either free of charge or for a fee or are open only to members and their guests.

1.89 Renewable Energy.

See definition under Energy.

1.90 Research and Development Facilities.

A facility including offices used primarily for research, development and/or testing of innovative information, concepts, methods, processes, materials, or products. Such a facility may include but is not limited to the design, development, and testing of biological, chemical, electrical, magnetic, mechanical, and/or optical components in advance of product manufacturing. The accessory development, fabrication, and light manufacturing of prototypes, or specialized machinery and devices integral to research or testing may be associated with these uses.

1.91 Restaurant.

A. Restaurant, Full Service: An establishment at which the principal activity is the preparation, service, and sale of food and beverages for consumption on the premises, where food is ordered and served at tables rather than at a counter, and where customers generally pay after eating.

B. Restaurant, Limited Service: An establishment at which the principle activity is the preparation and sale of food and beverages to be consumed on or off the premises, where food is primarily ordered at a counter, and where the food is: (a) primarily intended for immediate consumption; (b) available upon a short waiting time; and (c) generally paid for before customers eat it.

C. Restaurant, Formula Fast Food: An establishment meeting the criteria of "Restaurant, Limited Service," which relies on the sale of large volumes of food, and which is required by contractual or other arrangements to offer two or more of the following standardized elements: menus, ingredients, food preparation, internal décor, external facade, or uniforms.

D. Restaurant, Snack and Non-Alcoholic Beverage: An establishment specializing in the preparation and sale of a limited menu with a specific type or class of foods or combination thereof, such as, but not limited to, baked goods, coffee, tea, cheese, delicatessen meats, candies or ice cream. Preparation and sale of food and beverages may be intended for consumption on or off the premises and the food is: (a) primarily intended for immediate consumption; (b) available upon a short waiting time; and (c) generally paid for before customers eat it.

E. Retail Specialty Foods: An establishment where the preparation and sale of a limited menu of food items is secondary to a primary business, permitted in the district, such as a grocery store, gourmet shop or farmer's market. Preparation and sale of food and beverages may be intended for consumption on or off the premises, where food is ordered at a counter and the food is: (a) primarily intended for immediate consumption; (b) available upon a short waiting time; and (c) generally paid for before customers eat it. Such establishment may include indoor seating for no more than 8 persons.

- 1.92 Roof Line.  
The highest line within a roof structure.
- 1.93 School (For Profit and Non-Profit).  
An establishment that provides instruction or training in a particular subject or set of subjects other than fitness and recreational sports instruction. Included are institutions such as elementary and secondary schools that offer diplomas, institutions that offer training preparatory for licenses and certification, tutoring and instruction in languages, fine arts, business skills, computers, and management. A non-profit school is operated by a 5013C corporation (Non-Profit Corporation). A for-profit school is operated by an individual, group or corporation for financial gain.
- 1.94 Screening.  
Any combination of materials designed and intended to provide protection from visibility, noise, dust and wind, including walls, fences, earthen berms or mounds, hedges, trees and shrubbery.
- 1.95 Service Station.  
A building or part whose chief activity is the selling of gasoline, oil and related products for motor vehicles or the provision of lubricating service or limited auto repair.
- 1.96 Slope.  
The vertical rise divided by the horizontal distance and expressed as a fraction or percentage, e.g. one-fifth (1/5) or twenty (20) percent.
- 1.97 Special Permit Granting Authority.  
The Planning Board, Town of Topsfield, Massachusetts, unless otherwise defined herein.
- 1.98 Storage Container.  
A container over 392 cubic feet.
- 1.99 Storage Facilities.  
Establishments primarily engaged in providing facilities to store goods. These establishments include those renting or leasing space for self- storage which provide secure space (i.e., rooms, compartments, lockers, containers, or outdoor space) where clients can store and retrieve their goods.
- 1.100 Story.  
That part of a building comprised between a floor and the floor or roof next above. If a mezzanine floor exceeds one-third (1/3) of the area of the floor immediately below, it shall be deemed to be a story. A basement shall be classified as a story when its ceiling is six (6) or more feet above the average finished grade.
- 1.101 Story, Half.  
A story under a gable, hipped, or gambrel roof, the floor area of which does not exceed fifty (50) percent of the floor immediately below. Such area is measured where the vertical distance between floor and ceiling is six (6) feet or more.
- 1.102 Street.  
Shall mean all the land within the right-of-way including the traveled way, curbing, grass strips, sidewalks, drainage and utilities, and has been accepted by Town Meeting vote and with a transfer of deed.
- 1.103 Street Line.  
Street line shall have the same meaning as front lot line.
- 1.104 Structure.

A combination of materials assembled at a fixed location to give support or shelter, such as, but not limited to, a building, bridge, trestle, tower, framework, retaining wall, swimming pool, tank, tunnel, tent, stadium, tennis court, reviewing stand, platform, bin, fence, sign, or the like.

1.105 Structure - Nonconforming.

A structure lawfully existing at the effective date of this By-Law or any subsequent amendment thereto, which does not conform to one or more provisions of this By-Law.

1.106 Tavern.

An establishment where alcoholic beverages may be ordered and served at tables or a counter with or without food. Accessory outdoor dining and live indoor entertainment are allowed as stipulated by the locally-issued Special Permit.

1.107 Temporary Accessory Apartment.

A separate dwelling unit within a single family detached dwelling that upon Special Permit is occupied by a family member of an owner of the single detached dwelling or by a caregiver to such family member or owner.

1.108 Town House.

A row of attached dwelling units, each separated from other dwelling units by a fire wall or walls and each with direct access to the outside.

1.109 Transportation Services.

Services which include taxis, limousines, busses and other passenger vehicles for hire.

1.110 Use.

The purpose for which a structure or lot is arranged, designed, or intended to be used, occupied or maintained.

1.111 Use, Accessory.

A use subordinate to and in connection with the principal use and customarily incidental to the principal use.

1.112 Use, Nonconforming.

A use lawfully existing at the time of adoption of this By-Law or any subsequent amendment(s) thereto which does not conform to one (1) or more provisions of this By-Law.

1.113 Use, Principal.

The main or primary purpose for which a structure or lot is designed, arranged, or intended or for which it may be used, occupied or maintained under this By-Law. Any other use within the main structure or the use of any other structure or land on the same lot and incidental or supplementary to the principal use and permitted under this By-Law shall be considered an accessory use.

1.114 Use, Substantially Different.

A use which by reason of its normal operation would cause significant differences in patronage, service, appearance, noise, employment or similar characteristics from the use to which it is being compared.

1.115 Variance.

Such departure from the terms of this By-Law as the Board, upon appeal in specific cases, is empowered to authorize under the terms of Article V, and Chapters 40A and 40B of the General Laws.

1.116 Warehouse.

An establishment exclusively engaged in operating warehousing and storage facilities for

general merchandise, refrigerated goods, and other warehouse products but not selling the goods handled to the general public.

1.117 Wind Energy Conversions System (WECS).

Any mechanical system that converts the kinetic energy of wind into mechanical, electrical, or electro-mechanical energy.

1.118 Yard.

A portion of a lot, upon which the principal building is situated, unobstructed artificially from the ground to the sky and not dedicated to any other use, except as otherwise provided herein, and having at least two (2) sides open to lot lines.

1.119 Yard, Front.

A yard extending for the full width of the lot line between the front line of the nearest building wall and the front lot line.

1.120 Yard, Rear.

A yard, unoccupied, except by an accessory structure or accessory use as herein permitted, extending for the full width of the lot between the rear line of the building wall and the rear lot line.

1.121 Yard, Side.

Yard extending for the full length of a building between the nearest building and the side lot line.

1.122 Zoning Administrator.

The person designated by the Board of Appeals and confirmed by Board of Selectmen, to carry out such duties as may be designated by the Board of Appeals in accordance with the Zoning Act.

(Art 3, 6/25/47; Art. 50, 5/9/78; Art. 23, 5/5/81; Art. 25, 5/4/82; Art. 29, 5/7/85; Art. 37, 5/7/85; Art. 38, 5/7/85; Art. 29, 5/3/88; Art. 39, 5/2/90; Art. 40, 5/2/90; Art. 17, 5/4/93; Art. 33, 5/1/2001; Art. 32, 5/4/2004; Art. 42, 5/4/2005; Art. 24, 5/5/2009; Art. 27, 5/3/2011, Art. 43, 5/7/2013, Art. 33, 05/02/2017 Art. 28, 5/7/2019; Art. 23, 5/2/23)