Chelsea Vermont Zoning Bylaw

Planning Commission Hearing Draft Planning Commission Hearing 10-27-2025

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1. Authority and Purpose

2 1.1 Introduction

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- 3 The Chelsea Planning Commission has prepared this Bylaw to enable the Town of Chelsea to
- 4 implement the Town Plan, while providing the minimum amount of regulation necessary to
- 5 achieve that purpose. Any current land use that was legal prior to the adoption of this Zoning
- 6 Bylaw may be continued. This Zoning Bylaw does not regulate some uses, such as farming and
- 7 forestry that are exempted by Vermont law.

8 1.2 Enactment

- 9 Whereas the Town of Chelsea, Vermont has created a Planning Commission and has in effect a
- plan adopted by the Town under the Vermont Municipal and Regional Planning and
- Development Act, 24 V. S.A., Chapter 117, herein referred to as the "Act", there is hereby
- established a zoning bylaw for the Town of Chelsea.
- 13 This Zoning Bylaw shall be referred to as the Chelsea Zoning Bylaw. When used in this
- document, it may also be referred to as the 'Zoning Bylaw' or simply 'the Bylaw'.

15 **1.3 Purpose**

- 16 It is the purpose of this Bylaw to implement the Chelsea Town Plan by providing for the
- appropriate use of all lands in the Town of Chelsea in a manner which will:
- promote and protect the public health, safety, prosperity, comfort, convenience, efficiency, and general welfare;
- protect soils, forests, streambanks, wetlands, and other natural resources;
- encourage the density and distribution of settlement to be in character with the rural residential environment of the town;
- and further the purposes set forth in 24 V.S.A. § 4302 of the Act.

24 **1.4 Effective Date**

- 25 This Bylaw or any amendments thereto, shall become effective twenty-one (21) days after
- adoption by the Selectboard, or upon date of their adoption by a vote of the Town by Australian
- 27 Ballot at a regular or special Town meeting, when the Town has so voted.

28 1.5 Status of Prior Bylaws and Ordinances

29 Upon the effective date of this Bylaw, previous versions shall be void.

30 **1.6 Severability**

- 31 If any provision of this bylaw is held to be invalid, such a decision shall not affect the validity of
- 32 the bylaw as a whole or any part thereof other than the part held to be invalid.

33 1.7 Precedence

- 34 The provisions of this Bylaw shall be held to be minimum requirements adopted for the
- promotion of the public health, safety, comfort, convenience, and general welfare. Whenever this
- 36 Bylaw imposes a greater restriction upon the use of a structure or land than are required by any
- other statute, bylaw, rule, permit or agreement, the provisions of this Bylaw shall control.

2. General Regulations

39 2.1 Application of Bylaws

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- 40 This Bylaw applies to all land development unless specifically exempted under statute or Section
- 41 2.4. No land development may take place unless in conformity with this Bylaw.
- 42 Land development located within the Special Flood Hazard Area must also conform to the
- 43 requirements of Chelsea's Flood Hazard bylaw. The regulations under the Flood Hazard Bylaw
- may be more stringent than those contained within this Bylaw.

2.2 Permit Required

- Except as provided for in Sections 2.3 and 2.4 of this
- Bylaw, no land development may commence unless a
- 48 Zoning Permit shall have been duly issued by the Zoning
- 49 Administrator. Land development is very comprehensive
- and includes the division of a parcel into two or more
- 51 parcels, the construction, reconstruction, conversion,
- 52 structural alteration, relocation, or enlargement of any
- 53 building or other structure, or of any mining, excavation,
- or landfill, and any change in the use of any building or
- other structure, or land, or extension of use of land.
- 56 Sitework incidental to construction is part of a project
- 57 and shall not commence until a Zoning Permit is issued
- and the appeal period has passed.
- 59 Prospective applicants for Zoning Permits may obtain
- application materials from the Town Offices or Zoning
- 61 Administrator during regular office hours.

You need a permit!

Just because a use or type of development is "permitted" it does not mean you don't need a permit. You do!

Permits allow the town to track development throughout town and to be aware of any potential health or safety hazards that might exist.

Some uses are exempted from the permitting process by statute or by the town. See Section 2.4 for more information.

If you are unsure whether or not you need a permit, contact the Chelsea Zoning Administrator.

- All Zoning Permits for projects not substantially complete within a period of two (2) years from
- 63 issuance, or the conclusion of any appeal, shall expire. Zoning Permits for projects that have met
- 64 the requirements contained in the Zoning Permit within the required time shall not expire and
- shall 'run with the land' and are transferrable to subsequent owners. Approved projects not
- substantially complete at time of expiration of a Zoning Permit may not be commenced or
- 67 recommenced without the application and receipt of a new Zoning Permit.
- Zoning Permits located within the Special Flood Hazard Area may require an additional permit
- 69 under the Flood Hazard Bylaw prior to issuance of a Zoning Permit under this Bylaw.
- 70 Projects requiring a Wastewater System & Potable Water Supply Permit from the State must
- 71 receive such permit or record the required deed notice prior to issuance of a Zoning Permit under

- 72 this Bylaw. Projects requiring an Acceptance Letter or Permit for a connection to the Chelsea
- 73 public sanitary or combined sewer system must receive such Acceptance Letter or Permit prior to
- 74 issuance of a Zoning Permit under this Bylaw.
- 75 Projects may also require other local, state, or federal permits, approvals, or certifications beyond
- those required in this Bylaw, and applicants should contact the Zoning Administrator for more
- 77 information.

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2.3 Development Approved or Commenced Prior to this Bylaw

- 79 No new Zoning Permit shall be required for any lawful land development which had begun prior
- 80 to the adoption or amendment to this Bylaw. Nothing contained in this Bylaw shall require any
- change in plans or construction of a non-complying structure for which a Zoning Permit has been
- issued and which has been completed within two (2) years from issuance. Non-complying
- 83 structures and non-conforming uses that were legally established may continue per the provisions
- 84 of Section 5.10.

2.4 Exemptions

- 86 Except for those areas within the Flood Hazard Area (which are regulated by the Flood Hazard
- 87 Bylaw), no Zoning Permit shall be required for the following activities, however all setback
- 88 distances shall be complied with:
 - a) Required agricultural practices (RAPs), including the construction of farm structures, as those practices are defined by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, in accordance with 24 V.S.A § 4413(d). Such structures shall meet all setback requirements under these regulations, unless specifically waived by the Secretary of Agriculture.
 - b) Accepted silviculture (forestry) practices as those practices are defined by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation, in accordance with the Act 24 V.S.A § 4413(d). Forestry operations has the same meaning as in 10 V.S.A. § 2602.
 - c) Power generation and transmission facilities, which are regulated under 30 V.S.A. § 248 by the Vermont Public Service Board and telecommunications facilities subject to 30 VSA § 248a. Such facilities, however, shall conform to policies and objectives specified for such development in the Town Plan.
 - d) Hunting, fishing, and trapping as specified under 24 V.S.A § 2295 on private or public land. This does not include facilities supporting such activities, such as firing ranges or rod and gun clubs, which for the purposes of these regulations are defined as outdoor recreation facilities.
- e) Any use having no impact or a de minimus impact as determined by the Zoning Administrator as authorized in 24 V.S.A § 4446.

- f) Normal maintenance, repair, upgrading, or remodeling of a building or structure that neither increases the building's footprint nor involves a change in use. However, such work may require compliance with the state Residential Building Energy Standards (RBES) or Commercial Building Energy Standards (CBES) (see the ZA for applicable rules).
- g) Replacement or repair of an existing structure or building damaged by fire or other disaster provided that the structure or building is no greater in any dimension and is within the original footprint, and that reconstruction begins within two (2) years of the date of damage. However, such work may require compliance with the state Residential Building Energy Standards (RBES) or Commercial Building Energy Standards (CBES) (see the ZA for applicable rules).
- h) The annexation (combination) of lots in their entirety or platting of unplatted lots provided that the lots created meet the standards required in Section 2.7.
- i) The installation of a roof-mounted solar heat/photovoltaic panel. Antennae extending no more than twelve (12) feet above the roof and having any face surface area of no more than fifteen (15) square feet, except on a state or federally designated historical structure.

Is my farm structure exempt?

In order a farm structure to be considered exempt, the structure must conform to the Secretary of Agriculture's definition of "farming use" by meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- (a) is used in connection with the sale of \$1000 or more of agricultural products in a normal year; or
- (b) is used in connection with the raising, feeding, and management of at least the following number of adult animals: four equines; five cattle or American bison; fifteen swine; fifteen goats; fifteen sheep; fifteen fallow deer; fifteen red deer; fifty turkeys; fifty geese; one-hundred laying hens; two-hundred and fifty broilers, pheasant, Chukar partridge, or Coturnix quail; three camelids; four ratites (ostriches, rheas, and emus); thirty rabbits; one hundred ducks; or one-thousand pounds of cultured trout; or
- (c) is used by a farmer filing with the Internal Revenue Service a 1040 (F) income tax statement in at least one of the past two (2) years; or
- (d) is on a farm with a business and farm management plan approved by the Secretary.

If you do not meet at least **one** of these criteria, your structure is NOT exempt from the permitting process or regulations contained within this Bylaw. For more information, contact the Vermont Agency of Agriculture.

j) The long-term rental of an existing dwelling unit. However, such a change in use may require a state building permit.

2.5 Existing Small Lots

- Any lot in individual and separate and non-affiliated ownership from surrounding properties in
- existence on the effective date of this Bylaw may be developed for the purposes permitted in the
- district in which it is located, even though not conforming to minimum lot size requirements, if
- such lot is:
 - a) served by or able to connect to municipal sewer and water service and development is able to comply with setbacks; or

- b) is not less than one-eighth (1/8) acre in area, and has a minimum width or depth of forty
 (40) feet, receives a state Wastewater System & Potable Water Supply Permit, and is
 able to comply with setbacks.
- 151 If an existing small non-conforming undeveloped lot subsequently comes under common
- ownership with one or more contiguous lots, the nonconforming lot shall be deemed merged
- 153 with the contiguous lot. However, a nonconforming lot shall not be deemed merged and may be
- separately conveyed if all the following apply:
- a) The lots are conveyed in their preexisting, nonconforming configuration.
- b) On the effective date of any bylaw, each lot was developed with a water supply and wastewater disposal system. At the time of transfer, each water supply and wastewater system are functioning in an acceptable manner.
 - c) The deeds of conveyance create appropriate easements on both lots for replacement of one or more wastewater systems, potable water systems, or both, in case there is a failed system or failed supply as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 1972.

2.6 Required Frontage On, or Access to, Public Roads or Waters

- 163 As required by Vermont law, no lot shall be permitted which does not have frontage on a public
- road or water, or, with the approval of the Development Review Board, access to such a road by
- permanent easement or right-of-way at least twenty (20) feet in width. Lots with access by a
- right-of-way less than thirty (30) feet in width shall be limited to only one principal structure as
- part of their Zoning Permit. Such accesses shall be constructed to no less than as specified in 24
- V.S.A. § 4412(3). Existing parcels must have frontage on a public road or water, or, with the
- approval of the Development Review Board, access to such a road by permanent easement or
- 170 right-of-way at least twenty (20) feet in width to be developed.
- 171 Construction or reconstruction/modification of an access onto a public highway requires a
- separate access permit (see the Zoning Administrator for more information).

2.7 Division of Lots

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- No lot shall be subdivided into two or more lots unless all the lots resulting from such a division
- 175 conform to the applicable minimum area and dimensional standards. All resulting lots must have
- either a Wastewater System & Potable Water Supply Permit or the required deed notice per state
- 177 rules; or are connected, or able to connect, to the Chelsea public sanitary or combined sewer
- system. Such required deed notice shall be written in at least 12-point font on the plat.

2.8 Streambank Conservation

To prevent soil erosion and to ensure conservation of streams for recreational and other

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- purposes, all buildings or structures erected from the effective date of these Bylaws shall be set
- back thirty-five (35) feet from the top of the streambank or slope. Top of streambank shall mean
- the point along a streambank where an abrupt change in slope is evident, and where the stream is
- generally able to overflow the banks and enter the adjacent floodplain during flows at or
- exceeding the average annual high-water stage. Top of slope shall mean a break in slopes
- adjacent to steep-banked streams that have little or no floodplain; or a break in slope where the
- side slopes adjacent to an incised, or deeply cut, channel meet floodplains that have been
- abandoned or are undergoing abandonment.

2.9 Equal Treatment of Housing

- Pursuant to 24 V.S.A § 4412(1)(B), a mobile home, modular housing or prefabricated housing
- must be considered a single-unit dwelling and must meet the same zoning requirements
- applicable to single-unit dwellings.

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2.10 Affordable Housing

- No provision of this bylaw may have the effect of excluding from the municipality housing to
- meet the needs of the population as determined in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 4412(1)(a).
- Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 4412(13), in any area served by municipal sewer and water
- infrastructure that allows residential development, these Bylaws shall permit any affordable
- housing development, as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 4303(2), including mixed-use development, to
- exceed density limitations for residential developments by an additional forty (40%) percent,
- which shall include exceeding maximum height limitations by one floor, provided that the
- structure complies with the Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code.

2.11 Sewage Disposal

- 203 An applicant for a Zoning Permit whose land requires a Wastewater System & Potable Water
- Supply Permit from the Protection Division of the Agency of Natural Resources shall obtain
- such permit prior to the issuance of a Zoning Permit or file in the land records the required state
- deed notice. A copy of such Permit or notice shall be submitted as part of the Zoning
- 207 Application. An application submitted without a required state Wastewater System & Potable
- 208 Water Supply Permit shall be deemed incomplete.
- 209 An applicant for a Zoning Permit whose land abuts any street, alley, right-of-way in which there
- 210 is now located a public sanitary or combined sewer of the Town of Chelsea provided that said
- public sewer is within two hundred (200) feet of the structure must include an Acceptance Letter
- or Permit for a connection to the said public sanitary or combined sewer system issued by the
- 213 Chelsea Water Department Board. A copy of such Acceptance Letter or Permit shall be
- submitted as part of the Zoning Application. An application submitted without a required
- 215 Acceptance Letter or Permit shall be deemed incomplete. Applicants should consult the Chelsea
- 216 Water and Sewer Ordinance for further information.

2.12 Multiple Uses

- A lot may have more than one principal use. Minimum lot sizes apply per principal use. A
- 219 mixed-use building (a combination of principal uses within a single building) is allowed,
- provided that the uses are permittable in the district, and all other applicable standards are met
- for all uses. For a proposed use that is a single enterprise that covers a blend of permitted use
- categories, the ZA will determine which is the principal use category and treat the application
- 223 under that category.

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2.13 More Than One Principal Building

- No more than one principal building may be placed on a lot unless such buildings and any
- structures accessory to such principal buildings are positioned such that the lot is able to be
- subdivided into separate and individual lots, and all lots and their respective uses conforming to
- all applicable provisions of this Bylaw.

3. Zoning District Regulations

230 3.1 Establishment of Zoning Districts

- For the purpose of these Bylaws, the following Land Use Districts are hereby established within
- the Town.

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- Village (VIL)
- Industrial (IND)
- Rural Residential (RR)
- Mixed Use Development (MU)
- Conservation Area (CA)

238 3.1.1 Village District (VIL)

- 239 The purpose of this district is to be a center of high-density development that includes mixture of
- 240 housing types, commercial uses, services, light industry, and community facilities. Because the
- Village District is served by an off-site public sewer system with a secondary sewage treatment,
- 242 higher density and intensity of uses is appropriate, providing that they are of the same character
- 243 as existing development.

244 3.1.2 Rural Residential District (RR)

- 245 The Rural Residential district is predominantly forested and interspersed by farmland. It is also
- the location for much of Chelsea's housing stock. This pattern of land use is the primary purpose
- of this district. However, some non-residential uses, including individual services and
- commercial outdoor recreation are allowed provided that such uses are planned as relatively
- small in size or scale.

250 3.1.3 Industrial District (IND)

- The purpose of this district is to provide an area with adequate transportation access and power
- availability for industrial, commercial, and municipal land uses. Light industrial uses are allowed
- in this district. However, heavy industry is a conditional use in this district. Residential uses
- within this district are allowed, but need to be separated from non-residential uses as much as
- possible.

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3.1.4 Mixed Use Development District (MU)

257 The purpose of the Mixed Use Development Areas is to provide a flood resilient location for new

- commercial and mixed-use development in Chelsea. Within these areas a mix of land uses is
- allowed, including service businesses, light manufacturing, and professional offices, as well as
- 260 residences.

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3.1.5 Conservation Area (CA)

- 262 The purpose of the Conservation Area is to provide Chelsea with an area containing large blocks
- of unfragmented forest that are needed to sustain a forestry industry and areas that contain
- 264 critical wildlife habitat and allow safe wildlife movement. Within these areas, development will
- be limited to maintain the area's ability to provide timber production, outdoor recreation, flood
- storage and aquifer recharge, scenic beauty, and wildlife habitat.

3.2 Establishment of Overlay Districts

- 268 For the purpose of these Bylaws, the following Overlay Districts are hereby established within
- the Town.
- Flood Hazard (FHO)
- Well-Head Protection Overlay (WHPO)
- 272 All applicable standards of the underlying district shall apply.

273 3.2.1 Flood Hazard Overlay District (FHO)

- 274 This district encompasses all lands shown as the area of
- special flood hazard (flood fringe and floodways) on the
- 276 latest Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for the Town of
- 277 Chelsea. Any land development within the area of special
- flood hazard on the town's Flood Insurance Rate Map is
- 279 regulated under the Town's standalone Flood Hazard Area
- 280 Regulations, and shall require a conditional use approval
- 281 following the issuance of a **separate permit** under the Flood
- 282 Hazard Area Regulations.

Flood Hazard Permit

Chelsea has a "stand alone" Flood Hazard Area Regulations. Any development proposed within the area outlined in Section 3.2.1 will require a **separate** Flood Permit in to meet the requirements of this Bylaw.

3.2.2 Well-Head Protection Overlay District (WHPO)

- 284 Chelsea's village is served by a public water system which is comprised of multiple wells. Due
- 285 to the relatively high risk of permanent groundwater contamination, the following uses or
- activities are prohibited within the Well-Head Protection Areas as designated on the official
- zoning map. All applicable standards of the underlying district shall apply.

288 Prohibited Uses within the Well-Head Protection Overlay District

1. Commercial salvage yards, junkyards, or automobile graveyards;

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- 2. Manufacture, use, or storage of toxic materials exceeding 50 gallons or 250 pounds of dry 290 weight; 291 292 3. Uncontained storage of animal manure; 293 4. Landfills or waste transfer stations; and 294 5. Industrial uses that discharge process waste on-site. Special Provisions within the Well-Head Protection Overlay District 295 296 Commercial storage of liquid petroleum products is prohibited unless the Development Review 297 Board determines that all appropriate precautions have been taken to eliminate the possibility of contamination of the groundwater or the public water supply. 298 299 No land development that involves or typically requires the installation, maintenance, or operation of a subsurface sewer disposal system shall be permitted unless the Development 300 Review Board first determines that such a facility will not adversely affect groundwater quality 301 or contaminate public water supplies. 302 303 Plans for the construction of roads or related improvements shall be reviewed by the 304 Development Review Board prior to development of such facilities. Approval by the Board shall be granted on finding that the proposed project will not result in undue soil erosion or water 305 pollution. The Board may attach conditions to its approval. 306 307 To the above ends, the Development Review Board may require the applicant to engage, at their 308 expense, a licensed sanitation engineer to review their plan and present their written opinion regarding the effect it may have, if any, as a potential contaminator of the source. 309 Prior to rendering a decision for any land development with the Well-Head Protection Area, the 310 Zoning Administrator or Development Review Board shall provide notice to the Chief Operator 311 312 of the Chelsea Water System. The Chief Operator shall coordinate its review of any proposed development with the Selectboard and Development Review Board. 313 3.3 Official Zoning Map 314 315 The location and boundaries of Zoning and Overlay Districts are established as shown on the Official Zoning Map maintained at the Chelsea Town Office. The Official Zoning Map, together 316 with interpretive guidelines and all amendments thereto, is hereby made a part of this Ordinance. 317 All amendments to the Official Zoning Map are subject to the provisions of this Ordinance 318 319 regarding amendments. 3.4 Interpretation of Zoning and Overlay District Boundaries 320
- Where uncertainty exists as to the boundaries of districts as shown on the Official Zoning Map,
- 322 the location of such boundaries shall be determined by the Zoning Administrator. The decisions
- of the Zoning Administrator may be appealed by the applicant or interested parties to the DRB

- for action. In making such a determination, the DRB may require the application to submit
- 325 additional information on the property.
- 326 The Zoning Administrator and DRB shall use the following guidelines to assist them in making a
- 327 determination:
- 1. Boundaries indicated as approximately following the centerlines of roads, streams, transportation and utility rights-of-way shall be construed to follow such centerlines;
- 330 2. Boundaries indicated as approximately following lot lines shall be construed to follow such lot lines;
- 332 3. Boundaries indicated as following shorelines shall be construed as the normal mean water level;
- 4. Boundaries indicated as parallel to or extensions of features in (1) through (3) above shall be so construed;
- 5. Where circumstances are not covered by (1) through (4) above, the DRB shall interpret the district boundaries.
- Where a district boundary divides a lot, the lot will be deemed a part of the district in which the majority of the parcel lies.

3.5 Dimensional Standards, Permitted and Conditional Uses By

341 **District**

- Various uses requiring a Zoning Permit or Conditional Use Approval in addition to a permit are
- listed below for each district. If a use is not listed or exempted under Section 2.4, it is prohibited.
- Dimensional requirements must be met unless a waiver is granted (see Section 5.8 for more
- information). Waivers cannot be granted on types of use. Means for measurements are covered in
- 346 Section 5.8.

3.5.1 Accessory Building or Use

- 348 All principal uses or structures imply the inclusion of appropriate accessory uses or structures
- that are customarily incidental and subordinate to the principal use or structure and located on
- 350 the same lot. All accessory structures, except fences, walls, driveways and parking areas shall
- conform to the dimensional standards in the district where they are located. A Zoning Permit
- shall be required for the construction of any accessory building, structure, or use, except where
- 353 exempted in Section 2.4.

3.5.2 Land Uses by District

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The following table outlines the permitted, 355 conditional, and prohibited uses for each 356 district. Permitted uses require only the 357 payment of a filing fee set by the 358 Selectboard and issuance of an 359 Administrative Zoning Permit by the ZA. 360 Conditional uses require conditional use 361 approval by the DRB prior to the issuance 362 of a Zoning Permit. As a prerequisite to 363 the issuance of a Zoning Permit for any 364 land use category other than single-unit or 365 two-unit dwellings and their appurtenant 366 uses, the DRB may require the review and 367 368 approval of site plans.

> Village District¹ applies to the parcels of the district served by municipal sewer and water infrastructure. Village District² applies to the parcels of the district not served by municipal sewer and water infrastructure.

Changing Uses? You Need a Permit!

If you have plans to change the use in a building on your property from one type to another, you need to know that a permit IS required.

Example: If you own a building that is currently a residence, and you want to change the use from residential to a bed and breakfast, you'll need a permit.

However, there are instances where a change of use permit may not be needed, such as a change from selling groceries to selling hardware.

Different uses can have different impacts on the surrounding area. Therefore, the Town must have the opportunity to consider the potential for negative impacts that might occur as a result of a change of use and whether or not the proposed use is appropriate in that district.

Contact the Chelsea Zoning Administrator for more information on changing uses.

Land Use Categories	VIL^1	VIL ²	IND	RR	MU	CD
Accessory Building or Use	P	Р	P	P	P	P
Accessory Dwelling Unit	P	P	P	P	P	P
Accessory On-Farm Business	P	P	P	P	P	P
Bed & Breakfast, Hotel, Motel, or Inn	С	С	С	С	С	С
Child Care Facility	P	P	P	P	P	P
Community Group Service	P	P	С	С	С	С
Commercial Outdoor Recreation	С	С	С	С	С	С
Community Service	P	P	С	С	С	С
Extraction of Gravel, Sand, Soil, and Rock	X	X	С	С	С	С
Heavy Industrial	X	X	С	X	X	X

Land Use Categories	VIL^1	VIL ²	IND	RR	MU	CD
Home Occupations	P	P	Р	P	P	P
Home Industries	С	С	С	С	С	С
Individual Service	P	P	P	С	С	С
Light Industrial	С	С	P	С	С	С
Multiunit Dwelling with Five or More Units	С	С	С	С	С	С
Multiunit Dwelling with Four or Fewer Units	P	С	С	С	С	С
Permanent Signs	P	P	P	P	P	P
Principal Retail	P	P	X	X	X	X
Residential Care Home, Group Home, or Recovery Residence	P	P	P	P	P	P
Salvage Yards, Junkyards, or Automobile Graveyards	X	X	С	X	С	X
Seasonal Camps	С	С	С	P	С	С
Single-Unit Dwelling	P	P	P	P	P	P
Town Municipal	P	P	P	P	P	С
Two-Unit Dwelling	P	P	P	P	P	P
Village Municipal	P	P	P	P	P	С

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P = Permit Required C = Conditional Use Approval Required 376

X = Prohibited377

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3.5.3 Dimensional Requirements by District

The following table outlines the dimensional requirement for each district. All front setbacks are measured from the road centerline. All side and rear setbacks are measured from the property

line. Corner lots shall be deemed to have front setbacks on all adjacent roads.

Dimensional Requiremen ts	VIL ¹	VIL ²	IND	RR	MU	CD
Minimum Lot Area	One-eighth (1/8) of an acre.	One (1) acre.	One (1) acre.	One (1) acre.	One (1) acre.	One (1) acre.
Minimum Front Setback	Twenty- five (25) feet.	Twenty- five (25) feet.	Thirty-five (35) feet.	Thirty-five (35) feet.	Thirty-five (35) feet.	Thirty-five (35) feet.
Minimum Side/Rear Setback	Ten (10) feet.	Ten (10) feet.	Thirty-five (35) feet.	Thirty-five (35) feet.	Thirty-five (35) feet.	Thirty-five (35) feet.

Village District¹ applies to the parcels of the district served by municipal sewer and water

infrastructure. Village District² applies to the parcels of the district not served by municipal

384 sewer and water infrastructure.

4. Specific Regulations

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4.1 Outdoor Storage of Junk

- 387 The open storage of materials, inoperable, or retired junk vehicles, dismantled equipment and
- other similar items shall be screened from view from a public highway whether or not such items
- are used in connection with a business. Fences, walls, trees, shrubs, buildings, and land contours
- are acceptable means of screening outdoor storage. Maintenance of screening for the above
- purposes shall be a responsibility of the owner of the premises. Applicants should refer to the
- 392 Chelsea Outdoor Storage of Junk Ordinance for more information about screening requirements.

4.2 Protection of Home Occupations

- Nothing in this Bylaw shall infringe upon the right of any resident to use a minor portion of a
- dwelling for an occupation which is customary in residential areas and which does not have an
- undue adverse impact on the character thereof. A Zoning Permit for a home occupation shall be
- granted as an Administrative Permit by the ZA upon meeting the following standards in addition
- 398 to any other specified within this Bylaw:
 - 1. The home occupation shall be carried on by residents of the premises, employing not more than two (2) persons not living on the premises;
 - 2. The home occupation is carried on wholly within a minor portion of the principal residential structure and occupies less than fifty (50%) percent of total living area of the structure, or within an accessory building or structure;
 - 3. Exterior signs or displays other than those normally permitted in the district or exterior storage of material shall not be permitted;
 - 4. The impacts associated with the home occupation are of a type and scale commensurate with a residential use.

4.3 Home Industry

- This Bylaw acknowledges that as businesses grow,
- 410 they often need to expand. In order to support their
- growth, the use class "home industry" is established.
- 412 It is intended for businesses that are based out of and
- secondary to a residential use, but with slightly
- broader standards than qualify for a home occupation.
- 415 A Zoning Permit for a home industry shall be granted
- after DRB Conditional Use approval upon meeting the
- following standards in addition to any other specified
- 418 within this Bylaw:

Residential Traffic Volume

What is "normally anticipated traffic volume?"

The rule-of-thumb regarding traffic volume in a residential area is that the average home generates 10 trips per day. A trip is one way, and includes not only the traffic generated by the resident, but also traffic that comes to the household, such as fuel or package deliveries and guests.

- 1. The conduct of the home industry is clearly secondary to the residential use of the premises and occupies no more than fifty (50%) percent of the total living area of the structure;
- 2. The home industry is conducted by the resident at the residence and employing more than two people other than the residents of the house;
- 3. Automobile traffic resulting from the home industry is not at a volume substantially greater than would be normally anticipated.

4.4 Temporary Structures

- In order to facilitate the long-term use of property, temporary structures or buildings may be
- erected or placed on a lot in noncompliance with the area, structural, and setback requirements of
- 429 this Bylaw upon approval of the Zoning Administrator. Prior to granting a Zoning Permit for a
- 430 temporary structure or building, the Zoning Administrator shall first find:
- 1. That the structure's intended purpose is only temporary and;
- 2. That adequate assurance is established that such a structure or building will not remain on the lot for a period of more than twelve (12) months from date of issuance of such permit.
- Examples of temporary structures or buildings include construction trailers, storage vans or
- 435 trailers incidental to a building project, construction fences, electrical and telephone boxes,
- 436 storage sheds.

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4.5 Signs

- Except for signs necessary for public safety and those signs as exempted by these Bylaws, no
- person shall erect, display or change the location, or size of an outdoor sign or lighted window
- sign without first obtaining a Zoning Permit from the Zoning Administrator. The purpose of this
- provision is to control the unplanned and uncoordinated proliferation of outdoor advertising in
- order to protect the economic, historic, and scenic values of the town and to prevent hazards to
- users of roads in town.

4.5.1 Signs - General Requirements

- The following general requirements shall apply to all signs:
- 1. All signs shall be erected, displayed, or located on the same premises as the activity to which it relates (i.e. on-premise), unless the sign is an official business directory sign regulated by the State of Vermont.
- 2. Affixed or projecting signs shall not exceed the highest point of a building to which it is attached.
- 3. Free-standing signs shall not exceed twenty (20) feet in height above the finished grade.

- 4. Excessively bright exterior lighting, flashing lights, or similar displays for the purpose of advertising are considered signs and are prohibited. No lighted sign shall have the effect of being such a high intensity or glare as to impair the vision of the driver of a motor vehicle.
 - 5. Flashing and moving exterior signs are not allowed.
 - 6. The area of a sign shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet.
- 7. The total combined on-premise sign area of all signs on a lot shall not exceed one hundred and fifty (150) square feet. Temporary signs shall not be included in this calculation.

4.5.2 Signs - Exemptions

- Zoning Permits shall not be required for temporary signs, including sandwich board signs. All
- exempt signs shall conform to items 4 and 5 of Section 4.5.1.

4.6 Extraction of Gravel, Sand, Soil and Rock

- The extraction of gravel, sand, soil and rock or the substantial change of such activities from
- existing operations shall require Conditional Use Approval from the Development Review
- Board. The Board, in its review of projects, shall incorporate at a minimum the following
- 468 conditions:

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- 1. Plans for the restoration of the disturbed portions of the site during and following the operation shall be adequate to ensure that a safe, attractive, and useful condition results.
 - 2. Plans for the operation of the facility shall be sufficient to ensure that the operation will not adversely affect water quality, drainage patterns, or create excessive dust, traffic, vibration, and noise at the site or areas in close proximity to the site. Except under emergency conditions, the site shall not operate outside of 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Blasting shall be prefaced by notification to all occupied structures within one thousand (1,000) feet at least twenty-four (24) hours prior.
 - 3. The operation shall be managed to prevent the creation of excessively steep slopes, overhangs, exposed boulders, uprooted stumps, and other debris. Tops of slopes/rock faces shall not be located within fifty (50) feet of property lines.
 - 4. The scale of intensity of the operation shall not place uneconomic demands on bridges, culverts, and roadways leading to and from the project site.
 - 5. If power-activated crushing or sorting operations are to be allowed on the site, such activity shall not unduly affect the character of the immediate neighborhood area. Crushing or sorting machinery are not permitted to operate within three hundred (300) feet of adjacent structures.
- To ensure that the rehabilitation of the site is properly managed, the Board may, as a condition to

- its approval, require that a performance bond or other forms of surety be posted to cover the costs
- of restoration or that no more than a predetermined area of the site be exposed at any one time.

4.7 Accessory Dwellings

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- 491 Except in the Special Flood Hazard Area (see Chelsea Flood Hazard Area Regulations), an
- accessory dwelling unit that is located within or appurtenant to a single-unit dwelling or two-unit
- dwelling on an owner-occupied lot shall be a permitted use. An accessory dwelling unit shall be
- subordinate to a single-unit dwelling or two-unit dwelling, and have facilities and provisions for
- independent living, including sleeping, food preparation, and sanitation, provided there is
- 496 compliance with all the following:
- 1. The property has sufficient wastewater capacity.
- 2. The unit does not exceed thirty (30%) percent of the total habitable floor area of the principal residential structure or nine hundred (900) square feet, whichever is greater.
- 500 3. The unit is located within or appurtenant to a single-unit or two-unit dwelling, whether the dwelling is existing or new construction.
- 4. Applicable setback, coverage, and parking requirements specified in the bylaws are met.

4.8 Childcare Facilities

- A "family child care home or facility" as used in this bylaw means a home or facility where the
- owner or operator is to be licensed or registered by the state for child care. A family child care
- 506 home serving six or fewer children shall be considered to constitute a permitted single-unit
- residential use of property. A family child care home serving no more than six children full-time
- and four children part-time, as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 3511(7), shall also be considered to
- constitute a permitted use. A family child care facility serving more than six children full-time
- and four children part-time shall constitute a permitted use.

4.9 Outdoor Furnaces

- 512 Given the potential for air pollution and noxious fumes from outdoor furnaces, the following
- 513 standards must be met in order to receive a Zoning Permit from the Zoning Administrator:
- Village Within the village district, furnace smokestack must be equal in height to the chimneys
- of surrounding buildings. The extended smokestack must be properly fastened so as not to pose a
- 516 potential hazard due to collapse. All outdoor furnaces within the village must have spark
- arrestors.
- All other areas In all other areas, furnace smokestacks must be a minimum of fifteen (15) feet
- from ground level.

4.10 Travel Trailers

- No travel trailer shall be parked in the Town of Chelsea except in accordance with the following
- 522 regulations:

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- 523 1. A travel trailer may be parked and used as living quarters at a trailer camp which meets state standards.
- 525 2. No travel trailer shall be used as living quarters unless a Zoning Permit has been obtained.
- 526 3. The owner of a travel trailer may store it on his own property when not in use. A trailer so parked shall meet setback requirements, not be used as living quarters and shall not be permanently hooked up to any utilities.
- 4. A travel trailer that is used as living quarters for more than sixty (60) days in a calendar year shall be considered a single-unit dwelling and must meet all applicable dimensional, health and safety standards.

4.11 Ponds

- A Zoning Permit is required for the construction of a pond. Ponds may require additional state
- and federal permits. Any pond or impoundment shall meet with the setback distances for the
- district in which it is located and not interfere with drainage from town highways. Applicants
- shall receive any and all applicable state and federal permits before being issued a Zoning
- 537 Permit.

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4.12 Planned Unit Development

4.12.1 General Intent and Purposes

- The provisions for Planned Unit Development (PUD) set forth below are intended to permit the
- development of larger parcels of land in such a manner as will result in the most efficient,
- aesthetic, and desirable use of such parcels; encourage a more creative approach to the
- development of such parcels than would otherwise result under these Bylaws; and to provide
- flexibility in the design and placement of buildings, open spaces, vehicular and pedestrian
- circulation and off-street parking areas so as to best utilize the features of the specific site.
- In order to encourage innovation in design and layout and promote the efficient use of land, the
- 547 Development Review Board may grant Clustered Housing Development approval for proposals
- subject to the standards and conditions set forth below.

4.12.2 Standards and Conditions

- In its review and approval of a proposed Planned Unit Development, the Development Review
- Board shall find in its written decision that the Project meets all of the following criteria and

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- 1. The application submitted satisfies all the requirements for submission of a Clustered Housing Development application as identified by the Development Review Board.
- 2. The parcel size for the proposed Planned Unit Development meets the minimum area requirements set forth below:
 - a. Areas serviced by water and sewer: one-eighth of an acre
 - b. Other Areas: ten acres
- 3. The project in its entirety shall comply with all applicable setback requirements.
- 4. The total number of dwelling units and other uses shall not exceed the number or densities which would be permitted in the Development Review Board's judgment if the involved land were subdivided into lots in conformance with the Bylaws.
- 5. Density Bonus Notwithstanding the above, in order to encourage the most appropriate and efficient use of the involved land, the total number of dwelling units and other uses may be exceeded by up to twenty-five percent (25%). In granting any such requested density increase, the Commission shall find that:
- 6. The character and siting variations incorporated in the project consists of factors which make a substantial contribution to the general intent and purposes of the PUD provision. Such variation are appropriate based upon, but not limited to, the following project amenities: (i) siting, visual focal points, use of existing physical features such as topography, building orientation, variation in building groups such as clusters; (ii) design features, architectural styles, harmonious use of building materials, landscaping, and pedestrian ways; and (iii) extent and location of open space reservation relative total project area, proposed plans for use and management of such area, and the degree of preservation of natural features for any unimproved areas.
- 7. The design and layout of the project preserves any recognized historic sites or structures and to the greatest extent feasible any natural features or resources of the site.
- 8. Adequate conditions and technical plans exist to insure the safe treatment of sewage and the provisions of a safe supply of drinking water for the project.
- 9. If the proposal involves a greater concentration of land uses within some section of the development than upon others, such greater concentration shall be offset by a lesser concentration in other section or sections or by an appropriate reservation of common open spaces on the remaining lands.
- 10. To encourage maintenance or enhancement of forest resources, wildfire habitats, and critical resource areas for which the project has been designed so areas of the total parcel are permanently set aside as undevelopable and or the purposes set forth above.

4.12.3 General Procedures

- 588 The Development Review Board welcomes all to preliminary discussions about this
- development option. It invites prospective applicants to meet informally with the Board to learn

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- 591 1. Upon receipt of an application for Planned Unit Development Approval, the DRB shall ascertain if the application is complete.
- 2. A request for Planned Unit Development Approval shall be scheduled for a least one Public Hearing held by the Development Review Board within thirty (30) days from the date of acceptance of the completed application. AR procedures as set forth in 24 V. S.A. § 4464 shall apply also.
- Land development for which Approval has been granted shall not commence unless the
 Zoning Administrator has issued a Zoning Permit for such development.

4.12.4 Common Facilities, Common Land, & Land to be Conserved

- 1. Land that is to be dedicated for common facilities or for the preservation and maintenance of areas of high public value (see below) may be held in common or individual ownership, or it may be conveyed to the Town, should the Town chose to accept it.
- 2. Common Land. Land to be dedicated to shared facilities (e.g., private road, community wastewater and water supply systems, or other community facilities,), may be held in common, and will be subject to the legal requirements set forth below and in and any other section of this Unified Development Bylaw. Land and/or facilities to be held in common shall be subject to appropriate deed restrictions and/or covenants stipulating their allowed use, and establishing the person or entity responsible for their regular maintenance and long term management. All costs associated with administering and maintaining common land and associated facilities shall be the responsibility of applicant and subsequent property owners.
- 3. Land to be Conserved. Land to be dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of areas of high public value (see below) may be held in common or individual ownership, and may be located on one or more lots, although isolating such resources on a single lot is preferred by the Town. The ownership of the land or the benefit of an easement preserving such land shall be in a manner and form approved by the Development Review Board; such ownership or easement may be held by the municipality or a nonprofit land conservation organization, if such entities choose to accept such ownership or easement. Conservation and agricultural easement areas ("open space areas") shall be indicated with an appropriate notation on the final plat.
- Areas of high public value include land characterized by:
- Land in active agricultural use,
- Primary (prime & statewide) agricultural soils,
- Steep slopes equal to or in excess of fifteen (15%) percent,
- Flood hazard areas,

- Surface waters, wetlands and associated setback and buffer areas,
- Shoreland setback and buffer areas,
- Special areas (identified in the Chelsea Town Plan),
- Critical wildlife habitat (as identified in Chelsea Town Plan or as field delineated),
- Water supply source protection areas (SPAs),
- Historic districts, sites and structures,
- Scenic views and vistas within the [insert appropriate district here] district, or
- Conserved land on adjacent parcels.

4.12.5 Legal Requirements

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- 1. Documentation and assurances shall be provided that all required improvements and associated rights-of-way and easements and other common facilities and land will be adequately maintained either by the applicant, subsequent or other landowners, a homeowners' association, or through other accepted legal mechanism. Such documentation shall be in a form approved by the Development Review Board and filed in the Chelsea Land Records.
 - 2. All required improvements shall be constructed to approved specifications in accordance with a construction schedule approved by the Development Review Board. The Commission may require that all such improvements be completed prior to the issuance of an Zoning Permit or certificate of compliance for subsequent development on approved lots. A performance bond or comparable surety acceptable to the Selectboard may be required to ensure that all improvements are completed to specification.

4.13 Accessory On-Farm Businesses (AOFBs)

- An Accessory On-Farm Business (AOFB) shall have the same definition in these Bylaws as in
- 650 24 V.S.A. § 4412. An AOFB shall be a permitted land use on the same location as a farm if all of
- the following apply:
- 1. The business is operated by the farm owner, one or more persons residing on the farm parcel, or the lessee of a portion of the farm.
- The farm meets the threshold criteria for the applicability of the Required Agricultural Practices rules adopted pursuant to 6 V.S.A. chapter 215, subchapter 2.
- 3. The proposed AOFB adheres to all dimensional requirements of the applicable zoning district.
- 4. The proposed AOFB receives site plan approval from the Development Review Board.

- An AOFB may take place inside new or existing structures or on the land.
- For the purposes of these bylaws, "farming" shall have the same meaning as in 10 V.S.A. §
- 661 6001; and "farm" shall have the same meaning as in 24 V.S.A. § 4412.

4.14 Short-Term Rentals

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- As per 18 V.S.A § 4301, a short-term rental is a dwelling unit or part thereof rented to the
- transient, traveling, or vacationing public for a period of fewer than thirty (30) consecutive days
- at a time and for more than fourteen (14) days cumulative per calendar year. In addition to any
- rules that apply to the dwelling unit, the following also apply:
- 1. No recreational vehicle, tent or other temporary structure may be used as a short-term rental outside of a trailer park or campground.
 - 2. A notice to renters of house rules pertaining to parking, rubbish, noise, etc. shall be visibly displayed in the rental.
- 3. Application must include a copy of the "Short Term Rental Safety, Health and Financial Obligations" found at the Vermont Department of Health, that they have previously submitted to the State of Vermont.
- 4. If not connected to Town of Chelsea Sewer System, owner must adhere to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservations regulations, proving the system is adequate for additional load created by the Short-Term Rental's maximum occupancy.

4.15 Buffer Strips

- In cases where an industrial use abuts a residential district, with the exception of access points or
- driveways, a buffer strip of land not less than ten (10) feet in depth shall be maintained along the
- 680 common boundary. The buffer shall be used and maintained only as fence or area for planting
- trees, shrubs, flowers, or similar property enhancements to mitigate undue adverse visual impacts
- which would exist between dissimilar uses.

4.16 Wetlands

- A minimum 100-foot Water & Aquatic Habitat Protection Buffer shall be established from the
- spring high water mark and/or delineated boundary of all Class 1 wetlands identified on the
- Vermont Wetlands Inventory Map. A minimum 50-foot Water & Aquatic Habitat Protection
- Buffer shall be established from the spring high water mark and/or delineated boundary of all
- 688 Class 2 wetlands identified on the Vermont Wetlands Inventory Map. Applicants may be
- 689 required to hire a qualified person to perform a wetland delineation in accordance with Vermont
- 690 standards.

4.17 Steep Slopes

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- It is the purpose of this Section to prevent harm to Town soils and waters that could result from
- 693 environmentally unsound development on slopes in excess of twenty-five (25%) percent. Unless
- otherwise exempt from a Zoning Permit, no building, structure, or use of land subject to
- regulation under this Bylaw shall be permitted on slopes exceeding twenty-five (25%) gradient
- without Conditional Use Review and Approval by the DRB. The DRB in rendering approval
- must find that the proposed building, structure, shall minimize soil erosion, and not result in a
- reduction in the capacity of the land to hold water so that a dangerous or unhealthy condition
- 699 may result. To help satisfy this requirement, applicants shall provide an erosion control plan and
- agree to adhere to it.

4.18 Site Plan

4.18.1 When Site Plan Approval is Issued

- As authorized by 24 V.S.A. § 4416, Zoning Permits for any other use or structure, other than a
- single-unit or two-unit dwelling and their appurtenant accessory structures, require Site Plan
- approval granted by the DRB. The applicant shall submit the information as required along with
- the application. In order to streamline notice requirements and review, when both Site Plan and
- 707 Conditional Use Approval is required for the same application, the provisions of this Section
- shall be combined with those for Conditional Use under a single combined review by the DRB.

4.18.2 Application for Site Plan Approval

- 710 Every applicant for a Zoning Permit requiring site plan approval shall submit two (2) printed sets
- of the site plan maps or an electronic copy at a sufficient scale to permit the study of the
- 712 elements of the plan and supporting data which shall include the following information:
- 1. Name and address of the owner of record, and the name(s) and address(es) of the owner(s) of adjoining lands. Name and address of person or firm preparing map. Scale of map, north point and date.
- 2. Survey of property showing existing features, including contours, structures, large trees, streets, utility easements, rights-of-way, land use and deed restrictions.
- 3. Site plan showing proposed structure locations and land use areas; streets, driveways,
 traffic circulation, parking and loading spaces and pedestrian walks; landscaping plans,
 including site grading, landscape design and screening.
- 4. Construction sequence and time schedule for completion of each phase for buildings, parking spaces and landscaped areas of the entire development.

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4.18.3 Standards for Approval of Site Plan

- The DRB shall review the site plan map and supporting data before approval, approval with stated conditions, or disapproval is given and shall make a finding in any approval decision that:
 - 1. Reasonable attempts have been made to maximize safety of pedestrian and vehicular circulation between the site and the street/sidewalk network. Particular consideration shall be given to visibility at intersections, to traffic flow and control, to efforts to minimize curb cuts and interconnect uses, to pedestrian safety and convenience, and to access in case of an emergency. The DRB may require shared accesses or other traffic safety/pedestrian measures to satisfy this condition.
 - 2. Circulation, parking, and loading/sanitary facilities are adequate for the proposed use; and that vehicle and site lights, timing of operations, vehicle noise and noise from operations, and odors from operations, including refuse storage, do not unduly affect adjoining properties.
 - 3. All exterior site lighting shall use shielded fixtures so that the light source is not directly visible from off site.
 - 4. Landscaping, other forms of physical screening, and the distance of the setbacks provide reasonable protection to, and compatibility with, adjacent properties. Particular consideration shall be given to preservation of existing vegetation, visibility of unsightly or incompatible areas from the road and adjoining properties, and the adequacy of plantings/materials to meet seasonal conditions, soil conditions, and light on the site.
- 743 Whenever a proposed site plan involves access to a State highway or other work in the State
- highway right-of-way such as excavation, grading, paving, or utility installation, the application
- for site plan approval shall include a letter from the Agency of Transportation confirming that
- the Agency has reviewed the proposed site plan and determined whether a permit is required
- under 19 V.S.A. § 1111. If the Agency determines that a permit for the proposed site plan is
- required under 19 V.S.A. § 1111, then the letter from the Agency may set out conditions that the
- Agency proposes to attach to the permit required under 19 V.S.A. § 1111.

4.19 Residential Care Home, Group Home, or Recovery Residence

- In accordance with the provisions of 24 V.S.A. § 4412(g), a residential care home or group home
- operating under State licensing or registration, serving not more than eight (8) persons who have a
- disability as defined in 9 V.S.A. § 4501, or a recovery residence serving not more than eight (8)
- persons, shall be considered by right to constitute a permitted single-unit residential use of
- 755 property.
- A "recovery residence" means a shared living residence supporting persons recovering from a
- 757 substance use disorder that:
- 758 (i) Provides tenants with peer support and assistance accessing support services and community resources available to persons recovering from substance use disorders.
- (ii) Is certified by an organization approved by the Department of Health and that is either a

Chelsea Zoning Ordinance

Vermont affiliate of the National Alliance for Recovery Residences or another approved organization or is pending such certification.

5. Administration, Enforcement and Appeals

5.1 Zoning Administrator

- A Zoning Administrator is hereby appointed to administer this Zoning Bylaw as provided for in
- 766 24 V.S.A. § 4448 of the Vermont Planning and Development Act. The Zoning Administrator
- shall enforce literally the provisions of this Bylaw and in so doing shall receive applications,
- inspect premises, maintain records, issues permits and perform other tasks as may be necessary
- to carry-out the provisions of these Bylaws.

5.2 Development Review Board – Creation

- A Development Review Board is established in accordance with the provisions of 24 V.S.A. §
- 772 4460. Meetings of the Board shall be held at the call of the Chair and shall be open to the public.
- The Board shall conduct its affairs in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 4462.

5.3 Records

- 775 The Zoning Administrator shall keep on file and available to the public, a full and accurate
- record of all applications, decisions, permits and violations received or issued during the course
- 777 of their appointment.

5.4 Permits

- Except as provided for in Sections 2.3 and 2.4 of this Bylaw, no building or land development,
- construction, reconstruction, conversion, relocation or enlargement of any building or other
- structure, nor any mining, extraction or landfill, nor any change in the use of any building or
- other structure, or land or extension of use of land, may commence unless a Zoning Permit shall
- have been duly issued by the Zoning Administrator. Prospective applicants for Zoning Permits
- may obtain application materials from the Town Offices or Zoning Administrator during regular
- 785 office hours.

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5.4.1 Application for Permit

- An Application for a Zoning Permit shall be filed with the Zoning Administrator on forms
- approved by the Development Review Board accompanied by fees set by the Selectboard. In
- addition to the information requested on the form, additional information may be required such
- as surveys, site plans, or drawings to enable the Administrator or Development Review Board to
- adequately review the proposed land development. An application shall not be accepted unless:
- 1. signed by the applicant (who must be the owner of record, or the owner and future developer) and;

794 2. accompanied by the required fees.

5.4.2 Relationship of Permit to Other Approvals/Permits

- The granting of a Zoning Permit under this bylaw does not relieve the applicant of the need for
- any other local, state or federal permit under other regulations. When other municipal or state
- 798 permits, approvals, or authorizations are required by this bylaw, the Administrator shall notify
- the applicant of these, and refer the application within thirty (30) days to the appropriate body.
- The Administrator should coordinate a unified effort on behalf of the municipality in
- administering the various local development review programs. These include, but are not limited
- 802 to:

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- 1. An access permit from the Selectboard if there is a new or modified access onto the property from a Town Highway. This is not a permit under this bylaw, but is a prerequisite to most Zoning Permits.
- 2. An access permit from VTrans if there is a new or modified access onto the property from a State Highway as per the regulations under 19 V.S.A. § 1111. This is not a permit under this bylaw, but is a prerequisite to most Zoning Permits.
 - 3. A Wastewater System & Potable Water Supply Permit from the Protection Division of the Agency of Natural Resources. This is not a permit under this bylaw, but is a prerequisite to most Zoning Permits.
 - 4. An Acceptance Letter or Permit for a connection to the Chelsea public sanitary or combined sewer system issued by the Chelsea Water Department Board if there is a new or modified access onto the property. This is not a permit under this bylaw, but is a prerequisite to most Zoning Permits.
 - 5. Conditional Use Approval from the Development Review Board is needed under this bylaw prior to the issuance of a Zoning Permit if the land development requires conditional use review and approval.
 - 6. A Floodplain Development Permit from the Development Review Board is needed under a separate ordinance if the project is in the area regulated under the Chelsea Flood Hazard Regulations. This Floodplain Development Permit must be received prior to applying for a Zoning Permit, will be in addition to any Zoning Permit needed, and supersedes the Zoning Permit if stricter.
- 7. A State subdivision permit or required statement on the deed is required whenever any person is subdividing a lot.
- 826 8. A letter from the Agency of Transportation confirming that the Agency has reviewed a proposed subdivision and determined whether a permit is required under the provisions of 19 V.S.A. § 1111 whenever any person is subdividing a lot adjacent to a State Highway.
- 9. A letter from the Agency of Transportation confirming that the Agency has reviewed the proposed site plan and determined whether a permit is required under the provisions of 19 V.S.A. § 1111 whenever a proposed site plan involves access to a State Highway or other work in the State Highway right-of-way such as excavation, grading, paving, or utility

Chelsea Zoning Ordinance

833	installation.
834 835	10. A waiver or variance under this bylaw may be needed prior to a Zoning Permit if a project does not conform exactly to the requirements of this bylaw.
836 837 838 839 840	The Administrator shall also inform any person applying for a Zoning Permit or authorizations that the person should contact the regional Permit Specialist employed by the Agency of Natural Resources to fill out a Project Review Sheet in order to assure timely action on any related state permits. Nevertheless, the applicant retains the obligation to identify, apply for, and obtain relevant state permits.
841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848	When an application for Zoning Permit seeks approval of a structure, the Zoning Administrator shall provide the applicant with a copy of the applicable building energy standards under 30 V.S.A. § 51 (residential building energy standards) and § 53 (commercial building energy standards). However, the administrative officer need not provide a copy of the standards if the structure is a sign or a fence or the application certifies that the structure will not be heated or cooled. In addition, the administrative officer may provide a copy of the Vermont Residential Building Energy Code Book published by the Department of Public Service in lieu of the full text of the residential building energy standards.
849	5.4.3 Completion or Expiration of Permit Application
850 851	An application for a Zoning Permit will not be considered complete by the Zoning Administrator and acted upon until it includes:
852	1. all required information,
853	2. any applicable necessary approvals as allowed by law, and
854 855	3. for any permit for the development of land within the area of special flood hazard area, a copy of such flood development permit in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 4424.
856 857 858	When additional information is requested from the applicant by the Zoning Administrator in order to consider the permit application complete, and such information is not presented within ninety (90) days of the request, the application will be deemed rejected and all fees forfeit.
859	5.4.4 Issuance of a Permit
860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868	Before any land or building is devoted to a new or changed use or before the erection, structural alteration or extension of any building, a Zoning Permit shall be obtained from the Zoning Administrator. The fees for the Zoning Permit shall be established by the Selectboard. The Zoning Administrator shall within thirty (30) days of receipt of an application which is deemed complete, either issue or deny an Administrative Zoning Permit, or refer the application for a Zoning Permit to the Development Review Board. If denied, the Zoning Administrator shall so notify the applicant in writing stating the reasons therefore. If the Zoning Administrator fails to act with regard to a complete application for a Zoning Permit within thirty (30) days, whether by issuing a decision or by making a referral to the Development Review Board, a Zoning Permit

- shall be deemed issued on the thirty-first (31) day.
- Within three (3) days following the issuance of a Zoning Permit, the Zoning Administrator shall:
- 1. Deliver a copy of the Zoning Permit to the Listers of the municipality; and
- 2. Post a copy of the Zoning Permit at Chelsea Town Hall until the expiration of fifteen (15) days from the date of issuance of the Zoning Permit. No permit is final until the fifteen (15) day appeal period has expired.
- Additionally, the applicant must also post a permit notice, in a form prescribed by the Town of
- Chelsea, within view of the public right-of-way most nearly adjacent to the subject property until
- the time for appeals has passed.

5.4.5 Effective Date

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- No Zoning Permit issued pursuant to this Section shall take effect until the time for appeal
- outlined in Section 5.9 of the Bylaw has passed, or in the event that a notice of appeal is properly
- filed, no such Zoning Permit shall take effect until adjudication of that appeal by the
- Development Review Board is complete and the time for taking an appeal to the Environmental
- Division has passed without an appeal being taken. If an appeal is taken to the Environmental
- Division, the Zoning Permit shall not take effect until the Environmental Division rules in
- accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 8504 on whether to issue a stay, or until the expiration of fifteen
- 886 (15) days, whichever comes first.

5.4.6 Transmission of Permits

- All conditional use applications will have a written decision issued within forty-five (45) days of
- the final hearing or are automatically granted on the forty-sixth (46) day. Upon granting or
- denying approval, the Development Review Board shall send to the applicant a copy of the
- decision. Copies of the decision also shall be mailed to every "interested person" as defined in
- Section 5.9.1, with the Zoning Administrator, who shall forthwith issue a Zoning Permit, and
- with the Town Clerk as a part of the public records.

5.5 Development Review Board – General Duties

- The Development Review Board (DRB) shall be charged with the proper interpretation of the
- 896 Zoning Bylaw and their consequent application within the municipality, and with the
- administration of the procedures allocated to it by this Zoning Bylaw including the following:
- 1. To hear and rule on appeals concerning any order, requirement, decision, or
- determination made by the Zoning Administrator in the administration and enforcement
- of this Zoning Bylaw.
- 2. To hear and grant or deny a request for a waiver or variance.

- 3. To hear and approve or deny a request for a Conditional Use.
- 903 4. To review site plans.
- 5. To review land development or use within a historic district or with respect to historic landmarks.
- 6. To review planned unit developments and plans for subdivisions.
- 7. To review wireless telecommunications facilities.
- 8. To review rights-of-way or easements for land development without frontage.

5.6 Conditional Uses

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- No Zoning Permit shall be authorized or issued by the Zoning
- Administrator for any use listed as conditionally permitted within
- 912 the various zoning districts, unless the Development Review
- 913 Board has granted Conditional Use Approval. The Development
- Review Board, upon receipt of a complete application, shall
- onduct a legally noticed public hearing, and based upon the
- 916 testimony presented at the hearing, render a written decision
- approving or denying the request. In granting approval, the Board
- shall find that the proposed use meets with the general and specific
- 919 standards prescribed for such uses in these Bylaws. In its approval,
- 920 the Board shall find that the use shall not result in an undue
- adverse effect on the following:
- 922 1. The capacity of existing or planned community facilities;
 - 2. The character of the area affected; as defined by the purpose or purposes of the zoning district within which the project is located, and specifically stated policies and standards of the municipal plan,
 - 3. Traffic on roads and highways in the vicinity;
 - 4. The provisions of these Zoning Bylaws and ordinances in effect; and
 - 5. Utilization of renewable resources.

allow the neighbor to continue to use the sun for power.

Utilization of Renewable

Resources

State statute is protective of

residents who use renewable

wind to provide power to their

When examining a conditional

whether or not the proposed

use, the DRB must consider

use or development would have a negative impact on a neighbor's ability to use those

resources. For example, if a

development would shade an

fashion that it blocked a solar

collector, the DRB would have

that would change the location

of the development or use to

adjacent property in such a

to either deny the permit request, or apply conditions

resources such as solar or

home or business.

- In granting such conditional use approvals, the Board may attach such additional reasonable
- conditions and safeguards as it may deem necessary to implement the purposes of the Zoning
- 933 Bylaws.
- The Development Review Board shall act to approve or disapprove any such requested
- conditional use within forty-five (45) days after the date of the final public hearing held under
- this Section, and failure to so act within such period shall be deemed approval.

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5.6.1 Conditional Use Applications

- An application for Conditional Use Approval shall include submission of the following plans and supporting documents to the Development Review Board, unless otherwise waived by the Chair of the Development Review Board.
- 1. A map showing the general location of the property within the Town and its relationship to existing public roads and highways.
 - 2. A proposed site plan, drawn to an appropriate scale, showing the location, height, spacing uses, and architectural relationships of all buildings, existing and proposed open spaces, landscaping, utility lines, streets, driveways, off- street parking and loading facilities, unique or manmade features and the physical conditions of the site.
 - 3. A statement and/or map sufficient to demonstrate the relationship of the proposed development to adjacent land uses, both existing and proposed.
 - 4. A statement including the uses of adjacent property, and the names and current addresses of all owners of land immediately adjacent to and directly across all public highways from the property at issue.
- 5. A development schedule indicating the approximate dates when construction or stages of the project are expected to begin and be completed.
- 955 6. Any application fees, as may be required.
- Copies of application forms are available from the Zoning Administrator or at the Town Offices.
- 957 Applicants are welcome to contact the Zoning Administrator or Development Review Board for
- 958 information prior to filling an application.

5.7 Public Notice Requirements

- In accordance with 24 V.S.A. 4464, a warned public hearing shall be required for conditional use
- 961 review (Section 5.6), appeals of decisions of the Zoning Administrator (Section 5.9), waivers
- 962 (Section 5.8.1), variances (Section 5.8.2), site plan review (Section 4.18), and final subdivision
- review. Any public notice for a warned public hearing shall be given not less than fifteen (15)
- days prior to the date of the public hearing by all of the following:
- 965 1. publication of the date, place and purpose of the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality;
 - 2. posting of the same information in three or more public places within the municipality, including the posting of a notice within view from the public right-of-way nearest to the property for which the application is being made;
- 970 3. written notification to the applicant and to owners of all properties adjoining the property 971 subject to development, without regard to public rights-of-way, which includes a 972 description of the proposed project, information that clearly informs the recipient where 973 additional information may be obtained, and that participation in the local proceeding is a

prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

5.8 Waivers and Variances

- When approval or a Zoning Permit for a use has been denied, or is not possible using the
- 977 requirements of this bylaw, an applicant may apply for a waiver to the Zoning Administrator in
- some circumstances, and in others would have to appeal this denial to the DRB for a waiver or a
- 979 variance. If the matter has only to do with dimensional requirements (for example a smaller
- setback than is usually required), a waiver may be possible. For special and rare circumstances, a
- variance may be needed, but variances are difficult to get and must meet a five-part test as
- outlined in Section 5.8.2 (Variances).

5.8.1 Waivers

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- In all districts, waivers may be granted as an Administrative Permit by the Zoning Administrator for:
- 1. Reductions in front, side, or rear setbacks as necessary to allow for disability access;
- 987 2. Reductions in front, side, or rear setbacks to allow for necessary life safety or fire safety improvements.
- In all districts, waivers may be granted to reduce dimensional requirements by no more than a fifty (50%) percent decrease for a structure after a hearing by the Development Review Board if
- either of the following criteria are met:
- 992 1. The proposed development conforms to the existing development patterns of the district;
- 2. The proposed development will cluster development and more effectively preserve open land, forest land, or scenic vistas; or will result in permanently affordable housing units.

5.8.2 Variances

- On an appeal, wherein a variance from the provisions of the Zoning Bylaw constitutes the relief requested by the appellant, the Board shall grant such variances, and render a decision in favor of the appellant, if all the following facts are found by the Board and are specified in its decision:
 - 1. That there are unique physical circumstances or conditions, including irregularity, narrowness, or shallowness of lot size or shape, or exceptional topographical or other physical conditions peculiar to the particular property, and that the unnecessary hardship is due to such conditions and not the circumstances or conditions generally created by the provisions of the Zoning Bylaw.
 - 2. That as a result of such physical circumstances or conditions, there is no possibility that the property can be developed in strict conformity with the provisions of the Zoning Bylaw and that the authorization of a variance is therefore necessary to enable the

reasonable use of the property.

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- 3. That such unnecessary hardship has not been created by the appellant.
- 4. That the variance, if authorized, will not alter the essential character of the neighborhood or district in which the property is located, nor substantially or permanently impair the appropriate use of development of adjacent property, reduce access to renewable energy resources, nor be detrimental to the public welfare.
 - 5. That the variance, if authorized, will represent the minimum variance that will afford relief and will represent the least modification possible from the Zoning Bylaw and from the plan.
- In rendering a decision in favor of an appellant, the Board may attach such conditions to a
- variance as it may consider necessary and appropriate under the circumstances to implement the
- purpose of these Bylaws and the Town Plan.
- The issuance of a variance shall not relieve the appellant of the obligation to obtain a Zoning
- 1020 Permit and such permit shall only be issued if the proposed land development complies with all
- other applicable provisions, except as varied by the Development Review Board.

5.9 Appeals

- Any interested person as defined under the 24 V.S.A. § 4465 may appeal a decision or act of the
- Zoning Administrator within fifteen (15) days of the date of the decision or act by filing a notice
- of appeal with the Secretary of the Development Review Board, or the Town Clerk if no
- Secretary has been elected, and by filing a copy of the notice with the Zoning Administrator.
 - 1. The Board shall hold a public hearing on a notice of appeal within sixty (60) days of its filing, as required under the 24 V.S.A. § 4468. The Board shall give public notice of the hearing under Section 5.7, and mail a copy of the hearing notice to the appellant not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the hearing date.
 - 2. The Board may reject an appeal or request for reconsideration without hearing, and render a decision which shall include findings of fact within ten (10) days of the filing of a notice of appeal, if the Board determines that the issues raised by the appellant have been decided in an earlier appeal or are based on substantially or materially the same facts by or on behalf of the appellant in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 4470.
 - 3. In accordance with the 24 V.S.A. § 4468, all appeal hearings shall be open to the public and the rules of evidence applicable at these hearings shall be the same as the rules of evidence applicable in contested cases in hearings before administrative agencies as set forth in state statutes 3 V.S.A. § 810. Any interested person or body may appear and be heard in person or be represented by an agent or attorney at the hearing. The hearing may be adjourned by the Board from time to time, provided that the date and place adjourned hearing shall be announced at the hearing.
 - 4. A decision on appeal shall be rendered within forty-five (45) days after the final adjournment of the hearing, as required under the 24 V.S.A. § 4464(b). The decision shall

be sent by certified mail to the appellant within the forty-five (45) day period. Copies of the decision shall be mailed to every person or body appearing and having been heard at the hearing, and filed with the Zoning Administrator and the Municipal Clerk as part of the public records of the municipality, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 4464(b). Failure of the Board to issue a decision within this forty-five (45) day period shall be deemed approval and shall be effective on the forty-sixth (46) day.

5.9.1 Interested Persons

- The definition of an interested person under 24 V.S.A. § 4465(b) includes the following:
 - 1. A person owning title to property, or a municipality or solid waste management district empowered to condemn it or an interest in it, affected by a bylaw, who alleges that the bylaw imposes on the property unreasonable or inappropriate restrictions of present or potential use under the particular circumstances of the case.
 - 2. The municipality that has a plan or a bylaw at issue in an appeal brought under this chapter or any municipality that adjoins that municipality.
 - 3. A person owning or occupying property in the immediate neighborhood of a property that is the subject of any decision or act taken under this chapter, who can demonstrate a physical or environmental impact on the person's interest under the criteria reviewed, and who alleges that the decision or act, if confirmed, will not be in accord with the policies, purposes, or terms of the plan or bylaw of that municipality.
 - 4. Any twenty (20) persons who may be any combination of voters, residents, or real property owners within a municipality who, by signed petition to the Development Review Board, allege that any relief requested by a person under this title, if granted, will not be in accord with the policies, purposes, or terms of the plan or bylaw of that municipality. This petition to the Development Review Board must designate one (1) person to serve as the representative of the petitioners regarding all matters related to the appeal. An appeal shall not include the character of the area affected if the project has a residential component that includes affordable housing.
 - 5. Any department and administrative subdivision of this State owning property or any interest in property within the municipality, and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development of this State.

5.9.2 Notice of an Appeal

- A notice of appeal filed under this Section shall be in writing and include the following information, in accordance with 24 V.S.A § 4466:
- 1. the name and address of the appellant,
- 2. a brief description of the property with respect to which the appeal is taken,
- 3. a reference to applicable provisions of these regulations,

- 4. the relief requested by the appellant, including any request for a variance from one or more provisions of these regulations, and
- 5. the alleged grounds why such relief is believed proper under the circumstances.

5.9.3 Appeals to the Environmental Court

- In accordance with 24 V.S.A § 4471, an interested person who has participated in a regulatory proceeding of the Development Review Board may appeal a decision rendered by the DRB under Section 5.5, within thirty (30) days of such decision, to the Vermont Environmental Court. Appeals to Environmental Court shall also meet the following requirements:
 - 1. "Participation" in a DRB proceeding shall consist of offering, through oral or written testimony, evidence of a statement of concern related to the subject of the proceeding.
 - 2. The notice of appeal shall be filed by certified mailing, with fees, to the Environmental Court and by mailing a copy to the Chelsea Town Clerk, or the Zoning Administrator if so designated, who shall supply a list of interested persons (including the applicant if not the appellant), to the appellant within five (5) working days. Upon receipt of the list of interested persons, the appellant shall, by certified mail, provide a copy of the notice of appeal to every interested person. If any one or more of those persons are not then parties to the appeal, upon motion they shall be granted leave by the court to intervene.

5.10 Nonconformities

- A use made non-conforming or a structure made non-complying by enactment of this Bylaw, or an amendment thereto, may be continued, subject to the following conditions:
 - 1. A nonconforming use may be changed to another non-conforming use upon approval of the Development Review Board, but only if the Board finds that the degree of non-conformity of the new use is not greater than that of the original non-conforming use.
 - 2. A non-complying structure may be extended within the boundary lines of parcel or lot existing on the effective date of this Bylaw, upon issuance of a Zoning Permit by the Zoning Administrator, provided that the extension shall not cause the use or structure to become in violation of any parking, unloading, required setback, lot area, coverage, building height, access road, or other requirements of this Bylaw. Where a building has less than the required front setback, additions that are lateral to the existing structure may be permitted so long as they become no closer to the road than the original structure, and provided that pre-existing non-conforming side and rear setback requirements are not reduced.
 - 3. When a non-conforming use has been discontinued for a period of two (2) years, it shall be considered discontinued and shall not thereafter be re-established.
 - 4. Except as provided in part 5 below, a non-complying structure, which due to neglect lacks windows, walls, roof or other components needed for habitation and has become uninhabitable for longer than two (2) years shall be deemed abandoned upon notice by

the Zoning Administrator, and shall be demolished by the owner and the site left in a safe 1118 1119 condition. Failure to demolish or render the site safe is a violation of this bylaw, and may also engender condemnation proceedings by the town under its health or fire safety 1120 1121 authorities. 1122 5. A non-complying structure which has been damaged or destroyed by any cause may be 1123 reconstructed to its prior condition with the approval of the Zoning Administrator if such 1124 reconstruction is sought within two (2) years of the damage or construction. 5.11 Limitations 1125 1126 In accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 4413, the following limitations shall apply to development in 1127 Chelsea. a) Unless provisions are included in this Bylaw, the following uses may only be regulated 1128 1129 with respect to location, size, height, building bulk, yards, courts, setbacks, density of buildings, off-street parking, loading facilities, traffic, noise, lighting, landscaping, and 1130 screening requirements, and only to the extent that regulations do not have the effect of 1131 1132 interfering with the intended functional use: 1133 • Public utility power generating plants and transmission lines State or community owned and operated institutions and facilities 1134 Public and private schools and other educational institutions 1135 Churches, convents, and parish houses 1136 1137 Public and private hospitals Regional solid waste management facilities 1138 Hazardous waste management facilities 1139 1140 Emergency shelters Hotels and motels converted to permanently affordable housing developments 1141 1142 b) 24 V.S.A. § 4412 limits the effect of this Bylaw where group homes, and antennae or similar structures are proposed. 1143 5.12 Violations 1144 1145 The commencement or continuation of any land development that does not meet the 1146 requirements of these regulations after it has been adopted shall constitute a violation. All violations shall be pursued in accordance with 24 V.S.A § 4451 and 24 V.S.A § 4452. Each day 1147 that a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense. The Zoning Administrator shall 1148

institute, in the name of the Town of Chelsea, any appropriate action, injunction or other

be paid over to the municipality. Each offense shall be fined no more than two hundred

proceeding to enforce the provisions of these regulations. All fines imposed and collected shall

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(\$200.00) dollars per day. 1152 **5.12.1 Notice of Violations** 1153 1154 No action may be brought under this Section unless the alleged offender has had at least fifteen (15) days' warning notice by certified mail that a violation exists, as required under 24 V.S.A. § 1155 4451. The notice of violation also shall be recorded in the land records of the municipality under 1156 1157 Section 5.3. The notice shall state that a violation exists, that the alleged offender has an opportunity to cure 1158 1159 the violation within the fifteen (15) day notice period, and that the alleged offender will not be entitled to an additional warning notice for a violation occurring after the fifteen (15) days. 1160 Action may be brought without notice and opportunity to cure if the alleged offender repeats the 1161 violation of the regulations after the seven-day notice period and within the next succeeding 1162 twelve (12) months. 1163 1164 A notice of violation issued also shall state: (A) the bylaw or municipal land use permit condition alleged to have been violated; 1165 1166 (B) the facts giving rise to the alleged violation; 1167 (C) to whom appeal may be taken and the period of time for taking an appeal; and (D) that failure to file an appeal within that period will render the notice of violation 1168 1169 valid. **5.12.2** Limitations on Enforcement 1170 An action, injunction or other enforcement proceeding relating to the failure to obtain or comply with the 1171 terms and conditions of any required or duly recorded municipal land use permit may be instituted against 1172 the alleged offender if the action, injunction or other enforcement proceeding is instituted within fifteen 1173 1174 (15) years from the date the alleged violation first occurred, and not thereafter, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 4454. The burden of proving the date the alleged violation first occurred shall be on the person 1175 1176 against whom the enforcement action is instituted. No enforcement proceeding may be instituted to 1177 enforce an alleged violation of a municipal land use permit unless the permit or a notice of the permit has

been recorded in the land records of the municipality under Section 5.4.

6. Definitions 1179 For the purposes of this Bylaw, meanings of the following words and terms shall be interpreted 1180 as defined below and all other words shall be presumed to have their normal meaning, unless 1181 such meaning runs counter to the purposes and objectives of this Bylaw or the Town Plan. The 1182 1183 definitions of terms defined in 24 V.S.A. § 4303 of the Act, and not otherwise defined herein are 1184 made a part of these Bylaws. **ABANDONED**: A habitable or public structure shall be considered abandoned if, due to neglect 1185 1186 or damage, it lacks a roof, walls, windows, plumbing, or any other major component for more 1187 than two (2) years, or if it is determined to be unstable by a licensed structural engineer. 1188 ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT (ADU): A distinct unit that is clearly subordinate to a single-unit or two-unit residential dwelling on an owner-occupied lot and has facilities and 1189 provisions for independent living, including sleeping, food preparation, and sanitation, provided 1190 1191 there is compliance with all the following: 1192 A. the property has sufficient wastewater capacity; and 1193 B. the unit does not exceed thirty (30%) percent of the total habitable floor area of the 1194 single-unit or two-unit dwelling or nine hundred (900) square feet, whichever is greater 1195 ACCESSORY ON-FARM BUSINESS: Activity on a farm, the revenues of which may exceed 1196 the revenues of the farming operation, and comprises one or both of the following: 1197 (I) The storage, preparation, processing, and sale of qualifying products, provided that 1198 the qualifying products are produced on a farm; the sale of products that name, describe, or promote the farm or accessory on-farm business, including merchandise or apparel 1199 1200 that features the farm or accessory on-farm business; or the sale of bread or baked goods. 1201 (II) Educational, recreational, or social events that feature agricultural practices or qualifying products, or both. Such events may include tours of the farm, farm stays, 1202 tastings and meals featuring qualifying products, and classes or exhibits in the 1203 preparation, processing, or harvesting of qualifying products. As used in this subdivision 1204 (II), "farm stay" means a paid, overnight guest accommodation on a farm for the purpose 1205 of participating in educational, recreational, or social activities on the farm that feature 1206 1207 agricultural practices or qualifying products, or both. A farm stay includes the option for 1208 guests to participate in such activities. 1209 **ACCESSORY STRUCTURE**: A structure customarily incidental and subordinate to the 1210 principal building, except as otherwise provided, located on the same lot with such principal buildings. Examples are garages and garden sheds. 1211 1212 ACCESSORY USE: A use customarily incidental and subordinate to the principle use and

located on the same lot.

- 1214 **ACT, THE**: The Vermont State statute that is the authority for this Bylaw. Full title: Vermont
- Municipal and Regional Planning and Development Act, 24 V.S.A. Chapter 117, et seq.
- 1216 **ADMINISTRATIVE PERMIT**: Is a permit issued by the Zoning Administration that complies
- with the regulations and that does not require additional review by a municipal panel.
- 1218 **AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Housing that is owned or rented by its inhabitants whose income
- does not exceed eighty (80%) percent of the county median income, as defined by the United
- 1220 States Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the total annual cost of the housing,
- 1221 (including principal, interest taxes insurance and condominium fees if owned, or rent and utilities
- if rented) is not more than thirty (30%) of the household's gross annual income.
- 1223 **AGRICULTURE:** Land which is used for raising livestock, or agricultural or forest products,
- including farm structures and the storage of agricultural equipment; riding and boarding stables;
- and meets the Vermont Agency of Agriculture's definition of "farming use" by achieving one or
- more of the following criteria:
- a) is used in connection with the sale of \$1000 or more of agricultural products in a normal year; or
 - b) is used in connection with the raising, feeding, and management of at least the following number of adult animals: four equines; five cattle or American bison; fifteen swine; fifteen goats; fifteen sheep; fifteen fallow deer; fifteen red deer; fifty turkeys; fifty geese; one-hundred laying hens; two-hundred and fifty broilers, pheasant, Chukar partridge, or Coturnix quail; three camelids; four ratites (ostriches, rheas, and emus); thirty rabbits; one
- hundred ducks; or one-thousand pounds of cultured trout; or
- 1235 c) is used by a farmer filing with the Internal Revenue Service a 1040 (F) income tax statement in at least one of the past two (2) years; or
- d) is on a farm with a business and farm management plan approved by the Secretary.
- 1238 **ALTERATION:** Structural change, that increases the exterior height, width or length of the
- building, including a change of location of, or addition to, a building.
- 1240 APPROPRIATE MUNICIPAL PANEL (AMP): A Planning Commission performing
- development review, a Development Review Board, or a legislative body performing
- 1242 development review.
- 1243 **APPLICANT**: The owner of land proposed to be subdivided or his or her representative. Any
- party with a legal interest in the property may apply in cooperation with the owner of the
- 1245 property.

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- 1246 **APPEAL**: The exclusive remedy of an interested party who wishes to reverse any decision or act
- of the Zoning Administrator or provision of this ordinance. Appeals are made to the DRB and
- thence to the Environmental Court under an adverse decision from the DRB.

1249	APPURTENANT : Something subordinate to or belonging to another larger principal entity.
1250 1251 1252	AUTOMOBILE GRAVEYARD : means a yard, field, or other outdoor area on a property owned or controlled by a person and used or maintained for storing or depositing four or more junk motor vehicles. "Automobile graveyard" does not include:
1253 1254 1255	(A) an area used by an automobile hobbyist to store, organize, restore, or display motor vehicles or parts of such vehicles, provided that the hobbyist's activities comply with all applicable federal, State, and municipal law;
1256 1257	(B) an area used for the storage of motor vehicles exempt from registration under 23 V.S.A. chapter 7;
1258 1259	(C) an area owned or used by a dealer registered under 23 V.S.A. § 453 for the storage of motor vehicles; or
1260 1261 1262 1263	(D) an area used or maintained for the parking or storage of operational commercial motor vehicles, as that term is defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4103(4), that are temporarily out of service and unregistered but are expected to be used in the future by the vehicle operator or owner.
1264 1265 1266 1267	BED AND BREAKFAST : A residential dwelling, occupied by an owner of the business, in which a portion of the home is adapted to use as lodging for travelers or transients as an accessory use to the residence that does not change the residential character of the neighborhood. Breakfast only may be served to those lodging on the premises.
1268 1269 1270	BOARDING HOUSE : A residential building with a dwelling unit occupied by a permanent resident caretaker that also has six or fewer rooms for rent on a long-term basis that may lack individual kitchen facilities, that share common areas, and that may provide meals for tenants.
1271 1272 1273 1274	BUFFER : An undisturbed area consisting of trees, shrubs, ground cover plants, duff layer, and generally uneven ground surface that extends a specified distance horizontally across the surface of the land from the mean water level of an adjacent lake or from the top of the bank of an adjacent river or stream.
1275 1276 1277 1278	BUILDING: A structure having a roof supported by columns or walls and intended for the shelter or enclosure of persons, animals or chattel, excluding fences. For the purposes of this bylaw, any travel trailer occupied for more than sixty (60) days per calendar year shall be considered a building.
1279 1280 1281 1282	BUILDING/STRUCTURE, NON-CONFORMING : A building or structure or part thereof, not conforming with this zoning bylaw covering bulk, dimensions, height, area, yards, density, or off-street parking, loading requirements, where such building or structure conformed to all applicable law, ordinances or regulations prior to the enactment of this bylaw.

- 1283 **CAMP, SEASONAL:** Cabin, trailer, shelter or other accommodation suitable and used for
- temporary living purposes and with interior plumbing that consists of no more than a sink with
- water. Can be used for no more than three (3) consecutive weeks per year and no more than a
- total of sixty (60) days per year.
- 1287 **CHANGE IN USE**: A change or increase in the scale, intensity, type of activity, hours of
- operation, or physical setting of the use.
- 1289 **CHILD CARE FACILITY**: A home or facility where the owner or operator is to be licensed or
- registered by the State of Vermont for child care.
- 1291 CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT: Is a form of land development in which principal buildings and
- structures are grouped together on a site, thus saving the remaining land area for common open
- space, conservation, agriculture, recreation, and public and semipublic uses.
- 1294 **COMMERCIAL**: Any use of land or structures for the primary purpose of buying or selling
- goods where the goods are primarily contained inside a principal building. Such uses, when
- located in the Rural Residential district are not to exceed six thousand (6,000) square feet of floor
- area. Examples: retail shops, general store.
- 1298 **COMMERCIAL GROUP SERVICE**: Any use of land or structures limited to twenty-five
- 1299 (25,000) square feet or less for the purpose of providing a service involving the presence of a
- number of individuals at one time. Examples: motels, hotels, theatres, restaurants.
- 1301 **COMMERCIAL OUTDOOR RECREATION**: Any use of land or structures for the provision
- of private outdoor recreational services that do not involve the construction of substantial
- structures. Examples: travel trailer parks, tennis courts, golf courses.
- 1304 **COMMUNITY SERVICE**: Any use of land or structures for the purpose of providing or
- conducting educational or religious services. Examples: schools (public and private), churches.
- 1306 **CONDITIONAL USE**: A land use permitted in a given zoning district only after a hearing and
- decision by the DRB (e.g., Site Plan Approval, Steep Slope, and Right of Access).
- 1308 **DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD:** The deliberative body, appointed by the Selectboard,
- which hears and decides appeals and applications for conditional uses, site plan, subdivisions,
- and variance requests.
- 1311 **DISTRICT:** A part, zone or geographic area within the town of Chelsea within which certain
- zoning or development regulations apply.
- 1313 **DWELLING, SINGLE-UNIT:** A building containing one dwelling unit, other than an
- accessary dwelling unit, with independent living quarters for one household, including at least
- one bathroom and kitchen, and not in a motel, hotel, boarding house, tourist home or similar
- 1316 structure.
- 1317 **DWELLING, TWO-UNIT:** A building containing two dwelling units. Synonymous with
- 1318 duplex.

1319	DWELLING , MULTIUNIT : A building containing more than two dwelling units.
1320 1321 1322	EMERGENCY SHELTER : Any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide a temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless and that does not require occupants to sign leases or occupancy agreements.
1323 1324	EASMENT : The authorization of property owner for the right of a specific use by another party of any designated part of his or her property.
1325 1326	EXTERIOR STORAGE : Outside storage of materials, supplies, equipment or vehicles incidental to a commercial use shall be adequately screened from view.
1327 1328 1329	EXTRACTION : Excavating and removing rock, stone, ore, soil, gravel, sand, minerals, and similar materials from the surface and/or subsurface for the purposes of selling those materials or utilizing those materials in a commercial venture.
1330	FARMING : means any of the following –
1331	a) the cultivation or other use of land for growing food, fiber, Christmas trees,
1332	b) maple sap, or horticultural and orchard crops; or
1333	c) the raising, feeding or management of livestock, poultry, fish or bees; or
1334	d) the operation of greenhouses; or
1335	e) the production of maple syrup; or
1336	f) the on-site storage, preparation and sale of agricultural products principally
1337	g) produced on the farm (emphasis added); or,
1338	h) the on-site production of fuel or power from agricultural products or wastes
1339	i) produced on the farm; or
1340	j) the raising, feeding, or management of four or more equines owned or
1341	k) boarded by the farmer, including training, showing, and providing instruction and
1342	1) lessons in riding, training, and the management of equines.
1343 1344 1345 1346	FARM STRUCTURE : A building, enclosure, or fence for housing livestock, raising horticultural or agronomic plants, or carrying out other practices associated with accepted agricultural or farming practices, including a silo, as "farming" is defined in subdivision 6001(22) of Title 10 of the Act, but excludes a dwelling for human habitation.
1347 1348	FARM, WORKING: A farm whose agricultural land and buildings are actively used in a manner that meets the definition of Farming.
1349 1350	FENCE : Except as is incidental to an accepted agricultural practice, any structure or earth berm which has the effect of creating a barrier to visibility or access.
1351	FOOTPRINT : The outer horizontal boundaries of the structure's limits, including decks.

- 1352 **FORESTRY OPERATION**: means activities related to the management of forests, including a
- timber harvest; pruning; planting; reforestation; pest, disease, and invasive species control;
- wildlife habitat management; and fertilization. "Forestry operation" includes the primary
- processing of forest products of commercial value on a parcel where the timber harvest occurs.
- 1356 **HABITABLE**: Intended and acceptable for use as living quarters.
- 1357 **HAZARDOUS WASTE**: Those substances defined as hazardous waste by the Agency of
- Natural Resources under Chapter 7 of the Vermont Environmental Protection Rules.
- 1359 **HEAVY INDUSTRIAL:** The processing, assembly, distribution, or packaging of natural or
- man-made products where such activity results in off-site impacts such as, but not limited to
- noise, vibration, air pollution, fire hazard or noxious emission. All such activity and storage of
- raw or unfinished products are not enclosed inside a building or screened from the abutting
- properties and public rights-of-way. Such uses include, but are not limited to, the following:
- lumber mills, junk yards, truck terminals, concrete, asphalt or brick plants, quarries, bulk fuel
- storage facilities, foundry, and similar uses.
- 1366 **HISTORIC STRUCTURE**: Any structure that is: (a) listed individually in the National Register
- of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of the Interior) or preliminarily
- determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on
- the National Register; (b) certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as
- contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily
- determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district; (c) individually listed on a
- state inventory of historic places in states with historic preservation programs which have been
- approved by the Secretary of the Interior; or (d) individually listed on a local inventory of
- historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified
- either: (i) by an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or (ii)
- directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.
- 1377 **HOME OCCUPATION**: Activities conducted within a dwelling or accessory building by the
- residents thereof, which is clearly secondary to the dwelling's use as living quarters and does not
- change the character thereof, excluding junk yards and any activity that generates hazardous
- 1380 waste.
- 1381 **HOME INDUSTRY**: Activities conducted within a dwelling or accessory building by the
- residents thereof, in which the conduct of the home industry is clearly secondary to the
- residential use of the premises and occupies no more than fifty (50%) percent of the total living
- area of the structure; and is conducted by the resident at the residence and does not involve more
- than five (5) full-time people other than the residents of the house; and automobile traffic
- resulting from the home industry is not at a volume substantially greater than would be normally
- 1387 anticipated.
- 1388 HOTEL, MOTEL, OR INN: A structure or structures or portion thereof offering transient
- lodging accommodations on a daily rate.

- 1390 **INDIVIDUAL SERVICE**: Any use of land or structures for the purpose of providing a service
- which customarily involves the presence of no more than a few individuals at the same time.
- Examples: real estate offices, hairdressers, repair shops, bed and breakfast.
- 1393 **INTERESTED PARTY:** Anyone lawfully afforded the right to appeal a decision or act of the
- Zoning Administrator as defined under 24 V.S.A. § 4464(b).
- 1395 **JUNK**: Old or discarded scrap copper, brass, iron, steel or other metals, or materials including
- but not limited to tires, household appliances, furniture, rope, rags, batteries, glass, rubber debris,
- waste, trash, construction debris, plumbing fixtures, or any discarded, dismantled, wrecked,
- scrapped, or ruined motor vehicle or parts thereof. Any of the above items used in a bona fide
- agricultural operation are excluded from this definition.
- 1400 **JUNKYARD:** Any area, lot, land parcel, or part thereof, used for the storage, collection,
- processing, purchase, sale, of wastepaper, rags, scrap metal or other scrap or discarded goods,
- materials, machinery, or two or more unregistered or inoperable motor vehicles or other types of
- 1403 equipment.
- 1404 **LAND DEVELOPMENT:** The division of a parcel into two or more parcels, the construction,
- reconstruction, conversion, structural alteration, relocation, or enlargement of any building or
- other structure, or of any mining, excavation, or landfill, and any change in the use of any
- building or other structure, or land, or extension of use of land.
- 1408 **LIGHT INDUSTRIAL**: The processing, assembly, distribution or packaging of natural or man-
- made products where such activity results in no off-site impacts, such as, but not limited to noise,
- vibration, air pollution, fire hazard or noxious emission. All such activity and storage of raw or
- 1411 finished products are enclosed in a building or are screened from abutting properties and public
- rights of way. Examples: woodworking shop, electronics manufacturing or assembly, machine
- 1413 shop.
- 1414 **LOT:** A designated parcel, tract or area of land established by plat, subdivision, or as otherwise
- permitted by law; to be used, developed or built upon as a unit, which is not divided by a public
- highway as defined by 19 V.S.A., Section 1.
- 1417 **LOT AREA:** The total area within the property lines of the lot.
- 1418 **LOT FRONTAGE:** That portion of a lot which is adjacent and parallel to a public road as
- defined by 19 V.S.A., Section I or a private road as approved by the Development Review Board
- pursuant to Section 2.6. In the case of corner lots, each side adjacent and parallel to a public road
- or private road, shall be considered the lot frontage.
- 1422 MANUFACTURED HOME PARK: Any parcel of land under single or common ownership or
- 1423 control which contains, or is designed, laid out or adapted to accommodate, more than two
- manufactured homes. Manufactured home park does not mean any parcel of land under the
- ownership of an agricultural employer who may provide up to four mobile home used by full-
- time workers or employees of the agricultural employer as a benefit or condition of employment
- or any parcel of land used solely on a seasonal basis for vacation or recreational mobile homes.

- 1428 **MUNICIPAL**: Any use of land or structures for the purpose of providing municipal or quasi-
- municipal services. Examples: municipal buildings, public parks, libraries, cemeteries.
- 1430 **NEW CONSTRUCTION**: For regulation under this Bylaw, new construction means the
- erection of new structures for which the start of construction commenced on or after the effective
- date of this Bylaw adopted by the community and includes any subsequent improvements to such
- 1433 structures.
- 1434 **NONCONFORMITIES:** A nonconforming use, structure, lot, or parcel.
- NONCONFORMING LOT OR PARCEL: Lots or parcels that do not conform to the present
- bylaws covering dimensional requirements but were in conformance with all applicable laws,
- ordinances, and regulations prior to the enactment of the present bylaws, including a structure
- improperly authorized as a result of error by the Zoning Administrator.
- 1439 **NONCONFORMING STRUCTURE:** A structure or part thereof not in conformance with the
- 1440 Chelsea Zoning Bylaw covering building height, area, yards, density or off-street parking
- requirements where such structure conformed to all applicable laws and regulations prior to the
- enactment of this Bylaw.
- 1443 **PARCEL**: A contiguous area of land under single ownership or controlled by the same legal
- entity regardless of whether acquired at different times or as separate conveyances; not divided
- by a public highway, or a stream greater than ten (10) square miles of drainage area as defined in
- accordance with current Vermont statues or which has been identified on a plat approved by the
- Town pursuant to these regulations and duly recorded in the Chelsea land records. The "original
- parcel" is the parcel as it existed on the date of adoption of this Bylaw. Parcel is synonymous
- 1449 with lot.
- 1450 **PARKING AREA:** An area of land on a lot designated or used exclusively for the maneuvering
- and storage or motor vehicles.
- 1452 **PARKING SPACE:** A defined space which is not larger than nine (9) feet by eighteen (18) feet
- unless it is a American with Disabilities Act-compliant space and located outside of the right-of-
- 1454 way or driveway used for the parking of one motor vehicle which affords practical access to the
- road or right-of-way and graveled or paved sufficiently to permit year-round use.
- 1456 **PLAT**: A map or plan drawn to scale of one or more parcels, tracts or subdivisions of land,
- showing, but not limited to, boundaries, corners, markers, monuments, easements and other
- 1458 rights.
- 1459 **PLANNING COMMISSION**: The body appointed by the Selectboard for the purpose of
- preparing the Town Plan, and this Unified Bylaw.
- 1461 **PERENNIAL STREAM**: A watercourse, or portion, segment or reach of a watercourse that, in
- the absence of abnormal, extended or severe drought, continuously conveys surface water flow.
- Human caused interruptions of flow; i.e. flow fluctuations associated with hydroelectric facility
- operations, or water withdrawals, shall not influence the determination. A perennial stream shall
- not include the standing waters of wetlands, lakes, and ponds.

- 1466 PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD): A residential development in which one or more
- lots, tracts, or parcels of land are to be developed as a single entity, the plan for which may
- propose any authorized combination of density or intensity transfers or increases, as well as the
- mixing of land uses.
- 1470 **PRINCIPAL BUILDING:** A dominant building or portion thereof, the use of which is
- fundamental and superior to any other use of the land or the lot.
- 1472 **PRINCIPAL USE:** The primary or predominate use of any lot.
- 1473 **PUBLIC OPEN SPACE:** Public or community owned land available for limited public or park-
- 1474 like uses.
- 1475 **ROAD, PRIVATE**: A road in a subdivision serving several units.
- 1476 **ROAD, PUBLIC:** A highway, street or other way owned by the Town of Chelsea or the
- 1477 Vermont Agency of Transportation which exists for vehicular travel. The word "road" shall
- mean the entire right of way.
- 1479 **ROADSIDE COMMERCIAL**: Any use of land or structures for the purpose of buying or
- selling goods which are commonly displayed or sold outside a principal building. Examples:
- gasoline station, mobile home sales lot, car dealership, food stands.
- 1482 **RURAL COMMERCIAL**: Any use of land or structures for the purpose of buying or selling
- goods that are agricultural or silvicultural in nature. Examples: farm stands, nurseries, saw mills.
- 1484 SALVAGE YARD: Any place of outdoor storage or deposit for storing, keeping, processing,
- buying, or selling junk or as a scrap metal processing facility. "Salvage yard" also means any
- outdoor area used for operation of an automobile graveyard. It does not mean a garage where
- wrecked or disabled motor vehicles are stored for less than ninety (90) days for inspection or
- 1488 repairs.
- 1489 **SETBACK, FRONT:** The shortest distance from the centerline of any public highway or private
- road, or road right-of-way when no physical road is present, to the nearest part of any building or
- structure. Corner lots shall be deemed to have front setbacks on all adjacent roads.
- 1492 **SETBACK, REAR:** The distance from the rear lot line to the nearest part of any building or
- structure.
- 1494 **SETBACK, SIDE:** The distance from the side lot line to the nearest part of any building or
- structure.
- 1496 **SIGN:** A communication device, structure, or fixture that incorporates graphics, symbols, or
- written copy intended to promote the sale of a product, commodity, or service, or to provide
- direction or identification for a facility or premises.
- 1499 **SIGN AREA:** The entire face of a sign, including the advertising surface and any framing, trim
- or molding, but not including the supporting structure.

- 1501 **SIGN, BUSINESS AND PUBLIC BUILDING:** A structure which calls attention to and/or acts
- as an outdoor display for an establishment, property, or the services and products provided
- 1503 therein.
- 1504 **SIGN, FREESTANDING**: A sign having its own supporting structure, independent of any
- 1505 building.
- 1506 **SIGN, INSTRUCTIONAL:** A structure which is used to direct the user of the premises for off-
- street parking, traffic control, pedestrian areas, loading docks, safety zones or other similar
- purposes.
- 1509 **SIGN, OFF-PREMISE**: A sign located on any parcel of land, regardless of ownership, other than that
- on which the advertising or business referred to is located.
- 1511 **SIGN, ON-PREMISE**: A sign which contains information relating to the premises on which the sign
- is located.
- 1513 **SIGN, PROJECTING**: A sign that is wholly or partially dependent upon a building for support and
- which projects more than twelve (12) inches from such a building.
- 1515 **SIGN, TEMPORARY:** Any sign, banner, pennant, or advertising to be displayed for a limited
- time period. Easily removed signs attached to windows are considered temporary signs.
- 1517 **STRUCTURE:** An assembly of materials with fixed location on or below the ground or
- attached to an object having an affixed location on the ground including, but not limited to,
- towers, dish antennae, but excluding mailboxes, fences, roads or driveways, and underground
- 1520 utilities.
- SUBDIVISION: The dividing of a parcel or change in the boundaries, or interests, by sale, gift or
- lease, mortgage foreclosure, court ordered partition or the filing of a subdivision plat, for the
- purpose, whether immediate or future, of sale, lease, or development. The term includes amended
- subdivisions or re-subdivisions. The term also includes multi-unit residential, commercial
- development and industrial development. The term does not apply to agricultural leases. It does not
- apply to a sale or gift of land which adds to an existing contiguous parcel and does not result in the
- creation of a new separate parcel.
- 1528 **SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE**: A structure is substantially complete when it has all of the
- permitted conditions satisfied, has all major components in place (foundation, roof, siding,
- windows, electrical, plumbing, heating) and is usable for its intended use. For new construction or
- permitted renovation, this includes a filing of a certificate that the structure meets the Residential
- 1532 Energy Standards (RES) or Commercial Building Energy Standards (CBES) as applicable.
- SURFACE WATER: Any year-round body of water such as brooks, streams, rivers, ponds or
- 1534 lakes.
- 1535 **TEMPORARY STRUCTURE:** A structure for accessory use, without a permanent foundation
- or footing and which is removed when the designated time periods, activity, or use for which it
- was erected has ceased.

- 1538 **TOP OF STREAMBANK**: That vertical point along a stream bank where an abrupt change in
- slope is evident. For streams in wider valleys, it is the point where the stream is generally able to
- overflow the banks and enter the floodplain. For steep and narrow valleys, it will generally be the
- same as the top of slope.
- 1542 **TOWN MUNICIPAL**: Any use of land or structures for the purpose of providing municipal or
- 1543 quasi-municipal services which require large vehicles and substantial storage for materials and
- equipment. Examples: Town garage, fire station, rescue squad.
- 1545 **TRAVEL TRAILER**: A vehicle which is: (a) Built on a single chassis; (b) four hundred (400)
- square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection; (c) Designed to be self-
- propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and (d) Designed primarily not for use as
- a permanent dwelling but as a temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or
- seasonal use. Synonymous with recreational vehicle.
- 1550 USE, CONDITIONAL: A use which may be permitted upon approval of the Development
- 1551 Review Board, following a public hearing.
- 1552 USE, NON-CONFORMING: A use of a building or land legally existing at the time of the
- adoption of these Bylaws, or any amendment thereto, and which does not conform with the use
- regulations of the district in which it isolated.
- 1555 USE, PERMITTED: A use which may take place in any district as set forth by this Bylaw,
- excluding illegal uses and non-conforming uses.
- 1557 **VARIANCE**: A Permit issued in deviation from any provision of this Bylaw after an appeal,
- public hearing, and approval by the DRB based on the standards set forth in Section 5.8.2 of this
- 1559 Bylaw.
- 1560 **VIOLATION**: The failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with this
- 1561 Bylaw.
- 1562 VILLAGE MUNICIPAL: Any use of land or structures for the purpose of providing municipal
- or quasi-municipal services. Examples: municipal buildings, federal government buildings,
- public parks, libraries, cemeteries.
- 1565 **WAIVER**: Av permit issued to reduce dimensional requirements in accordance with this
- Bylaw's specific standards after an appeal, public hearing, and approval by the DRB based on
- the standards set forth in Section 5.8.2 of this Bylaw.
- 1568 **ZONING ADMINISTRATOR**: The Town official nominated by the Planning Commission and
- appointed by the Selectboard whose job is to receive and review all zoning permit applications;
- issue permits for permitted uses and refer conditional use applications and appeals for variance to
- 1571 the DRB.