



## TOWN OF NEEDHAM

TOWN HALL

Needham, MA 02492-2669

Office of the  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

### Message to Town Meeting Members about the Stormwater By-Law

Stormwater runoff is generated from rain and snow melt flowing over land and impervious surfaces – such as building rooftops, paved streets, and parking lots – that does not soak into the ground. The runoff picks up pollutants such as trash, chemicals, oils, yard waste, and sediment that can harm rivers, streams, lakes, and coastal waters. Since 2003, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has required Needham to have a permit to discharge stormwater to its ponds, streams, and wetlands; and to clean the stormwater before the discharge. In 2016, the EPA revised its regulations to require that communities meet certain water quality standards, and implement local Stormwater By-Laws to achieve those standards within defined timeframes. Work on the proposed By-Law has proceeded throughout this past year. **The 2016 regulations took effect on July 1, 2018, and the Town has committed to the EPA to present a Stormwater By-law to Town Meeting in October, 2018.** Failure to implement a Stormwater By-Law could expose the Town to costly and time-consuming enforcement proceedings.

For action at this Special Town Meeting, the Board of Selectmen recommends an amendment to the Stormwater By-Law as printed in the warrant, and adoption of the By-Law as so amended.

The proposed amendment would remove, but reserve space for, two sections: Section 4 Applicability, and Section 7 Stormwater Management and Erosion Control. It would also add a reserved section for the establishment of an effective date. The reserved sections would be subject to further discussion, review and clarification, with a goal of presenting final language for those elements to the Annual Town Meeting in May. The balance of the article is recommended for approval at this time to create a framework and basic elements for a Stormwater By-Law.

#### Key Provisions in the By-Law as Recommended for Action at the October 10, 2018 STM

The recommended language sets forth the purpose of the By-Law, which is to prevent pollution from stormwater runoff entering sensitive areas and the public drainage system; to prohibit illicit connections and discharges to the public drainage system; to comply with federal and state mandates; and to control runoff from adjoining properties to control flooding and soil erosion.

#### Provisions Deferred to the 2019 Annual Town Meeting

The final By-Law is expected to require that most new commercial and residential construction projects, including single home teardown/replacement and large additions, to install stormwater and erosion control measures. This will include measures during construction, and provide for recharge of as much stormwater as possible on the affected parcels. Provision will be made for properties with poorly draining soils. The By-Law will set forth design requirements for implementing these measures, and will provide a standard method to make compliance easier for smaller projects.

The Board of Selectmen urges your support of Article 15, with the recommended amendment (see over), in order to comply with EPA regulations and further the environmental goals of those policies.

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM**

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING – October 10, 2018**

The following motion to amend is offered by \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Town Meeting Member

**ARTICLE 15: AMEND GENERAL BY-LAW – STORMWATER BY-LAW**

**MOVED:** That the main motion under Article 15 be amended by:

deleting the text of Section 7.4 and inserting in place thereof the word “[Reserved]”; and

deleting the text of Section 7.7 and inserting in place thereof the word “[Reserved]”; and

inserting a new section 7.12 as follows:

“SECTION 7.12 EFFECTIVE DATE

[Reserved].”