



PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING DIVISION

LEGAL NOTICE
Planning Board,
TOWN OF NEEDHAM
NOTICE OF HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L., Chapter 40A, S.5, the Needham Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 7:45 p.m. in the Charles River Room, Needham Public Services Administration Building, 500 Dedham Avenue, Needham, MA, as well as by Zoom Web ID Number 880 4672 5264 (further instructions for accessing by zoom are below), regarding certain proposed amendments to the Needham Zoning By-Law to be considered by the 2023 Annual Town Meeting.

To view and participate in this virtual meeting on your phone, download the “Zoom Cloud Meetings” app in any app store or at www.zoom.us. At the above date and time, click on “Join a Meeting” and enter the following Meeting ID: 880 4672 5264

To view and participate in this virtual meeting on your computer, at the above date and time, go to www.zoom.us click “Join a Meeting” and enter the following ID: 880 4672 5264

Or to Listen by Telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 9128 or +1 253 215 8782 Then enter ID: 880 4672 5264

Direct Link to meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88046725264>

Members of the public attending this meeting virtually will be allowed to make comments if they wish to do so, during the portion of the hearing designated for public comment through Zoom or through calling in, or by attending the in-person meeting.

Persons interested are encouraged to call the Planning Board office (781-455-7550) for more information. A copy of the complete text of the proposed articles are detailed below. The article designations given have been assigned by the Planning Board for identification purposes only. An article number will subsequently be established by the Select Board for the Warrant.

ARTICLE 1: AMEND ZONING BY-LAW – ACCESSORY 3-CAR GARAGE USE IN SINGLE RESIDENCE B, GENERAL RESIDENCE, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Needham Zoning By-Law as follows:

- (1) In Section 6.1, Accessory Uses, Subsection 6.1.2, by deleting from the first sentence of the first paragraph the words “and in the Single Residence B, General Residence, Business and Industrial districts garage space for not more than two (2) cars” so that the sentence shall now read as follows:

“There shall be permitted as an accessory use on residential property in the Single Residence A, Rural Residence – Conservation, and Institutional districts garage space for not more than three (3) cars.”

- (2) In Section 6.1, Accessory Uses, Subsection 6.1.2, by adding a new second and third paragraph to read as follows:

“There shall be permitted as an accessory use on two-family residential property in the General Residence and Business districts garage space for not more than two (2) cars per dwelling unit.

There shall be permitted as an accessory use on single-family residential property in the Single Residence B, General Residence, Business and Industrial districts garage space for not more than three (3) cars, provided that the third garage shall be designed and located as follows:

- (a) the garage-space door shall be on the façade of a dwelling, which façade faces a side lot line, or the rear lot line, or if the dwelling is on a corner lot, does not face the street or way toward which the front entry door of the dwelling is oriented, for purposes of this Section 6.1.2 referred to as the front façade; or
 - (b) the garage-space door shall be on the front façade of a dwelling, provided (i) that the garage is set back at least five (5) feet from the portion of the front façade of the dwelling that has the longest length, and (ii) the length of all garage spaces on the front façade of the dwelling does not exceed 50% of the total length of the front façade of the dwelling, or (iii) the garage is located in the basement of the dwelling and accessed by means of a ramp; or
 - (c) The additional garage space shall be located in an accessory building where the accessory building is separate from and set back at least five (5) feet from the portion of the front façade of the principal structure that has the longest length.”
- (3) In Section 6.1, Accessory Uses, Subsection 6.1.2, by ordering the second paragraph as paragraph four and revising the first sentence of said paragraph to read as follows (new language underlined):

“Upon application the Board of Appeals may issue a Special Permit for (i) one additional garage space per lot in the Single Residence A, Rural Residence – Conservation, and Institutional districts for a total of four (4) garage spaces, or (ii) one additional garage space per lot in the Single Residence B, General Residence, Business and Industrial districts for a total of three (3) garage spaces, notwithstanding that the garage-space door is not permitted under the paragraph above, provided that the premises in question are reasonably adaptable to such use and will allow proper layout thereof (including adequate separation of buildings or structures and open areas from adjacent premises), and provided further that the proposed use;”

ARTICLE 2: AMEND ZONING BY-LAW – ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS (ADUs)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Needham Zoning By-Law as follows:

- (1) In Section 3.15 Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), Subsection 3.15.1 Intent, by revising the Subsection to read as follows (new language underlined):

“The intent and purpose of this section is to permit accessory dwelling units (ADUs) in single-family dwellings or in buildings accessory to single-family dwellings for occupancy by (a) an Owner (as defined in this section 3.15.2) or (b) Family (as so defined) of an Owner of the property or (c) Caregiver (as so defined) to an Owner of the property or a Family member of an Owner or (d) a Lessee (as so defined) of an Owner who resides in the ADU or the principal dwelling unit, all subject to the standards and procedures hereinafter set forth. It is also the intent to assure that the single-family character of the neighborhood will be maintained and that the ADU remains subordinate to the principal use of the property as a single-family detached dwelling.”

- (2) In Section 3.15 Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), Subsection 3.15.2 Definitions, by revising subparagraphs (a), (b) (c) and (d) to read as follows (new language underlined):
- “(a) Accessory dwelling unit (ADU) is an apartment in a single-family detached dwelling or in a building that is accessory to a single-family detached dwelling, which apartment is a second, self-contained dwelling unit and a complete, separate housekeeping unit containing provisions for living, sleeping, cooking and eating. This unit shall be subordinate in size to the principal dwelling unit on a lot and shall be constructed to maintain the appearance and essential character of a single-family dwelling or a single-family dwelling with an accessory building.
- (b) “Caregiver” shall mean an adult who regularly looks after an elderly, chronically ill or disabled Owner who needs assistance with activities of daily living or an Owner’s Family member who needs such assistance and for whom the property is such elderly, chronically ill or disabled person’s primary residence.
- (c) “Family” as a capitalized word, for the purpose of specifying, pursuant to Section 3.15.3.1 who may occupy the dwelling unit that is not Owner occupied, shall mean persons who are related to an Owner, Caregiver or Lessee, by blood, adoption or marriage, and who are related to such Owner, Caregiver or Lessee as follows: spouse, parent, sibling, child, grandchild, grandparent, aunt, uncle or a spouse or child of any such resident person.”
- (d) “Owner” shall mean a person who holds record title to the property directly or indirectly and for whom the property is such Owner’s primary residence. Indirect ownership includes but is not limited to a beneficiary of a trust holding record title to the property and a majority owner of the voting stock of a corporation or the membership units of a limited liability company holding record title to the property.”
- (3) In Section 3.15 Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), Subsection 3.15.2 Definitions, by adding a new subparagraph (e) to read as follows:
- “(e) “Lessee” shall mean a person or persons who has entered into a written lease with the Owner as lessor permitting occupancy of the ADU or the principal dwelling unit for a period of time of at least one year by the Lessee and Family of the Lessee, which lease shall prohibit the Lessee from (i) subleasing, (ii) assigning the lease, or (iii) offering housing accommodations on a short-term basis using an on-line venue such as Airbnb or by any other means to persons who are not Family of the Lessee, provided further that the Owner shall have filed a copy of such lease with the Building Commissioner as a pre-condition of the issuance of an occupancy permit for the ADU, whether to be occupied by the Owner or the Lessee.”
- (4) In Section 3.15 Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), Subsection 3.15.3 Use Regulations, by revising the section heading to read as follows (new language underlined):
- “3.15.3.1 Use Regulations for ADU within a Single-family Dwelling”
- (5) In Section 3.15 Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), Subsection 3.15.3.1 Use Regulations for ADU within a Single-family Dwelling, by revising the first sentence to read as follows:
- “An ADU within a single-family detached dwelling shall be permitted under the following use regulations:”
- (6) In Section 3.15 Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), Subsection 3.15.3.1 Use Regulations for ADU within a Single-family Dwelling, by revising subparagraphs (c), (d) (f), (g) and (h) to read as follows (new language underlined):

- “(c) Occupancy of the unit that is not Owner-occupied shall be limited to a member or members of the Owner’s Family or a Caregiver and such Caregiver’s Family or a Lessee and such Lessee’s Family; provided that occupancy of the principal dwelling unit and the ADU combined shall be limited to five persons who are not Family of the Owner.
- (d) The size of the ADU shall be limited to 900 square feet of living space and shall have no more than one bedroom.
- (f) Adequate provisions for the proper disposal of sewage and waste generated by the ADU shall be in accordance with Board of Health requirements, and the proper disposal of stormwater shall be in accordance with the Needham Stormwater By-law as administered by the Director of Public Works, if applicable based on the size of any addition to the principal dwelling or an accessory building to accommodate the ADU.
- (g) Compliance with the ingress and egress provisions of the Massachusetts State Building Code, applicable to dwelling units, shall be required. To the extent possible, exterior entrances and access ways to an ADU shall not detract from the single-family appearance of the dwelling. Where there are two or more existing entrances on the front façade of a dwelling and modifications are made to any entrance to provide access to an ADU, or a new entrance is constructed on the front façade of a dwelling to provide such access, the result shall be that the entrance to the principal dwelling unit appears to be the principal entrance to the dwelling and the entrance to the ADU appears to be secondary, so that the ADU entrance shall not detract from the single-family appearance of the property. An interior door way shall be provided between the principle dwelling unit and the ADU as a means of access for purposes of emergency response. All stairways to additional floors shall be enclosed within the exterior walls of the structure.
- (h) The owner of record shall be responsible for submitting an ADU application to the Building Commissioner. Floor plans of the ADU and principal dwelling unit, along with a certified site plan, shall also be submitted with the application to the Building Commissioner.”
- (7) In Section 3.15 Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), Subsection 3.15.3.1 Use Regulations within a Single-family Dwelling, by deleting subparagraphs (j) and (k).
- (8) In Section 3.15 Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), by adding a new Section 3.15.3.2 Use Regulations for ADU within an Accessory Building, a new Section 3.15.3.3 Maintenance of Appearance of Single-family Property, and a new Section 3.15.3.4 Occupancy and Enforcement to read as follows:

“3.15.3.2 Use Regulations for ADU within an Accessory Building

An ADU within an accessory building on the same lot as a single-family detached dwelling may be permitted upon the issuance of a Special Permit by the Board of Appeals under the use regulations of Section 3.15.3.1 (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (i) and under the following additional use regulations:

- (a) There shall be no more than one ADU on a lot and no more than one additional accessory building larger than 50 sq. ft
- (b) Compliance with the ingress and egress provisions of the Massachusetts State Building Code, applicable to dwelling units, shall be required for an ADU within an accessory building.
- (c) The owner of record shall be responsible for submitting an ADU application to the Building Commissioner. Floor plans of the ADU and the accessory building that it is to be within or added to, along with a certified plot plan showing the location and dimensions of the primary

building and all accessory buildings on the premises, both existing and proposed, shall be submitted with the application to the Building Commissioner.

3.15.3.3 Maintenance of Appearance of Single-family Property

It is the intent of Section 3.15 as specified in Section 3.15.1 to assure that the single-family character of the neighborhood will be maintained and that the ADU remains subordinate to the principal use of the property as a single-family detached dwelling. Pursuant to the definition of Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) in Section 3.15.2, an ADU shall be constructed to maintain the appearance and essential character of a single-family dwelling or a single-family dwelling with an accessory building. Pursuant to the regulation at 3.15.3.1 (g), to the extent possible, exterior entrances and access ways to an ADU shall not detract from the single-family appearance of the principal dwelling and where there are two or more existing entrances on the front façade of the principal dwelling and modifications are made to any such entrance to provide access to an ADU, or a new entrance is constructed on the front façade of a dwelling to provide such access, the result shall be that the entrance to the principal dwelling unit appears to be the principal entrance to the dwelling and the entrance to the ADU appears to be secondary.

The Building Commissioner shall not deny a building permit or occupancy permit for an Accessory Dwelling Unit within a Single-family Building under Section 3.15.3.1 solely due to concern that the above-referenced standards are not met, unless the Building Commissioner requests and obtains an advisory report as to the issue of compliance with these standards from the Design Review Board established under Section 7.7.2 of this By-law.

3.15.3.4 Occupancy and Enforcement

- (a) Occupancy of the ADU shall not take place without proof of a recorded Special Permit, if required by Section 3.15.3.2, and an occupancy permit issued by the Building Commissioner. The initial occupancy permit shall remain in force provided that (i) there is no violation of any provision of this Zoning By-law or the Massachusetts State Building Code or the conditions of any special permit, variance or other zoning relief applicable to the premises, and (ii) that ownership of the premises is not changed unless, in anticipation of a change in ownership, the prospective owner files an acknowledgement that the unit to be occupied by said prospective owner shall be said owner's primary residence and evidence that the other unit is to be occupied by a Family member, Caretaker or Lessee of the prospective owner, and such acknowledgement and evidence is satisfactory to the Building Commissioner, and (iii) the Owner files with the Building Commissioner in the month of January of each year after the anniversary of the issuance of the occupancy permit, a certification that the unit occupied by the Owner continues to be said Owner's primary residence, together with evidence that the other unit is occupied by a Family member, Caretaker or Lessee of the Owner, and such certification and evidence is satisfactory to the Building Commissioner. Furthermore, at any time upon written request from the Building Commissioner, the Owner will provide evidence that the ADU and the principal dwelling unit are being occupied in accordance with the By-law. In the event the Owner fails to comply with the requirements in (i) above or fails to provide the acknowledgement required by (ii) above or the certification required by (iii) above or fails to provide such evidence to the Building Commissioner within thirty (30) days of a written request, the Building Commissioner may revoke the occupancy permit for the ADU, and if the ADU is within an accessory building pursuant to Section 3.15.3.2 the Building Commissioner may also revoke the Special Permit for the ADU.
- (b) In the case that the ADU is in violation of the terms of this By-law or the lawful use of such unit has expired or been terminated, the Building Commissioner may, in addition to other remedies, order the removal of any one or more of the provisions that create a separate dwelling unit, such as living, sleeping, cooking and eating.”

- (9) In Section 7.7.2 Design Review Board, Subsection 7.7.2.2 Authority and Specific Powers, by adding after the first sentence of the second paragraph a new sentence to read as follows:

“The Design Review Board shall review requests from the Building Commissioner, as required under Section 3.15.3.3 of the By-law.”

- (10) In Section 7.7.2 Design Review Board, Subsection 7.7.2.2 Authority and Specific Powers, by revising the second sentence of the third paragraph to read as follows (new language underlined):

“Such advisory reports of the Design Review Board shall be transmitted to the Building Commissioner and applicant in all other instances as described in the two paragraphs above for “Minor Projects” under Site Plan Review, building permits in all non-residential districts, requests from the Building Commissioner under Section 3.15.3.3 and sign permits.”

ARTICLE 3: AMEND ZONING BY-LAW – CORRECTIVE ZONING AMENDMENTS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Needham Zoning By-Law as follows:

1. Amend the Needham Zoning By-Law by replacing all references to “Building Inspector” with “Building Commissioner” where it appears in the By-Law.
2. Amendment Section 3.15 Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU’s) by renumbering the section as Section 3.16 Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU’s) and by further renumbering the subsections numerically.
3. Amend Section 5.1.2 Required Parking, by deleting in the first sentence of the second paragraph the words “, 2nd Edition,” and inserting the words “the most recent edition of” after the words “recommendations based on” so that sentence now reads as follows (new language underlined):

“In the event that the Building Inspector is unable to determine if a particular use relates to any use within the table of ‘Required Parking’ (Section 5.1.2), the Planning Board shall recommend to the Building Inspector a reasonable number of spaces to be provided based on the expected parking needs of occupants, users, guests, or employees of the proposed business, with said recommendations based on the most recent edition of the ITE Parking Generation Manual or an alternative technical source determined by the Planning Board to be equally or more applicable.”

ARTICLE 4: AMEND ZONING BY-LAW – SINGLE RESIDENCE B AND GENERAL RESIDENCE SIDE SETBACK

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Needham Zoning By-Law as follows:

1. Amend Section 4.2, Dimensional Regulations for Rural Residence-Conservation, Single Residence A, Single Residence B, General Residence, and Institutional Districts, Subsection 4.2.1 Table of Regulations for Rural Residence-Conservation, Single Residence A, Single Residence B, and General Residence Districts, for Buildings and Structures on Lots Created by Deed or Plan Endorsed or Recorded Prior to January 9, 1986 and Not Including New Construction, footnote (e) by adding at the end of the last sentence of footnote (e) the words “for the remaining length of the structure, regardless of an increased side setback” so the sentence shall now read as follows (new language underlined):

“In no case shall a side wall extension extend more than 32 linear feet without a 2- foot offset for the remaining length of the structure, regardless of an increased side setback.”

2. Amend Section 4.2, Dimensional Regulations for Rural Residence-Conservation, Single Residence A, Single Residence B, General Residence, and Institutional Districts, Subsection 4.2.2 Table of Regulations for Rural Residence-Conservation, Single Residence A, Single Residence B, and General Residence Districts, for Buildings and Structures, on Lots Created by Deed or Plan, Endorsed or

Recorded on or After January 9, 1986 and Not Including New Construction, footnote (a) by adding at the end of the last sentence of footnote (a) the words “for the remaining length of the structure, regardless of an increased side setback” so the sentence shall now read as follows (new language underlined):

“In no case shall a side wall extension extend more than 32 linear feet without a 2- foot offset for the remaining length of the structure, regardless of an increased side setback.”

3. Amend Section 4.2, Dimensional Regulations for Rural Residence-Conservation, Single Residence A, Single Residence B, General Residence, and Institutional Districts, Subsection 4.2.3 Table of Regulations for Rural Residence-Conservation, Single Residence A, Single Residence B, and General Residence Districts, for Buildings and Structures Created Through New Construction on any Lot, footnote (a) by adding at the end of the last sentence of footnote (a) the words “for the remaining length of the structure, regardless of an increased side setback” so the sentence shall now read as follows (new language underlined):

“In no case shall a side wall extension extend more than 32 linear feet without a 2-foot offset for the remaining length of the structure, regardless of an increased side setback.”

Interested persons are encouraged to attend the public hearing and make their views known to the Planning Board. This legal notice is also posted on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association’s (MNPA) website at (<http://masspublicnotices.org/>).

Needham Hometown Weekly, February 16, 2023 and February 23, 2023.