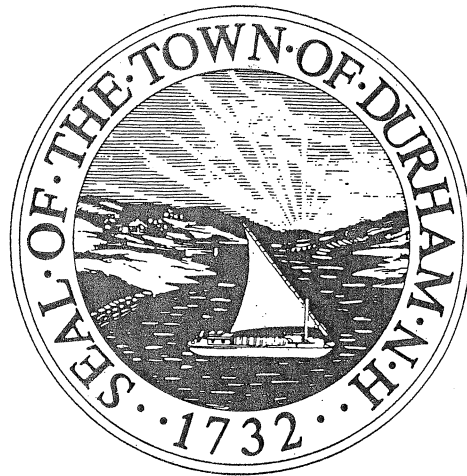


TOWN OF DURHAM

ZONING ORDINANCE



ADOPTED  
FEBRUARY 5, 1990

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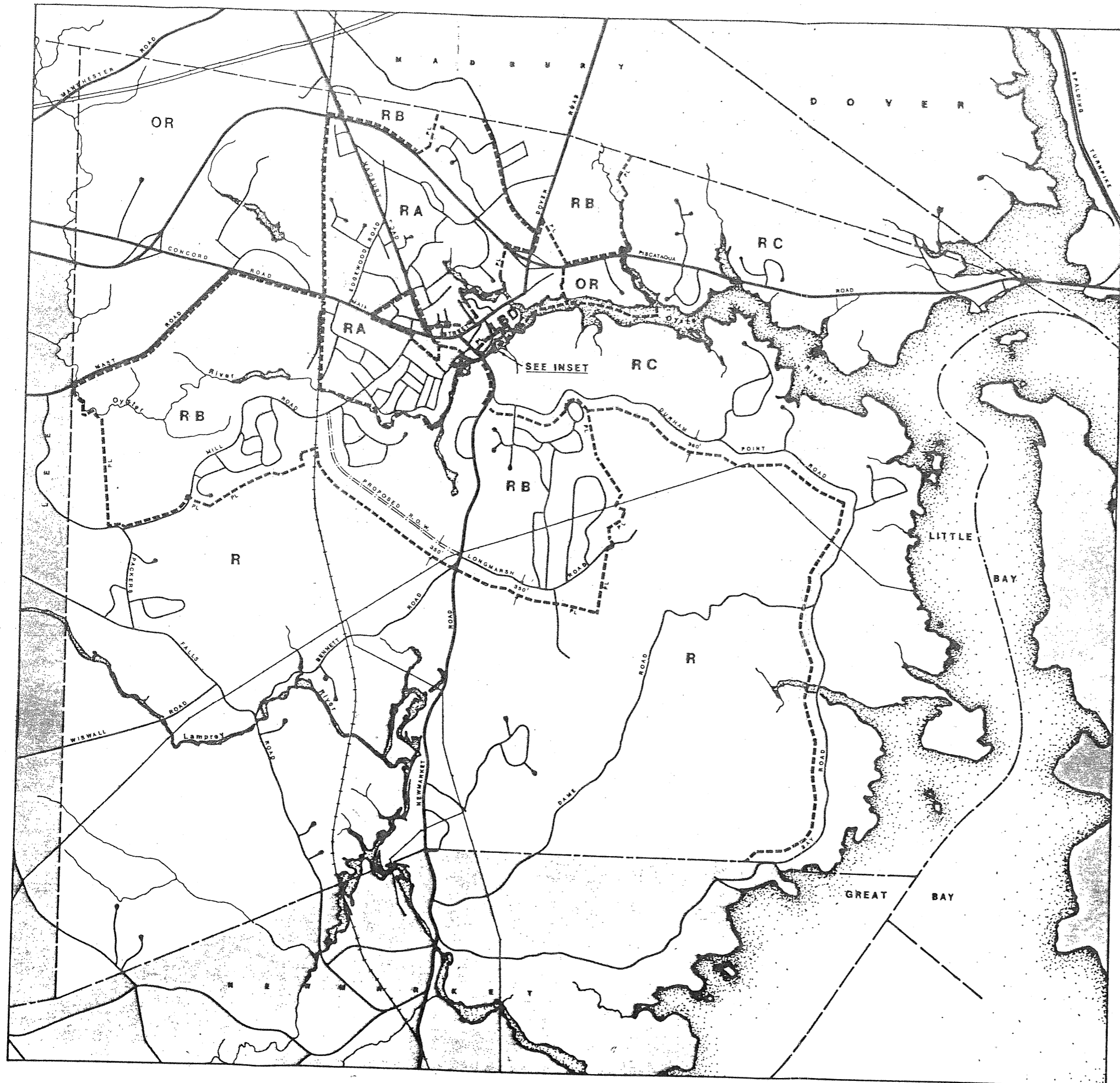
DURHAM ZONING ORDINANCE

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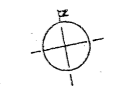
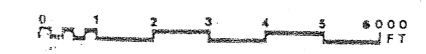
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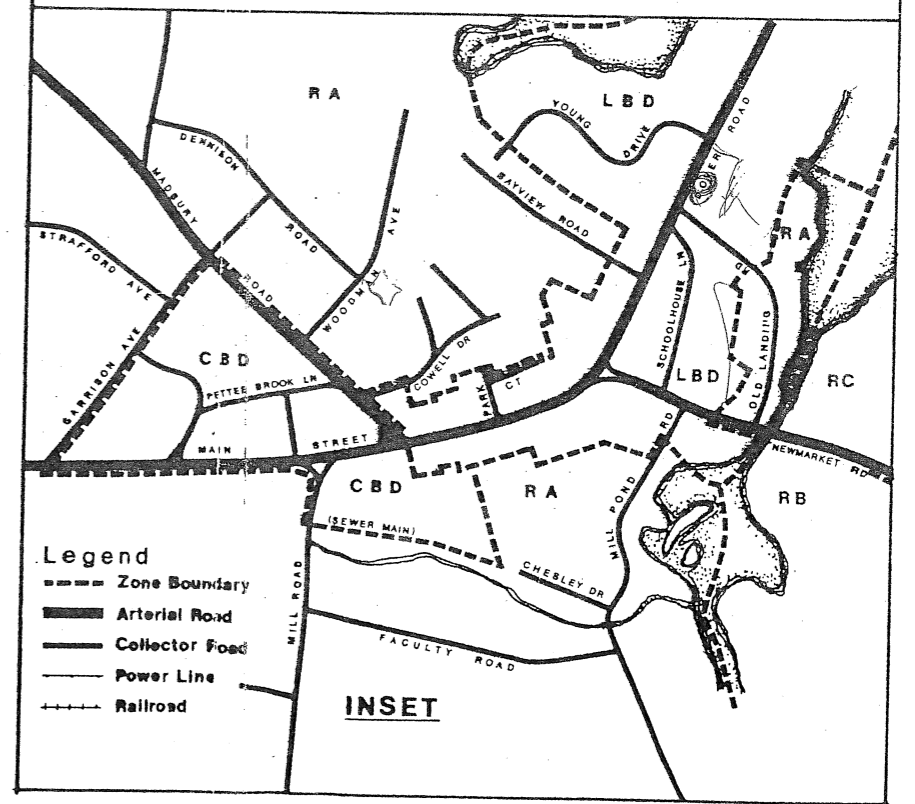


TOWN OF  
**DURHAM**  
 New Hampshire  
**ZONING MAP**

JANUARY 1980



- RA RESIDENCE A** - The purpose of this District is to maintain largely developed, high density residential uses at a concentration requiring Town water and sewer.
- RB RESIDENCE B** - The purpose of this District is to maintain the integrity of existing medium-density developments.
- RC RESIDENCE COASTAL** - The purpose of this shore-oriented District is to foster and maintain its unique beauty and accessibility for recreation and conservation. For this reason, low residential density and substantial open space are required.
- R RURAL** - In this District, customary rural land uses will be preserved. Thus, only low density development together with farms and/or accessory buildings situated in a setting conducive to a rural lifestyle is encouraged.
- CB CENTRAL BUSINESS** - The purpose of this District is to provide for establishments offering retail sales and professional and personal services in a centrally located area.
- LB LIMITED BUSINESS** - The purpose of this District is to provide a transition from the existing uses to a District providing governmental, professional, institutional, cultural and limited retail activity.
- OR OFFICE AND RESEARCH** - The purpose of this District is to provide for office and research facilities in an area served by major highways and where water and sewer extensions are available.



- Legend**
- Zone Boundary
  - Arterial Road
  - Collector Road
  - Power Line
  - Railroad

**INSET**



ARTICLE 1  
GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 1-1.1 TITLE. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Durham, New Hampshire."
- 1-1.2 AUTHORITY. This chapter is adopted pursuant to the authority granted by RSA 674:16, as amended which provides for the local legislative body to adopt or amend a zoning ordinance under the Ordinance Enactment Procedure of RSA 675:2-5.
- 1-1.3 PURPOSE. The provisions of this ordinance are intended to regulate the use of land for the purpose of protecting the public health, safety, convenience and general welfare of the residents of the Town of Durham. The ordinance is adopted in accordance with and in order to implement the Master Plan and other policies designed to promote the orderly growth of the Town of Durham.
- Among other purposes, this ordinance is specifically adopted to preserve air and water quality; conserve open space and agricultural resources; protect natural and scenic resources from degradation; provide for recreational needs; protect life and property from flooding and other natural hazards; preserve historic sites and structures; and to ensure that development is commensurate with the character and physical limitations of the land. Further, this ordinance is designed to ensure that the timing, location and nature of new development takes into account the immediate and long-range financial impacts of proposed uses; and enhances the achievement of the Town's economic development goals.
- 1-1.4 ADOPTION. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and the presently existing Zoning Ordinance as amended, excluding Article 7, Signs and Utility Structures, shall be repealed.
- 1-1.5 SEVERABILITY CLAUSE If any section or provision of this ordinance is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected thereby, and the applicable provisions of State law shall govern in place of the invalidated section or provision.

1-1.6 SCOPE AND INTERPRETATION In interpreting and applying the provisions of this ordinance, they shall be held to be the minimum requirements for the promotion of the health, safety, convenience, and general welfare of the Town of Durham and its residents. Where a provision of this ordinance differs from that prescribed by any other applicable statute, ordinance, or regulation, that provision which imposes the greater restriction or the higher standard shall govern. Any use not specifically permitted or permitted by conditional use permit is prohibited.

## 1-2 AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

1-2.1 Amendments Initiated by the Planning Board. The Planning Board may, upon its own initiative, from time to time, consider amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, Historic District Ordinance or Building Code and submit recommendations thereon to the Town Council. Such amendments shall be developed pursuant to the notice and public hearing requirements contained in Subsection 1-2.4

1-2.2 Amendments Initiated by the Town Council. The Town Council may, upon its own initiative, from time to time, consider changes to the Zoning Ordinance, Historic District Ordinance or Building Code. All such Council initiated changes shall be referred to the Planning Board for its review and study. The Planning Board shall, after following the public notice and hearing requirements contained in Subsection 1-2.4, submit a recommendation regarding the changes to the Town Council members within sixty (60) days of their referral.

1-2.3 Amendments Initiated by Citizens. Citizens submitting amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, Historic District Ordinance or Building Code should forward their changes to the Planning Board for its consideration. Such submission shall be by typed petition signed by not fewer than fifty (50) properly registered voters of the Town of Durham. The Planning Board shall have the request placed on the agenda for its next regularly scheduled meeting. It shall, after following the notice and public hearing requirements contained in Subsection 1-3.4, make its recommendation concerning such request to the Town Council within sixty (60) days of the date of the Planning Board's initial consideration. A thirty (30) day extension of the above time limit may be granted by the Town Council.

1-2.4 Public Notice and Hearing Requirements.



A. Notice. Notice shall be given for the time and place of the public hearing at least ten (10) days before the hearing. The notice required under this section shall not include the day notice is posted or published, or the day of the public hearing. Notice of each public hearing shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality and shall be posted in at least two (2) public places.

B. Text of Ordinance. The full text of the proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance, Historic District Ordinance or Building Code need not be included in the notice if an adequate statement describing the proposal and designating a place where the proposal is on file for public inspection is stated in the notice.

1-2.5 Ordinance Form. Any amendment to these aforementioned ordinances approved by the Planning Board or submitted through it pursuant to Subsection 1-2.7, shall be submitted to the Town Administrator who shall be responsible for putting the amendment into proper ordinance form beginning with the words "The Town of Durham Ordains..." Whenever practical, the Town Administrator shall set out in full the ordinance sections or subsections to be repealed or amended, and shall indicate the material to be omitted by enclosing it in brackets or by strike-out type, and shall indicate new material by underscoring it or by typing it in italics. In every case the recommendation of the Planning Board shall follow immediately at the end of the proposed amendment.

1-2.6 Action by Town Council:.

A. Agenda. The proposed amendment shall be placed on the agenda of the Council for first reading.

B. First Reading. If the Council votes not to pass at the first reading, the proposed amendment dies. If the Council votes to pass the amendment to second reading, it shall be scheduled for a public hearing before the Council.

C. Notice and Public Hearing Requirements. Prior to final Council action, the notice provisions contained in Subsection 1-2.4 shall be followed.

D. Minor Revisions. After the public hearing, the Council may make minor substantive and editorial changes to the proposed amendment, so long as the proposed amendment remains substantially the same as that which was advertised for the public hearing.

- E. Second Reading. Following the second reading the Council will vote on the proposed amendment.
- F. Majority Vote Required. Any proposed amendment shall require a majority affirmative vote of Council members present in order to pass.
- G. Recording of Amendment. If passed by the Council, the ordinance amendment shall be recorded, authenticated, indexed, and printed in accordance with the provisions of the municipal charter.

1-2.7 Protest Process. Pursuant to RSA 675:5, concerned property owners may protest proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance.

- A. Required Signatures. All protest petitions must be signed by either:
  - 1) The owners of twenty (20) percent of the area of the lots included in such proposed change; or
  - 2) The owners of twenty (20) percent of the area within one hundred (100) feet immediately adjacent thereto or across a street therefrom.
- B. Requirements for Council Consideration of Protest Petition(s).

In order to have any protest considered:

- 1) The owners signing the petition shall identify themselves on the petition by name and address, and by address of the property involved, or by lot and map number, or by whatever other means is used within the town to identify the land in question, so that the Durham Town Council may identify such others as interested and affected parties; and
- 2) The signed protest petition shall be submitted to the Durham Town Council at least seven (7) days prior to the next Town Council meeting; provided, however, that each protest petition shall apply to that petition only. The Chairman of the Durham Town Council shall announce at the opening of the Council meeting that a protest petition has been received.
- 3) Required Council Action. Any such amendment or repeal developed pursuant to this Subsection shall not become effective except by the favorable vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all Council members present at its second reading (see Subsection 1-2.6 above).

1-3 DEFINITIONS OF GENERAL TERMS

Unless otherwise expressly stated, the following terms shall, for the purpose of this ordinance, have the meanings indicated in this section. Words used in the present tense include the future; the singular number includes the plural and the plural the singular. Where terms are not defined in this section, they shall have their ordinary accepted meaning or such as the context may apply.

DEFINITIONS: "A"

*APARTMENT*

- 1-3.1 ~~ACCESSORY LODGING~~ - Lodging, including rooming or boarding or accessory apartments, as an accessory use to a single family dwelling. Accessory apartments shall be an integral part of the single family dwelling and no larger than 50 percent of the single family dwelling. Accessory lodging may be permitted in separate structures in the R and RC zoning districts provided it meets the dimensional controls for accessory structures. } see change on reverse
- 1.3-2 ACCESSORY STRUCTURE - A structure detached from a principal building on the same lot and incidental and subordinate to the principal building. Accessory structures shall be limited to a maximum of two per lot plus one additional structure for each 80,000 square feet over the required minimum lot size.
- 1-3.3 ACCESSORY USE - A use of land or building or portion thereof which is incidental and subordinate to the principal use of the land or building and located on the same lot with such principal use.
- 1-3.4 AGRICULTURE - The use of land for agricultural purposes, including raising of crops, dairying, pasturage, animal and poultry husbandry, certain feed lots, and includes the necessary accessory uses normally associated with such uses. Raising and harvesting of timber is also included.
- 1-3.5 ALTERATION - A change or rearrangement in the structural parts of a building or structure or in the means of egress, or an enlargement, whether by extending on a side or by increasing in height, use or the moving from one location or position to another.
- 1-3.6 ANIMAL FEEDLOT - A commercial agricultural establishment consisting of confined feeding areas and related structures used for the finishing of livestock as per USDA regulations.

APARTMENT - See Dwelling Unit.

1-3 DEFINITIONS OF GENERAL TERMS

Unless otherwise expressly stated, the following terms shall, for the purpose of this ordinance, have the meanings indicated in this section. Words used in the present tense include the future; the singular number includes the plural and the plural the singular. Where terms are not defined in this section, they shall have their ordinary accepted meaning, or such as the context may apply.

- DEFINITION "ACCESSORY APARTMENT - An apartment located in a single family dwelling as an accessory use. An accessory apartment shall contain at least three hundred (300) square feet of floor space, but shall not contain more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the total floor space of the dwelling in which it is located, and shall be an integral part of the dwelling. Accessory apartments may be permitted in an accessory structure in the Rural (R) and Residence Coastal (RC) zoning districts provided that the accessory structure complies with the residential setbacks required in those districts." 3/1/93
- 1-3.1
- 1-3.2 ACCESSORY STRUCTURE - A structure detached from a principal building on the same lot and incidental and subordinate to the principal building. Accessory structures shall be limited to a maximum of two per lot plus one additional structure for each 80,000 square feet over the required minimum lot size.
- 1-3.3 ACCESSORY USE - A use of land or building or portion thereof which is incidental and subordinate to the principal use of the land or building and located on the same lot with such principal use.
- 1-3.4 AGRICULTURE - The use of land for agricultural purposes, including raising of crops, dairying, pasturage, animal and poultry husbandry, certain feed lots, and includes the necessary accessory uses normally associated with such uses. Raising and harvesting of timber is also included.
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- 1-3.6 ANIMAL FEEDLOT - A commercial agricultural establishment consisting of confined feeding areas and related structures used for the finishing of livestock as per USDA regulations.

APARTMENT - See Dwelling Unit.

1-3.7 ASSEMBLY, LIGHT - The assembly of already manufactured parts into complete or semi-complete units. Such process would not be detectable at the property line. All manufactured and pre-manufactured parts and the final product would be limited in size, bulk and weight so that it could be handled by one worker without the aid of machines. All activity shall occur indoors with no outside storage.

1-3.8 AUTOMOBILE SERVICE STATION - Any building or premises used primarily for the retail sale of gasoline and lubricants, but which may also provide for the incidental servicing of motor vehicles and small engine repair including grease racks, tire repairs, battery charging, hand washing of automobiles, sale of merchandise and supplies related to the servicing of motor vehicles, but excluding body and fender work, engine overhauling, painting, storage of autos not in operating condition or other work involving noise, fumes, glare or smoke.

DEFINITIONS: "B"

1-4.1 BASAL AREA - The area of a tree trunk (or stems or other vegetation) measured in cross-section. Total Basal Area is the sum of the basal areas of all vegetation in the Zone.

1-4.2 BED AND BREAKFAST - A single family detached dwelling containing, in addition to living accommodations for the *owner* ~~resident manager, up to six (6)~~ individual sleeping rooms without cooking facilities for the purpose of providing to the general public, for compensation, lodging, bathroom facilities and breakfast to overnight patrons only and for no longer than two consecutive weeks. *The owner of the Bed and Breakfast is required to reside on the premises, but may employ assistant managers.*

1-4.3 BOARDING HOUSE - means a building and accessories thereto principally used, designed, or adapted to provide living accommodations for not more than ten occupants and having common cooking and dining facilities.

1-4.4 BOAT YARD/BOAT CLUB - Waterfront facilities for recreational boating, launching facilities and other water related activities but excluding the sale of products and accessories associated with boating needs.

1-4.5 BUILDING - Any structure designed or intended for the support, enclosure, shelter or protection of persons, domestic animals, chattels or property. For purposes of determining exterior measurements or footprint in order to locate the setback line, building shall include all attached structures such as open or closed porches,

carports, garages, balconies, stairways and other similar structures.

- 1-4.6 BUILDING HEIGHT - The vertical distance from the mean grade elevation (average grade around perimeter of building) to the mean roof elevation (1/2 the vertical distance from eave to ridge).
- 1-4.7 BULK STORAGE - Storage of materials intended for wholesale distribution or for use in a manufacturing or repair facility.
- 1-4.8 BUSINESS SERVICES - Establishments primarily engaged in rendering services to business establishments on a fee or contract basis, such as advertising and mailing; building maintenance; employment service; management and consulting services; protective services; equipment rental and leasing; commercial research; development and testing; photo finishing; and personal supply services.

DEFINITIONS: "C"

- 1-5.1 CAMPGROUND - Any area or tract of land used or designed to accommodate two or more camping parties, including tents, camping trailers, recreation vehicles or other camping outfits and includes the necessary accessory use normally associated with such use.

~~CARRY OUT/DRIVE THRU RESTAURANT - See Restaurant - Drive Thru/Carry Out~~

- 1-5.2 CLUB - A building, or portion thereof, used by a group of people organized for a common purpose to pursue common goals, interests or activities and usually characterized by certain membership qualifications, payment of fees and dues, regular meetings, and a constitution and by-laws.
- 1-5.3 COMMERCIAL USE - A use operated for profit or compensation.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN - See "Master Plan."

- 1-5.4 CONDITIONAL USE - Those uses requiring the granting of a Conditional Use Permit. Because of characteristics peculiar to such uses, or because of the size, technological processes or equipment, or because of the exact location with reference to surroundings, streets and existing improvements or demands upon public facilities, these uses require a special degree of control to make such uses consistent with and compatible to other existing or permissible uses in the same area.

- 1-5.5 CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT - An authorization to conduct a use or activity when such authorization is required by these regulations and when established according to the procedures outlined in Article 2 of these regulations.
- 1-5.6 CONDOMINIUM - Ownership in common with others of a parcel of land and certain parts of a building, together with individual ownership in fee for a particular unit or apartment in such buildings as provided for in RSA 479-A.
- 1-5.7 CORNER CLEARANCE - An unobstructed area at street intersections free from any object, vegetation or slope which impedes visibility within a triangle, two of whose sides extend 20 feet from the intersection along the street lines and between two planes 3 feet and 7 feet above the level of the traveled way.
- 1-5.8 CROP FARM AND PLANT NURSERY - A farm or tract of land and/or buildings used for the planting, growing and cultivating of harvestable products.

DEFINITIONS: "D"

- 1-6.1 DAY CARE - A use which provides day time care and supervision of any number of children or handicapped, disabled or elderly adults not related by blood or marriage and licensed by the appropriate State agency.
- 1-6.2 DEVELOPER - An owner or any person, firm or organization with authorization from the owner, who intends to improve or to construct improvements upon his/her property.
- 1-6.3 DBH OR DIAMETER AT BREAST HEIGHT - The diameter of a tree trunk at a height of 4.5 feet.
- 1-6.4 DORMITORY- A building and accessories thereto principally used, designed and adapted for the use of providing housing for more than ten occupants. Such units are distinguished by separate study and sleeping quarters for each individual or pair of individuals; common social assembly rooms; common toilet facilities; and common cooking and dining facilities, where provided. It shall normally be provided with a resident manager.
- 1-6.5 DRIVEWAY - A private, vehicular access connecting a house, parking area, garage or other building with the street.
- 1-6.6 DUST FREE - Shall mean the property is maintained dust free by paving with one of the following methods: 1) bituminous paving, 2) concrete, or 3) suitable compacted crushed rock or gravel.

- 1-6.7 DWELLING UNIT - One (1) or more rooms arranged, designed or used for residential purposes for one (1) household and containing independent sanitary and cooking facilities. The presence of cooking and sanitary facilities conclusively establish the intent to use for residential purposes. Dwelling unit is further defined as follows:
- A. DWELLING, MULTI-UNIT - A building and accessories thereto principally used, designed or adapted with three or more dwelling units, each of which has separate living quarters.
  - B. DWELLING, DUPLEX - A building and accessories thereto principally used, designed, or adapted with two dwelling units, the living quarters for each of which are completely separate.
  - C. DWELLING, SINGLE-FAMILY - A building and accessories thereto principally used, designed or adapted as a single dwelling unit.
- 1-6.8 DWELLING GROUP OR CLUSTER - A pattern of residential development where units are grouped together on a single lot around access courts with the remainder of the lot left in its natural condition or as common open space.

DEFINITIONS: "E"

- 1-7.1 EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES - A building or part thereof principally used, designed or adapted for educational use or instruction in any branch of academic or religious knowledge.
- 1-7.2 ELDERLY HOUSING - Housing principally used, designed or adapted for use by elderly citizens, 55 years of age and older, and complying with the design requirements of THE ARCHITECTURAL BARRIER FREE DESIGN CODE FOR THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE as amended and licensed by the appropriate State agencies. Elderly housing may be contained in a single building or groups of buildings and may be further classified as follows:
- A. CONGREGATE HOUSING - A place of residence for elderly couples or individuals providing services such as meals, housekeeping, limited nursing care, recreational programs and related management support systems.
  - B. LIFE CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY - A building or group of buildings providing a range of housing options for the elderly with provisions for on-site nursing



facilities, recreational facilities and related management support systems.

- C. NURSING HOME - A health care facility providing custodial, intermediate and/or skilled nursing care to individuals who by reason of advanced age, chronic illness or infirmity are unable to care for themselves.

DEFINITIONS: "F"

- 1-8.1 FARM BUILDING, EXISTING - For the purpose of this Ordinance an existing farm building shall include any structure constructed prior to the adoption of this Ordinance and designed, used or adapted for agricultural purposes.
- 1-8.2 FLOOR AREA, GROSS - The sum of the areas of all floors of a building as measured from the exterior dimensions but not including cellars, attics, porches, garages or areas occupied by heating and ventilating equipment.
- 1-8.3 FLOOR AREA, HABITABLE - Heated areas used daily for living, eating, cooking and sleeping, but excluding garages, circulation areas, storage areas, etc. It will be presumed for the purposes of this ordinance that habitable floor area is deemed to be seventy percent (70%) of gross floor area of a given building unless evidence sufficient to rebut the presumption is submitted to the Durham Building Inspector. This presumption shall not apply in any instance where the owner or occupant(s) of the building permit inspection and measurement of such interior floor areas by town authorities concerned. (It is recognized that under these definitions, it is possible for the habitable floor areas to exceed the gross.)
- 1-8.4 FOUNDATION, PERMANENT - A continuous perimeter foundation of masonry or concrete constructed in accordance with the Building Code of the Town of Durham.
- 1-8.5 FRATERNITY/SORORITY - A building occupied by a legally organized fraternal organization and principally used, designed, or adapted for use primarily for the provision of lodging, social and dining facilities for members and pledges of the fraternal order.

FRONTAGE - See lot frontage

DEFINITIONS: "G"

- 1-9.1 GROUND COVER - Vegetation ranging from ground level to three (3) feet.

DEFINITIONS: "H"

1-10.1 HIGH WATER LEVEL - On salt water bodies, the seasonal high water level (the wrack line where tidal debris is deposited at seasonal high tides). On fresh water rivers and streams, the average springtime high water level, including contiguous wetlands; or for dammed streams, the height of the dam.

1-10.2 HOME OCCUPATION - Any occupation, profession, activity or use which is clearly a customary, incidental and secondary use of a residential dwelling unit and which does not alter the exterior of the property or affect the residential character of the neighborhood and is further defined as follows:

First Class Home Occupation or Professional Office - A home occupation meeting the following requirements:

- A. it occupies no more than 500 square feet of floor area;
- B. the principal operator resides on the premises, employs not more than one other person and sells no principal products prepared by others;
- C. there is no indication of such occupation visible on the exterior of the building or on the lot, except permitted signs;
- D. the activity does not produce noise, odor, traffic or other nuisances perceptible at the lot line at a higher level than is usual in a residential neighborhood.

Second Class Home Occupation, Light Industry or Office - A home occupation meeting the following requirements:

- A. it occupies no more than 1,000 square feet of floor area with the exception of existing farm structures which may utilize 100 percent of the floor area.
- B. the principal operator resides on the premises, employs not more than three other persons and sells no principal products prepared by others;
- C. the activity, except for outdoor storage, is completely enclosed in a building;
- D. outdoor storage of materials or equipment is at least 10 feet from any lot line and so screened as not to be visible from any public way or shoreline or public park.

1-10.3 HOSPITAL - An institution providing health services, primarily for in-patients, and medical or surgical care of

the sick or injured, including as an integral part of the institution, such related facilities as laboratories, out-patient departments, training facilities, central service facilities and staff offices.

1-10.4 HOTEL/MOTEL - A building containing five or more individual sleeping rooms or suites each having a private bathroom attached thereto for the purpose of providing overnight lodging facilities to the general public for compensation with or without meals, and usually providing on-site recreational services, function rooms, housekeeping, laundry and related services.

1-10.5 HOUSEHOLD - A group of occupants of a dwelling unit restricted to the following two categories:

A. Family - An individual or two or more persons related within the second degree of kinship, or by marriage or adoption living together as a single housekeeping unit and including necessary domestic help such as nurses or servants, not to exceed three (3) in number.

B. Unrelated Household - Any household not conforming to the definition of a family, provided that no such household shall have a number of members in excess of the figure provided in Table 1-1.

TABLE 1-1

DENSITY BY DWELLING TYPE

| <u>DWELLING TYPE</u>                                   | <u>MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS IN UNRELATED HOUSEHOLD PER 300 SQ FT OF HABITABLE FLOOR AREA</u> |
|--|---|
| Single Family Dwelling                                 | 1   |
| Duplex or Townhouse                                    | 1   |
| Apartment, including Accessory Apt.                    | 1.5   |
| Hotel, Motel   | 2   |
| Bed and Breakfast                                      | 2   |
| Rooming/Boarding, including Accessory Rooming/Boarding | 3   |
| Dormitory  | 2   |
| Fraternity, Sorority                                   | 3   |
| Nursing Home   | 2   |
| Elderly Housing  | 2   |
|  | 1.5   |

NOTES: 1. No more than three unrelated occupants may occupy a dwelling unit in an RA, RB, RC or LB Zoning District.

~~2. No more than two unrelated occupants not related to the proprietor may be occupants of an accessory rooming or boarding house in the RA, RB, RC or LB Districts.~~

DEFINITIONS: "J"

1-11.1 JUNKYARD - An area of land used for the storage outside of a completely enclosed building, of used and discarded materials, including but not limited to waste paper, rags, metal, building materials, furnishings, machinery, vehicles or parts thereof. Junkyard also means any business or any place of storage or deposit which has stored or deposited two or more unregistered motor vehicles which are no longer intended or in condition for legal use on the public highways, or used parts of motor vehicles or old iron, metal, glass, paper, cordage, or other waste or discarded or secondhand material which has been a part, or intended to be a part, of any motor vehicle, the sum of which parts shall be equal in bulk to two or more motor vehicles.

DEFINITIONS: "K"

1-12.1 KENNEL - Any lot or premises on which four or more dogs, cats or similar small animals or combination thereof, which are in excess of four months of age, are maintained, exclusive of licensed veterinary medical facilities, or on which more than two litters per year are produced.

DEFINITIONS: "L"

LANDSCAPE BUFFER - See Solid Planting

1-13.1 LANDSCAPING - Some combination of planted, living trees, shrubs, hedges, vines, ground cover and flowers suitable for the climate, exposure and site condition. In addition, the combination or design may include earth sculpture, cobble, bark, mulch, edgers, flower tubs, rock and such structural features as foundations, pools, art works, screens, walls, fences or benches, but such objects alone shall not meet the requirements of this provision. The selected combination of objects and plans for landscaping purposes shall be arranged in a manner compatible with the building and its surroundings.

1-13.2 LEACHABLE WASTES - Waste materials, including solid wastes, sludge and agricultural wastes that are capable of releasing contaminants to the surrounding environment.

LIGHT ASSEMBLY - See Assembly, Light

LIGHT MANUFACTURING - See Manufacturing, Light

- 1-13.3 LIVESTOCK - Horses, cattle, sheep, goats, swine, and including buffalo.
- 1-13.4 LOT - A legally recorded and defined parcel of land or two or more contiguous parcels to be used as a unit under the provisions of these regulations.
- 1-13.5 LOT AREA - The total horizontal area within the confines of the boundary lines of a lot. The lot area shall not include any part of a public right-of-way which it fronts or abuts.
- 1-13.6 LOT, CORNER - A lot abutting on two or more intersecting streets where the interior angle of intersection does not exceed one hundred thirty-five (135) degrees. A corner lot shall be considered to be in that block in which the lot fronts. (See Section 1-13.9A1)
- 1-13.7 LOT COVERAGE - The aggregate gross ground floor area of all buildings on a lot expressed as a percentage of the total lot area, excluding parking facilities, sidewalks and driveways.
- 1-13.8 LOT FRONTAGE - A lot line dividing the lot from a street right-of-way.
- 1-13.9 LOT LINE -
- A. LOT FRONT - The front property line of a lot shall be determined as follows:
1. CORNER LOT - The front property line of a corner lot shall be the shorter of the two lines adjacent to the streets as platted, subdivided or laid out. Where the lines are equal, the front line shall be that line which is obviously the front by reason of the prevailing custom of the other buildings on the block. If such front is not evident, then either may be considered the front of the lot, but not both. Where such front property line is not obviously evident, the Zoning Administrator shall determine the front property line.
  2. INTERIOR LOT - The front property line of an interior lot shall be the line bounding the street frontage.
  3. THROUGH LOT - The front property line of a through lot shall be that line which is obviously the

front by reason of the prevailing custom of the other buildings in the block.

- B. LOT REAR - The rear property line of a lot is that lot line opposite to the front property line. Where the side property lines of a lot meet in a point, the rear property line shall be assumed to be a line not less than ten (10) feet long, lying within the lot and parallel to the front property line. In the event that the front property line is a curved line then the rear property line shall be assumed to be a line not less than ten (10) feet long, lying within the lot and parallel to a line tangent to the front property line at its midpoint.
- C. LOT SIDE - The side property lines of a lot are those lot lines connecting the front and rear property lines of a lot.

DEFINITIONS: "M"

- 1-14.1 MAINTENANCE - The replacing or repair of a part or parts of a building, which have been made unusable by ordinary wear or tear, or by the weather.
- 1-14.2 MANUFACTURED HOME - Housing built on a chassis designed and constructed for transportation to a site for installation and use when connected to required utilities provided:
  - A. It was constructed after June 15, 1975, and certified as meeting the mobile home construction and safety standards of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
  - B. It is at least twenty (20) feet wide at the narrowest point.
  - C. The roof pitch shall be not less than two-foot rise for each twelve (12) feet of horizontal run (2:12) and roof shall have minimum six-inch eaves or eaves and gutter.
  - D. It has roofing materials which are generally acceptable for site-built housing. Any roofing material may be used provided it has the appearance of a non-metallic shingle, shake or tile roof.
  - E. It has siding material which has the appearance of wood, masonry or horizontal metal siding. Reflection from horizontal metal siding shall be not greater than that from siding coated with white gloss enamel.

- F. It has a perimeter skirting that resembles a conventional house foundation and is constructed of brick, concrete, concrete block or pressure-treated wood.
- G. It is placed on a permanent foundation approved by the Building Inspector.
- H. The hitch and tongue of manufactured home shall be removed.

1-14.3 **MANUFACTURING, LIGHT** - The manufacturing, fabricating or casting of individual components of a larger unit or a complete unit. All such processing and storage of materials must occur indoors and would not typically generate noise, vibration, smoke, dust or odor detectable at the property line. Furthermore, all new materials and final components are limited in size, bulk and weight so that it could be handled by one worker and without the aid of machines.

1-14.4 **MASTER PLAN** - The Town of Durham Master Plan and any amendments which may be made thereto adopted by the Durham Planning Board as a guide to the development and growth of the community.

1-14.5 **MINING OF LAND** - The removal of geologic materials such as topsoil, sand and gravel, metallic ores or bedrock to be crushed or used as building stone.

**MOTEL** - See "Hotel."

DEFINITIONS: "N"

1-15.1 **NEIGHBORHOOD** - An area of land local to the use concerned, generally lying within a radius of 1000 feet which has a set of unifying characteristics such as housing style or quality, similar income strata, economic livelihood, topographic features, water features, local recreational facilities or convenience shopping. Factors such as a railroad and highway rights-of-way, major streets, rivers, water bodies and severe topographic constraints will form boundaries and serve to separate neighborhoods.

1-15.2 **NONCONFORMING BUILDING** - A structure or building the size, dimensions and location of which were lawful prior to the adoption, revision or amendment to a zoning ordinance, but which fails by reason of such adoption, revision or amendment, to conform to the present requirements of the zoning district.

1-15.3 NONCONFORMING LOT - A lot, the area, dimensions and location of which were lawful prior to the adoption, revision or amendment of the zoning ordinance, but which fails by reason of such adoption, revision or amendment to conform to the present requirements of the zoning district.

1-15.4 NONCONFORMING USE - A lawful use of a building, other structure, or use of land which predated the adoption of the zoning use regulations now and/or previously in effect and which would not be a use authorized in the district designation currently applied to that site.

1-15.5 NONMUNICIPAL WELL - Any well not owned and operated by the Town of Durham or its agent.

NURSING HOME - See Elderly Housing

NURSERY SCHOOL - See Day Care.

DEFINITIONS: "O"

1-16.1 OCCUPANCY - The predominant use classification of a building, structure or land.

1-16.2 OPEN SPACE - Open space performing a necessary or desirable function in relation to the adjoining residential use, and may include among other similar areas, recreational areas, playgrounds, undeveloped land but excluding land with slopes in excess of 25% and wetlands as defined in Article Five.

1-16.3 OVERSTORY - Vegetation ranging from fifteen (15) feet to top of canopy.

1-16.4 OWNER - An individual, firm association, syndicate, partnership, or corporation having sufficient proprietary interest to seek development of land.

DEFINITIONS: "P"

1-17.1 PARKING SPACE - A space within or without a building, exclusive of driveways meeting the minimal requirements of this ordinance used to temporarily park a motor vehicle and having access to a public street or driveway.

1-17.2 PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE - Any security acceptable by the Town as a guarantee that improvements required as part of an application for development are satisfactorily completed.



- 1-17.3 PERMITTED USE - A use specifically permitted or analogous to those specifically permitted as set forth in Article 4.
- 1-17.4 PERSONAL SERVICES - Establishments primarily engaged in providing services involving the care of a person or his or her apparel.
- 1-17.5 PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) - A tract of land developed or proposed to be developed as an integrated unit. A PUD may be a "Residential Planned Unit Development" with limited commercial uses, or it may consist of strictly commercial or industrial uses (Non-residential Planned Unit Development). See Section 4-7.
- 1-17.6 PRINCIPAL USE - The primary or predominant use to which the property is or may be devoted, and to which all other uses on the premises are accessory.
- 1-17.7 PROFESSIONAL OFFICES - A building containing one or more offices in which there is no display of unrelated stock or wares in trade commodity sold, nor any commercial use conducted other than the professional offices of a doctor, dentist, lawyer, architect, engineer and related laboratories, insurance agent, realtor or other similar professional services but excluding barbershops, beauty salons, or similar services.
- 1-17.8 PROHIBITED USE - A use which is not specifically permitted.
- 1-17.9 PUBLIC UTILITY - A public service corporation performing some public service and subject to special governmental regulations, or a governmental agency performing similar public services, the services by either of which are paid for directly by the recipients thereof. Such services shall include, but are not limited to, water supply, electric power, telephone, TV cable, gas and transportation for persons and freight.

DEFINITIONS: "R"

- 1-18.1 RECHARGE AREA - The land surface area from which groundwater recharge occurs.
- 1-18.2 RECREATIONAL <sup>FACILITY</sup> ~~USE~~ - A place or structure designed and equipped for the conduct of sports, leisure time activities <sup>or</sup> and other customary and usual recreational activities ~~and further defined as follows:~~ *that are open to the public and/or a membership group*
- ~~A. RECREATIONAL USE, PRIVATE - These uses normally associated with private recreational activities and~~

~~available to members, guests and the general public for a fee.~~

~~B. RECREATIONAL USE, PUBLIC - These uses normally associated with recreational activities which are either nonprofit or publicly owned and open to the general public.~~

- 1-18.3 RELIGIOUS USE/CHURCH - A structure or place in which worship ceremonies, rituals and education pertaining to a particular system of beliefs are held.
- 1-18.4 RESTAURANT - A commercial establishment open to the general public where food and beverage are prepared, served and consumed primarily within the principal building. *Adequate seating shall be provided. Drive-thru facilities are prohibited.*
- 1-18.5 RESTAURANT, CARRYOUT - A commercial establishment open to the general public which by design of physical facilities or by service or packaging procedures permits or encourages the purchase of prepared ready to eat foods intended to be consumed *either on or off the premises. Drive-thru facilities are prohibited.*
- 1-18.6 RETAIL STORES - Establishments engaged in selling goods or merchandise to the general public for personal or household consumption and rendering services incidental to the sale of such goods.
- 1-18.7 ROOMING HOUSE - A building and accessories thereto principally used, designed or adapted to provide living accommodations for not more than ten occupants and without individual or owner-provided cooking and dining facilities.

DEFINITIONS: "S"

SCHOOLS - See Educational Facilities

- 1-19.1 SCREENING - A device or materials used to conceal one element of a site from other elements or from adjacent or contiguous sites. Screening may include one or a combination of the following materials of sufficient mass to be opaque or which shall become opaque after twelve (12) months and which shall be maintained year round in an opaque condition: walls, fences, berms or plantings.
- 1-19.2 SETBACK - The required horizontal distance in feet from a lot line or shoreline to any structure.
- 1-19.3 SHOREFRONTAGE - The minimum dimension of a lot which abuts the Great or Little Bay and the significant rivers/brooks. The length of the shorefrontage shall be 200 feet

and is established by measuring along a straight line perpendicular to a side line. Said line shall be so located that the line does not include any tidal land beyond the mean high tide boundary.

- 1-19.4 SHORELAND PROTECTION ZONE - Shall encompass all land within 150 feet of the High Water Level of Great and Little Bays, including tidal sections of their tributaries; the Oyster River; Lamprey River; Follett's Brook and 75 feet from all other Perennial Brooks (excluding College Brook and Pettee Brook). These water bodies are designated on the Durham Shoreland Protection Zone Overlay Map, which is based on U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle maps covering the Town of Durham.
- 1-19.5 SITE PLAN - A plan of a lot, tract or parcel of land showing the specific location of all existing and proposed features, such as buildings, other structures, driveways, parking, landscaping, easements, utilities, drainage, etc.
- 1-19.6 SLUDGE - Residual materials produced by the sewage treatment process.
- 1-19.7 SOLID PLANTING - A planting of evergreen trees and/or shrubs which will prevent the penetration of sight and light to a minimum height of five (5) feet.
- 1-19.8 SOLID WASTE - Any discarded or abandoned material including refuse, putrescible material, septage or sludge, as defined by New Hampshire Solid Waste Rules He-P 1901.03. Solid waste includes solid, liquid, semi-solid, or gaseous waste material resulting from residential, industrial, commercial, mining and agricultural operations.
- 1-19.9 SPECIAL EXCEPTION - A use which would not be appropriate generally or without restriction in a particular district, and accordingly, is allowable only upon such conditions as are established by this ordinance, and only after public hearing and determination by the Board of Adjustment. For the purposes of this ordinance, the following are established as conditions upon the grant of all Special Exceptions, subject to such further conditions as may be defined elsewhere herein as to the uses concerned, namely:
- A. That the use will not be detrimental to the character or enjoyment of the neighborhood by reason of undue variation from the kind and nature of other uses in the vicinity, or by reason of obvious and adverse violation of the character or appearance of the neighborhood;

- B. That the use will not be injurious, noxious, and thus detrimental to the neighborhood by reason of any of the causes stated in Section 4 of this ordinance;
- C. That the use will not be contrary to the public health, safety or welfare by reason of undue traffic congestion or hazards, undue risk to life or property, unsanitary or unhealthful emissions or waste disposal, or similar adverse causes of conditions;
- D. As to all non-residential uses subject to site review by the Planning Board or Technical Review Committee pursuant to RSA 672 through RSA 677, written approval by the Planning Board or Technical Review Committee of the applicant's site plans must be on file with the Board of Adjustment.

1-19.10 STREET, ARTERIAL - A major street with moderate to fast speeds, high volume, designed to provide access to the regional transportation system and move traffic through or around the Town or from one general area of the Town to another. Arterial streets include Madbury Road, US Route 4, Route 108, Route 155A or Route 155.

1-19.11 STREET, COLLECTOR - Intermediate streets which collect local traffic from neighborhoods and moves it to an adjacent neighborhood or transfers the traffic to the arterial system.

1-19.12 STREET, PRIVATE - A private right-of-way for vehicles which provides a principal means of access to two or more lots and is subject to an easement for ingress and egress, running with the land to the benefit of all lots having frontage thereon. Such easement shall define the parties responsible for maintenance and snow removal.

1-19.13 STREET, PUBLIC - A dedicated public right-of-way for vehicles which affords a principal means of access to abutting properties.

1-19.14 STRUCTURE - That which is built or constructed with a fixed location on the ground or attached to something having a fixed location on the ground. Structures include but are not limited to a building, swimming pool, mobile home, billboard, pier, wharf, septic system, parking space/parking lot and deck. It shall not include a minor installation such as a fence under six (6) feet high, mailbox or flag pole.

1-19.15 SUBDIVISION - Means the division of the lot, tract or parcel of land into 2 or more lots, plats, sites or other divisions of land for the purpose, whether immediate or

future, of sale, rent, lease. It includes resubdivision and, when appropriate to the context, relates to the process of subdividing or to the land or territory subdivided.

DEFINITIONS: "T"

- 1-20.1 TEMPORARY - A period of less than ninety (90) days when in reference to a time frame, and not having or requiring permanent attachment to the ground when in reference to structures.
- 1-20.2 THEATER - A building or part of a building devoted to showing motion pictures, or for dramatic, musical or live performances.
- 1-20.3 TOXIC OR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - Any substances or mixture of such physical, chemical or infectious characteristics as to pose a significant, actual or potential hazard to water supplies, or other hazard to human health, if such substance or mixture were discharged to land or waters of the Town. Toxic or hazardous materials include, without limitation, volatile organic chemicals, petroleum products, heavy metals, radioactive or infectious wastes, acids and alkalies, and include products such as pesticides, herbicides, solvents and thinners, and such other substances as defined in New Hampshire Water Supply and Pollution Control Rules, Section Ws 410.04 (1) in New Hampshire Solid Waste Rules He-P 1901.03 (v) and in the Code of Federal Regulations 40 CFR 261 as amended. Wastes generated by the following commercial activities are presumed to be toxic or hazardous, unless and except to the extent that anyone engaging in such an activity can demonstrate the contrary to the satisfaction of the Planning Board:

- Airplane, boat and motor vehicle service and repair;
- Chemical and bacteriological laboratory operation;
- Dry Cleaning;
- Electronic circuit manufacturing;
- Metal plating, finishing and polishing;
- Motor and machinery services and assembly;
- Painting, wood preserving and furniture stripping;
- Pesticide and herbicide application;
- Photographic processing;
- Printing.

DEFINITIONS: "U"

- 1-21.1 UNDERLYING ZONE - The established zoning use district for an area for which a PUD or the equivalent is proposed.

1-21.2 UNDERSTORY - Vegetation ranging from three (3) feet to fifteen (15) feet in height.

1-21.3 USE - The specific purpose for which a building or lot is arranged, intended, designed, occupied or maintained.

DEFINITIONS: "V"

1-22.1 VARIANCE - A variation from the terms of this ordinance, not otherwise permitted within the district concerned, which may be granted by the Zoning Board of Adjustment pursuant to its discretionary power, where the Board finds that the granting of such variance will do substantial justice and the intent of the ordinance will still be observed. The Board of Adjustment may in such case waive the literal enforcement of the applicable provision(s) of this ordinance and grant a variance only where such literal enforcement would result in unnecessary hardship to the applicant.

DEFINITIONS: "W"

1-23.1 WETLANDS - Wetlands are areas where soils, land types and vegetational community consist of any of the following:

- A. POORLY DRAINED AND VERY POORLY DRAINED soils in addition to the definitions contained herein, soil scientists shall use the "Key to Soil Drainage Classes" found in the SSSNNE document HIGH INTENSITY SOIL MAPS FOR N.H., 5/23/86.
- B. POORLY DRAINED soils are soils where water moves so slowly that the water table is at or within 12 inches of the ground surface for 6-9 months of the year.
- C. VERY POORLY DRAINED soils are soils in the area where water is removed so slowly from the soil that the water table is at or within 12 inches of the ground surface for 9-10 months of the year. Wherever reference is made to Very Poorly Drained soils, this shall also include:

1. Wetlands associated with salt water, defined as lands:

--subject to tidal action or which border on, are connected to, or were formerly connected to tidal waters, whose elevation does not exceed 3-1/2 feet above local mean high tide, and

--which are capable of, or do support any of the vegetation listed in RSA 483-A:1-a.

2. Surface waters, defined as salt or fresh water ponds, lakes, creeks, and bays and perennial rivers or streams, the boundaries of which are the local mean high tide or mean seasonal high water level, or for dammed streams, the height of the dam.

DEFINITIONS: "y"

1-24.1 YARD - Any open space that lies between the principal building or group of buildings and the nearest lot line and is unoccupied by any structure unless specifically permitted and is further defined as front yard, side yard, rear yard and shorefront yard.





ARTICLE 2  
ADMINISTRATION

2-1.1 DUTY AND AUTHORITY. Authority to administer this zoning ordinance is hereby vested in the Town Administrator who is duly appointed by the Town Council. The Town Administrator shall have the authority to appoint a Zoning Administrator or duly qualified designee who shall have the authority to request entry to any building, structure, or premises, or any part thereof, at any and all reasonable times for the purpose of performing his/her official duties.

No building permit shall be issued for any proposed use, construction or activity which is not in compliance with the zoning ordinance of the Town of Durham.

2-2.1 VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES. Any person, partnership, association, company, corporation or individual who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with the provisions of these ordinances shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor offense and upon conviction thereof by a court of competent jurisdiction shall be punished by a civil fine of not more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100) for each day such violation continues.

2-2.2 VIOLATIONS. A violation or suspected violation may be brought to the attention of the Zoning Administrator by any individual who suspects that such violation has or may be occurring. The Zoning Administrator shall conduct an investigation into the alleged violation. If the investigation appears to uphold the allegation, the zoning administrator shall first notify the offending party who shall have a maximum of ten (10) days in which to correct the violation or in which to come to an agreement on a time frame in which the violation may be abated. Such an agreement shall be binding. In the event these efforts fail to result in an abatement of the violation, the Zoning Administrator shall file a complaint with the Town Attorney and the matter shall come before a court of competent jurisdiction for resolution.

2-2.3 PENALTIES. Every violation of these regulations shall be a separate and distinct offense, and in the case of a continuing violation, each day's continuance shall be deemed a separate and distinct offense.

2-3.1 ZONING ADMINISTRATOR. There is hereby created the position of "Zoning Administrator" appointed by the Town Administrator, who is charged with the administration, interpretation and enforcement of this zoning ordinance.

2-3.2 DUTIES. The Zoning Administrator, his assistant or designee shall:

- A. Enforce any and all provisions of this ordinance.
- B. Keep complete, accurate and secure records.
- C. Accept applications and insure their appropriateness and completeness.
- D. Accept and remit fees as established in the adopted administrative procedures.
- E. Update these regulations and the official zoning map as directed by the Town Council.
- F. Provide for the accuracy and security of the official zoning map.
- G. Undertake any other administrative function appropriate to the office of the Zoning Administrator.
- H. Report to the Town Planning Board any recommendations for changes and improvements in these regulations and the procedures therein.
- I. Issue any permit granted by the Town Council, Planning Board, or ordered by the Board of Adjustment, and make periodic inspections to verify that all conditions of such granted are complied with by the applicant or his agent.
- J. Receive and investigate allegations of noncompliance or violation of these regulations, report findings to the Town Council, and file a complaint where such allegations are based in apparent fact.
- K. Refer any matters under appeal to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for their action.
- L. Make recommendations to the Town Council in connection with any Conditional Use Permit or to the Board of Adjustment in connection with any application for variance or appeal, and recommend such conditions as may be necessary to fully carry

out the provisions and intent of this zoning ordinance.

- M. Take the most conservative or restrictive approach in applying or interpreting these regulations.

2-3.3 The Zoning Administrator shall not:

- A. Make any changes in the uses categorically permitted in any zoning classification or zoning district, or make any changes in the terms of this zoning ordinance, or make any changes in the terms classifications or their boundaries on the official zoning map.
- B. Issue any Conditional Use Permit from the Town Council or variance from the Zoning Board of Adjustment without the specific direction to do so from the Town Council or the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

2-4 **CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS**

- 2-4.1 Purpose and Intent. The purpose and intent of a conditional use permit is to allow certain uses which are not normally permitted under conventional zoning provisions, provided these uses are determined by the Planning Board and the Town Council to be of benefit to the Town.
- 2-4.2 Where Required. No structure, building or land requiring a conditional use permit shall be used, constructed, altered, or expanded unless a Conditional Use Permit specifically required by this ordinance has been authorized by the Town Council and issued by the Zoning Administrator.
- 2-4.3 Any use which was lawfully established prior to the adoption, extension or application of this ordinance and is now permitted by this ordinance subject to a Conditional Use permit, may continue in the same manner and to the same extent as conducted prior to said adoption or extension of this ordinance without securing a Conditional Use Permit, provided that before the structure or building in which said use is conducted may be altered, added to, enlarged, expanded, or moved from one location to another on the lot, or before said use may be expanded within the building or extended over the lot on which said use is located, a Conditional Use Permit shall be secured from the Zoning Administrator.
- 2-4.4 Structures or buildings devoted to any use which is permitted under the terms of this ordinance, subject

to the securing of a Conditional Use Permit, may be altered, added to, enlarged, expanded or moved from one location to another on the lot only after securing a new Conditional Use Permit.

2-4.5 Application.

- A. Application for a Conditional Use Permit may be made by the owner of the affected property, or his designated agent, on a form obtainable from the Zoning Administrator.
- B. The completed application and fee as set by the Town Council shall be submitted to the Zoning Administrator or his designee. Said fee is non refundable.

2-4.6 Procedure for Consideration.

- A. After acceptance by the Zoning Administrator or his designee, the completed application shall be transmitted to the Planning Board staff for their review and evaluation.
- B. The Planning Staff shall set public hearing dates and publish notices which advertises the public hearings before the Planning Board and the Town Council in a newspaper of general circulation. Public notice shall be made at least 10 calendar days prior to both the meetings of the Planning Board and the Town Council at which the application is to be considered.
- C. The Planning Staff shall also mail written notice, by certified mail, to all abutting and adjacent property owners within 300 feet of the subject property and the posting of a sign measuring 2' x 3' on the property not less than 10 calendar days prior to the time of formal review by the Planning Board and Town Council. This sign shall be visible from the most important street right-of-way for the property. The sign shall state the date(s) of the public hearing(s), the time(s), the location(s) and the action(s) to be considered. (Where the subject property abuts a public right-of-way, the 300 foot measurement shall be in addition to the right-of-way along the abutting side.)
- D. Any written comment shall be specific when maintaining that the granting of the Conditional Use Permit would adversely or injuriously affect their personal and legal interests.

- E. The Planning Board shall consider the application at its next regular meeting following the public notice process. Applications denied by the Planning Board shall not be forwarded to the Town Council for their consideration.
- F. Upon receipt of an affirmative vote from the Planning Board, the Town Council shall hold a public hearing to determine if an application meets the fiscal criteria outlined in Section 2-4.11E and 2.411F. The Town Council will render a decision whether to approve or deny the application for a Conditional Use Permit based on public input, the Staff report, and findings of the Planning Board in compliance with the requirements of the Durham Zoning Ordinance.
- G. Two-thirds vote of Council members present is required to reverse the recommendation of the Planning Board on any conditional use application.
- H. A decision will be rendered by the Town Council within 45 days after the Public Hearing on the completed application.
- I. In certain instances, the Town Council may elect to place certain required Conditional Use Permits into an administrative review category, for example those that may be required for minor amendment to an already approved Conditional Use Permit, whereby the Zoning Administrator may issue such an Administrative Conditional Use Permit in compliance with guidelines set by the Town Council. This provision shall not be construed so as to give the power to grant or deny the Conditional Use Permit to other than the Town Council, and shall apply only to specific categories or instances predetermined by the Town Council.

2-4.7 Approval of Application and Granting of Conditional Use Permit. Upon rendering a decision to grant a Conditional Use Permit, with stipulations or conditions that must be adhered to by the applicant, the Town Council shall notify the Zoning Administrator of their decision, and he shall issue a Conditional Use Permit, with stipulations referred to and itemized in brief on the face of the permit. The application and all subsequent information, correspondence, evaluations, recommendations, and decisions shall then be placed on permanent file in the office of the Zoning Administrator and recorded at the Strafford County Registry of Deeds.

2-4.8 Revocation. In the event of a violation of any of the provisions of these regulations or its amendments thereto, or in the event of a failure to comply with any prescribed condition of approval or stipulations placed upon such approval, the Zoning Administrator shall suspend any Conditional Use Permit immediately, notify the Town Council and shall set a date for hearing to determine if such suspensions shall be lifted or if the Conditional Use Permit shall be revoked. The Town Council shall be the hearing body. In the case of a revocation of a Conditional Use Permit, the determination of the Town Council shall be final, unless recourse is sought in a court of competent jurisdiction.

2-4.9 Termination and Transferability. Once granted, a Conditional Use Permit with its terms and conditions, shall:

- A. Run with the lot, building, structure or use and shall not be affected by changes in ownership.
- B. Terminate twelve (12) months from date of authorization if commencement of the authorized activity has not begun.
  - 1) Unless otherwise spelled out in the Conditions of Approval, or
  - 2) Unless the applicant can demonstrate good reason(s) at a public hearing before the Town Council why the permit should be extended.
- C. Terminate after twelve (12) consecutive months of nonuse.

2-4.10 Denial of Application. In the event an application is denied by the Town Council, no resubmittal of an application for a Conditional Use Permit may be made for one (1) year from the date of said denial, unless sufficient new evidence or conditions are offered to the Zoning Administrator to demonstrate that circumstances have altered and that further consideration of the application is warranted. In such an event, the resubmitted application shall follow the same procedures as the original, and shall be treated as a new application.

2-4.11 Criteria required for consideration of a Conditional Use Permit.

A Conditional Use Permit may be granted only if the proposal, as submitted, ~~is of benefit to the Town~~ and conforms to all of the following general Conditional

Use Permit criteria, as well as to all other applicable criteria that may be requested.

A) Site suitability

That the site is suitable for the use. This includes:

- a) adequate usable space,
- b) adequate access, and
- c) absence of environmental constraints (floodplain, steep slope, etc.)

B) Appropriateness of design

That the site plan for the proposed use will provide the most convenient and functional use of the lot. Consideration shall include:

- a) parking scheme,
- b) traffic circulation,
- c) open space,
- d) fencing/screening,
- e) landscaping, and
- f) signage.

C) Immediate neighborhood impact

That the proposed use will not be detrimental to abutting properties in particular and the neighborhood in general. Typical negative impacts which extend beyond the proposed site include:

- a) excessive traffic generation,
- b) noise or vibration,
- c) dust, glare, or heat,
- d) smoke, fumes, gas, or odors, and
- e) inappropriate hours of operation.

D) Immediate neighborhood integrity

That the historical uses and established use patterns be weighed with recent change in trends in the neighborhood.

E) Availability of public services and facilities

That the following services and facilities are available and adequate to serve the needs of the use as designed and proposed:

- a) sewer,
- b) water,

- c) storm water drainage,
- d) fire protection,
- e) police protection, and
- f) streets,
- g) parks,
- h) schools.

/ F) Impact on property values

That the proposed use will not cause or contribute to a decline in property values of adjacent properties.

2-4.12 Burden on Applicant. The burden of proof for satisfying the aforementioned criteria considered for approval shall rest with the applicant and not the Town Council. The granting of a Conditional Use Permit is a matter of grace, resting in the discretion of the Town Council and a refusal is not the denial of a right, conditional or otherwise.

2-4.13 Council Decision Based on Findings. The Town Council's decision shall be based upon the fiscal impact analysis of the project of the Town. This review will focus on Sections E and F of 2-4.11. Every decision of the Town Council pertaining to the granting, denial or amendment of a request for a Conditional Use Permit shall be based upon Finding of Fact and Condition of Approval and every Finding of Fact and Condition of Approval shall be supported in the records of its proceedings. The conditions as enumerated in 2-4.10 are required to exist in any matter upon which the Town Council is required to pass under these regulations and shall be construed as a limitation on the power of the Town Council to act in the matter of the issuance of Conditional Use Permits. A mere finding or recitation of the enumerated conditions unaccompanied by findings of specific fact shall not be deemed in compliance with these regulations.

2-4.14 Rehearing of Application. An applicant may request a rehearing of the Town Council's decision on the conditional use application within twenty (20) days after a decision of the Town Council. The rehearing before the Town Council shall be in accordance with RSA 677:2 and will be limited to fiscal impact analysis issues as identified in 2-4.13.

## 2-5 ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

2-5.1 Appointment. There shall be a Zoning Board of Adjustment appointed by the Town Council, consisting of five (5) members each serving a three (3) year term



and three (3) alternates each serving a three (3) year term. Such terms shall be staggered. The Town Council shall fill any vacancy for the period of the unexpired term.

2-5.2 Disqualification of Board Member. No member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment shall sit upon the hearing on any question which the Board is to decide in a judicial capacity who would be disqualified from any case, except exemption from service and knowledge of the facts involved in the performance of his official duties, to act as juror upon the same matter in any action at law.

2-5.3 Meetings.

- A. A chairman and clerk shall be appointed. The chairman or in his absence the acting chairman, may administer oaths and compel the attendance of witnesses.
- B. Meetings of the Board shall be held at the call of the chairman and at such times as the Board may determine.
- C. All meetings of the Board shall be open to the public. The Board shall keep minutes of its proceedings, showing the vote of each member upon each questions, or if absent or failing to vote, indicating such fact, and shall keep records of its examinations and other official actions, all of which shall be immediately filed in the Town Office and shall be a public record.

2-5.4 Powers. The Zoning Board of Adjustment is hereby authorized and empowered to adopt such rules of organization and procedure as are necessary for the efficient administration and enforcement of this ordinance. In addition, the Zoning Board of Adjustment shall have the following powers:

- A. To hear and decide appeals where it is alleged there is error in any order, requirements, decision or determination made by an administrative official in the enforcement of this ordinance.
- B. To authorize upon appeal in specific cases such variance from the terms of the ordinance as will not be contrary to the public interest, where, owing in special conditions, a literal enforcement of the provisions of the ordinance will result in unnecessary hardship and so that the spirit of the

ordinance shall be observed and substantial justice done.

- C. The Board shall hear and decide requests for special exceptions provided for in this ordinance. The Board shall grant requests for special exceptions which are in harmony with the general purpose and intent of this ordinance and meet the standard for granting special exceptions. Appropriate conditions may be placed on special exception approvals when necessary to meet the standards of the ordinance.
- D. In exercising the above mentioned powers, the Board may in conformity with the provisions hereof, reverse or affirm, wholly or partly, or may modify the order requirements, decision or determination appealed from and may make such order, or decision, as ought to be made and to that end shall have all the powers of the officer from whom the appeal is taken.
- E. The concurring vote of three members of the Board shall be necessary to reverse any action of such administrative official, or to decide in favor of the applicant on any matter upon which it is required to pass under this ordinance, or to effect any variation in this ordinance.

## 2-6 PLANNING BOARD

- 2-6.1 Appointment. There shall be a Planning Board consisting of nine (9) members as provided by state statute. Six (6) of these members shall be appointed by the Council for terms of three (3) years, such terms to be staggered. The Town Administrator and one other member of the Town administration appointed by the Town Administrator shall serve as ex-officio members and one representative from the Town Council shall be appointed annually at the Council's first meeting. These representatives shall have all the rights of membership including the right to hold office. The Council shall fill any vacancy for the period of the unexpired term. The Planning Board shall have all the powers granted to planning boards by state law.
- 2-6.2 Site Review Authority. The Planning Board is empowered to review and approve or disapprove site plans for the development or change or expansion of use of tracts for nonresidential uses or multi-unit dwellings, which are defined as any structure containing more than two (2) dwelling units, whether or not such development includes a subdivision or

resubdivision of the site and as provided for in RSA 674:43.

2-6.3 Technical Review Committee <sup>to a Technical Review Committee,</sup> The Planning Board is empowered to ~~delegate its~~ site review powers for minor site plan reviews as listed in Article 4 of this Ordinance. The Technical Review Committee shall consist of Town Administrator, Town Planner and staff representatives from the Public Works, Police and Fire Departments. This Technical Review Committee shall have final authority to approve or disapprove site plans reviewed by it. Decisions rendered by this Committee, however, may be appealed to the full Planning Board provided that a Notice of Appeal is filed within 20 days of the committee's decision. All provisions of RSA 676:4 shall apply to actions of the Technical Review Committee.

( permitted uses  
those listed  
without an  
asterisk),



ARTICLE 3  
STANDARD EXEMPTIONS

3-1 EXEMPTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

3-1.1 Land Owned by the University. Any land which is owned by the University may be used for educational purposes and operations incidental to the administration of the University of New Hampshire.

3-1.2 Public Hearing. Any land owned by the University should not be used or developed for any purpose or in any manner not otherwise permitted without a public hearing conducted by the Planning Board at least two weeks after a publication of a notice thereof in a paper of general circulation in the Town. The purpose of such hearing shall be to bring to light possible problems of traffic circulation, parking, provision of utilities, the protection of persons and property, or any other problems affecting the Town or the neighborhood. The Planning Board may, by way of advisory action, recommend conditions for such use or development.

3-1.3 Land Not Owned by the University. Lands which the University does not own but acquires only the right to use, whether by rental, lease or other beneficial interest, may not be used for any purpose not otherwise permitted unless the owner obtains a variance or a special exception from the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

3-1.4 Land Owned But Not Used by the University. University land which is leased or allowed to be used by others for private or business purposes shall be subject to all the regulations for the district within which it lies.

3-2 EXEMPTION FOR GOVERNMENTAL USE

Nothing herein shall prevent the condemnation of land or buildings for municipal purposes by the Town of Durham, or for public or institutional use by any agency, department, institution or public corporation of the State of New Hampshire or of the United States.

3-3 NONCONFORMING USES

3-3.1 Any non-conforming use may be continued except that if any such non-conforming use is abandoned or desisted, or voluntarily or by legal action caused to be discontinued for a period of one year, then any subsequent use of the building, other structure or use

of the land shall be required to be in conformity with the provisions of these regulations.

3-3.2 Any building for which a building permit has been issued prior to the adoption or amendment of these regulations and the erection of which is in conformity with the plans submitted and approved for such permit, but does not conform to the provisions of these regulations, shall be a non-conforming use.

### 3-3.3 Changes Permitted.

- A. Routine maintenance and repairs or those modifications required by applicable health and safety codes shall be permitted.
- B. A non-conforming building, structure, or use may be enlarged, extended, reconstructed or structurally altered if said building, structure or use is changed to completely conform to the provisions of these regulations.
- C. A building or structure conforming with respect to height, setback or coverage may be altered or extended if the alteration or extension does not further deviate from this ordinance.
- D. A non-conforming use may be expanded, subject to a Conditional Use Permit, within the confines of the lot or parcel of land upon which it was located at the time of the adoption or amendment of these regulations, provided, however, that the land area and/or size of building or structure being used for said non-conforming use at the time of the adoption or amendment of these regulations is not increased by more than fifty percent (50%).
- E. If no structural alterations are made to a non-conforming building or other structure, a non-conforming use may, upon approval and issuance of a Conditional Use Permit, be changed to another non-conforming use of the same or more restricted use classification, provided that said new non-conforming use is less deleterious to the neighborhood, considering all factors, than was the previous non-conforming use.

## 3-4 NON-CONFORMING BUILDINGS

3-4.1 Continuance. Any lawful nonconforming building in existence when this ordinance is passed may continue unchanged but may not be altered or extended in any way which will result in a new and increased violation.

3-4.2 Restoration and Reconstruction. Nothing herein shall prevent the substantial restoration or reconstruction within one year of a building destroyed in part or whole by fire or other casualty so long as this does not result in a new or increased violation.

3-5 NON-CONFORMING LOTS

3-5.1 Single Lot. A nonconforming vacant lot which at the time of passage of this ordinance was in separate ownership from any adjacent lot and which was duly recorded in the Strafford County Register of Deeds prior to the adoption of this ordinance may be used for a permitted use, provided:

- A. the lot is in a district where the proposed use is permitted;
- B. the requirements of this ordinance regarding yards and height are met;
- C. the arrangements for sewage disposal are approved by the Building Inspector in accordance with the provisions of State law.

3-5.2 Lots in Contiguous Ownership. Where two or more adjacent nonconforming lots are held by the same fee title or beneficial ownership when this ordinance is passed, the area and frontage of the lots shall be combined in such a manner as to comply as nearly as practical with the dimensional requirements of this ordinance. This provision shall not apply to lots within a subdivision previously approved by the Planning Board under this, or prior, Durham Zoning Ordinances.





ARTICLE 4  
ZONING DISTRICTS, DIMENSIONAL CONTROLS, USE REGULATIONS

4-1 ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICTS

For the purpose of this ordinance, the Town of Durham is hereby divided into zoning districts as follows:

| <u>Residence Districts</u> | <u>Non-Residential Districts</u> |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| RA - Residence A           | CB - Central Business            |
| RB - Residence B           | LB - Limited Business            |
| RC - Residence, Coastal    | OR - Office and Research         |
| R - Rural                  |                                  |

There are also the following overlay zoning districts:

Overlay Districts

|                                       |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Wetland Conservation Overlay District | - See Article 5 |
| Durham Historic Overlay District      | - See Article 6 |
| Flood Hazard Overlay District         | - See Article 7 |

4-2 ZONING MAP

4-2.1 A Zoning Map of the Town of Durham dated November 1989, as amended, which shows the Zoning Districts, is hereby incorporated as part of this ordinance and is filed with the Town Clerk. The Zoning Map and all the notations, references, district boundaries and other information shown thereon shall be as much a part of this ordinance as if all were fully described therein.

4-2.2 In accordance with the provisions of the ordinance, if changes are made in zone district boundaries or other matters portrayed on the official zoning map, such changes shall be entered on the official zoning map promptly after the amendment has been approved by the Town Council. The entry on the official zoning map shall indicate the Ordinance Number and Date Adopted.

4-3 INTERPRETATION OF ZONING MAP

4-3.1 Location of District Boundaries. A district line drawn on the Zoning Map, generally on, or parallel to, a street, railroad, utility line or water course, or on a lot line, shall, as relevant, be deemed to be:

- A. on the center line of the right-of-way or water course, or
- B. parallel to the center line at the distance noted, or

C. on the lot line,

as these existed on the date of adoption of this ordinance, or at the time of any amendment of such Zoning Map. In cases of uncertainty, the Planning Board shall define the exact location of the boundary.

4-3.2 Lots Crossed by Town Lines. When part of a lot in a single or joint ownership lies outside the Town of Durham, the portion within Durham shall conform to the use regulations of this ordinance. In applying dimensional controls to that portion of the lot within Durham, the dimensions of the whole lot shall be considered without reference to the Town line.

#### 4-4 DIMENSIONAL CONTROLS GENERAL REGULATIONS

4-4.1 Limitation on Occupants. The number of unrelated occupants is subject to the provisions of Article One and to the off-street parking requirements of Article Eight.

4-4.2 Permitted Uses in Required Yards. No building or parking is permitted within the minimum yards required for the district except as otherwise allowed below. All required minimum yards, except for driveways and walkways, shall be landscaped or left with natural vegetation with the following exceptions:

- A. Up to 25 percent of the area of street yards of non-commercial residential lots may be used for accessory parking.
- B. Structures accessory to residential uses shall occupy no more than 30 percent of the required yard and be no closer than 10 feet to any lot line, nor more than 20 feet high.

4-4.3 Corner Clearance. No object, vegetation or slope which impedes visibility at street intersections shall be allowed within a triangle, two of whose sides extend 20 feet from the intersection along the street lines and between two planes 3 feet and 7 feet above the level of the traveled way.

4-4.4 Changes in Lot Dimensions. Any change made to the dimensions of an undeveloped lot shall meet all the requirements of this Article in effect at the time of the proposed change. In the case of a legal non-conforming lot which has been developed, the lot dimensions may be changed to decrease the violation of the dimensional requirements of this ordinance.

4-5 SPECIAL SITUATIONS AFFECTING REQUIRED DIMENSIONS

4-5.1 Lot Area

A. Lots for Elderly Housing. The minimum area of lots for elderly housing may be varied by the Zoning Board of Adjustment by Special Exception provided the lot meets the off-street parking requirements of Article Eight plus the following parking areas per dwelling unit: 400 square feet of habitable floor area and 100 square feet of open space.

4-5.2 Lot Frontage

A. Frontage Variation. The minimum frontage otherwise required may be varied by the Zoning Board of Adjustment by Special Exception for plots of land of unusual shape, or at corners, where an increased setback can provide the same effective spacing of the usable portion of a lot, whether or not the lot is part of a subdivision plan.

4-5.3 Front Yards

A. Minimum Setbacks Along Major Streets. No structure other than permitted signs shall be closer to the front yard line than indicated below:

- 1) along an arterial street: 40 feet
- 2) along a collector street: 30 feet

B. Average Setbacks Along Minor Streets. When the average front yard of other buildings within 300 feet each way on the same side of a minor street is less than 30 feet, the street yard may be reduced accordingly.

C. Central Business District Fronting on a Minor Street. The front yard requirement for a Central Business lot fronting on a minor street may be varied by the Zoning Board of Adjustment by Special Exception.

4-5.4 Side and Rear Yards

A. Non-Residential or Multi-Unit Structures Abutting or Within Residence Districts. No non-residential or multi-unit structures other than permitted signs and no parking shall be permitted within 70 feet of a side or rear lot line abutting a Residence District or use unless screened as provided in Article Nine.

- B. Within Business Districts. Side and rear yards in the CB District may be omitted where buildings are separated by fire partitions meeting the requirements of the Durham Building Code and/or where the remainder of the yard is occupied by publicly maintained parking, circulation or landscaping.
- C. Shorefrontage. Any building lot which abuts on the Great or Little Bay and significant rivers and brooks, shall conform to the following additional requirements:
- 1) The minimum length of the shorefront shall be established by measuring along a straight line perpendicular to a side line. Said straight line shall be so located that the line does not include any tidal land beyond the mean high tide boundary.
  - 2) The minimum length of the shorefrontage shall be 200 feet, exclusive of the width of creeks at mean low tide.
  - 3) The minimum shorefront yard setback for any building other than a marina or boatyard shall be in accordance with Article 10.

4-5.5 Height - Exemption for UNH. Buildings erected, owned and used by the University of New Hampshire which are more than 100 feet from privately owned property are exempt from height regulations.

#### 4-6 USE REGULATIONS

- 4-6.1 Offensive Uses. Uses shall not be permitted in a manner injurious, noxious or offensive to a neighborhood by reason of the emission of odor, fumes, dust, smoke, vibration, noise, glare or any other cause, nor as a fire hazard, nor in a manner which is disorderly or unsightly and thus detrimental to adjacent property or to the public. The Town Council shall have original authority to determine, after due public hearing, whether any use is or has become noxious or offensive, and to order the removal or abatement of any use so found to be noxious or offensive.
- 4-6.2 Junkyards. Junkyards are prohibited in all districts.
- 4-6.3 Untreated Wastes. Untreated sewage or household wastes shall not be discharged into any flowing stream or body of water. Owners and users of land not served by Town water and sewer shall be required to furnish plans for a satisfactory on-site sewage disposal system with

percolation tests that indicate satisfactory drainage before a building permit will be issued, provided such system satisfies all local and State ordinances, statutes and regulations.

4-6.4 Inoperative Motor Vehicles. The outdoor storage of unregistered or inoperative motor vehicles shall be prohibited except as follows:

- A. Not more than one such vehicle may be stored at a time for a period not to exceed 90 days for any one vehicle. (The presence, storage or location of two or more such unregistered or inoperative vehicles on a lot constitute a junkyard and is prohibited.)
- B. The provisions of state law shall determine the storage period for abandoned, improperly registered or wrecked vehicles by any garage or other persons properly storing same according to law. (See RSA 236).

4-6.5 Combination of Uses. Any combination of uses as set forth in Article 4 and contemplated as a single enterprise may be established in only those use districts in which all such uses are permitted. Any establishment having any combination of uses must meet all the requirements of each use as outlined by the Durham Zoning Ordinance. In the case of conflicting duly adopted rules, regulations or ordinances, the more restrictive shall apply.

RESIDENCE A DISTRICT - The purpose of this District is to maintain largely developed, high density residential uses at a concentration requiring Town water and sewer.

DIMENSIONAL CONTROLS

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Minimum Lot Area              | 20,000 Square Feet                                    |
| Duplex                        | 35,000 Square Feet                                    |
| Each Additional Dwelling Unit | 15,000 Square Feet per Unit                           |
| Minimum Lot Frontage          | 100 Feet  |
| Setback Requirements          |   |
| Front Yard                    | 30 Feet Collector Streets<br>40 Feet Arterial Streets |
| Side Yard                     | 10 Feet   |
| Rear Yard                     | 20 Feet   |
| Maximum Height                |   |
| Permitted                     | 30 Feet   |
| *                             | 35 Feet   |
| Percent Coverage              | 33 Percent  |

PERMITTED USES

- Single Detached Dwelling (max. 3 unrelated individuals)
- Duplex Dwelling (max. 3 unrelated individuals/dwelling unit)
- Accessory ~~Lodging~~ Apartment
- Home Occupation, First Class
- Accessory Structures
- Accessory Uses
- \*Daycares, 1-6 People on Collector Streets
- \*Bed and Breakfast, up to 4 rooms
- \*Elderly Housing up to twelve units
- \*Professional Offices with direct access to arterial streets
- \*Daycares, 1-6 people with direct access to arterial streets

\*Indicates permitted uses requiring Planning Board approval under the provisions of RSA 676:4.

USES WHICH MAY BE PERMITTED BY CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

- Planned Unit Developments
- Elderly Housing over twelve units
- Private Recreational Uses
- Daycares, 7 People and above
- Educational Facilities
- Religious Uses
- Earth Removal
- Recreational Facility*

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- See Article Eight - Off Street Parking and Loading
- See Article Nine - Landscaping Ordinance
- See Article Ten - Shoreland Protection Zone

RESIDENCE B DISTRICT - The purpose of this District is to maintain the integrity of existing medium-density developments.

DIMENSIONAL CONTROLS

|                               |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Minimum Lot Area              | 40,000 Square Feet          |
| Duplex                        | 75,000 Square Feet          |
| Each Additional Dwelling Unit | 30,000 Each Additional Unit |
| Minimum Lot Frontage          | 150 Feet                    |
| Setback Requirements          |                             |
| Front Yard                    | 30 Feet Collector Street    |
|                               | 40 Feet Arterial Street     |
| Side Yard                     | 20 Feet                     |
| Rear Yard                     | 30 Feet                     |
| Maximum Height                |                             |
| Permitted                     | 30 Feet                     |
| *                             | 35 Feet                     |
| Percent Coverage              | 30 Percent                  |

PERMITTED USES

- Single Detached Dwelling (max.3 unrelated individuals)
- Duplex Dwelling (max. 3 unrelated individuals/dwelling unit)
- Accessory Lodging Apartment
- Home Occupation, First Class
- Accessory Structures
- Accessory Uses
- Crop Farms and Plant Nurseries
- Retail Sales of Farm or Nursery Products which are raised on the premises
- ~~Public Recreational Uses~~
- \*Daycares, 1-6 People on collector streets
- \*Bed and Breakfast, up to 4 rooms
- \*Daycares, 1-6 people with direct access to arterial streets
- \*Elderly Housing up to twelve units
- \*Professional Office with direct access to arterial streets
- \*Daycares, 7 people and above

\*Indicates permitted uses requiring Planning Board approval under the provisions of RSA 676:4.

USES WHICH MAY BE PERMITTED BY CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS

- Planned Unit Developments
- ~~Private Recreational Uses~~
- Elderly Housing over twelve units
- Educational Facilities
- Religious Uses
- Earth Removal
- Recreational Facility

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- See Article Eight - Off Street Parking and Loading
- See Article Nine - Landscaping Ordinance

See Article Ten - Shoreland Protection Zone



RESIDENCE COASTAL - The purpose of this shore-oriented district is to foster and maintain its unique beauty and accessibility for recreation and conservation. For this reason, low residential density and substantial open space are required.

DIMENSIONAL CONTROLS

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Minimum Lot Area     | 120,000 Square Feet                                 |
| Minimum Lot Frontage | 300 Feet  |
| Setback Requirements |   |
| Front Yard           | 30 Feet Collector Street<br>40 Feet Arterial Street |
| Side Yard            | 50 Feet   |
| Rear Yard            | 50 Feet   |
| Maximum Height       |   |
| Permitted            | 30 Feet   |
| *                    | 35 Feet   |
| Percent Coverage     | 20 Percent  |

PERMITTED USES

- Single Detached Dwelling (Max. 3 unrelated individuals)
- Accessory ~~Lodging~~ Apartment
- Home Occupation, Second Class
- Accessory Structures
- Accessory Uses
- Crop Farms/Plant Nurseries
- Agricultural Uses
- Keeping, Boarding/Training or Veterinary Care of Animals
- Retail Sale of Farm or Nursery Products
- ~~Public Recreational Uses~~
- Daycares, Any Size
- Bed & Breakfast, up to 6 rooms
- \*Sale of craft or gift items compatible with and incidental to the sale of farm or nursery products with a total sales area not to exceed 2000 square feet
- ~~\*Private Recreational Uses~~
- \*Commercial Greenhouses
- \*Seasonal Campground
- \*Elderly Housing
- \*Professional Offices

\*Indicates permitted uses requiring Planning Board approval under the provisions of RSA 676:4.

USES WHICH MAY BE PERMITTED BY CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

- Planned Unit Developments
- Educational Facilities
- Boat Clubs and Boat Yards
- Sale of craft or gift items compatible with and incidental to the sale of farm or nursery products with a total sales area of over 2000 square feet
- Earth Removal
- Recreational Facility

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- See Article Eight - Off Street Parking and Loading
- See Article Nine - Landscaping Ordinance
- See Article Ten - Shoreland Protection Zone

RURAL - In this District, customary rural land uses will be preserved. Thus, only low density development together with farm and/or accessory buildings situated in a setting conducive to a rural lifestyle is encouraged.

DIMENSIONAL CONTROLS

|                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Minimum Lot Area     | 120,000 Square Feet      |
| Minimum Lot Frontage | 300 Feet                 |
| Setback Requirements |                          |
| Front Yard           | 30 Feet Collector Street |
| Side Yard            | 40 Feet Arterial Street  |
| Rear Yard            | 50 Feet                  |
| Maximum Height       | 50 Feet                  |
| Permitted            | 30 Feet                  |
| *                    | 35 Feet                  |
| Percent Coverage     | 20 Percent               |

PERMITTED USES

- Single Detached Dwelling
- Manufactured Homes
- Accessory Lodging Apartment
- Home Occupation, Second Class
- Accessory Structures
- Accessory Uses
- Bed and Breakfast, up to 6 rooms
- Crop Farm and Plant Nurseries
- Agricultural Uses
- Poultry Farms
- Keeping, Boarding, Training or Veterinary Care of Animals
- Commercial Greenhouse, Cidermill, Sawmill
- Retail Sales of Farm or Nursery Products
- ~~Public Recreational Uses~~
- Daycares, Any Size
- Professional Offices
- \*Sale of craft or gift items compatible with and incidental to the sale of farm or nursery products with a total sales area not to exceed 2000 square feet
- \*Seasonal Campgrounds
- ~~\*Private Recreational Uses~~
- \*Elderly Housing

\*Indicates permitted uses requiring Planning Board approval under the provisions of RSA 676:4.

USES WHICH MAY BE PERMITTED BY CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

- Planned Unit Developments
- Private Airstrip, Heliport
- Year-round Campgrounds
- Educational Use
- Religious Use
- Recreational Facility
- Restaurant

Sale of craft or gift items compatible with and incidental  
to the sale of farm or nursery products with a total sales  
area over 2000 square feet

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- See Article Eight - Off Street Parking and Loading
- See Article Nine - Landscaping Ordinance
- See Article Ten - Shoreland Protection Zone
- See Article Eleven - Aquifer Protection Zone

CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT - The purpose of this district is to provide for establishments offering retail sales and professional and personal services in a centrally located area.

DIMENSIONAL CONTROLS

|                               |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Minimum Lot Area              | 5,000 Square Feet |
| Duplex                        | N/A               |
| Each Additional Dwelling Unit | 2,500 Square Feet |
| Minimum Lot Frontage          | 50 Feet           |
| Setback Requirements          |                   |
| Front Yard                    | N/A               |
| Side Yard                     | N/A               |
| Rear Yard                     | N/A               |
| Maximum Height                |                   |
| Permitted                     | 30 Feet           |
| *                             | 50 Feet           |
| Percent Coverage              | N/A               |

PERMITTED USES

- Accessory Apartment*
- Accessory Structures
- Accessory Uses
- Retail Stores/Personal Services
- ~~Restaurants (excluding carryout/drive-thru)~~
- Hotel, Motel
- Professional Offices
- Bank
- Daycare, Any Number of People
- Theaters, Clubs
- ~~Recreational Uses, Public and Private~~
- Parking Facilities
- Elderly Housing
- Light Assembly/Light Manufacturing
- Religious Use
- Educational Facilities
- Business Services

\*Sale of Alcoholic Beverages accessory to a restaurant or retail use

\* *Boarding House*      \* *Rooming House*      \* *Restaurant*

\*Indicates permitted use requiring Planning Board approval under the provisions of RSA 676:4.

USES WHICH MAY BE PERMITTED BY CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

- Planned Unit Developments
- Multi-Unit Dwelling
- ~~Rooming House~~
- ~~Boarding House~~
- Fraternity & Sorority
- Dormitory
- ~~Carryout Restaurant~~
- Recreational Facility*
- Restaurant, Carryout*

<sup>1</sup>The sale of alcoholic beverages may be permitted provided no part of any such establishment may be located within 200 feet of any part of another such establishment nor within 250 feet of any part of a church, synagogue or other place of worship.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

See Article Eight - Off Street Parking and Loading  
See Article Nine - Landscaping Ordinance  
See Article Ten - Shoreland Protection Zone

LIMITED BUSINESS DISTRICT - The purpose of this district is to provide for a transition from the existing uses to a district providing governmental, professional, institutional, cultural and limited retail activity.

DIMENSIONAL CONTROLS

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Minimum Lot Area     | 10,000 Square Feet |
| Minimum Lot Frontage | 100 Feet           |
| Setback Requirements |                    |
| Front Yard           | 20 Feet            |
| Side Yard            | 10 Feet            |
| Rear Yard            | 20 Feet            |
| Shore Yard           | 150 Feet           |
| Maximum Height       |                    |
| Permitted            | 30 Feet            |
| *                    | 35 Feet            |
| Percent Coverage     | 50 Percent         |

PERMITTED USES

- Single Detached Dwelling - only one per existing lot of record (maximum 3 unrelated individuals)
- Duplex Dwelling - one one per existing lot of record (maximum 3 unrelated individuals)
- Accessory ~~Lodging~~ *Apartment*
- Accessory First Class Home Occupation
- Accessory Structures \* Boarding House
- Accessory Uses \* Rooming House
- Professional Offices
- Banks
- Daycares, Any Number of People
- Elderly Housing
- \* *Restaurant*

\*Indicates permitted use requiring Planning Board approval under the provisions of RSA 676:4.

USES WHICH MAY BE PERMITTED BY CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

- Restaurant, carryout*
- Hotel/Motel
- Planned Unit Developments
- Retail Sales/Personal Services (No outdoor display or storage)
- Hospitals
- ~~Carryout Restaurant~~
- Automobile Service Station
- Business Services
- ~~Restaurants (including carryout)~~
- Sale of Alcoholic Beverages Accessory to a Restaurant<sup>1</sup>
- Recreational Facility*

<sup>1</sup>The sale of alcoholic beverages may be permitted provided no part of any such establishment may be located within 200 feet of any part of another such establishment nor within 250 feet of any part of a church, synagogue or other place of worship.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- See Article Eight - Off Street Parking and Loading
- See Article Nine - Landscaping Ordinance
- See Article Ten - Shoreland Protection Zone



OFFICE AND RESEARCH - The purpose of this district is to provide for office and research facilities in an area served by major highways and where water and sewer extensions are available.

DIMENSIONAL CONTROLS

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Minimum Lot Area              | 40,000 Square Feet                                  |
| Duplex                        | 42,000 Square Feet                                  |
| Each Additional Dwelling Unit | 30,000 Square Feet/Unit                             |
| Minimum Lot Frontage          | 150 Feet  |
| Setback Requirements          |   |
| Front Yard                    | 30 Feet Collector Street<br>40 Feet Arterial Street |
| Side Yard                     | 20 Feet   |
| Rear Yard                     | 20 Feet   |
| Maximum Height                |   |
| Permitted                     | 35 Feet   |
| *                             | 50 Feet   |
| Percent Coverage              | 20 Percent  |

PERMITTED USES

- Single Detached Dwelling; only one per existing lot of record
- Duplex Household; only one per existing lot of record
- Accessory Lodging Apartment
- Home Occupation, Second Class
- Accessory Structures
- Accessory Uses
- Crop Farms and Plant Nurseries
- Keeping, Boarding, Training or Veterinary Care of Animals
- Retail Sales of Farm or Nursery Products
- Professional Offices
- Research Offices, Laboratories - Under 5000 SF
- Administrative and Sales Offices - Under 5000 SF
- Assembly/Manufacturing - Under 5000 SF
- Schools/Daycares, Any Size
- Livestock Farms
- Warehousing
- \*Restaurant (excluding carryout)
- \*Sale of Alcoholic Beverages as an Accessory to a Restaurant Use
- \*Hotel/Motel
- \*Research Offices, Laboratories - Over 5000 SF
- \*Assembly/Manufacturing - Over 5000 SF
- \*Airport/Heliport

\*Indicates permitted uses requiring Planning Board approval under the provisions of RSA 676:4.

USES WHICH MAY BE PERMITTED BY CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

- Planned Unit Developments
- Retail Sales/Personal Services
- Elderly Housing
- Restaurant, Carryout
- Recreational Facility

Multi-Unit Dwelling  
Hospitals  
Earth Removal

<sup>1</sup>The sale of alcoholic beverages may be permitted provided no part of any such establishment may be located within 200 feet of any part of another such establishment nor within 250 feet of any part of a church, synagogue or other place of worship.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

See Article Eight - Off Street Parking and Loading  
See Article Nine - Landscaping Ordinance  
See Article Ten - Shoreland Protection Zone

4-7 PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT

4-7.1 Purpose. The PUD district is intended to encourage flexible land use development by allowing such development to be based upon a comprehensive, integrated and detailed plan rather than upon specific constraints as applicable to lot-by-lot development, while carrying out the intent and purposes of these zoning regulations.

4-7.2 Uses Which May Be Permitted in a Residential Planned Unit Development.

- A. Any uses that are permitted in the underlying district for which the Residential Planned Unit Development is proposed.
- B. Commercial uses:
  - 1. Any other use for which justification can be derived on the basis that such a use will be compatibly and harmoniously incorporated into the unitary design of the planned development.
  - 2. No more than one percent (1%) of the net area of the development may be so designated.

4-7.3 Permitted Uses in a Non-Residential Planned Unit Development.

- A. Any uses that are permitted in the underlying district for which the Planned Unit Development is proposed.
- B. Any other use for which justification can be derived on the basis that such a use will be compatibly and harmoniously incorporated into the unitary design of the planned development.

4-7.4 Standards of Development.

- A. There shall be no area designated as a Planned Unit Development on any lot or parcel of less than twenty (20) acres of contiguous land, unless the Planning Board determines that a unique parcel, by virtue of its character, is best developed as a Planned Unit Development even though it does not meet the twenty (20) acre minimum.
- B. All Planned Unit Developments require a minimum of twenty percent (20%) of the total acreage of the site to be set aside as open space, fifty percent (50%) of which shall exclude land with slopes greater than twenty-five percent (25%) and wetlands as defined in Article V.

- C. The maximum allowable residential density for a Planned Unit Development shall be as follows.

| <u>Underlying Zone</u> | <u>Maximum PUD Density</u>                                       |
|------------------------|--|
| RA                     | 4 Dwelling Units/*Net Acre                                       |
| RB                     | 1-1/2 Dwelling Units/*Net Acre                                   |
|                        | 4 Dwelling Units/*Net Acre where<br>Water and Sewer are provided |
| RC                     | 1/2 Dwelling Unit/*Net Acre                                      |
| OR                     | 8 Dwelling Units/*Net Acre                                       |
| R                      | 1/2 Dwelling Unit/*Net Acre                                      |

\*Net acreage shall exclude the required 20 percent open space, land with slopes in excess of 25 percent and wetlands as required in Article Five.

Any fraction of a dwelling unit shall be rounded off to the nearest whole number. In computing residential density, areas of commercial uses will be subtracted before the density is computed.

- D. Not more than 70 percent of the Planned Unit Development site (excluding open space) shall be devoted to parking, streets, buildings and accessory structures.
- E. The Town Council may, upon the recommendation of the Planning Board and Parks and Recreation Committee, require cash in lieu of open space at a rate of one dollar/square foot in exchange for a portion or all of the required on site open space. This figure shall be reviewed by the Durham Town Council on an annual basis. Funds collected as cash in lieu of open space shall be used for the sole purpose of off site land acquisition and park development.
- F. Off-street parking and loading shall be in compliance with Article Eight of this ordinance for each proposed use.
- G. Landscaping shall be required by the Planning Board to provide a buffer between proposed uses or between adjacent zoning districts.
- H. All utilities shall be located underground unless the Planning Board determines that unfavorable site conditions warrant above ground installation.

- I. Architectural design of the buildings shall be aesthetically compatible with surrounding buildings within the Planned Unit Development.

4-7.5 Legal Requirements. In a Planned Unit Development where ownerships are subject to restrictions, the subdivision plat, dedications, covenants and other agreements shall be recorded with the Strafford County Registry of Deeds. These documents will include any that:

- A. Create automatic membership in a non-profit homeowners association or corporation to be formed to control, develop and maintain common areas, properties and facilities.
- B. Place title to any common property or facilities in the association or corporation.

4-7.6 Application Procedure. The application for zoning or rezoning as a Planned Unit Development district shall be executed by the individual(s) whose successors and assignees shall be responsible for carrying out the requirements and obligations of the Planned Unit Development District. The application shall be accompanied by eight (8) copies of the site plan, preliminary plat (if a subdivision) and the proposed covenants.

- A. The site plan shall include the following:
  1. Total acreage, present zoning classification and zoning classification of all adjoining districts;
  2. Density in dwelling units per developable acre;
  3. Location, size, height and number of stories, use or uses to be contained in each existing or proposed structure;
  4. Location, width, surfacing and layout of all streets, parking areas and pedestrian walks;
  5. Location and number of proposed parking spaces;
  6. Location, size, height and orientation of all signs in excess of one (1) square foot;
  7. Location and height of all fences, walls and screen plantings;
  8. Location of all common spaces and facilities; and

9. Proposed landscaping.
- B. All documents included in the site plan shall include space for certification of approval in accordance with the form used for subdivision platting.
- C. The applicant shall furnish:
  1. The proposed time schedule for the completion of the development or the phasing thereof;
  2. A copy of all proposed covenants, restrictions and easements;
  3. A copy of the proposed Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of any corporation and/or homeowners association to be formed; and
  4. Any other information that the Planning Board or the Town Council may deem necessary.
- D. The preliminary plat (if required) shall be prepared in accordance to requirements of the subdivision regulations and shall include space for certification of approval by the Town Council.

4-7.7 Approval of the Residential Planned Unit Development. If all the conditions of the Durham Zoning Ordinance are met, the Town Council shall approve a Planned Unit Development by ordinance or resolution which shall incorporate by reference all documents included in the site plan. When appropriate, a final plan shall be submitted and approved by the Town Council and recorded in the Strafford County Registry of Deeds.

4-7.8 Enforcement. Any modification or deviation from a PUD site plan approved by the Town Council except that minor modifications or deviations (ie. shifting of building location based on site conditions) may be approved by the Zoning Administrator. Any modification or deviation otherwise made shall constitute a violation of the ordinance or resolution and the owner, lessee or occupant of the area or building in violation shall be subject to the penalties and remedies imposed by Article 2 of this ordinance.

#### 4-8 PORKCHOP SUBDIVISIONS

4-8.1 Optional Porkchop Subdivisions in RC and R Districts. Developers of residential subdivisions of 2 to 4 lots in the RC and R districts on existing Town roads as of the date this ordinance is enacted may elect to follow

the requirements for Porkchop Subdivisions in Table 4-1 provided all lots are entered from a Common Driveway whose maintenance is guaranteed in the deeds to the lots concerned. A Common Driveway to a Porkchop Subdivision will only serve a maximum of 4 lots. Adjacent Porkchop Subdivisions will not share a common driveway. Each Porkchop Subdivision will have a common driveway independent from any other subdivision.

TABLE 4-1 -- REQUIREMENTS FOR OPTIONAL PORKCHOP SUBDIVISIONS

| <u>Porkchop Subdivision Lots</u> | <u>Min Area</u><br>(sq ft) | <u>Min Frontage</u><br>(ft) |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| -- Smallest Lot                  | 80,000                     | 200                         |
| -- Porkchop Lot                  | 160,000                    | 50                          |
| -- Average, All Lots             | 120,000                    | 125 (1)                     |

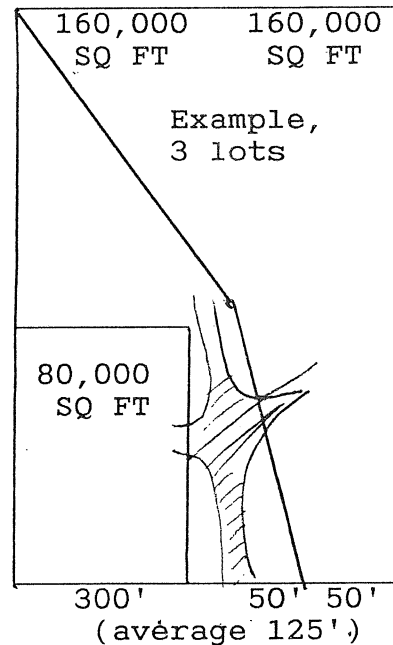
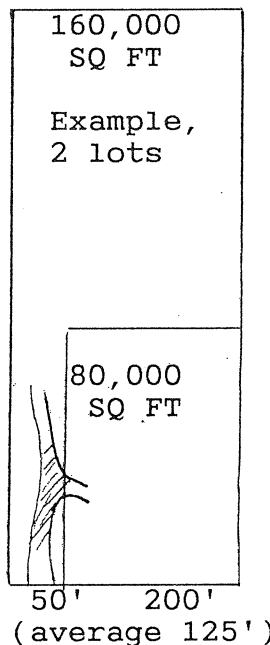
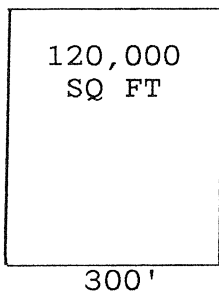
The Planning Board is empowered to reduce the average frontage to not less than 100 feet in the case of a porkchop subdivision of a non-conforming lot into not more than 3 lots, provided the requirement for minimum area is met.

FIG. 4-1 -- RC AND R DISTRICT AREA AND FRONTAGE REQUIREMENTS

PORKCHOP SUBDIVISION  
WITH COMMON DRIVEWAY  
--- (4 lots max)

Common Driveway  
Private Drive

CONVENTIONAL LOT







ARTICLE 5  
WETLAND CONSERVATION OVERLAY DISTRICT

5-1 DESCRIPTION

The Wetland Conservation Overlay\* District is hereby determined to be those areas identified as poorly drained or very poorly drained soils, defined in the publication, "'Key to Soil Drainage Classes' found in the Society of Soil Scientists of Northern New England document HIGH INTENSITY SOIL MAPS FOR N.H., 5/23/86; surface waters; and wetlands associated with salt water, and including the buffer requirements of Section 5-3.7." The Wetland Conservation District as herein defined,\* is shown on a map or maps designated as the Town of Durham Wetland Conservation Overlay District Map and is a supplement to the Zoning Map of the Town of Durham, New Hampshire. The Wetland Conservation District Map is to be used as a guide only. The precise location of a wetland boundary in any particular case must be determined by on-site inspection of soil types and vegetation by a qualified soils scientist approved by the Strafford County Conservation District.

In all cases where the Wetland Conservation District is superimposed over another zoning district in the Town of Durham, the regulations of both districts shall apply, but any conflict between such regulations shall be resolved by applying the more restrictive regulation.

\*See Wetlands Definitions

5-2 PURPOSES

In the interest of wise land use, public health, safety and welfare, the regulations of this district are intended to guide the use of areas of land with extended periods of high water tables. The regulations are intended to:

- A. Control and regulate the development of structures and of land use on naturally occurring wetlands which could contribute, if uncontrolled, to pollution of surface and ground water by sewage or septic systems or toxic substances.
- B. Prevent unnecessary or excessive expense to the Town in providing and maintaining essential

services and utilities as a result of inharmonious use of wetlands.

- C. Prevent the destruction of natural wetlands which provide flood protection and water storage, provide recharge of ground water supply and provide augmentation of stream flow during dry periods.
- D. Encourage those uses that can be appropriately and safely located in wetland areas.
- E. Protect presently existing natural wetland wildlife habitats.
- F. Prevent damage to abutters' structures and properties.

### 5-3 PERMITTED USES

#### 5-3.1 For VERY POORLY DRAINED soil group areas.

- A. Any use that does not involve the erection of a structure, or that does not alter the surface configuration of the land by the addition of fill or dredging, except common agricultural land drainage provided such use is otherwise permitted in the Use District which this District overlays;
- B. Forestry or tree farming;
- C. Agriculture, including grazing, farming, truck gardening and harvesting of crops;
- D. Water impoundments and the construction of well water supplies;
- E. Drainage ways such as streams, creeks or other paths of normal runoff;
- F. Wildlife habitat development and management;
- G. Parks and recreation uses, excepting such as may be inconsistent with the purpose and intent of 5-2;
- H. Conservation areas and nature trails;
- I. Open space in accordance with subdivision regulations and other sections of this ordinance.

#### 5-3.2 For POORLY DRAINED soil group areas.

- A. Any use permitted under Section 5-3.1 with the addition of the construction of temporary forestry-related, unpaved access roads when using

management practices which protect streams from damage and prevent sedimentation.

#### 5-4 Conditional Uses

A. Under the provisions of RSA 674:21 II, the Planning Board may grant approval for the construction of: streets, roads and other access ways; and utilities including pipelines, powerlines and other transmission lines provided that all of the following conditions are found to exist:

1) No alternative location outside the wetland or which has less detrimental impact on a wetland is feasible.

2) The proposed construction is essential to the productive use of other land which is not within the Wetland Conservation District.

3) Design, construction and maintenance methods will be such as to minimize detrimental impact upon the wetland and will include restoration of the site as nearly as possible to its original grade and condition.

4) Economic advantage is not the sole reason for the proposed location of the construction.

B. Structures may be erected on poorly drained soils as a common treatment of land associated with a Permitted Use under Section 5-3.2, if determined by the Planning Board to have no adverse impact on the wetland. Conditions 5-4A (1) and (3) above must be met in order to receive Planning Board approval for such uses. Structures erected in association with Permitted Uses shall not include residential structures.

#### 5-5 Special Exceptions for Existing Lots

A. On an existing lot, the erection of a structure or septic system within the Wetlands Conservation District may be permitted by Special Exception if the Zoning Board of Adjustment, after due public notice and public hearing, finds that such Exception complies with all other applicable requirements set forth in this article and with each of the following:

1) The lot upon which the Exception is sought was an official lot of record, as recorded in the Strafford County Registry of Deeds prior to the

date on which this Article was posted and published in the Town.

2) The use for which the Exception is sought cannot be carried out on a portion or portions of the lot which are outside the Wetlands Conservation District without undue hardship.

3) Due to the provisions of the Wetland Conservation District, no reasonable and economically viable use of the lot can be made without the Exception.

4) The design and construction of the proposed septic system will, to the extent practical, be consistent with the Purpose and Intent of this Article.

5) The proposed septic system will not create a threat to individual or public health, safety and welfare, such as the degradation of ground or surface water or damage to surrounding properties.

6) All other State, Federal and local approvals required for the septic system have been obtained.

B. Prior approval shall be obtained from the Planning Board where Site Review is required. At the time of submission to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, the Conservation Commission, Health Officer and the Planning Board shall be informed of the application for Special Exception.

#### 5-6 Provisions for Existing Uses

A. Structures and uses existing prior to the date on which this Article was enacted may be continued, provided that such use shall not be expanded further to encroach upon the wetland or designated Buffer Zone.

B. Notwithstanding other provisions of this Article, the construction of attached additions to one- and two-family dwellings shall be permitted within the Wetlands Conservation District, provided that:

1) The dwelling lawfully existed prior to the date on which this Article was enacted;

2) The number of dwelling units is not increased;  
and

3) The proposed construction conforms with all other applicable ordinances and regulations of the Town of Durham.

- C. Where an existing building within the wetland or buffer zone is destroyed or in need of extensive repair, it may be rebuilt, provided that: such rebuilding is completed within one year of the event causing destruction; the new or rebuilt structure shall not extend further into the wetland or buffer zone than the original foundation; and the result will not be a new or increased threat to the wetland.

5-7 Lot Size Determination in Wetlands

- A. Areas of poorly drained soil may be used to fulfill 25% of the minimum lot size or density requirements of Town ordinances and subdivision and planned unit development regulations, provided that the non-wetland area is sufficient in size and configuration to adequately accommodate all buildings and required utilities such as sewage disposal and water supply (including primary and auxiliary leach field locations) within required zoning setbacks from the wetland area.
- B. Lots served by municipal water and sewer may use areas of poorly drained soil to fulfill up to 50% of the minimum required lot size.
- C. No areas of surface water, wetland associated with salt water or areas designated as very poorly drained soil may be used to satisfy minimum lot sizes.

5-8 Buffer Zone

- A. No septic system, leach field or other waste disposal facility shall be installed within 75 feet of the edge of any wetland. No other building activity, including but not limited to structures, roads and parking areas, shall be permitted within 50 feet of any poorly drained soil, except as provided in 5-6C, nor shall such building activity be permitted within 75 feet of any very poorly drained soil or surface water.
- B. A failed septic system within 75 feet of any wetland must be replaced on land outside the Buffer Zone, unless the Health Officer makes a determination that such placement is not physically possible.

5-9 RECLASSIFICATION OF SOILS

5-9.1 Challenge of Classification. If the soil classification is challenged by the applicant, an abutter, a landowner, the Building Inspector, the Conservation Commission or the Planning Board, petition shall be made in writing by the challenger to the Zoning Administrator. The Zoning Administrator shall determine whether a qualified soil scientist should conduct an on-site investigation and at whose expense. The soil scientist shall present evidence in written form to the Zoning Administrator, which evidence shall form the basis for the final decision.




5-9.2 Other Provisions

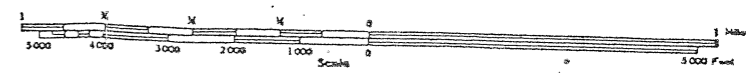
- A. Any wetland altered in violation of this Ordinance shall be restored at the expense of the violator(s), as provided by RSA 483-A:5.
- B. No approval or waiver of permits by State or Federal agencies shall pre-empt the ability of the Planning Board or the Zoning Board of Adjustment to seek additional information or to make an independent judgement as to the acceptability of a lot or alteration of land.

5-10 INHARMONIOUS USE OF WETLANDS

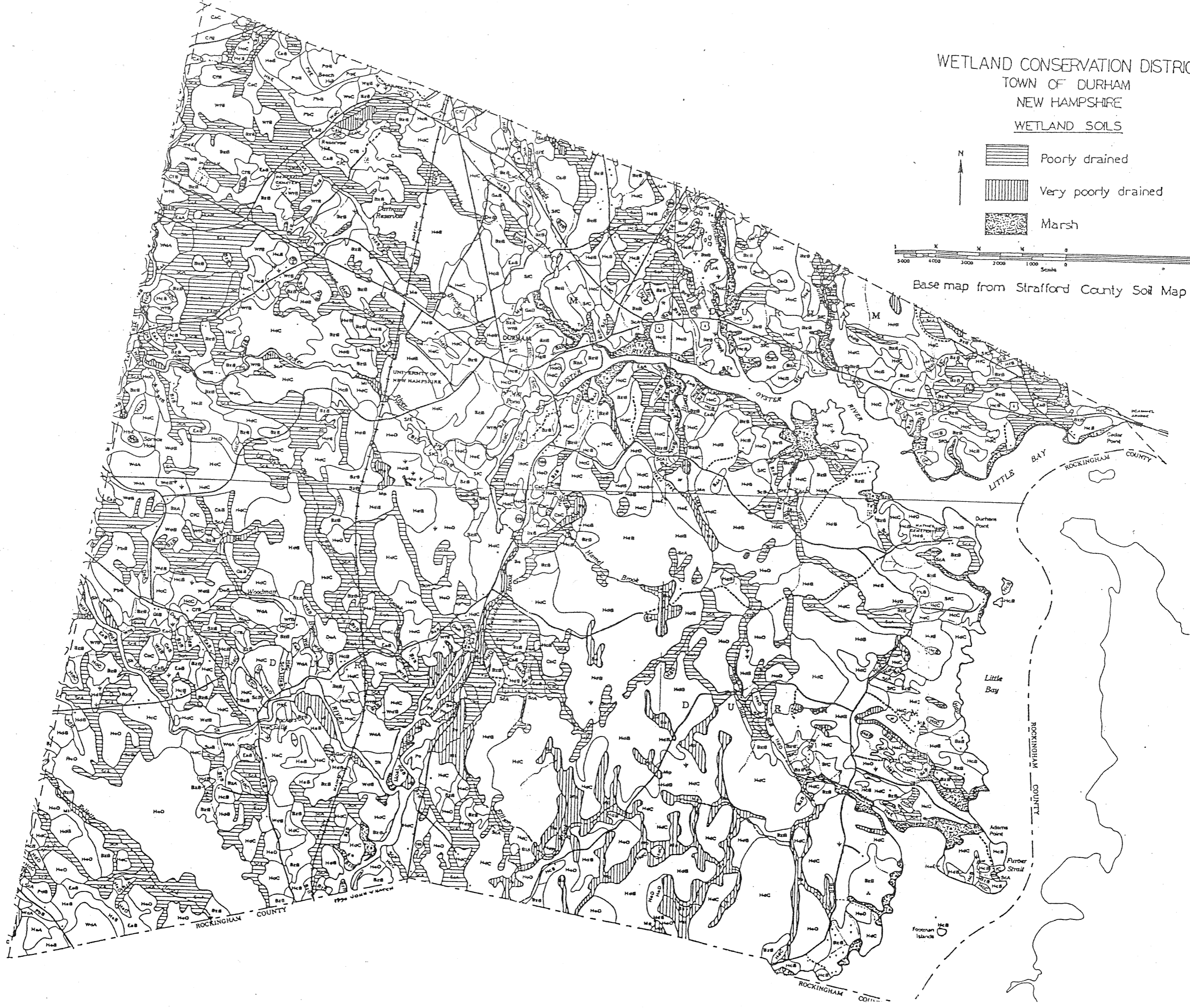
Defined as those uses incompatible with the purposes of this ordinance; i.e., the regulations listed in Section 5-2, provided that, in cases of uncertainty, the use shall be denied and determined upon appeal to the Board of Adjustment in the usual manner provided by statute.

WETLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
TOWN OF DURHAM  
NEW HAMPSHIRE  
WETLAND SOILS

-  Poorly drained
-  Very poorly drained
-  Marsh



Base map from Strafford County Soil Map 1972







ARTICLE 6  
DURHAM HISTORIC DISTRICT

6.1 PURPOSE AND INTENT

- A. To safeguard the heritage of the Town as it is represented in structures of historical and architectural value.
- B. To preserve a District in the Town which reflects elements of its cultural, social, economic and political history.
- C. To foster civic beauty.
- D. To promote the use of an Historic District for the education, pleasure and welfare of the citizens of our Town.

6.2 CHARACTERISTICS OF DISTRICT

The Historic District established herewith and from time to time amended in the manner prescribed by New Hampshire law has one or more or any combination of the following characteristics and qualifications, without limitations as to cultural or chronological period.

- A. Structures or sites at which events occur or have occurred that contribute to and are identified with or significantly represent or exemplify the broad cultural, political, economic, military, social or sociological history of the Durham Historic District and the nation, including sites and buildings at which visitors may gain insight or see examples either of particular items or of larger patterns in the North American heritage.
- B. Structures or sites importantly associated with historic personages.
- C. Structures or sites importantly associated with historic examples of a great idea or ideal.
- D. Structures or structural remains and sites embodying examples of architectural types or specimens valuable for study of a period style of method of building construction, of community organization and living, or of landscaping; or a single notable structure or a single site representing the work of a master builder, master designer, architect, or landscape architect.

- E. Structures contributing to the visual continuity of the District.

### 6.3 HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

The Durham Historic District is defined as that area made up of the lot listed below as laid out on the Durham tax maps. The district is also to include all town property necessary to make a continuous district.

- A. Sheet 4: Lots 1, 59, 56, 55, 54-3, 54-4, 53, 52
- B. Sheet 5: Lots 1-4 through 1-10, 1-12, 2-0 through 2-7, 3-1, 3-2, 4-0, 4-2 (seventy-five feet from the centerline of Newmarket Road), 4-10, 4-11, 5-11, 5-10.
- C. Sheet 6: Lots 9-1 through 9-5, 9-6 and 9-8 (two hundred and fifty feet from the centerline of Newmarket Road), 9-7, 11-1, 11-2, 11-6, 11-3 (two hundred and fifty feet from the centerline of Newmarket Road and Durham Point Road), 11-4, 11-5, 12-1 through 12-8.
- D. Sheet 15: Lot 17-1

### 6.4 HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

- A. Members of the Historic District Commission shall be appointed by the Town Council.
- B. The Historic District Commission shall consist of not less than five nor more than seven members. All members shall be residents of the Town of Durham, and one shall be a member of the Town Council and one shall be a member of the Durham Planning Board. In determining the qualifications of a member of said Commission, the appointing authority shall take into consideration her/his demonstrated interest and ability to understand, appreciate, and promote the purpose of this Ordinance.
- C. The members of the Historic District Commission shall be appointed for three-year terms except the initial appointments shall be staggered so that subsequent appointments shall not recur at the same time. Members of said commission shall serve without compensation and shall serve no more than two successive terms. In the event of a vacancy on the commission, interim appointments may be made by the appointing authority to complete the unexpired term of such position.

- D. The Historic District Commission shall annually elect a chairman, vice-chairman and secretary from among its own membership.
- E. The Historic District Commission shall adopt, and may from time to time amend, such rules and regulations as are not inconsistent with the intention of this ordinance and of state enabling legislation.
- F. The Historic District Commission shall develop and submit an annual request for funds to the Town Council. Subject to appropriations or other income, the commission may employ clerical and technical assistants or consultants, and may accept gifts of money or services, or grants, and may hold or expend such gifts or grants for the purposes of this ordinance.
- G. The decisions of the commission shall be by vote of the majority of the commission members.

#### 6.5 AUTHORITY GRANTED

The Historic District Commission is empowered to regulate the construction, alteration, repair, moving or demolition of structures within the Historic District. (RSA 31:89B)

#### 6.6 USES PERMITTED

Uses permitted in the Durham Historic District shall be those set forth in the Durham Zoning Ordinances. Any change in a permitted use requires the approval of the Durham Planning Board.

#### 6.7 CERTIFICATES OF APPROVAL

Within the Historic District, no buildings or structures shall be constructed, reconstructed, altered, restored, moved or demolished without the approval of the Durham Historic District Commission. A Certificate of Approval from the commission is required for such work even though a building permit may not be required.

- A. Application Procedure: A written application for a Certificate of Approval shall be submitted to the Durham Historic District Commission. The application shall be in the form prescribed by the commission, and shall, as a minimum, state the purpose and intent of the proposed project and identify in exact detail the nature and extent of the work to be performed. The application shall be

accompanied by copies of any site plans, building plans, photographs, topographic plans and any other information required by the commission.

B. Consideration of an Application: The Historic District Commission shall make a determination as to the "appropriateness" of the work proposed to be accomplished by an applicant by determining whether or not the proposal is in compliance with the purpose and intent of the district and the guidelines of this ordinance. This determination shall be based on the following:

- 1) Professional Advice - The commission may seek advice from such professional, educational, cultural, or other sources as is deemed necessary.
- 2) Public Hearing - The commission may hold a Public Hearing during which opinions of abutters and interested citizens shall be heard, as well as such professional advice as has been requested. Notice of the Public Hearing shall be sent to abutters and others not less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the hearing.
- 3) Consultation - The commission shall consult with the applicant, and may make suitable recommendations for changes or modifications to the applicant's proposal. Such recommendations shall be for the purposes of historic preservation and the prevention of changes that are incongruous with the Historic District, its buildings, sites and surroundings, particularly those features of the district that are subject to public view.

C. Action on an Application: The Historic District Commission shall act to approve or disapprove an application within sixty (60) days after said application has been filed with the commission, unless the applicant agrees in writing to extend this time limit. The commission shall determine whether the action or usage proposed will be appropriate in the Historic District and shall file a Certificate of Approval or Disapproval with the Office of Town Administrator. Failure by the commission to act within the specified period of time shall be deemed to constitute approval of the application.

- 1) Conditional Approval - Notwithstanding that the action or usage proposed by the applicant may

be deemed inappropriate, owing to conditions especially affecting the lot, building, or structure involved, but not affecting the Historic District generally, the commission may find that failure to issue a Certificate of Approval will involve a peculiar and unusual hardship (physical, financial or otherwise) to the applicant, and that such Certificate may be issued without substantial derogation of the intent and purposes of historic preservation in Durham. If the commission determines that a proposed action or usage is not appropriate, owing to conditions aforesaid, but that failure to issue a Certificate of Approval causes substantial hardship, the commission may file a Certificate of Approval in which the commission may impose conditions.

- 2) Disapproval - When an application is disapproved, the reasons for such disapproval shall be clearly stated in the record of proceedings of the commission.
- 3) Notification - The commission shall notify the applicant and the Town Council of its determination and shall furnish the applicant a summary of the reasons for the action taken and its recommendations, if any, as appearing in the records of the commission.

#### 6.8 APPEALS

Appeals may be taken to the Durham Zoning Board of Adjustment by any owner or tenant of property wholly or partly within the Durham Historic District, as well as by any other person, agency, or group, if aggrieved by a ruling of the Durham Historic District Commission. The Durham Zoning Board of Adjustment shall hear and act upon such appeals within the periods of time prescribed by New Hampshire Statute.

#### 6.9 GUIDELINES

The following guidelines shall be used by the Historic District Commission.

- A. Criteria for Appropriateness (Existing Buildings):  
When determining the appropriateness of proposed alterations, restorations, or remodeling of existing structures the criteria listed below shall be used. It is possible that in some instances several criteria will apply to a particular application, in which case the applicant shall suggest on the application the criterion being

used, and the commission shall consider the applicant's suggestion, but shall make the final decision on which criterion or criteria, if any, apply.

- 1) Structures which are of importance because of a moment in history, such as the date of occupancy by a celebrated personage, or the happening of an event: Such structures should be altered only so as to be more in conformity with the appearance at that moment in time.
- 2) Structures which are of importance because of their date of construction: Such structures should be altered to restore features of their original appearance, unless the structure was altered at some later time, and the commission determines that the alteration is in keeping with the character of the Historic District or is notable in its own right. In such case, the altered appearance should be maintained.
- 3) Structures which are important in the history of architecture as unique or exceptionally fine examples of their style: Such structures should be altered only so as to retain their original appearance.
- 4) Structures which are merely typical of their age and style: Such structures should be altered in a fashion of that age of style, if in keeping with character of the Historic District.

B. Criteria for Conformance (New Structures): New structures and buildings and those being moved into the Historic District must conform to the existing structures in the district in terms of general size and scale, but need not conform in precise architectural style. In addition:

- 1) Unless waived by the Commission, a structure must conform, within a 10% variation, to an average of the dimensions of its nearest neighbors as follows:
  - a) Height
  - b) Length
  - c) Width
  - d) Street frontage
  - e) Setback from the street
  - f) Number of stories

- 2) Such a structure shall conform to the general style of the Historic District by being similar to neighboring structures in the criteria listed below, unless waived by the Commission.
  - a) Openings within the facade as a percentage of the facade; i.e. doors and windows.
  - b) Similarity of construction materials and surface texture; i.e. rough, smooth, wood, brick, etc.
  - c) Similarity of rooflines; i.e. slopes and shapes.
  - d) Similarity of architectural details; i.e. cornices, lintels, arches, porches, balustrades, wrought iron work, chimneys, etc.
  - e) Similarity of landscaping and ground coverings; i.e. grass, trees, shrubs, brick, granite, etc.
- C. Demolition or Removal: No existing building or other structure may be demolished or moved out of the Historic District until approval has been granted by the Historic District Commission. An application which includes a detailed plan for the reuse of the site shall be submitted and the commission shall determine the appropriateness of the plan. A Certificate of Approval for demolition and reuse shall only be granted upon a showing by the applicant that to deny such certificate would result in a hardship unique to the property in question, and that such hardship is not common to neighboring properties in the Historic District. Financial hardship of the owner of the property shall not constitute a hardship for this purpose.
- D. Construction: Construction that will not have any visible impact on buildings or structures in the Historic District is permitted provided the Historic District Commission is notified at least thirty (30) days in advance of such construction. Such construction shall not begin if the owner is notified that an application to the commission is required.
- E. Painting: Painting, staining and other exterior decorative work not involving exterior construction shall be in accordance with the character of the Historic District. The commission shall be notified thirty (30) days in advance of such exterior decorative work. Such work shall not begin if the owner is notified that an application to the commission is required.

F. Routine Repairs: Routine repair to existing structures not involving any other exterior changes shall be deemed to be of no interest. Parties interested in promoting the spirit and intent of the Historic District are encouraged to seek informal guidance from the commission in the selection of historically appropriate colors or details.



ARTICLE 7  
FLOOD HAZARD OVERLAY DISTRICT

The following regulations shall apply to all lands designated as special flood hazard areas by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in its "Flood Insurance Study" for the Town of Durham, NH together with the current associated Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) which are declared to be a part of this ordinance.

7-1     DEFINITION OF TERMS

- 7-1.1 "Area of Shallow Flooding" means a designated AO or AH zone on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) with a one-percent or greater annual possibility of flooding to an average depth of one to three feet where a clearly defined channel does not exist, where the path of flooding is unpredictable and where velocity flow may be evident. Such flooding is characterized by ponding or sheet-flow.
- 7-1.2 "Area of Special Flood Hazard" is the land in the floodplain within a community subject to a one-percent or greater possibility of flooding in any given year. After detailed ratemaking has been completed in preparation for publication of the FIRM, zone A usually is refined into zones A, AO, AH, A1-30, AE, or A99.
- 7-1.3 "Base Flood" means the flood level having a one-percent possibility of being equalled or exceeded in any given year.
- 7-1.4 "Basement" means any area of a building having its floor subgrade on all sides.
- 7-1.5 "Development" means any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations.
- 7-1.6 "Flood" or "Flooding" means a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from:
- A. The overflow of inland or tidal waters.
  - B. The unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source.

- 7-1.7 "Flood Insurance Rate Map" (FIRM) means an official map of a community, on which FEMA has delineated both the special flood hazard areas and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.
- 7-1.8 "Floodplain" or "Flood-Prone Area" means any land area susceptible to being inundated by water from any source (see definition of "Flooding").
- 7-1.9 "Flood Proofing" means any combination of structural and non-structural additions, changes or adjustments to structures which reduce or eliminate flood damage to real estate or improved real property, water and sanitary facilities, structures and their contents.
- 7-1.10 "Floodway" - see "Regulatory Floodway."
- 7-1.11 "Highest Adjacent Grade" means the highest natural elevation of the ground surface prior to construction next to the proposed walls of a structure.
- 7-1.12 "Lowest Floor" means the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area (including basement). An unfinished or flood resistant enclosure, usable solely for parking of vehicles, building access or storage in an area other than a basement area is not considered a building's lowest floor; provided, that such an enclosure is not built so as to render the structure in violation of the applicable non-elevation design requirements of this ordinance.
- 7-1.13 "Mean Sea Level" means the National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) of 1929 or other datum, to which base flood elevations shown on a communities Flood Insurance Rate Map are referenced.
- 7-1.14 "100 - Year Flood" - See "base flood"
- 7-1.15 "Regulatory Floodway" means the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reversed in order to discharge the base flood without increasing the water surface elevation.
- 7-1.16 "Special Flood Hazard Area" means an area having flood, and/or flood-related erosion hazards, and shown on a FIRM as zone A, AO, A1-30, AE, A99, AH, M or E. (See - "Area of Special Flood Hazard")
- 7-1.17 "Structure" means, for floodplain management purposes, a walled and roofed building, including a gas or liquid storage tank, that is principally above ground, as well as a manufactured home.

- 7-1.18 "Start of Construction" includes substantial improvements, and means the date the building permit was issued, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, placement, or other improvement was within 180 days of the permit date. The actual start means either the first placement of permanent construction of a structure on site, such as the pouring of slab or footings, the installation of piles, the construction of columns, or any work beyond the stage of excavation; or the placement of manufactured home on a foundation. Permanent construction does not include land preparation such as clearing, grading and filling; nor does it include the installation of streets and/or walkways; nor does it include excavation for a basement, footings, piers, or foundations on the property of accessory buildings, such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or part of the main structure.
- 7-1.19 "Substantial Improvement" means any combination of repairs, reconstruction, alteration or improvements to a structure in which the cumulative cost equals or exceeds fifty percent of the market value of the structure. The market value of the structure should be (1) the appraised value prior to the start of the initial repair or improvement, or (2) in the case of damage, the value of the structure prior to the damage occurring. For the purposes of this definition, "substantial improvement" is considered to occur when the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor or other structural part of the building commences, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the structure. The term does not, however, include any project for improvement of a structure required to comply with existing health, sanitary or safety code specifications which are solely necessary to assure safe living conditions or any alteration of a structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 7-1.20 "Water Surface Elevation" means the height, in relation to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) of 1929, (or other datum, where specified) of floods of various magnitudes and frequencies in the floodplains.
- 7-2 All proposed development in any special flood hazard areas shall require a building permit.
- 7-3 The Building Inspector shall review all building permit applications for new construction or substantial improvements to determine whether proposed building sites will be reasonably safe from flooding. If a proposed building site is in a floodprone area,

all new construction or substantial improvements shall:

- A. Be designed (or modified) and adequately anchored to prevent floatation, collapse or lateral movement of the structure resulting from hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads, including the effects of buoyancy.
- B. Be constructed with materials resistant to flood damage.
- C. Be constructed by methods and practices that minimize flood damages.
- D. Be constructed with electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing and air conditioning equipment and other service facilities that are designed and/or located so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding.

7-4 Where new or replacement water and sewer systems (including on-site systems) are proposed in floodprone areas the applicant shall provide the Building Inspector with assurance that these systems will be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the systems and discharges from the systems into flood waters, and on-site waste disposal systems will be located to avoid impairment to them or contamination from them during periods of flooding.

7-5 The Building Inspector shall maintain for public inspection, and furnish upon request, any certifications of flood-proofing and the as-built elevation (in relation to mean sea level) of the lowest floor (including basement) of all new or substantially improved structures, and include whether or not such structures contain a basement. If the structure has been floodproofed, the as-built elevation (in relation to mean sea level) to which the structure was floodproofed must be furnished by the applicant.

7-6 The Building Inspector shall review proposed developments to assure that all necessary permits have been received from those governmental agencies from which approval is required by federal or state law, including Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, 33 U.S.C. 1334. It shall be the responsibility of the applicant to certify these assurances to the Building Inspector.

7-7 WATERCOURSE

- 7-7.1 In riverine situations, prior to the alteration or relocation of a water course, the applicant for such authorization shall notify the Wetlands Board of the New Hampshire Environmental Services Department and submit copies of such notification to the Building Inspector. Further, the applicant shall be required to submit copies of said notification to those adjacent communities as determined by the Building Inspector.
- 7-7.2 The applicant shall submit to the Building Inspector certification provided by a registered professional engineer assuring that the flood carrying capacity of an altered or relocated watercourse can and will be maintained.
- 7-7.3 Along watercourses with a designated Regulatory Floodway no encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other development are allowed within the floodway that would result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the base flood discharge. In zone A the Building Inspector shall obtain, review, and reasonably utilize any floodway data available from Federal, State, or other sources as criteria for requiring that development meet the floodway requirements of this section.
- 7-7.4 Along watercourses that have not had a Regulatory Floodway designated, no new construction, substantial improvements or other development (including fill) shall be permitted within zones A1-30 and AE on the FIRM, unless it is demonstrated that the cumulative effect of the proposed development, when combined with all existing and anticipated development, will not increase the water surface elevation of the base flood more than one foot at any point within the community.

7-8 100 YEAR FLOOD ELEVATION

- 7-8.1 In special flood hazard areas the Building Inspector shall determine the 100 year flood elevation in the following order of precedence according to the data available:
- A. In zones A1-30, AH and AE refer to the elevation data provided in the communities Flood Insurance Study and accompanying FIRM.
  - B. In unnumbered A zones the Building Inspector shall obtain, review and reasonably utilize any 100 year flood elevation data available from federal,

state, development proposals submitted to the community (i.e. subdivisions, site approvals) or other source.

- C. In zone AO the flood elevation is determined by adding the elevation of the highest adjacent grade to the depth number specified on the FIRM or if no depth number is specified on the FIRM at least 2 feet.

7-8.2 The Building Inspector's 100 year flood elevation determination will be used as criteria for requiring in zones A, A1-30, AE, AH, AO and A that:

- A. All new construction or substantial improvement of residential structures have the lowest flood (including basement) elevated to or above the 100 year flood elevation.
- B. That all new construction or substantial improvement of non-residential structures have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated to or above the 100 year flood level; or together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, shall:
  - 1. be floodproofed so that below the 100 year flood elevation the structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water;
  - 2. have structural components capable of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and the effects of buoyancy; and
  - 3. be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect that the design and methods of construction are in accordance with accepted standards of practice for meeting the provisions of this section.
- C. All manufactured homes to be placed or substantially improved within special flood hazard areas shall be elevated on a permanent foundation such that the lowest floor of the manufactured home is at or above the base flood level and be securely anchored to resist floatation, collapse, or lateral movement. Methods of anchoring may include, but are not limited to, use of over-the-top or frame ties to ground anchors. This requirement is in addition to applicable state and local anchoring requirements for resisting wind forces.
- D. For all new construction and substantial improvements, fully enclosed areas below the lowest floor that are subject to flooding are

permitted provided they meet the following requirements:

1. the enclosed area is unfinished or flood resistant, usable solely for the parking of vehicles, building access or storage;
2. the area is not a basement;
3. shall be designed to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls by allowing for the entry and exit of floodwaters. Designs for meeting this requirement must either be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect or must meet or exceed the following minimum criteria:

a) A minimum of two openings having a total net area of not less than one square inch for every square foot of enclosed area subject to flooding shall be provided.

b) The bottom of all openings shall be no higher than one foot above grade.

c) Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers or other coverings or devices provided that they permit the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters.

- E. Proposed structures to be located on slopes in special flood hazard areas, zones AH and AO shall include adequate drainage paths to guide flood waters around and away from the proposed structures.





ARTICLE 8  
OFF STREET PARKING AND LOADING

8-1 APPLICABILITY

No use of premises shall be authorized or extended and no building shall be erected or enlarged unless parking and loading requirements are met for the new or added use. Any use existing prior to passage of this ordinance which is later changed or enlarged shall provide an additional number of parking spaces at least equal to the difference between the number required for the total proposed use less the number which would have been required for the prior use under this ordinance.

8-2 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

8-2.1 Standard Vehicle Parking Space Size. A standard vehicle parking space shall measure no smaller than 9' x 18'.

8-2.2 Compact Parking Space Size. A compact parking space shall be no smaller than 8' x 16'. No more than 20% of the off-street parking requirement shall be met by the use of compact spaces and all such spaces shall be suitably marked on the site.

8-2.3 Storage. The parking or storage of any truck or truck trailer in excess of one (1) ton for more than 24 hours in any three day period shall not be allowed in the front or side yard setbacks.

8-2.4 No driveway in the front yard setback shall be wider than 22 feet.

8-2.5 Parking spaces, excluding employee parking, shall be on the same lot with the main building.

8-2.6 All parking areas and access driveways shall have at a minimum:

A. A smoothly graded stabilized dust free gravel surface for single family and duplex dwelling units.

B. A paved hard surface (concrete, asphalt, interlocking brick, etc.) for:

1) all multi-unit dwelling units, fraternities, sororities, rooming and boarding houses

2) all non-residential uses.

- C. Adequate drainage to prevent run-off flowing onto adjacent property, sidewalks and public roads.
- D. Appropriate bumper guards or curbs where needed to define parking spaces, limits of paved areas or to prevent vehicles from projecting into any setback or other portion of a lot where parking is prohibited.
- E. Parking lots for ten (10) or more vehicles shall be clearly marked with properly painted lines or other method approved by the Durham Public Works Department.
- F. Parking serving single family and duplex units will be permitted in the front yard setbacks for up to three (3) vehicles per household.
- G. Parking is allowed in the side yard setbacks and rear yard to serve residential uses and all non-residential uses provided:
  - 1) a 5-foot landscaping and solid screening area is provided and maintained adjacent to the adjoining property boundary or a public right-of-way.
  - 2) a commercial residential or commercial use does not abut a single family or duplex household.

8-3 REQUIRED NUMBER OF PARKING SPACES

RESIDENTIAL

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Single Family Duplex or Multi-<br>Unit Dwelling . . . . .  | 2 spaces per dwelling unit  |
| OR   |   |
| Dwelling units where permitted to<br>be occupied or intended to be<br>occupied by three or more<br>unrelated individuals . . . . . | 0.75 space per resident   |
| Rooming or Boarding Houses,<br>Fraternities, Sororities<br>Dormitories or Congregate<br>Housing . . . . .                          | 1 space per resident  |
| Elderly Housing . . . . .  | 1-1/2 space per dwelling unit<br>or lodging unit plus one space<br>per employee |
| Homes for aged, disabled or<br>handicapped . . . . .   | 1 space per 5 beds plus   |

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | 1 space per employee of maximum shift  |
| Educational Facilities . . . . .   | 1 space per staff member plus 1 space for 4 seats in the largest public assembly room  |
| <u>COMMERCIAL</u>  |  |
| Bed and Breakfast . . . . .  | 2 spaces for the resident family or manager plus one space per room rented plus one space for each two outside employees of maximum shift                                    |
| Hotels, Motels. . . . .  | 1 space per guest room or suite plus 1 space per 2 employees of maximum shift plus 1 space per 75 square feet of meeting space.  |
| Veterinary Clinics or Commercial Kennels. . . . .  | 1 space per 400 sf of gross floor space; minimum of 4 spaces   |
| Auditoriums, Theaters, Churches or other places of assembly with fixed seating . . . . . | 1 space per 4 seats or 40 sf of gross floor area used for assembly purposes, whichever is greater  |
| Libraries, Museums and Art Galleries . . . . .   | 1 space for every 500 sf of gross floor area   |
| Day Care . . . . .   | 1 space per 6 supervised children or adults plus 1 space per employee  |
| Carry Out Restaurants . . . . .  | 1 space per 80 sf of gross floor area with 10 space minimum  |
| Restaurants, cafeterias, food and beverage establishments . . . . .                      | (1) 1 space per 100 sf of seating area plus 1 space per employee of maximum shift if less than 4,000 sf<br><br>(2) if over 4,000 sf of floor area, 40 spaces and 1 space per |

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | 200 sf of gross floor area in excess of 4,000 sf  |
| Banks and Financial Institutions . . . . .  | 1 space per 250 sf of gross floor area  |
| Professional Offices . . . . .  | 1 space per 250 sf of gross floor area plus 1 space per employee  |
| Medical and Dental Offices. . . . .   | 1 space per 250 sf of gross floor area plus 1 space per employee  |
| Offices not providing customer service . . . . .  | 1 space per employee but not less than 1 per 400 sf of gross floor area                                     |
| Retail or personal service stores. . . . .  | 1 space per 250 sf of gross floor area  |
| Service Stations . . . . .  | 3 spaces per service bay plus 1 space per employee  |
| Manufacturing uses, research testing and processing, assembling, all industries . . . . . | 1 space per 1.5 employees on a maximum shift but not less than 1 space for every 400 sf of gross floor area |
| <u>Other uses/combined commercial uses.</u> . . . . .                                     | Adequate spaces to accommodate customers, patrons and employees, as determined by the Zoning Administrator  |

8-4 LOADING SPACES OR BAYS

8-4.1 Every retail business shall have direct access to an off-street exterior loading space or interior loading bay. Where the gross floor area of a retail business exceeds 2,000 square feet, an off-street loading space or bay shall be provided on the premises. In the OR district, at least one off-street loading space or bay shall be provided for the first 25,000 square feet of gross floor area and 2 such spaces or bays for the first 50,000 square feet of gross floor area.

8-4.2 No required loading space or bay shall be less than 14 feet high and 12 feet wide. The length shall be not

less than 50 feet for retail stores, nor less than 30 feet for all other business establishments. The bay shall be so laid out as not to require repeated maneuvering within a public way or parking lot by the entering or departing vehicle.

#### 8-5 LANDSCAPING AND SCREENING

All parking areas for over five (5) vehicles shall meet the following conditions below and the requirements in Diagram 8-1 and 8-2.

- A. A minimum of five percent (5%) of the total parking and driveway area including a minimum 5-foot buffer strip abutting a public right-of-way shall be landscaped.
- B. Parking aisles shall not contain more than ten (10) cars in a row. Total parking area required shall be broken into sections not to exceed forty (40) cars.
- C. The perimeter landscape buffer along a street shall consist of planting materials or planting materials and man-made features to create at a minimum a three (3) foot high visual relief screen in the form of a hedge, fence, planter box, berm, dividers, shrubbery or trees, or a combination thereof. All landscaping to form such visual relief shall create a two (2) foot tall minimum screen at planting.
- D. All islands, peninsulas and medians required in the parking areas shall be more or less evenly distributed throughout such parking areas. The distribution and location of landscaped areas may be adjusted to accommodate existing trees, or other natural features so long as the total area requirement for landscaped islands, peninsulas, and medians for the respective parking area is satisfied.
- E. There shall be a six (6) foot high solid screen when bordering or adjacent to a residential zone.
- F. Corner clearance as defined in Section 1-5.8 shall be observed regarding all landscaping or screens.
- G. Trees for parking lots shall be species selections recommended for the Durham area. They shall be selected to endure urban environment, tolerant of salt, resistant to disease, and require little maintenance. Trees that drip sap, or drop large

DESIGN NOTES

1. Stall size: 9' x 18' plus 2-1/2' front overhang area
2. Drive aisles: 24'
3. End stall width: 12'
4. Inside curbs: 60'
5. Back-up area: 3'
6. Turning area: 12' and striped
7. Curb: 6" high and wide
8. Landscaped area: See dimensional controls for rear yard setback
9. Row length: (until separated by landscaped island or walkway) 100'
10. Driveway apron: 30' to 35'
11. First parking stall: See dimensional controls for setbacks
12. Walkway: 2' wide
13. Ramp: 3' (may include walkway width when adjacent to handicapped space)
14. Handicapped space (with identification): 12' x 18' plus 2-1/2' front overhang area
15. Perimeter wall or fence (when adjacent to residential property): 3'6" - 6'8"
16. Landscaped area: See dimensional controls for side yard setbacks
17. Trash enclosure
18. Fire hydrants: as required
19. Lighting standards: as required

NOTE: Minimum 5% of parking lot to be in landscaping

seeds or blossoms onto the parked vehicles shall not be used.

- H. All trees and other vegetation within parking lot landscaped areas are subject to maintenance requirements as outlined in Maintenance Requirement Section. All trees and other vegetation are also subject to protection during construction as outlined in Section 9-7.
- I. A performance bond or letter of credit is required to insure compliance with this Section and to cover maintenance for a period not to exceed one year after time of planting.

#### 8-6 LIGHTING

Any lights provided to illuminate any public or private parking area shall be so arranged as to reflect the light away from any abutting or adjacent residential district or residential use.

#### 8-7 DRIVEWAY PERMITS

##### 8-7.1 Access to Town Roadways.

- A. A written permit from the Director of Public Works is required prior to the construction or alteration of any driveway, entrance, exit or approach within the limits of right-of-way of the Durham roadway system.
- B. A written construction permit application must be obtained from and filed with the Durham Public Works Department by any abuttor intending driveway work as per 8-7.1A. Said permit shall have been reviewed and a construction permit issued prior to any site review or building permit approval.

##### 8-7.2 Construction Requirements.

- A. Driveway construction shall meet the requirements of the Public Works Department. The latest Policy and Procedure for Driveways and Other Accesses to the State Highway System as published by New Hampshire Department of Transportation will be used for design guidelines.
- B. Engineered construction plans shall be required for commercial or industrial enterprises and all subdivisions.

8-7.3 Number of Curb Cuts.

- A. In the RA, RB, RC and R zoning districts, there shall be not more than one driveway where the frontage is less than 200 feet. One additional driveway for each additional 100 feet or major fraction thereof may be permitted by the Public Works Department should site conditions warrant.
- B. In the OR, CB and LB zoning districts, a maximum of two driveways per lot may be permitted by the Public Works Department should site conditions warrant.

8-7.4 Maintenance Responsibility. The total cost of all construction and maintenance of the work specified shall be borne by the applicant, his/her grantees, successors and assigns. With the exception of certain drainage structures constructed according to permit specifications by the applicant, the Department of Public Works will assume the maintenance responsibility for:

- A. The driveway culverts carrying surface water in roadside ditches under driveways within the Town right-of-way.
- B. Catch basins constructed at the end of cross road culverts under the Town roadway system.
- C. Drainage systems along existing roadways constructed for the purpose of disposing of roadway drainage.

In the case where adjoining property has been or is being developed and which requires the extension of a pipe, ditch or drainage system, it is the responsibility of the abutting property owner to construct according to permit specifications and maintain said extensions. The Department assumes the responsibility of maintenance for the catch basin at the roadside (in ditch or gutter line within the Town right-of-way) and the abutting land owner is responsible for extensions from said catch basin.

8-7.5 Penalty: Whoever violates any provision of this subdivision or the rules and regulations made under authority thereof shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars and, in addition, shall be liable for the cost of reparation of the roadway to a condition satisfactory to the person empowered to give such written permission.



8-7.6 Permit Fees: Permit fees shall be as follows and payable upon filing of the application.

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Residential                       | \$20.00                                  |
| Commercial/Industrial/Subdivision | \$Actual Review Costs<br>(\$100 Minimum) |

8-8 CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT SPECIAL CONDITIONS

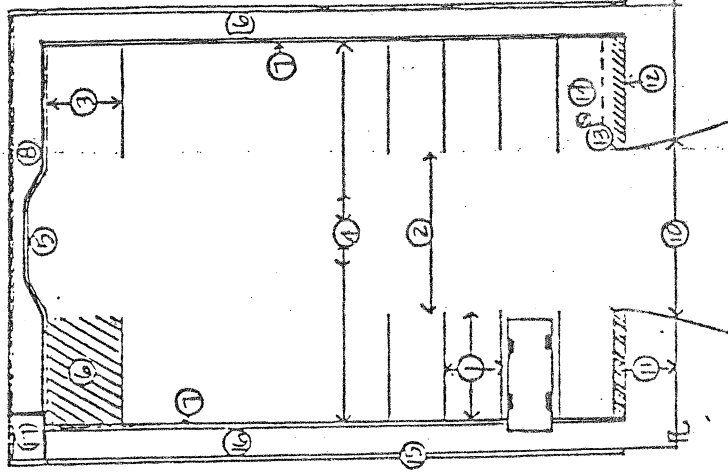
\* 8-8.1 Exemptions. All permitted non-residential uses shall be exempt from the parking requirements of this ordinance within the Central Business District provided:

- A. The site shall accommodate as much as practical the number of parking spaces required by this ordinance.
- B. A one time parking impact fee of \$750 per space is paid by the owner and/or developer for the number of spaces required less the number of on-site spaces provided. The parking impact fee shall be reviewed by the Durham Town Council on an annual basis.
- C. Existing parking spaces shall not be eliminated by any proposed addition.
- D. All landscaping shall comply with the landscaping requirements of this ordinance.

DIAGRAM 8-1

DESIGN NOTES

1. Stall size: 9' x 18' plus 1-1/2' front overhang area
  2. Drive aisle: One way - 18'; Two way - 24'
  3. Walk openings: 3' (optional)
  4. Inside curbs: One way - 90'; Two way - 60'
  5. Interior circulation: 24'
  6. Row length: (until separated by landscaped island or setback way) 100'
  7. Island width: 6'
  8. Curbs: 6" high and wide
  9. Curbs radius: 3'
  10. Driveway apron: One way - 24'; Two way - 33'
  11. Front setback: See dimensional controls
  12. Walkway (adjacent to end stalls): 3'
  13. Ramp (may be included adjoining handicapped space): 3'
  14. Handicapped space (with identification): 11' x 18' plus 1-1/2' front overhang area
  15. Perimeter wall or fence (when adjacent to residential property): 3' high - 4" thick
  16. Trash enclosure
  17. Landscaped area: See dimensional controls for side yard setbacks
  18. Fire hydrants: as required
  19. Light standards: as required
  20. Landscaped area: See dimensional controls for rear yard setbacks
- NOTE: Minimum of 50 of parking lot to be in landscaping



DESIGN NOTES

1. Stall size: 9' x 18' plus 1-1/2' front overhang area.
  2. Drive aisle: One way - 18'; Two way - 24'
  3. Walk openings: 3' (optional)
  4. Inside curbs: One way - 90'; Two way - 60'
  5. Interior circulation: 24'
  6. Row length: (until separated by landscaped island or setback way) 100'
  7. Island width: 6'
  8. Curbs: 6" high and wide
  9. Curbs radius: 3'
  10. Driveway apron: One way - 24'; Two way - 33'
  11. Front setback: See dimensional controls
  12. Walkway (adjacent to end stalls): 3'
  13. Ramp (may be included adjoining handicapped space): 3'
  14. Handicapped space (with identification): 11' x 18' plus 1-1/2' front overhang area
  15. Perimeter wall or fence (when adjacent to residential property): 3' high - 4" thick
  16. Trash enclosure
  17. Landscaped area: See dimensional controls for side yard setbacks
  18. Fire hydrants: as required
  19. Light standards: as required
  20. Landscaped area: See dimensional controls for rear yard setbacks
- NOTE: Minimum of 50 of parking lot to be in landscaping

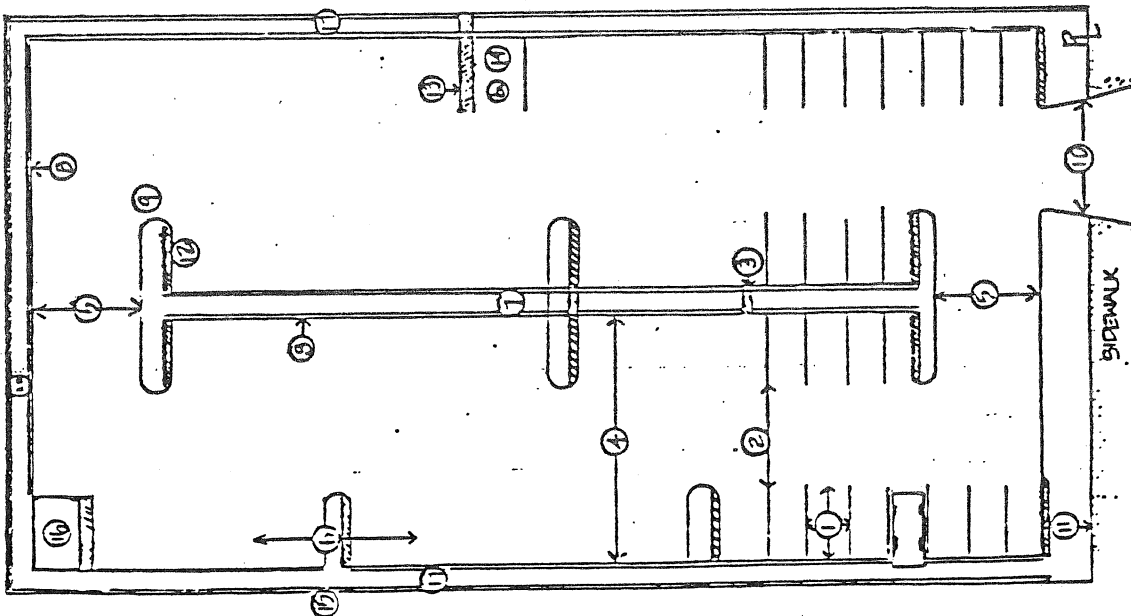
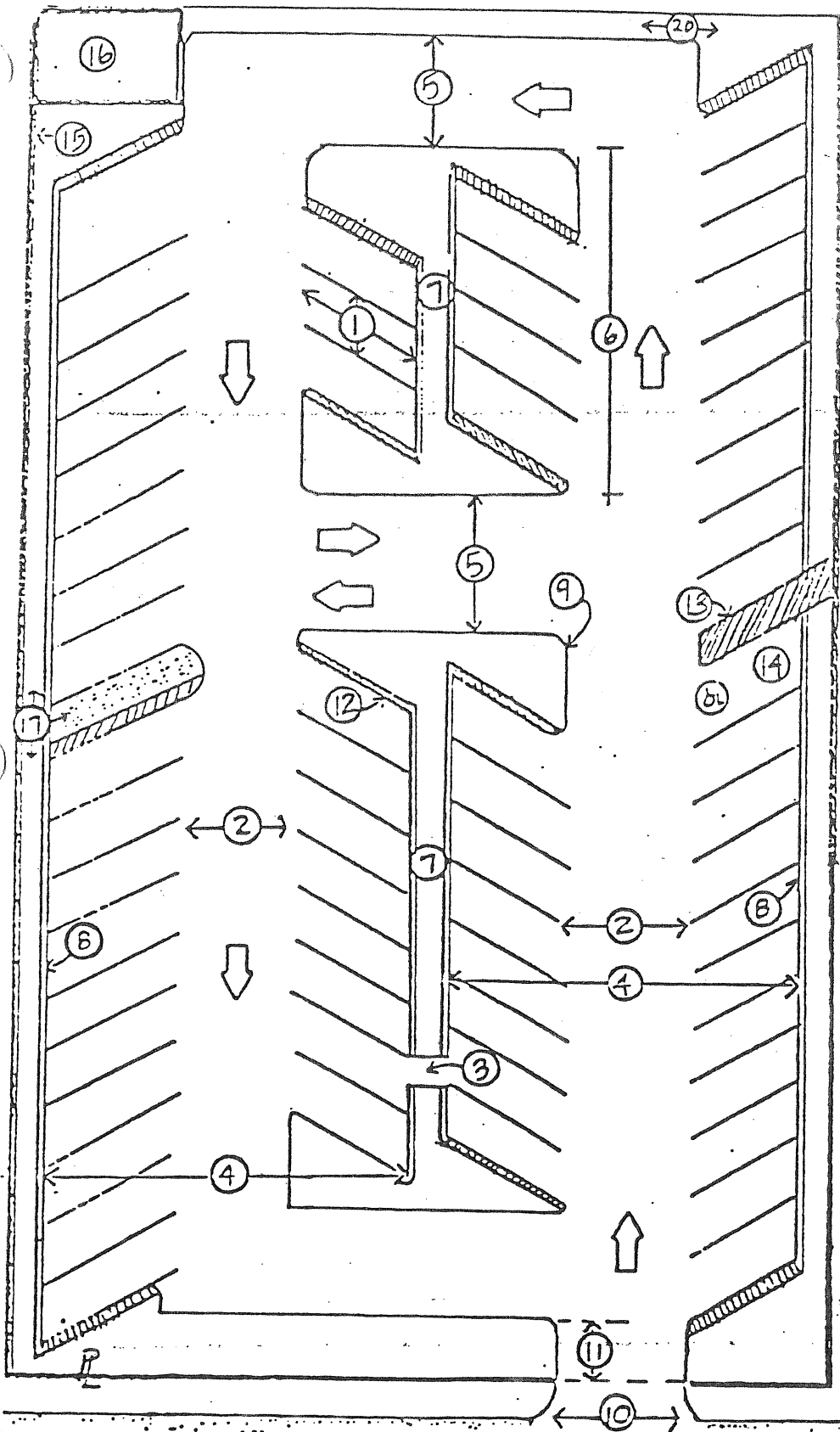


DIAGRAM 8-2



**DESIGN NOTES**

1. Stall size: 9' x 18' plus 2-1/2' front vehicle overhang
2. Drive aisle width:  
One Way - 14'  
Two Way - 25'
3. Walk openings: 3' (optional)
4. Inside curbs: One Way - 50'  
Two Way - 61'
5. Interior circulation:  
One Way - 14'  
Two Way - 25'
6. Inside or row length: 100'
7. Island width: 6'
8. Curb: 6" high and wide
9. Curb radius: 3'
10. Driveway apron: One Way - 24'  
Two Way - 35'
11. Front setback: See dimensional controls for front yard setbacks
12. Walkways: 2'
13. Ramp (may be included as a ramp for handicapped space): 3'
14. Handicapped space (with identification): 12' x 18 plus 2-1/2' front vehicle overhang
15. Perimeter wall or fence (when adjacent to residential property) 3'6" - 6'8"
16. Trash enclosure
17. Landscaped area: See dimensional controls for side yard setbacks
18. Fire hydrants: as required
19. Light standards: as required
20. Landscaped area: See dimensional controls for rear yard setbacks

\*Inside curb dimensions reduced 2' for 45° parking and 3' for 30° parking

NOTE: Minimum of 5% of parking lot to be in landscaping



ARTICLE 9  
LANDSCAPING

9-1 PREFACE

Trees are recognized as a valid asset to the community, providing a more healthful and beautiful environment in which to live. Trees and other vegetations provide oxygen, shade; protection from wind, glare and noise, view barriers, aesthetics, and a priceless psychological counterpoint to the man-made urban setting. Landscaping is economically beneficial in attracting new residents, visitors and industry. When grown on the right place and of proper varieties, landscaping enhances the value and marketability of property and promotes the stability of desirable neighborhoods and commercial areas.

9-2 PURPOSE AND INTENT

The purpose of the Landscape Ordinance is to establish procedures and practices governing the protection, installation and long-term maintenance of trees, vegetation, and other landscape elements within the limits of the Town of Durham. The process of development with its alteration of the natural topography and creation of impervious cover can have a negative effect on the ecological balance of an area by causing increases in air temperature and by accelerating the processes of runoff, erosion and sedimentation.

Development often times requires the removal of trees and other plant material. The protection and enhancement of the natural beauty, environment and greenspace within the Town of Durham is an important aspect of economic base of the community in that it is instrumental in attracting residents, and non-residents who come to visit, trade, vacation or attend conventions and educational programs.

The purpose and intent of this Ordinance is as follows:

- A. To aid in stabilizing the environment's ecological balance by contributing to the processes of air purification, oxygen regeneration, ground water recharge and storm water runoff retardation, while at the same time aiding in noise, glare and heat abatement;

- B. To ensure that the local stock of native trees and vegetation is protected and replenished;
- C. To provide visual buffering and enhance the beautification of the Town;
- D. To safeguard and enhance property values and to protect public and private investment;
- E. To preserve and protect the identity and environment of the Town of Durham and preserve the economic base attracted to the Town of Durham by such factors;
- F. To conserve energy; and
- G. To protect the public health, safety and general welfare.

### 9-3 DEFINITIONS

- 9-3.1 Buffering. The use of landscaping (other than grass on flat terrain), or the use of landscaping along with berms, walls or decorative fences that at least partially and periodically obstruct the view.
- 9-3.2 Buildable Area. That portion of a building site, exclusive of the required yard areas, on which a structure or building improvements may be erected.
- 9-3.3 Damage. Includes any intentional or negligent act which will cause vegetation to decline and die within a period of five years, including but not limited to, such damage inflicted upon the root system by the operation of heavy machinery; the change of the natural grade above the root system, or around the trunk of a tree; and damages from injury or from fire inflicted on vegetation which results in or permits infection or pest infestation.
- 9-3.4 Ground Cover. Low plants which grow to form a continuous cover over the ground, such as vinca, English ivy, or like material.
- 9-3.5 Historic or Special Interest Tree. Means a tree which has been found by the Tree Warden to be of notable interest because of its age, type, size or historic association.
- 9-3.6 Landscaped Area. That area within the boundaries of a given lot which is devoted to and consists of landscaping material, including but not limited to, grass, trees, shrubs, flowers, vines and other groundcover, native plant materials, planters, brick,

stone, natural forms, water forms, aggregate and other landscape features, provided, however that the use of brick, stone, aggregate or other inorganic materials shall not predominate over the use of organic plant material.

- 9-3.7 Landscape Development. Means trees, shrubs, groundcover, vines, grass, and other materials as listed in #6 installed in planting areas for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of these regulations.
- 9-3.8 Maintain, Maintenance. In reference to landscaping includes pruning, mulching, mowing, spraying, fertilizing, propping, bracing, treating for disease or injury, snow removal and any other similar acts which promote the life, growth, health or beauty of the landscape vegetation.
- 9-3.9 Public Area. Includes parks, playgrounds, areas around public buildings and all other areas under the supervision and maintenance of the Town.
- 9-3.10 Specimen Trees. A specimen tree shall mean a tree which has been determined by the judgement of the Tree Warden to be of high value because of its type, age or other professional criteria.
- 9-3.11 Shrub. Shrub shall mean a bushy, wooden plant, usually with several permanent stems and usually not over ten (10) feet high at its maturity.
- 9-3.12 Tree. Any self-supporting woody perennial plant which has a trunk diameter of two (2) inches or more when measured at a point of four and one half (4-1/2) feet above the ground level and which normally attains an overall height of at least ten (10) feet at maturity, usually with one main stem or trunk and many branches. It may appear to have several stems or trunks as in several varieties of ash and others.
- 9-3.13 Vegetation. Is defined to include a tree, plant, shrub, vine or other form of plant growth.
- 9-3.14 Landscaped Yard Area. Shall mean the front, side and rear yard areas as established below. In defining the side and rear yard area, the property line shall replace the street right-of-way line defined in the landscaped street yard.
- 9-3.15 Landscaped Street Yard. Shall mean the area of a lot which lies between the street right-of-way line and the actual front wall line of the building, parallel to the street, until such imaginary extensions of such

front building wall line intersects the side property lines. In determining the actual building wall of the building for the purposes of this Section, steps and unenclosed porches shall be excluded, but such building wall line shall follow and include the irregular indentations of the building. Further, for the purposes of these regulations, canopies, gas pump islands, overhangs, and similar extensions will be figured as part of the landscaped street yard. A front building wall is a building wall fronting on a street or publicly used area.

On corner lots, the landscaped street yard shall consist of all the area of such lot between all abutting street right-of-way lines and their corresponding actual front building wall lines, as such lines are imaginarily extended in the manner provided above.

When there are multiple buildings on a lot, the landscaped street yard shall consist of all the area of the lot between the street right-of-way line(s) and an imaginary line beginning at one side of the property line, running parallel to the street, connecting to the front most corner of the building wall, fronting the street and nearest such side property line, then following and connecting the front most walls of all buildings fronting on the street and then extending to the other side property line, running parallel to the street. If a building has a rounded front, the front building wall corners shall be the points closest to the side boundaries.

The delineation of the landscaped street yard is illustrated by the diagrams accompanying these regulations as Exhibit "A" and made a part thereof.

Notwithstanding all of the foregoing, on land used only for parking purposes or only as a commercial or private parking lot, the landscaped street yard shall consist of the area between the street right-of-way line and the back property line.

9-3.16 Tree Warden. The person whose duties shall include the inspection of landscaping installations (according to the Town of Durham performance guarantee guidelines) and to insure the landscaping provisions of this ordinance is being carried out and installed according to the plans submitted and approved.

9-3.17 Hazard Tree. Any tree that has the potential to have parts of, or the entire tree, fail under moderate to mild environmental changes, conditions, or man made forces.



The objective of this section is to encourage the planting and retention of existing trees and other vegetation to improve the appearance of off-street parking areas, yard areas and other vehicular use areas; to protect and preserve the appearance, character, and value of surrounding properties, and thereby promote the general welfare, safety and aesthetic quality of the Town of Durham; to establish buffer strips between properties of different land uses in order to reduce the effects of sight and sound and other incompatibilities between abutting land uses; to insure that noise, glare and other distractions within one area does not adversely affect activity within the other area.

- A. No landscape plan submitted pursuant to this section shall be approved unless it conforms to the requirements of this ordinance.
- B. Landscape plans shall be submitted for all commercial and commercial residential uses. Said plans shall include dimensions and distances and clearly delineate the existing and proposed parking space, or other vehicular use, access, aisles, driveways, and the location, size, and description of all landscape materials, including the quantity and botanical names of all plants. The Planning Board reserves the right to require landscape plans to a scale of one inch equals 20 feet.
- C. A detailed snow removal plan shall be submitted with the landscape plan.
- D. Shrubbery, ground cover, and other planting materials shall be used to complement the tree planting, but shall not be the sole contribution to the landscaping. Effective use of the earth berms, existing topography and existing trees is also encouraged as a component of the landscape plan and shall be considered as a part of the planting requirements.
- E. All shade trees to be used shall be a minimum of 2 inch diameter at breast height at planting. Inclusion in the landscape design of existing trees is encouraged.
- F. All shade trees to be planted shall be hardy for the Durham botanical zone.

- G. All required landscaping shall be provided with either:
1. An underground sprinkling system.
  2. An outside hose attachment.
- H. All landscaping which is in required landscaped areas and which is adjacent to pavement shall be protected with concrete or granite curbs or equivalent barriers (such as car bumpers, railroad ties, continuous border plants or hedgerows) when necessary to protect the vegetation from vehicular damage.
- I. Landscaping in landscaped areas shall not obstruct the view between the street and the access drives and parking aisles near the street yard entries and exits, nor shall any landscaping which creates an obstruction of view be located in the radius of any curb return. (See Section 4-4.3)
- J. Plant materials used in conformance with the provisions of this ordinance shall be of specimen quality and conform to the AMERICAN STANDARD FOR NURSERY STOCK, American Standards Institute, Inc. 230 Southern Building, Washington, DC 20005.
- K. Landscaping, landscape maintenance, and snow removal plans shall be developed and approved as required in "Subdivision and Site Review Regulations," Town of Durham. In the case where a question may arise between the Town and the developer regarding a proposed landscape plan, a third party (qualified professional landscape authority), as approved by the Town and the developer may be called upon to make recommendations for the Planning Board consideration; all costs to be borne by the developer.
- L. A guarantee of performance bond or escrow agreement must be posted in an amount to be determined by the Director of Public Works and approved by the Town Administrator to insure satisfactory completion of the landscaping plan as submitted and approved.

9-5 COMMERCIAL AREAS

The existing natural landscape character shall be preserved to the extent reasonable and feasible. As an example of this, in a yard area containing a stand of trees, the developer shall use care to preserve such trees. In determining whether there is compliance, the

Planning Board shall consider topographical constraints on design, drainage, access and egress, utilities and other factors reasonably related to the health, safety and welfare of the public which necessitated disturbance of the property without the disturbance of its natural character; the nature and quality of the landscaping installed to replace it; and such other factors as may be relevant and proper. Clearing and stripping of the natural vegetation on a lot is prohibited prior to obtaining an approved landscaping plan.

9-5.1 Landscaped Yard Area Requirements

- A. The landscape plan will include a mix of tree species a minimum of 2 inch diameter at breast height at planting, to be planted at 20 foot centers to provide for a tree canopy. The total number of trees necessary will be determined according to the combined footage of the front and side line defining the landscaped yard is illustrated by the diagram accompanying this Ordinance as Exhibit "A" and made a part thereof.
- B. In cases where the Zoning requires a buffer area, landscaping requirements under Section 9-5.3 shall be followed.
- C. Shrubbery, ground cover and other planting materials shall be used to complement the tree planting, but shall not be the sole contribution to the landscaping. Effective use of earth berms, existing topography and existing trees is also encouraged as a component of the landscape plan and shall be considered as a part of the landscaping requirement.

9-5.2 All newly planted trees shall be planted in a permeable area of no less than a 3 foot wide radius from the base of the tree. Piles of snow shall be kept a minimum of 5 feet away from the base of the tree.

9-5.3 Buffer/Barrier - Abutters will be protected against undue noise, glare, unsightliness or other nuisance detrimental to property values. Where a commercial lot abuts a residential area, a screen along the lot line must be provided consisting of either a row of evergreens at least four feet in height at planting, which will grow into a thick hedge not less than six feet high, or of an opaque and neatly maintained fence not less than six feet in height.

9-6 SUBDIVISION AREAS

During the development and construction process, wooded natural and nonwooded natural areas will be manipulated to maintain a healthy vegetative cover to maintain the soil structure, minimize soil erosion, and enhance the quality of the proposed community. In wooded natural areas, the healthy forest cover will be retained to reduce the amount of storm water running across the ground surface.

9-6.1 Wooded Natural Areas

- A. Plant community groupings, or forest types, will be identified and the negative response to construction for plant groupings or forest types shall be identified based on forestry management principles.
- B. Trees targeted for harvest/removal shall be clearly marked.
- C. Trees to be protected during clearing operations and construction shall be clearly marked to caution operators.
- D. Trees of special interest, historic or having unusual silvicultural characteristics, shall be flagged and located on the landscaping plan. These existing trees shall be protected during construction as outlined in Section 9-7.0.
- E. The landscape plan will include a reforestation plan to establish trees in appropriate places, not to attempt to design finished landscaping near home sites. The plan is intended to establish and enhance forest cover in certain areas and/or create screens and buffer strips in critical locations, i.e., sewer/water easements. Proposed screening and buffer strips will receive plantings of evergreens three to four feet minimum height, planting on a 10 x 10 foot centers (i.e., white pine, red pine or hemlock).
- F. A site inspection by the Durham Tree Warden of trees marked for saving, cutting or clear cutting is required prior to cutting of the lot.

9-6.2 Non-Wooded Natural Areas. For subdivisions in open fields and other non-wooded areas, the landscape plan will include a mix of tree species to be planted on 30 foot centers to provide for a tree canopy. The trees will be planted within the Town right of way or on the

private property boundary line adjacent to the Town right of way.

9-6.3 Roadway Slopes. In cases where the sloped areas extend more than 10 feet from the shoulder to the ditch line, the sloped areas must be landscaped and planted as per Section 9-5.3 as determined by the Planning Board.

#### 9-7 PROTECTION DURING CONSTRUCTION

The Protection During Construction Section, as outlined below, will apply to Commercial, Subdivision, Parking Lot, Roadway Slopes and Buffer/Barrier Zone sections of this Ordinance.

- A. Fencing or other protective barrier shall be used around trees near construction sites.
- B. Changes in the normal drainage patterns shall be avoided and appropriate protection shall be provided for trees if a grade change is necessary in the surrounding area.
- C. Pedestrian and other traffic patterns should be kept away from trees to avoid soil compaction.
- D. Practices for the proper protection of trees on construction sites shall be in accordance with the guidelines in the following references:
  - 1. TREE PROTECTION MANUAL FOR BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS, 1979, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Tallahassee, Florida.
  - 2. PROTECTING SHADE TREES DURING HOME CONSTRUCTION, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Home and Garden Bulletin No. 104, 1977, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.
  - 3. ENVIRONMENTAL DO'S AND DON'T'S ON CONSTRUCTION SITES, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Publication No. 1291, 1974.
- E. If the above guidelines are not followed and a tree is damaged or destroyed during construction, the developer shall be required to pay to the Town of Durham the assessed value of said tree, to a maximum of \$2,500.00 per tree, the cost to be determined by guidelines in a GUIDE TO PROFESSIONAL EVALUATION OF LANDSCAPE TREES,

SPECIMENS, AND EVERGREENS, 1982, International Society of Arboriculture, Urbana, Illinois, or per updated version.

- F. Protection of existing vegetation during construction shall include, wherever possible, open field or non-treed areas.

#### 9-8 MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

The Maintenance Requirements as outlined below shall apply to Commercial, Subdivision, Parking Lot Areas, Roadway Slopes and Buffer/Barrier Zone, Sections of this Ordinance.

- A. All newly planted vegetative material shall be guaranteed to meet minimum American Standard for Nursery Stock Standards at time of planting and for one year thereafter.
- B. Any agreement for long-term maintenance of any landscaping project must be negotiated prior to approval of subdivision request based on the following criteria:
  - 1. Vegetation replacement
  - 2. Irrigation
  - 3. Pruning, fertilizing, insect and disease protection
  - 4. Litter/debris clean-up
  - 5. Drainage, tree protection if grade change
- C. A maintenance program shall be established. Pruning should be started early, and kept up at regular intervals. Trees should be pruned and shaped to avoid splitting later in life. Broken tops and branches should be removed as soon as possible after injury. Broken, weak or diseased branches should be removed first, dead branches second and healthy branches last.
- D. Trees and shrubs should be protected against damage incurred with lawn mowers and garden equipment. Keeping grass away from tree trunks with the use of mulch is recommended.
- E. Avoid or minimize the use of road salt around the trees and shrubs.
- F. Required landscaped areas shall be routinely maintained free of debris and litter and in good

condition, with regular mowing of grass, so as to present a neat healthy and orderly appearance. Maintenance shall include the replacement of all dead plant material within the guaranteed contract period. Practices for proper maintenance of landscape materials shall be done in accordance with the following standards:

1. A PICTORIAL PRIMER FOR PROPER PRUNING by Dr. Alex L. Shigo - Forest Notes, Number 148, Spring 1982, pp. 18-21.
2. STANDARDS OF PRACTICE OF NATIONAL ARBORIST ASSOCIATION, INC., which includes PRUNING, FERTILIZING, CABLING, PESTICIDE APPLICATION, AND LIGHTING SYSTEM INSTALLATION, National Arborist Association, 3537 Stratford Road, Wantagh, NY 11793.
3. THE PLANTING AND CARE OF SHADE TREES, Extension Publication Number 10, Cooperative Extension Service, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824.

9-9 REFERENCES

TREE PROTECTION MANUAL FOR BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS, 1979, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Tallahassee, Florida.

PROTECTING SHADE TREES DURING HOME CONSTRUCTION, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Home and Garden Bulletin No. 104, 1977, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

ENVIRONMENTAL DO'S AND DON'T'S ON CONSTRUCTION SITES, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Publication No. 1291, 1974.

A GUIDE TO PROFESSIONAL EVALUATION OF LANDSCAPE TREES, SPECIMENS AND EVERGREENS, 1982, International Society of Arboriculture, Urbana, Illinois.

"Tree Values." Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers, Washington, D.C. (Slide, Tape Program).

"Trees and Shrubs in New Hampshire, A Guidebook for Natural Beauty Projects." Cooperative Extension Service, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824.

"American Standard for Nursery Stock." American Standards Institute Inc., 230 Southern Building, Washington, D.C. 20005.

A PICTORIAL PRIMER FOR PROPER PRUNING by Dr. Alex L. Shigo, Forest Notes, Number 148, Spring 1982, pp. 18-21.

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE OF NATIONAL ARBORIST ASSOCIATION, INC., which includes PRUNING, FERTILIZING, CABLING, PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS, AND LIGHTING SYSTEM INSTALLATION, National Arborist Association, 3537 Stratford Road, Wantagh, NY 11793.

THE PLANTING AND CARE OF SHADE TREES, Extension Publication Number 10, Cooperative Extension Service, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824.



ARTICLE 10  
SHORELAND PROTECTION ZONE

10-1 DESIGNATION OF THE SHORELAND PROTECTION ZONE

The Shoreland Protection Zone shall encompass all land within 150 feet of the High Water Level of Great and Little Bays, including tidal sections of their tributaries; the Oyster River; Lamprey River; Follett's Brook and 75 feet from all other Perennial Brooks (excluding College Brook and Pettee Brook). These water bodies are designated on the Durham Shoreland Protection Zone Overlay Map, which is based on U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle maps covering the Town of Durham.

10-2 PURPOSE AND INTENT

The purpose and intent of the Shoreland Protection Zone and accompanying regulations are to protect and promote the public health, resource conservation and the general welfare. Specifically, these regulations serve to:

- A. Protect the water quality of current and future public drinking water supplies from pollutants such as septage, pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.
- B. Protect water bodies from sedimentation, such as that caused by erosion.
- C. Maintain shorelands as habitats and travel ways for wildlife.
- D. Prevent destruction of aesthetic qualities of the shores, thus protecting property and recreational values.
- E. Protect the Great Bay Estuary from pollution by its tributaries or from uses of its shoreland.

10-3 SETBACKS AND PERMITTED USES

10-3.1 The required setback for all septic systems is 150 feet in the Shoreland Protection Zone. There shall be a 125 foot setback in the 150 foot zone and a 75 foot setback in the 75 foot zone for all other structures.

10-3.2 Landowners are allowed use of shoreland frontage sufficient for developing one access point to the water and a maximum of ten percent of the total owned frontage dedicated to boat dock, ramp, or other facility. Any such facilities must conform to all other town, state, and federal requirements applicable.

10-3.3 Under the provisions of RSA 674:21 II, the Planning Board may grant approval for the construction of: streets, roads and other access ways; and utilities, including pipelines, powerlines and other transmission lines, provided that all of the following conditions are found to exist:

- A. No alternative location outside the shoreland or which has less detrimental impact on a shoreland is feasible.
- B. The proposed construction is essential to the productive use of other land which is not within the Shoreland Protection Zone.
- C. Design, construction and maintenance methods will be such as to minimize detrimental impact upon the shoreland and will include restoration of the site as nearly as possible to its original grade and condition.
- D. Economic advantage is not the sole reason for the proposed location of the construction.

#### 10-4 POLLUTION PREVENTION

10-4.1 No use which uses or stores hazardous or potentially polluting substances, including underground storage of petroleum products, uncovered road salt, fertilizers or leachable wastes;

10-4.2 No animal feedlots;

10-4.3 No use of fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides within 75 feet of the High Water Level;

10-4.4 No tilling of soil within 75 feet of the High Water Level.

10-4.5 No excavation or filling of the land is permitted within the Shoreland Protection Zone.

#### 10-5 SHORELAND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

10-5.1 The preservation of natural shoreland vegetation is intended to stabilize banks to prevent erosion,

maintain wildlife habitats, minimize pollution of the water, and preserve the scenic quality of shoreline properties.

10-5.2 No trees over 6" DBH (19" circumference) shall be cut within the Shoreland Protection Zone.

10-5.3 The cutting or pruning of the overstory, understory and ground cover shall be permitted so long as the existing undisturbed natural vegetation is left in place on at least 50% of the shorefront.

10-5.4 Where vegetation is removed (including pruning), it shall result in well-distributed stands with varying levels of maturity and vegetative cover, to include overstory, understory and ground cover. No clear cutting in the Shoreland Protection Zone.

#### 10-6 PROVISIONS FOR EXISTING USE

10-6.1 Structures and uses existing prior to the date on which this Article was enacted may be continued, provided that such use shall not be expanded further to encroach upon the shoreland or designated buffer zone.

10-6.2 Notwithstanding other provisions of this article, the construction of attached additions to one and two family dwellings shall be permitted within the Shoreland Protection Zone, provided that:

A. The dwelling lawfully existed prior to the date on which this article was enacted;

B. The number of dwelling units is not increased; and

C. The proposed construction conforms with all other applicable ordinances and regulations of the Town of Durham.

10-6.3 Where an existing building within the shoreland or buffer zone is destroyed or in need of extensive repair, it may be rebuilt, provided that: such building is completed within one year of the event causing destruction; the new or rebuilt structure shall not extend further into the shoreland or buffer zone than the original foundation; and the result will not be a new or increased threat to the shoreland.

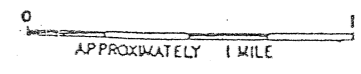
10-6.4 Pre-existing landscaping, including lawns and cultivated bushes and trees may be maintained, but fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides shall not be used within 75 feet of the High Water Level.

- 10-6.5 On existing lots of record, the erection of a structure with the Shoreland Protection Zone may be permitted by Special Exception if the Zoning Board of Adjustment, after due public notice and public hearing, finds that such Exception complies with all other applicable requirements set forth in this Article, and with each of the following:
- A. The lot upon which the Exception is sought was an official lot of record, as recorded in the Strafford County Registry of Deeds prior to the date on which this Article was posted and published in the Town.
  - B. The use for which the Exception is sought cannot be carried out on a portion or portions of the lot which are outside the Shoreland Protection Zone without undue hardship.
  - C. Due to the provisions of the Shoreland Protection Zone, no reasonable and economically viable use of the lot can be made without the Exception.
  - D. The design and construction of the proposed use will, to the extent practical, be consistent with the Purpose and Intent of this Article.
- 10-6.6 Because of the potential threat to public health, safety and welfare, whenever additions or alterations are made to a septic system located within the Shoreland Protection Zone, the system must be made to comply with the requirements of this Article as nearly as possible. This includes complete relocation of the system where feasible.
- 10-6.7 When a property with a non-conforming septic system is sold or otherwise transferred, the septic system must be inspected and if inadequate, replaced as per the preceding paragraph.
- 10-6.8 Property owners are encouraged to consult with the appropriate Town Officials about landscaping recommendations within the Shoreland Protection Zone.

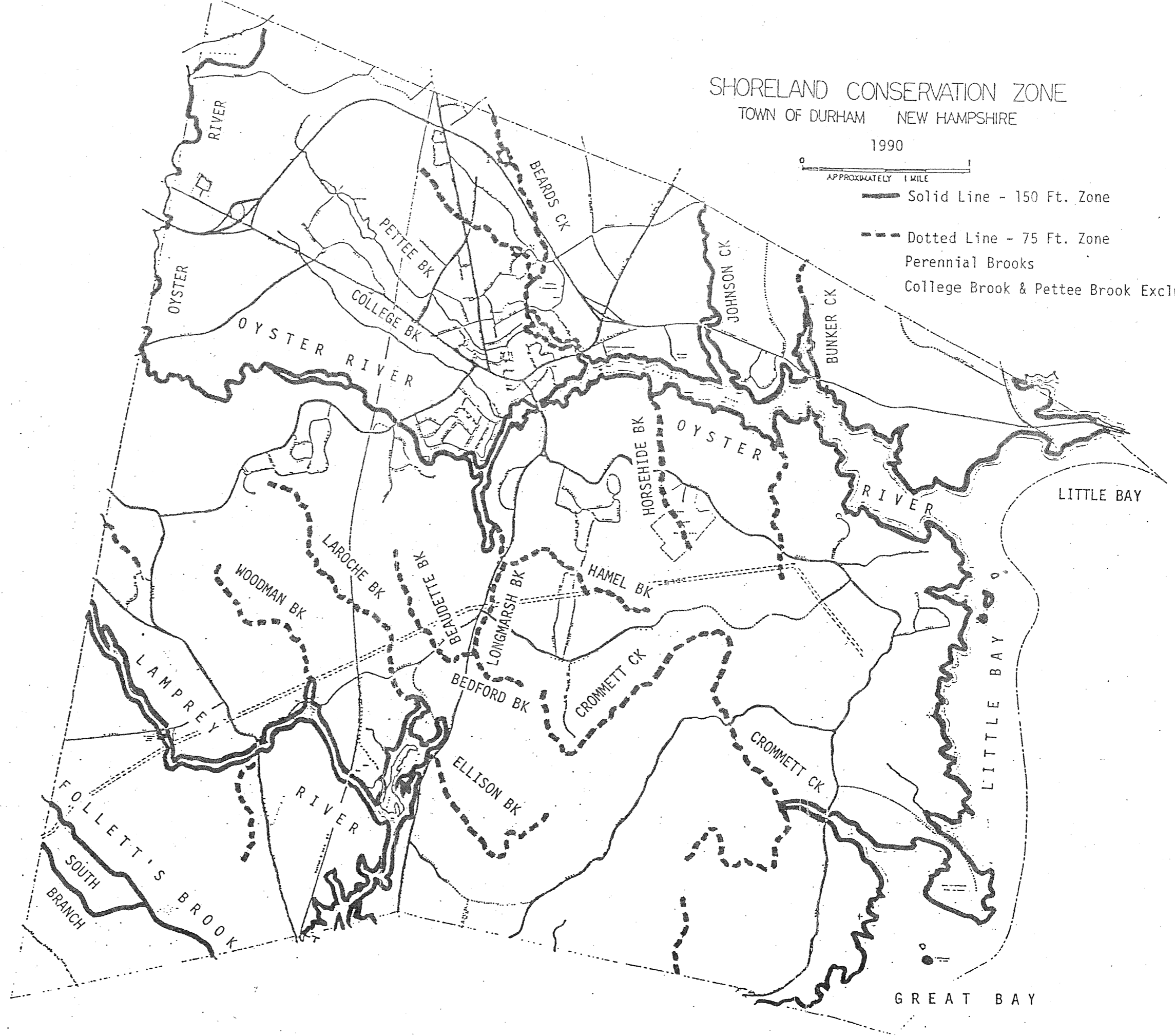
# SHORELAND CONSERVATION ZONE

TOWN OF DURHAM NEW HAMPSHIRE

1990



- Solid Line - 150 Ft. Zone
- - - Dotted Line - 75 Ft. Zone
- Perennial Brooks
- College Brook & Pettee Brook Excluded





ARTICLE 11  
AQUIFER PROTECTION DISTRICT

11-1 AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

Pursuant to RSA 674:16-21, the Town of Durham adopts an Aquifer Protection District and accompanying regulations in order to protect, preserve and maintain potential groundwater supplies and related groundwater recharge areas within the Town. The objectives of the Aquifer Protection District are:

- A. To protect the public health and general welfare of the citizens of Durham.
- B. To prevent development and land use practices that would contaminate or reduce the recharge of the identified aquifers.
- C. To provide for future growth and development of the Town, in accordance with the Master Plan, by insuring the future availability of public and private water supplies.
- D. To encourage uses that can appropriately and safely be located in the aquifer recharge areas.

11-2 Definitions

For the purpose of this article, the following terms shall have the meaning given herein:

- A. Aquifer: For the purpose of this article, aquifer means a geologic formation, group of formations, or part of a formation that is capable of yielding quantities of groundwater usable for municipal or private water supplies. These areas of permeable deposits of rock or sand and gravel contain significant amounts of potentially recoverable water where by a combination of transmissivity, saturated thickness and specific capacity, the area can be expected to yield at least 200 gallons per minute to a large diameter well.
- B. Aquifer Protection District: The direct recharge area of designated aquifers. The Aquifer Protection District is shown on an overlay to the official zoning map of the Town.

- C. Groundwater: All the water below the land surface in the zone of saturation or in rock fractures capable of yielding water to a well.
- D. Groundwater Recharge: The infiltration of precipitation through surface soil materials into groundwater. Recharge may also occur from surface waters, including lakes, streams and wetlands.
- E. Leachable Wastes: Waste materials, including but not limited to solid wastes, sewage sludge and agricultural wastes that are capable of releasing contaminants to the surrounding environment.
- F. Mining of Land: The removal of geologic materials for the purpose of extracting topsoil, sand and gravel, metallic ores or bedrock.
- G. Recharge Area: Areas of permeable deposits which are hydraulically connected to and up gradient of aquifer areas.
- H. Toxic or Hazardous Materials: Any substance or mixture of such physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics as to pose a significant, actual or potential hazard to water supplies, or other hazard to human health, if such substance or mixture were discharged to land or waters of this Town. Toxic or hazardous materials include, without limitation, volatile organic chemicals, petroleum products, heavy metals, radioactive or infectious wastes, acids and alkalies, and include products such as pesticides, herbicides, solvents and thinners, and such other substances as defined in New Hampshire Water Supply and Pollution Control Rules Section WS 410.04 (1), in New Hampshire Solid Waste Rules He-P 1901.03 (v), and in the Code of Federal Regulations 40 CFR 261, as amended. The more restrictive rules shall apply in all cases. Wastes such as but not limited to toxic or poisonous types, flammable, reactive solvents, oils, or corrosive oils generated by the following commercial activities are presumed to be toxic or hazardous, unless and except to the extent that anyone engaging in such an activity can demonstrate the contrary to the satisfaction of the Planning Board:



1. Airplane, boat and motor vehicle service and repair;
2. Chemical and bacteriological laboratory operation;
3. Dry Cleaning;
4. Electronic circuit manufacturing;
5. Metal plating, finishing and polishing;
6. Motor and machinery service and assembly;
7. Painting, wood preserving and future stripping;
8. Pesticide and herbicide application;
9. Photographic processing; and
10. Printing.

11-3 DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

11-3.1 Location. The Aquifer Protection District is defined as the area shown on the map entitled, "Aquifer Protection District," and is hereby adopted as part of the official Zoning Map of the Town of Durham. The Aquifer Protection District includes the area delineated by the 1988-89 U.S.G.S. aquifer delineation studies or other site specific engineering studies.

The Aquifer Protection District is a zoning overlay district which imposes additional requirements and restrictions to those of the underlying district. In all cases, the more restrictive requirements shall apply.

11-3.2 Appeals. When the actual boundary of the Aquifer Protection District is in dispute by any landowner or abutter actually affected by said boundary, the Planning Board, at the landowner's/abutter's expense and request, may engage a professional geologist or hydrologist to prepare a report addressing the location and extent of the aquifer and recharge area relative to the property in question. This report shall include but not be limited to the following:

1. A two foot interval topographic layout prepared by a registered land surveyor of the subdivision and/or area to be developed;
2. A high intensity soils map of the subdivision and/or area to be developed prepared by a soils scientist qualified in hydrologic studies including a written report of his/her on-site field inspection and test boring data;
3. The Aquifer Protection District boundary shall be overlaid on the plat and the newly proposed

boundary location shall be indicated on the same plat by a broken line;

4. Evidence derived from a pumping test(s) or a sufficient number of test borings, test pits, observation wells and groundwater elevations to clearly demonstrate that the area in question does not meet the definition of aquifer or recharge area; and
5. Any additional mapping, hydrogeologic reports or information which becomes available as a result of recent or on-going scientific investigation(s) of the locations and extent of aquifers performed by the U. S. Geological Survey, New Hampshire State agencies or boards, the Town of Durham or agents of any of the above.

The Planning Board may, based upon any findings or reports submitted under this section, adjust the boundary or area designation of the Aquifer Protection District to more correctly define the aquifer(s) and recharge area(s) on a site-specific, case-by-case basis.

#### 11-4 USE REGULATIONS

- 11-4.1 Minimum Lot Size. The minimum lot size shall be governed by the dimensional controls outlined in the applicable zoning district.
- 11-4.2 Maximum Lot Coverage. Within the Aquifer Protection District, no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of a lot used for residential/commercial purposes shall be rendered impervious to groundwater infiltration.
- 11-4.3 Site Drainage. All runoff from impervious surfaces shall be directed into an underground storm sewer system and directed to a detention/holding pond outside of the aquifer and aquifer recharge area. This includes roof and foundation drains, if present. The design and the construction of any detention or holding pond must be located down flow of the path of the water flowing in the aquifer and the design must be approved by the Public Works Department and approved by the Town Council.
- 11-4.4 Use of Deicing Chemicals. There shall be minimal use of deicing chemicals on all public and private roads and parking lots within the District. The use of these chemicals shall be free of sodium and chloride to the greatest extent possible.

11-4.5 Prohibited Uses. The following uses shall not be permitted in the Aquifer Protection District and the Secondary Recharge Area except where permitted to continue as a nonconforming use:

1. Disposal of all solid waste.
2. All onsite handling, disposal, storage, processing or recycling of hazardous toxic materials.
3. Disposal of liquid or leachable wastes from all residential, commercial or industrial systems.
4. Subsurface storage of petroleum and other refined petroleum products except as regulated by the N. H. Water Supply and Pollution Control Commission (WS 411 Control of Non Residential Underground Storage and Handling of Oil and Petroleum Liquids). The placement of residential tanks underground for the storage of petroleum and other refined petroleum products shall not be allowed unless in conformance with N. H. State guidelines applicable to commercial uses.
5. All industrial uses.
6. Outdoor unenclosed or uncovered storage of road salt and other deicing chemicals.
7. Dumping of snow containing deicing chemicals brought from outside of the Aquifer Protection District.
8. Commercial animal feedlots where animals are kept.
9. Automotive service and repair shops, junk and salvage yards.
10. Injection wells that dispose of waste in the ground.
11. Mining of land unless it is incidental to a permitted use. Sand and gravel excavation and other mining that is permitted provided that such excavation or mining is not carried out within eight (8) vertical feet of the seasonal high water table and that periodic inspections are made by the Planning Staff or its agent to determine compliance.

11-4.6 Permitted Uses. The following uses are permitted provided they are conducted in accordance with the purposes and intent of this Article:

- A. All uses permitted in the underlying zone district will be regulated as a Conditional Use. There must also be hookup to the Town's water and sewer systems and the installation of an underground storm sewer system in accordance with 11-4.3.

- B. Maintenance, repair of any existing structure in conformance with the regulations of this Article.
- C. The expansion of a nonconforming use as long as it complies to the Nonconforming Use section of this Ordinance.
- D. Farming, gardening, nursery, forestry, harvesting, grazing and recreational uses provided that fertilizers, pesticides and other management practices are deemed safe by the Strafford County Conservation District. These uses of land in the Aquifer Protection District and the Secondary Recharge Area must not cause groundwater contamination that is deemed harmful to the aquifer as determined by the Town of Durham and its consultants.

11-4.7 Nonconforming Uses. Any nonconforming use may continue and may be maintained, repaired and improved, unless such use is determined to be an imminent hazard to public health and safety by the Town Council or the Health Officer.

11-5 HYDROGEOLOGIC STUDY

Within the Aquifer Protection District, a hydrogeologic study shall be required for developments involving the subdivision of ten (10) lots or greater.

11-5.1 Standards. Hydrogeologic studies shall be performed by a qualified hydrogeologist. These studies shall be sufficiently detailed to evaluate the development's impacts to groundwater within the parcel to be developed and the surrounding land. All hydrogeologic studies shall include at least the following:

- A. An adequate number of subsurface borings in order to determine the site geology and stratigraphy. Boring requirements are as follows:
  - 1) For sites up to 30 acres, the parcel shall contain a minimum of one boring per three acres, with a minimum of three borings for a site. For sites greater than 30 acres, additional borings of at least one per 10 acres are required.

- 2) At least twenty percent (20%) of the borings shall be sampled utilizing the "split spoon" sampling technique.
  - 3) At least one boring shall be dug to bedrock.
- B. Identification of water table contours and groundwater flow directions, with water table measurements using a series of shallow observation wells screened at the water table. The number of observation wells required shall be the same as the number of borings required.
- C. Water quality sampling and analysis to determine existing conditions, measuring the following parameters: nitrate-nitrogen ( $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ ), ammonia-nitrogen ( $\text{NH}_3\text{-N}$ ), pH, and specific conductance.
- D. An analysis of cumulative impact nitrogen loading employing a saturation build-out model. The analysis shall include verification that the development will not cause the nitrate-nitrogen ( $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ ) concentration to exceed 5 mg/l in the groundwater at the down-gradient property boundary.

#### 11-6 DESIGN AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

- 11-6.1 Nitrate Loading. No development shall cause the nitrate-nitrogen ( $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ ) concentration to exceed 5 mg/l in the groundwater beyond the site.
- 11-6.2 Safeguards. Provision shall be made to protect against toxic or hazardous materials discharge or loss resulting from corrosion, accidental damage, spillage, or vandalism through measures such as: spill control provisions in the vicinity of chemical or fuel delivery points; secured storage areas for toxic or hazardous materials; and indoor storage provisions for corrodable or dissolvable materials. For operations which allow the evaporation of toxic or hazardous materials into the interiors of any structures, a closed vapor recovery system shall be provided for each such structure to prevent discharge of contaminated condensate into the groundwater.
- 11-6.3 Location. Where the premises are partially outside of the Aquifer Protection Overlay Zone, potential pollution sources such as on-site waste disposal systems shall be located outside and down gradient of the Zone to the extent feasible.

11-7 ADMINISTRATION

The provisions of the Aquifer Protection District shall be administered by the Planning Staff and the Durham Town Council. All development proposals shall require a Conditional Use Permit if located in the Aquifer Protection District and the Secondary Recharge Area, in accordance with the rules and regulations of this Ordinance. Such review and approval shall precede the issuance of any building permit by the Town of Durham.



TOWN OF DURHAM  
15 NEWMARKET ROAD  
DURHAM, NH 03824-2898  
603/868-5571

ORDINANCE NO. 93-23 OF DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 12 - SIGNS AND  
UTILITY STRUCTURES OF THE TOWN OF DURHAM ZONING  
ORDINANCE

The Town of Durham through the Durham Town Council ordains that:

WHEREAS, the Town of Durham rescinded the March 11, 1969 Zoning Ordinance with the exception of Article 7, Signs and Utility Structures and adopted the current Zoning Ordinance on February 5, 1990; and

WHEREAS, Article 7 has now been updated and that the Durham Town Council approves the adoption of this ordinance and insertion to the February 5, 1990 Zoning Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Durham Town Council approves the amendments to this ordinance as follows:

12-1 APPLICABILITY

The purpose and intent of this Article is to provide control of the erection, installation and maintenance of signs, vending machines, awnings, marquees, canopies, public time pieces and thermometers for the purpose of uniformity with aesthetic values and for the convenience, comfort, propriety and general welfare of the Town of Durham.

12-1.1 Nonconforming Signs and Utility Structures. Any sign, vending machine, marquee, canopy, public time piece or thermometer, or other such structure not conforming to the terms of this ordinance shall be allowed to continue nonconforming. Nothing herein shall prevent the substantial restoration or reconstruction, within one year, of a sign destroyed in part or whole by fire or other casualty so long as this use does not result in a new or increased violation.

12-1.2 Removal of Certain Signs. Any sign now or hereafter existing which no longer advertises a bona fide business conducted, or product sold, shall be removed by the owner, agent or person having the beneficial use of the building or property upon which the sign may be located. Removal shall take place within fourteen (14) days after written notification from the building inspector. otherwise said sign shall constitute a public nuisance.

12-2 DEFINITION OF TERMS

12-2.1 Sign. Means any exterior or exterior-oriented structure, or part thereof, or device attached thereto, or other outdoor surface including billboards or any combination of one or more of the foregoing containing any word, letter, symbol, drawing, model, banner, flag, picture or design, or any device used for visual communication which identifies or calls attention to any premises, person, product activity, or business, directing the subject thereof to the attention of the public.

12-2.2 Accessory Sign. Means any sign relating to a business on the premises on which the sign is located.

12-2.3 Advertising Sign. Means any sign for the purpose of portraying a business, product or location situated on or away from the premises on which the said sign is located.

12-2.4 Awning. Means any structure made of cloth or metal with a frame attached to a building or structure and projecting over a public way, when the same is so erected as to permit its being raised to a position flat or rolled against the building when not in use.

12-2.5 Canopy. Means any structure, other than an awning or a wedding canopy made of cloth or metal with frames attached to a building projecting over a public way, and carried by a frame supported by the ground or sidewalk.

12-2.6 Combination Sign. Means any sign which combines the characteristics of two or more types of signs.

12-2.7 Curb Level. Means the elevation of the street curb as established in accordance with an ordinance.

12-2.8 Curb Line. Means the vertical plane of the street side of a curb.

12-2.9 Daily Specials Reader Board. Means a sign that is flush mounted, does not exceed three (3) square feet in size and provides a fixed location for the advertisement of daily specials.

12-2.10 Flashing Sign. Means any sign that moves, flashes, contains traveling lights, or gives the impression of any movement or flashing.

12-2.11 Free Standing or Ground Sign. Means any sign which is not a part of or attached to any building but is located elsewhere on a lot. It shall not exceed six (6) square feet in size and five (5) feet in height, including supports.



12-2.12 Identifying Sign. Means any sign or plate giving the name and/or address only of the business or occupant of the premises on which the said sign or plate is located.

12-2.13 Illuminated Sign. Means any sign that is lighted by electricity either directly or indirectly.

12-2.14 Marquee. Means any hood or awning of permanent construction projecting from the wall or roof of a building or structure above an entrance or extending over a public way.

12-2.15 Neon. Any tubular gas filled lights or lighting device.

12-2.16 Neon Sign. Any light sign using exposed neon tubes for illumination or display.

12-2.17 Non-Accessory Sign. Means any sign advertising business or businesses at other locations.

12-2.18 Private Directional Sign. Means any sign of a permanent nature that directs the traveling public to specific buildings, areas, people or things.

12-2.19 Projecting Sign. Means any sign which is attached to a building or other structure and extends more than twelve (12) inches beyond the line of the said building or structure or beyond the surface of that portion of the building or structure to which it is attached.

12-2.20 Public Clock and Thermometer. Means any time piece or thermometer erected upon a structure upon the sidewalk or ground or on the exterior of a building or structure for the convenience of the public.

12-2.21 Pylon or Pole Sign. Means a sign supported by or suspended from a freestanding column or columns of structural steel, pipe or poles.

12-2.22 Roof Sign. Means any sign erected upon or over the roof of any building.

12-2.23 Sandwich Board Sign. Means a portable sign with a message area that does not exceed six (6) square feet in size on each side of a two sided sign. The Sandwich Board Sign shall be no wider than two (2) feet and/or no taller than three (3) feet.

12-2.24 Sidewalk. Means any public or private way or thoroughfare, paved or unpaved, intended for the use of pedestrians or foot traffic.

12-2.25 Size of Sign. Means the total exposed surface area in square feet. Where a sign is composed of fabricated letters attached to a wall, the size of the sign shall be determined as twice the average height of the letters times the length of the message.

12-2.26 Snipe Sign. Means any sign of a non-permanent nature or construction attached to trees, poles, posts or sides of buildings or structures.

12-2.27 Street Line. Means the line dividing a lot from a street right-of-way.

12-2.28 Temporary Sign. Means any sign, banner, pennant, valance or advertising display constructed of cloth, canvas, light fabric, cardboard or wallboard or other light materials, with or without frames, intended to be displayed for a short period of time only.

### 12-3 GENERAL PROVISIONS

12-3.1 Application. Application for a permit to erect a sign shall be made in writing to the Code Enforcement Officer, Town of Durham, for all signs in excess of six (6) square feet of total exposed surface area, vending machines, awnings, marquees, canopies, public time pieces, and thermometers and such application shall contain the following information:

- A. Name, address and telephone number of applicant;
- B. Proposed location and position of sign or structure;
- C. Plans or drawings with dimensions and specifications;
- D. Written consent of owner of the building or land;
- E. Such other information as the Code Enforcement Officer may require to include load calculations prepared and submitted by a Registered Professional Engineer.

12-3.2 Inspection. The owner of any sign shall inspect annually each sign belonging to him, and it shall be the duty of said owner to keep his sign(s) in good repair and in good appearance at all times.

#### 12-3.3 Placement.

- A. All signs shall be prohibited within public right-of-way areas except as provided and for traffic control devices and directional signs deemed essential for the public welfare and safety authorized by municipal and state agencies.
- B. The location of all sandwich board signs shall be limited to the outer edge of the sidewalk within the public ROW and within one (1) foot of the curb line.

The sandwich board sign placement shall be placed within ten (10) feet of the primary entrance of the establishment, shall not obscure or impede pedestrian travel, and shall maintain a minimum of a four (4) foot travel lane along the side walk.

- C. No sign shall be so designed or so placed as to endanger, obscure or confuse or otherwise create a hazardous condition to motor vehicles.
- D. No sign shall project above the roof or parapet line of a building.
- E. Vending machines shall not be permitted on the exterior surface of any building or structure except within the Limited Business District or on any sidewalk or thoroughfare.

12-3.4 Illumination.

- A. Signs may be illuminated only by exterior white light sources so placed that they will not constitute a hazard to street or highway driving by glare.
- B. No flashing or animated signs, or signs with visible moving parts or intermittent lighting to create the visual effect of movement shall be permitted.
- C. No neon or tubular gas filled signs shall be allowed in any district.
- D. Signs will be illuminated only during business hours.

12-3.5 Message.

- A. Signs shall refer only to a use or activity conducted on the lot upon which they are situated, except that a limited number of signs, each sign not exceeding two (2) square feet in area on each of two sides and intended solely to provide directional information may be permitted by the Zoning Administrator for a limited period of time.
- B. Farms, as defined in Article 1 of this Ordinance, shall be permitted by the Zoning Administrator to place not more than four (4) signs, each sign not exceeding six (6) square feet in area on each of two sides and intended solely to provide information about farm products for sale, as well as directional information.
- C. No sign which contains a registered trademark or name which portrays a specific commodity or service for sale will be allowed in any zone unless the

trademark or name is of the principal commodity or service offered for sale by the establishment.

12-3.6 Condition.

- A. Signs other than permitted temporary or snipe signs shall be constructed of durable materials and shall be maintained in good condition and repair. When by reason of neglect a sign becomes hazardous, unsightly, or otherwise tends to depreciate its surroundings, the same shall constitute a public nuisance.
- B. Any clock or thermometer displayed for the public convenience shall be accurate.

12-4 PERMITTED SIGNS, BY DISTRICT

12-4.1 Number of Signs. Not more than two signs shall be permitted for each business establishment, except for signs as may be required by State or Federal regulations. Each business establishment in the Central Business District is permitted one additional Sandwich Board sign or Reader Board sign.

12-4.2 Snipe Signs. The use of snipe signs is permitted on private property only for non-commercial events and elections. Such signs are limited to a period of 45 days preceding and seven (7) days after the relevant event, provided further:

- A. The size of any snipe sign shall not exceed twelve (12) square feet;
- B. The number of such signs is limited to one per lot in Residence A and B Districts and to two per lot in other districts;
- C. Such signs are not permitted on public property or in public ways.

12-4.3 Temporary Signs. One temporary sign such as used by real estate agents advertising property for sale or those used by contractors, architects, painters or other artisans advertising work in progress may be permitted on a lot in any district provided:

- A. It is unlighted;
- B. It is set back at least one-half the required depth of the street yard;
- C. It does not exceed twelve square feet in size;

- D. Its proper appearance is maintained;
- E. It is removed upon completion of the work or transaction;

12-4.4 Residential Accessory Signs. Signs stating the name and nature of a permitted home occupation may be displayed on a lot in any district provided such signs:

- A. Are unlighted;
- B. Are set back at least one-half the required depth of the street yard or are attached to the building;
- C. Do not exceed one in number, which sign is of no more than six (6) square feet in size in the Rural District, or one in number of no more than one square foot in size in the Residence A, B or C Coastal Districts;
- D. Professional offices and permitted commercial uses in Residence B and Coastal and Rural Districts shall abide by the same regulations that apply to residential accessory signs in the Rural District except such signs may be lighted during normal business hours.

12-4.5 Projecting Signs. Within the Central Business and Limited Business Districts and the Office and Research District, only one accessory projecting sign shall be permitted for each business ownership; it shall not project horizontally in excess of six (6) feet; it shall be erected at a height of not less than eight (8) feet above the sidewalk or ground level; and it shall not exceed twenty (20) square feet in surface area on each of two sides nor a total of forty (40) square feet on all sides.

12-4.6 Wall Signs. Within the Central Business and Office and Research District, no wall sign shall exceed ten percent (10%) of the area of the building face to which it is attached, but in no case shall it exceed 48 square feet in size. Within the Limited Business District, the cumulative size of permitted signs on any one business establishment shall not exceed ninety-six square feet.

12-4.7 Number and Type of Signs Permitted, by District, for Each Business. (See Articles 12-3.1, 12-4.1, 12-4.6)

| <u>TYPE OF SIGNS</u> | <u>RA</u> | <u>RB</u> | <u>RC</u> | <u>R</u> | <u>CB</u>        | <u>LB</u>        | <u>OR</u>        |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Projecting           | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 1 <sup>1,2</sup> | 1 <sup>1,2</sup> | 1 <sup>1,2</sup> |
| Residen. Accessory   | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1        | 1                | 1                | 1                |

| <u>TYPE OF SIGNS</u>  | <u>RA</u> | <u>RB</u> | <u>RC</u> | <u>R</u> | <u>CB</u>        | <u>LB</u>        | <u>OR</u>        |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Snipe                 | 1         | 1         | 1         | 2        | 2                | 2                | 2                |
| Temporary             | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1        | 1                | 1                | 1                |
| Wall                  | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 1 <sup>1,2</sup> | 1 <sup>1,2</sup> | 1 <sup>1,2</sup> |
| Free Stand. or Ground | 0         | 1         | 1         | 1        | 0                | 0                | 1                |
| Sand. Board Sign      | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 1 <sup>4</sup>   | 0                | 0                |
| Reader Board Sign     | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 1 <sup>4</sup>   | 0                | 0                |

NOTES:

- (1) The owner of a business which fronts on two town owned roads or a road and a municipal parking lot may have either a pole or a wall sign facing each road or the road and the municipal parking lot.
- (2) The owner of a business which fronts on two town owned roads or a road and a municipal parking lot may elect to have two (2) projecting signs or two (2) wall signs in place of one of each kind, subject to the restrictions on such signs in other sections of this ordinance.
- (3) Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed as restricting the placements of signs, placards, posters or advertising displays on the interior of display windows provided such signs do not violate Section 7.34 12-3.4C of this ordinance.
- (4) Only one sign -- either sandwich board or reader board -- is permitted per commercial use. A sign permit and proof of liability insurance is required for all sandwich board signs.

12-4.8 Roof Signs and Pole Signs. No such signs shall be permitted anywhere.

12-5 CONSTRUCTION

12-5.1 Glass Requirements. Any glass forming a part of a sign shall be of safety glass, and where any single piece or pane of glass has an area of more than three (3) square feet, it shall be constructed of wired glass securely held in place.

12-5.2 Wind Pressure and Dead Load. The supporting structure of and fasteners for all signs shall be designed to withstand five (5) times the combined effect of wind pressure and dead load. A wind pressure of 25 pounds per square foot on the maximum horizontally projected area of the sign shall be assumed; dead load shall be the weight of the sign.

12-5.3 Obstructions to Doors and Windows. No sign shall be erected, relocated or maintained so as to prevent free ingress to, or egress from any door, window or fire escape.

12-5.4 Marquees. No marquee shall be erected unless designed by a registered structural engineer and approved by the Code Enforcement Officer. It may extend over the sidewalk across the street line to the curb line provided it has a minimum height above the sidewalk of ten feet above the curb level and does not exceed five feet in height. The marquee must be able to support a live load of not less than one hundred pounds per square foot, and any sign attached to or hung from a marquee shall fully comply with this ordinance.

12-5.5 Canopies. Canopies may be constructed of cloth or metal, provided, however, that the lowest portion of any canopy shall not be less than eight (8) feet above the level of the sidewalk or public thoroughfare. Canopies must be designed by a registered structural engineer and be approved by the Code Enforcement Officer.

12-5.6 Awnings. Awnings may be constructed of cloth or metal, provided, however, the lowest portion thereof shall be not less than seven (7) feet above the level of the sidewalk; they may extend beyond the street line but not nearer than eighteen inches to the curb line. Awnings must be approved by the Code Enforcement Officer.

## 12-6 ENFORCEMENT

12-6.1 Notification and Removal. It shall be the duty of the Town Administrator, upon notification by the Code Enforcement Officer of any violation of the provisions of this section to notify the violator and/or building owner of such condition in writing, and if such condition is not corrected in five (5) days from the date of notification, the Town Administrator shall take legal action to have removed immediately the sign, vending machine, awning, marquee, canopy, public time piece, thermometer, structure, or machine. The owner shall be liable for any costs incurred for such removal. Any such use in violation hereof, after such notice has been duly given, is hereby declared to be a public nuisance (as in any other use or violation which is otherwise hereby declared to be a public nuisance), and the Town Administrator is authorized to abate the violation by application for injunction or other lawful means. Nothing herein shall prevent the Town Administrator from causing prosecutions to be had for violations to obtain or impose fines for such violations, either as supplemental or alternative corrective actions.

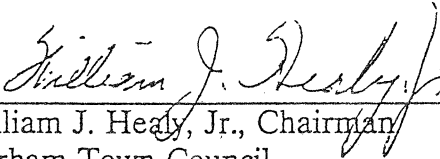
12-6.2 Penalties. Any person violating any of the provisions of this Article shall be subject to the penalties as provided by Article 2-2.1.

12-6.3 Appeal. Any person aggrieved by a decision taken under this Article shall have the right to appeal the making of said decision to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, as provided in Article 2-5.4.

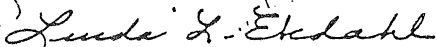
12-6.4 Repeal. This shall repeal Article 7 - Signs and Utility Structures of the Zoning Ordinance adopted March 11, 1969 and amended thereafter, and Ordinance #92-11 dated February 1, 1993.

Sandwich board signs in place as of 11/1/93 that do not meet the size restriction of Section 12-23.2 must comply with this section no later than 05/01/94. All other requirements must be complied with on the effective date of this ordinance.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Durham, New Hampshire this 1ST day of NOVEMBER 1993 by SIX (6) affirmative votes and TWO (2) negative votes.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William J. Healy, Jr., Chairman  
Durham Town Council

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda L. Ekdahl, Town Clerk