

## **GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**

Zoning, subdivision regulations and related regulations are a legislative tool that enables municipal government to meet more effectively the demands of evolving and growing communities. Proper regulations enhance the public health, safety and general welfare and encourage the appropriate and wise use of land. *The citizens of a municipality should be actively involved in directing the growth of their community.*

### **BECOME A MEMBER OF A NEW HAMPTON BOARD OR COMMISSION**

Each board or commission member shall be a resident of the town. A member is either appointed as a regular member or an alternate member. When a regular member is absent or whenever a regular member disqualifies himself or herself, the chairperson shall designate an alternate, if one is present, to act in the absent member's place. In this situation, the alternate shall have full voting powers.

### **PLANNING BOARD**

The planning board reviews applications for subdivisions, boundary line adjustments, and site plans to ensure compliance with applicable provisions of the constitution, statutes, regulations, and ordinances. The planning board provides preliminary conceptual consultation of plans for individuals seeking advice prior to investing money into a project. The planning board actions are intended to provide fair and reasonable treatment for all parties and persons.

Other duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Prepare and amend from time to time a master plan to guide the development of the municipality.
- Recommend to the local legislative body amendments of the zoning ordinance or zoning map or additions thereto.

*Time Commitment:*

- *Planning Board meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. These meetings typically take 2-3 hours.*
- *Additional meetings may be scheduled for site visits, which typically last 1 hour.*
- *At times workshops may be scheduled but occur less frequently.*

### **ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

The zoning board of adjustment has the power to make variances or exceptions in zoning regulations, by a majority vote of its members, upon an appeal filed with it by the owner of any such land, to grant a permit based on considerations of justice and equity for a building or structure, or part thereof, in any case in which the board of adjustment finds, upon the evidence and arguments presented to it upon appeal.

Reasons for an owner to appeal to this board are:

1. Appeal from an administrative decision relating to the interpretation and enforcement of the provisions of the zoning ordinance.

2. Special exception for a proposed use
3. Variance for using property in a way which is not permitted under the strict terms of the ordinance.
4. Change in a non-conforming use by a special exception, into another non-conforming use.
5. Equitable waiver of dimensional requirement when a lot or division of land, or structure is discovered to be violation of a requirement imposed by a zoning ordinance.

*Time Commitment:*

- *Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) meetings are held the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM, when an application is received. These meetings typically take 1 hour per application submitted. There are times when several months go by without any meeting being scheduled.*
- *Additional meetings are often scheduled for site visits and typically last 1/2 hour.*
- *At times workshops may be scheduled, but occur less frequently.*

### CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The conservation commission reviews the proper utilization and protection of the natural resources and for the protection of watershed resources of said city or town.

This can include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Conduct researches into local land and water areas and seek to coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes.
- Keep an index of all open space and natural, aesthetic or ecological areas within the city or town. Keep an index of all marshlands, swamps and all other wet lands in a like manner, and may recommend to the selectmen a program for the protection, development or better utilization of all such areas.
- Keep accurate records of its meetings and actions and shall file an annual report which shall be printed in the annual town report.

*Time Commitment:*

- *Conservation Commission meetings are typically held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 PM. These meetings typically take 1 hour. There are times when the Chairman may decide to cancel a meeting as there are no pressing issues to discuss.*
- *Additional meetings may be scheduled for site visits or workshops and occur less frequently.*

### HERITAGE COMMISSION

A heritage commission has advisory and review authority for the proper recognition, use, and protection of resources, tangible or intangible, primarily man-made, that are valued for their historic, cultural, aesthetic, or community significance within their natural, built, or cultural contexts. This can include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Survey and inventory all cultural resources
- Assist the planning board, as requested, in the development and review of those sections of the master plan which address cultural and historic resources.

- To advise, upon request, local agencies and other local boards in their review of requests on matters affecting or potentially affecting cultural and historic resources.

*Time Commitment:*

- *Historical Society meets once every 4 months on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. These meetings typically take 1 hour.*
- *Additional meetings and/or workshops may be scheduled but occur less frequently.*