



# SHORELAND ZONING ORDINANCE

Town of Bristol Planning Board

Enacted March 4, 1974

**Amended:**

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April 1992 ▪ January 1995 ▪ April 1999 ▪ March 2007 ▪ April 2008 ▪ May 2011 ▪ March 2015 ▪  
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## Shoreland Zoning Ordinance for the Municipality of Bristol, Maine

1. **Purposes.** The purposes of this Ordinance are to further the maintenance of safe and healthful conditions; to prevent and control water pollution; to protect fish spawning grounds, aquatic life, bird and other wildlife habitat; to protect buildings and lands from flooding and accelerated erosion; to protect archaeological and historic resources; to protect commercial fishing and maritime industries; to protect freshwater and coastal wetlands; to control building sites, placement of structures and land uses; to conserve shore cover, and visual as well as actual points of access to inland and coastal waters; to conserve natural beauty and open space; and to anticipate and respond to the impacts of development in Shoreland areas.
2. **Authority.** This Ordinance has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Title 38 sections 435-449 of the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated (M.R.S.A.).
3. **Applicability.** This Ordinance applies to all land areas within 250 feet, horizontal distance, of the
  - normal high-water line of any great pond or river,
  - upland edge of a coastal wetland, including all areas affected by tidal action, or
  - upland edge of a freshwater wetland,

and all land areas within 75 feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of a stream.

This Ordinance also applies to any structure built on, over or abutting a dock, wharf or pier, or other structure extending or located below the normal high-water line of a water body or within a wetland.

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**NOTE:** Coastal wetlands, by definition, include all areas affected by tidal action, not just those areas where salt marshes and salt meadows exist. Cobble and sand beaches, mudflats, and rocky ledges, below the highest annual tide are all considered to be coastal wetlands.

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**NOTE:** Pursuant to 38 M.R.S.A. section 440, municipalities may extend or adopt zoning controls beyond the limits established in Section 3, above, in order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare and to avoid problems associated with floodplain development.

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4. **Effective Date of Ordinance and Ordinance Amendments.** This Ordinance, which was adopted by the municipal legislative body on March 21, 2017, shall not be effective unless approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection. A certified copy of the Ordinance, or Ordinance Amendment, attested and signed by the Municipal Clerk, shall be forwarded to the Commissioner for approval. If the Commissioner fails to act on this Ordinance or Ordinance Amendment, within forty-five (45) days of his/her receipt of the Ordinance, or Ordinance Amendment, it shall be automatically approved.

Any application for a permit submitted to the municipality within the forty-five (45) day period shall be governed by the terms of this Ordinance, or Ordinance Amendment, if the Ordinance, or Ordinance Amendment, is approved by the Commissioner.

5. **Availability.** A certified copy of this Ordinance shall be filed with the Municipal Clerk and shall be accessible to any member of the public. Copies shall be made available to the public at reasonable cost at the expense of the person making the request. Notice of availability of this Ordinance shall be posted.
6. **Severability.** Should any section or provision of this Ordinance be declared by the courts to be invalid, such decision shall not invalidate any other section or provision of the Ordinance.
7. **Conflicts with Other Ordinances.** Whenever a provision of this Ordinance conflicts with or is inconsistent with another provision of this Ordinance or of any other ordinance, regulation or statute administered by the municipality, the more restrictive provision shall control.
8. **Amendments.** This Ordinance may be amended by majority vote of the legislative body. Copies of amendments, attested and signed by the Municipal Clerk, shall be submitted to the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection following adoption by the municipal legislative body and shall not be effective unless approved by the Commissioner. If the Commissioner fails to act on any amendment within forty-five (45) days of his/her receipt of the amendment, the amendment is automatically approved. Any application for a permit submitted to the municipality within the forty-five (45) day period shall be governed by the terms of the amendment, if such amendment is approved by the Commissioner.
9. **Districts and Zoning Map**
  - A. **Official Shoreland Zoning Map.** The areas to which this Ordinance is applicable are hereby divided into the following districts as shown on the Official Shoreland Zoning Map(s) which is (are) made a part of this Ordinance:
    - (1) Resource Protection
    - (2) Stream Protection
    - (3) Village
    - (4) Public Recreation
    - (5) Residential
  - B. **Scale of Map.** The Official Shoreland Zoning Map shall be drawn at a scale of not less than: 1 inch = 2000 feet. District boundaries shall be clearly delineated and a legend indicating the symbols for each district shall be placed on the map.
  - C. **Certification of Official Shoreland Zoning Map.** The Official Shoreland Zoning Map shall be certified by the attested signature of the Municipal Clerk and shall be located in the municipal office. In the event the municipality does not have a municipal office, the Municipal Clerk shall be the custodian of the map.
  - D. **Changes to the Official Shoreland Zoning Map.** If amendments, in accordance with Section 8, are made in the district boundaries or other matter portrayed on the Official Shoreland Zoning

Map, such changes shall be made on the Official Shoreland Zoning Map within thirty (30) days after the amendment has been approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection.

**10. Interpretation of District Boundaries.** Unless otherwise set forth on the Official Shoreland Zoning Map, district boundary lines are property lines, the centerlines of streets, roads and rights of way, and the boundaries of the Shoreland area as defined herein. Where uncertainty exists as to the exact location of district boundary lines, the Board of Appeals shall be the final authority as to location.

**11. Land Use Requirements.** Except as hereinafter specified, no building, structure or land shall hereafter be used or occupied, and no building or structure or part thereof shall hereafter be erected, constructed, expanded, moved, or altered and no new lot shall be created except in conformity with all of the regulations herein specified for the district in which it is located, unless a variance is granted.

**12. Non-conformance**

**A. Purpose.** It is the intent of this Ordinance to promote land use conformities, except that non-conforming conditions that existed before the effective date of this Ordinance or amendments thereto shall be allowed to continue, subject to the requirements set forth in Section 12. Except as otherwise provided in this Ordinance, a non-conforming condition shall not be permitted to become more non-conforming.

**B. General**

(1) **Transfer of Ownership.** Non-conforming structures, lots, and uses may be transferred, and the new owner may continue the non-conforming use or continue to use the non-conforming structure or lot, subject to the provisions of this Ordinance.

(2) **Repair and Maintenance.** This Ordinance allows, without a permit, the normal upkeep and maintenance of non-conforming uses and structures including repairs or renovations that do not involve expansion of the non-conforming use or structure, and such other changes in a non-conforming use or structure as federal, state, or local building and safety codes may require.

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**NOTE:** See Section 17 for the definitions of non-conforming structures, non-conforming uses and non-conforming lots.

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**C. Non-conforming Structures**

(1) **Expansions.** All new principal and accessory structures, excluding functionally water-dependent uses, must meet the water body, tributary stream, or wetland setback requirements contained in Section 15(B)(1). A non-conforming structure may be added to or expanded after obtaining a permit from the same permitting authority as that for a new structure, if such addition or expansion does not increase the non-conformity of the structure and is in accordance with subparagraphs (a) and (b) below.

- (a) Expansion of any portion of a structure within 25 feet of the normal high-water line of a water body, tributary stream, or upland edge of a wetland is prohibited, even if the expansion will not increase nonconformity with the water body, tributary stream or wetland setback requirement. Expansion of an accessory structure that is located closer to the normal high-water line of a water body, tributary stream, or upland edge of a wetland than the principal structure is prohibited, even if the expansion will not increase nonconformity with the water body, tributary stream, or wetland setback requirement.
- (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), above, if a legally existing nonconforming principal structure is entirely located less than 25 feet from the normal high-water line of a water body, tributary stream, or upland edge of a wetland, that structure may be expanded as follows, as long as all other applicable municipal land use standards are met and the expansion is not prohibited by Section 12(C)(1).
  - (i) The maximum total footprint for the principal structure may not be expanded to a size greater than 800 square feet or 30% larger than the footprint that existed on January 1, 1989, whichever is greater. The maximum height of the principal structure may not be made greater than 15 feet or the height of the existing structure, whichever is greater.
- (c) All other legally existing nonconforming principal and accessory structures that do not meet the water body, tributary stream, or wetland setback requirements may be expanded or altered as follows, as long as other applicable municipal land use standards are met and the expansion is not prohibited by Section 12(C)(1) or Section 12(C)(1)(a), above.
  - (i) For structures located less than 75 feet from the normal high-water line of a water body, tributary stream, or upland edge of a wetland, the maximum combined total footprint for all structures may not be expanded to a size greater than 1,000 square feet or 30% larger than the footprint that existed on January 1, 1989, whichever is greater. The maximum height of any structure may not be made greater than 20 feet or the height of the existing structure, whichever is greater.
  - (ii) For structures located less than 100 feet from the normal high-water line of a great pond classified as GPA or a river flowing to a great pond classified as GPA, the maximum combined total footprint for all structures may not be expanded to a size greater than 1,500 square feet or 30% larger than the footprint that existed on January 1, 1989, whichever is greater. The maximum height of any structure may not be made greater than 25 feet or the height of the existing structure, whichever is greater. Any portion of those structures located less than 75 feet from the normal high-water line of a water body, tributary stream, or upland edge of a wetland must meet the footprint and height limits in Section 12(C)(1)(b)(i) and Section 12(C)(1)(c)(i), above.
  - (iii) In addition to the limitations in subparagraphs (i) and (ii), for structures that are legally nonconforming due to their location within the Resource Protection District when located at less than 250 feet from the normal high-water line of a water body or the upland edge of a wetland, the maximum combined total footprint for all



structures may not be expanded to a size greater than 1,500 square feet or 30% larger than the footprint that existed at the time the Resource Protection District was established on the lot, whichever is greater. The maximum height of any structure may not be made greater than 25 feet or the height of the existing structure, whichever is greater, except that any portion of those structures located less than 75 feet from the normal high-water line of a water body, tributary stream, or upland edge of a wetland must meet the footprint and height limits in Section 12(C)(1)(b)(i) and Section 12(C)(1)(c)(i), above.

- (d) An approved plan for expansion of a nonconforming structure must be recorded by the applicant with the registry of deeds, within 90 days of approval. The recorded plan must show the existing and proposed footprint of the non-conforming structure, the existing and proposed structure height, the footprint of any other structures on the parcel, the Shoreland zone boundary and evidence of approval by the municipal review authority.
  
- (2) **Foundations.** Whenever a new, enlarged, or replacement foundation is constructed under a non-conforming structure, the structure and new foundation must be placed such that the setback requirement is met to the greatest practical extent as determined by the Planning Board or its designee, basing its decision on the criteria specified in Section 12(C)(3) Relocation, below.
  
- (3) **Relocation.** A non-conforming structure may be relocated within the boundaries of the parcel on which the structure is located provided that the site of relocation conforms to all setback requirements to the greatest practical extent as determined by the Planning Board or its designee, and provided that the applicant demonstrates that the present subsurface sewage disposal system meets the requirements of State law and the State of Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules (Rules), or that a new system can be installed in compliance with the law and said Rules. In no case shall a structure be relocated in a manner that causes the structure to be more non-conforming.

In determining whether the building relocation meets the setback to the greatest practical extent, the Planning Board or its designee shall consider the size of the lot, the slope of the land, the potential for soil erosion, the location of other structures on the property and on adjacent properties, the location of the septic system and other on-site soils suitable for septic systems, and the type and amount of vegetation to be removed to accomplish the relocation.

When it is necessary to remove vegetation within the water or wetland setback area in order to relocate a structure, the Planning Board shall require replanting of native vegetation to compensate for the destroyed vegetation in accordance with Section 15(S). In addition, the area from which the relocated structure was removed must be replanted with vegetation. Replanting shall be required as follows:

- (a) Trees removed in order to relocate a structure must be replanted with at least one native tree, three (3) feet in height, for every tree removed. If more than five trees are planted, no one species of tree shall make up more than 50% of the number of trees planted. Replaced trees must be planted no further from the water or wetland than the trees that were removed.

Other woody and herbaceous vegetation, and ground cover, that are removed or destroyed in order to relocate a structure must be re-established. An area at least the same size as the area where vegetation and/or ground cover was disturbed, damaged, or removed must be reestablished within the setback area. The vegetation and/or ground cover must consist of similar native vegetation and/or ground cover that was disturbed, destroyed or removed.

(b) Where feasible, when a structure is relocated on a parcel the original location of the structure shall be replanted with vegetation which may consist of grasses, shrubs, trees, or a combination thereof.

(4) **Reconstruction or Replacement.** Any non-conforming structure which is located less than the required setback from a water body, tributary stream, or wetland and which is removed, or damaged or destroyed, regardless of the cause, by more than 50% of the market value of the structure before such damage, destruction or removal, may be reconstructed or replaced provided that a permit is obtained within eighteen (18) months of the date of said damage, destruction, or removal, and provided that such reconstruction or replacement is in compliance with the water body, tributary stream or wetland setback requirement to the greatest practical extent as determined by the Planning Board or its designee in accordance with the purposes of this Ordinance. In no case shall a structure be reconstructed or replaced so as to increase its non-conformity. If the reconstructed or replacement structure is less than the required setback it shall not be any larger than the original structure, except as allowed pursuant to Section 12(C)(1) above, as determined by the non-conforming footprint of the reconstructed or replaced structure at its new location. If the total footprint of the original structure can be relocated or reconstructed beyond the required setback area, no portion of the relocated or reconstructed structure shall be replaced or constructed at less than the setback requirement for a new structure. When it is necessary to remove vegetation in order to replace or reconstruct a structure, vegetation shall be replanted in accordance with Section 12(C)(3) above.

Any non-conforming structure which is located less than the required setback from a water body, tributary stream, or wetland and which is removed by 50% or less of the market value, or damaged or destroyed by 50% or less of the market value of the structure, excluding normal maintenance and repair, may be reconstructed in place if a permit is obtained from the Code Enforcement Officer within one year of such damage, destruction, or removal.

In determining whether the building reconstruction or replacement meets the setback to the greatest practical extent the Planning Board or its designee shall consider, in addition to the criteria in Section 12(C)(3) above, the physical condition and type of foundation present, if any.

(5) **Change of Use of a Non-conforming Structure.** The use of a non-conforming structure may not be changed to another use unless the Planning Board, after receiving a written application, determines that the new use will have no greater adverse impact on the water body, tributary stream, or wetland, or on the subject or adjacent properties and resources than the existing use.

In determining that no greater adverse impact will occur, the Planning Board shall require written documentation from the applicant, regarding the probable effects on public health

and safety, erosion and sedimentation, water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, vegetative cover, visual and actual points of public access to waters, natural beauty, floodplain management, archaeological and historic resources, and commercial fishing and maritime activities, and other functionally water-dependent uses.

**D. Non-Conforming Uses**

- (1) **Expansions.** Expansions of non-conforming uses are prohibited, except that non-conforming residential uses may, after obtaining a permit from the Planning Board, be expanded within existing residential structures or within expansions of such structures as allowed in Section 12(C)(1) above.
- (2) **Resumption Prohibited.** A lot, building or structure in or on which a non-conforming use is discontinued for a period exceeding one year, or which is superseded by a conforming use, may not again be devoted to a non-conforming use except that the Planning Board may, for good cause shown by the applicant, grant up to a one year extension to that time period. This provision shall not apply to the resumption of a use of a residential structure provided that the structure has been used or maintained for residential purposes during the preceding five (5) year period.
- (3) **Change of Use.** An existing non-conforming use may be changed to another non-conforming use provided that the proposed use has no greater adverse impact on the subject and adjacent properties and resources, including water dependent uses in the Village District, than the former use, as determined by the Planning Board. The determination of no greater adverse impact shall be made according to criteria listed in Section 12(C)(5) above.

**E. Non-conforming Lots**

- (1) **Non-conforming Lots:** A non-conforming lot of record as of the effective date of this Ordinance or amendment thereto may be built upon, without the need for a variance, provided that such lot is in separate ownership and not contiguous with any other lot in the same ownership, and that all provisions of this Ordinance except lot area, lot width and shore frontage can be met. Variances relating to setback or other requirements not involving lot area, lot width or shore frontage shall be obtained by action of the Board of Appeals.
- (2) **Contiguous Built Lots:** If two or more contiguous lots or parcels are in a single or joint ownership of record at the time of adoption of this Ordinance, if all or part of the lots do not meet the dimensional requirements of this Ordinance, and if a principal use or structure exists on each lot, the non-conforming lots may be conveyed separately or together, provided that the *State Minimum Lot Size Law* (12 M.R.S.A. sections 4807-A through 4807-D) and the State of Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules are complied with.

If two or more principal uses or structures existed on a single lot of record on the effective date of this ordinance, each may be sold on a separate lot provided that the above referenced law and rules are complied with. When such lots are divided each lot thus created must be as conforming as possible to the dimensional requirements of this Ordinance.

- (3) **Contiguous Lots - Vacant or Partially Built:** If two or more contiguous lots or parcels are in single or joint ownership of record at the time of or since adoption or amendment of this Ordinance, if any of these lots do not individually meet the dimensional requirements of this Ordinance or subsequent amendments, and if one or more of the lots are vacant or contain no principal structure the lots shall be combined to the extent necessary to meet the dimensional requirements.

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**NOTE:** Consistent with 38 M.R.S.A. section 438-A(1-A)(B), the immediately following exception may be adopted at the end of Section 12(E)(3) above if the municipality wishes to grandfather certain contiguous lots that were conforming and under the same ownership at the time lot size and shore frontage requirements were increased beyond those found in subparagraph E(3)(a).

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This provision shall not apply to 2 or more contiguous lots, at least one of which is non-conforming, owned by the same person or persons on the effective date of this Ordinance and recorded in the registry of deeds if the lot is served by a public sewer or can accommodate a subsurface sewage disposal system in conformance with the State of Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules; and

- (a) Each lot contains at least 100 feet of shore frontage and at least 20,000 square feet of lot area; or
- (b) Any lots that do not meet the frontage and lot size requirements of Section 12(E)(3)(a) are reconfigured or combined so that each new lot contains at least 100 feet of shore frontage and 20,000 square feet of lot area.

### **13. Establishment of Districts**

**A. Resource Protection District.** The Resource Protection District includes areas in which development would adversely affect water quality, productive habitat, biological ecosystems, or scenic and natural values. This district shall include the following areas when they occur within the limits of the Shoreland zone, exclusive of the Stream Protection District, except that areas which are currently developed and areas which meet the criteria for the Village District and the Public Recreation District need not be included within the Resource Protection District.

- (1) Areas within 250 feet, horizontal distance, of the upland edge of freshwater wetlands, salt marshes and salt meadows, and wetlands associated with great ponds and rivers, which are rated “moderate” or “high” value waterfowl and wading bird habitat, including nesting and feeding areas, by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIF&W) that are depicted on a Geographic Information System (GIS) data layer maintained by MDIF&W. For the purposes of this paragraph “wetlands associated with great ponds and rivers” shall mean areas characterized by non-forested wetland vegetation and hydric soils that are contiguous with a great pond or river, and have a surface elevation at or below the water level of the great pond or river during the period of normal high water. “Wetlands associated with great ponds or rivers” are considered to be part of that great pond or river.
- (2) Floodplains along rivers and floodplains along artificially formed great ponds along rivers, defined by the 100 year floodplain as designated on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps or Flood Hazard Boundary Maps, or the flood

of record, or in the absence of these, by soil types identified as recent floodplain soils. This district shall also include 100 year floodplains adjacent to tidal waters as shown on FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps or Flood Hazard Boundary Maps.

- (3) Areas of two (2) or more contiguous acres supporting wetland vegetation and hydric soils, which are not part of a freshwater or coastal wetland as defined, and which are not surficially connected to a water body during the period of normal high water.

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**NOTE:** These areas usually consist of forested wetlands abutting water bodies and non-forested wetlands.

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- (5) Land areas along rivers subject to severe bank erosion, undercutting, or river bed movement, and lands adjacent to tidal waters which are subject to severe erosion or mass movement, such as steep coastal bluffs.

**B. Stream Protection District.** The Stream Protection District includes all land areas within seventy-five (75) feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of a stream, exclusive of those areas within two-hundred and fifty (250) feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of a great pond, or river, or within two hundred and fifty (250) feet, horizontal distance, of the upland edge of a freshwater or coastal wetland. Where a stream and its associated Shoreland area are located within two-hundred and fifty (250) feet, horizontal distance, of the above water bodies or wetlands, that land area shall be regulated under the terms of the Shoreland district associated with that water body or wetland.

**C. Village District.** The Village District includes, but is not limited to, areas in the Shoreland Zone adjacent to coastal waters which are intended for a mixture of residential, commercial and recreational development. Commercial and business uses in this district may include: wholesaling, warehousing, retail trade, lodging and restaurants, other service activities and commercial fishing and maritime activities. Industrial uses are prohibited, as are activities which involve intensive recreational development such as, but not limited to, race tracks, amusement parks and fairgrounds.

The several areas included in the Village District are identified and delineated to scale on the Official Shoreland Zoning Map. The exact boundaries of these areas include that portion of the properties (as designated on the Official Tax Maps of the Town of Bristol), *listed on the following page*, which fall into the Shoreland Zone as defined in this ordinance:

**Town of Bristol, Maine**  
*Amended 03/21/2018*

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VILLAGE DISTRICT	TAX MAP NUMBER	LOTS IN THE SHORELAND ZONE
NEW HARBOR	20	All
	21	All
	22	1-6,6-A,6-B, 6-C, 6-D, 6-E, 7-10,10-A, 11-13
ROUND POND	14	37-40, 55, 61-64, 66-72, 80, 86, 87-B, 89, 93-94
	16	All
MUSCONGUS	9	70-72, 72-A
PEMAQUID HARBOR	4	56
PEMAQUID FALLS	4	133, 133-C, 133-E, 141-A
	6	34, 65-68
	13	All
PEMAQUID BEACH	26	1, 2, 3, 5, 5-A, 5-B, 6-C, 8
	27	2-6, 27, 30-37, 39-A, 39-42, 42-A, 43, 43-A, 43-B, 43-C, 44-49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 56-A, 56-B, 56-C, 57-59
BRISTOL MILLS	17	All

- D. Public Recreation District.** The Public Recreation District includes, but not limited to, areas in the Shoreland Zone adjacent to coastal waters on which are located any public facilities, including but not limited to: buildings, property, areas and roads which are owned, leased, or otherwise operated or funded by a governmental body of public entity and which are open to the general public for recreational use. Permits for allowed uses in this district will be issued only to, or with the prior written concurrence of the appropriate governmental body or public entity.

The areas included in the Public Recreation District are identified and delineated to scale on the Official Shoreland Zoning Map. The exact boundaries of these areas include that portion of the properties (as designated on the Official Tax Maps of the Town of Bristol) listed on the following page which fall into the Shoreland Zone as defined in this ordinance:

PUBLIC RECREATION	TAX MAP NUMBER	LOTS IN THE SHORELAND ZONE
COLONIAL PEMAQUID	26	7 (Restoration Park and Fort)
PEMAQUID BEACH	27	12-A (Pemaquid Beach Park)
PEMAQUID POINT	32	38 (Lighthouse Park)
BRISTOL MILLS	10	20-A (Ellingwood Park)
MOXIE COVE	16	31 (Moxie Cove Boat Ramp & Picnic Area)
HANNA LANDING	4C	24-F (Hanna Landing Boat Ramp & Picnic Area)

**E. Residential District.** The Residential District includes areas in the Shoreland Zone adjacent to coastal waters, freshwater wetlands, and great ponds which are intended primarily for residential development. Permitted commercial uses in this district are limited to: individual campsites; campgrounds accommodating not more than 15 parties; bed and breakfasts; home occupations; and functionally water-dependent facilities for hauling and storing a maximum of ten boats and for individually-operated lobstering and fishing activities. The Residential District includes all areas in the Shoreland Zone of coastal waters, great ponds, and rivers, and freshwater and coastal wetlands that are not included in the Village District, Resource Protection and the Public Recreation Districts.

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**NOTE:** Unstable or highly unstable coastal bluffs as designated in the official Shoreland zone map is an overlay and shall be included in the immediately adjacent Shoreland zone district.

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**14. Table of Land Uses.** All land use activities, as indicated in Table 1, Land Uses in the Shoreland Zone, shall conform with all of the applicable land use standards in Section 15. The district designation for a particular site shall be determined from the Official Shoreland Zoning Map and floodplains as designated on the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps or Flood Hazard Boundary Maps.

**Key to Table 1:**

- Yes - Allowed (no permit required but the use must comply with all applicable land use standards.)
- No - Prohibited
- PB - Allowed with permit issued by the Planning Board or its designee
- CEO - Allowed with permit issued by the Code Enforcement Officer
- LPI - Allowed with permit issued by the Local Plumbing Inspector

**Town of Bristol, Maine**  
**Amended 03/21/2018**

**TABLE 1. LAND USES IN THE SHORELAND ZONE**

<u>LAND USES</u>		<u>DISTRICT</u>				
		Stream Protection	Resource Protection	Public Recreation	Residential	Village
1.	Non-intensive recreational uses not requiring structures such as hunting, fishing and hiking	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
2.	Motorized vehicular traffic on existing roads and trails	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
3.	Forest management activities except for timber harvesting & land management roads	yes	yes	Yes	yes	yes
4.	Timber Harvesting (REPEALED 03/21/2017)					
5.	Timber Harvesting – Statewide Standards (REPLEADED 03/21/2017)					
6.	Clearing or removal of vegetation for activities other than timber harvesting	CEO	CEO <sup>1</sup>	yes	yes	yes
7.	Fire prevention activities	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
8.	Wildlife management practices	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
9.	Soil and water conservation practices	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
10.	Mineral exploration	no	yes <sup>2</sup>	yes <sup>2</sup>	yes <sup>2</sup>	yes <sup>2</sup>
11.	Mineral extraction including sand and gravel extraction	no	PB <sup>3</sup>	PB	PB	PB
12.	Surveying and resource analysis	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
13.	Emergency operations	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
14.	Agriculture	yes	PB	no	yes	yes
15.	Aquaculture	PB	PB	PB	PB	PB
16.	Principal structures and uses					
	A. One and two family residential, including driveways	PB <sup>4</sup>	PB <sup>9</sup>	no	CEO	CEO
	B. Multi-unit residential	no	no	no	PB	PB
	C. Commercial	no	no <sup>10</sup>	PB <sup>5</sup>	no <sup>10</sup>	PB
	D. Industrial	no	no	no	no	no
	E. Governmental and institutional	no	no	PB	PB	PB
	F. Small non-residential facilities for educational, scientific, or nature interpretation purposes	PB <sup>4</sup>	PB	PB	CEO	CEO
17.	Structures accessory to allowed uses	PB <sup>4</sup>	PB	PB	CEO	CEO
18.	Piers, docks, wharfs, bridges and other structures and uses extending over or below the normal high-water line or within a wetland					
	A. Temporary	CEO <sup>11</sup>	CEO <sup>11</sup>	CEO <sup>11</sup>	CEO <sup>11</sup>	CEO <sup>11</sup>
	B. Permanent	PB	PB	PB	PB	PB
19.	Conversions of seasonal residences to year-round residences	LPI	LPI	LPI	LPI	LPI
20.	Home occupations	PB	PB	PB	PB	PB
21.	Private sewage disposal systems for allowed uses	LPI	LPI	LPI	LPI	LPI
22.	Essential services					
	A. Roadside distribution lines (34.5kV and lower)	CEO <sup>6</sup>	CEO <sup>6</sup>	yes <sup>12</sup>	yes <sup>12</sup>	yes <sup>12</sup>
	B. Non-roadside or cross-country distribution lines involving ten poles or less in the Shoreland zone	PB <sup>6</sup>	PB <sup>6</sup>	CEO	CEO	CEO
	C. Non-roadside or cross-country distribution lines involving eleven or more poles in the Shoreland zone	PB <sup>6</sup>	PB <sup>6</sup>	PB	PB	PB
	D. Other essential services	PB <sup>6</sup>	PB <sup>6</sup>	PB	PB	PB
23.	Service drops, as defined, to allowed uses	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
24.	Public and private recreational areas involving minimal structural development	PB	PB	PB	CEO	CEO
25.	Individual, private campsites	CEO	CEO	CEO	CEO	CEO
26.	Campgrounds	no	no <sup>7</sup>	PB	PB	PB
27.	Road construction	PB	no <sup>8</sup>	PB	PB	PB
28.	Land management roads (REPEALED 03/21/2017)					
29.	Parking facilities	no	no <sup>7</sup>	PB	PB	PB
30.	Marinas	PB	no	PB	PB	PB
31.	Filling and earth moving of <10 cubic yards	CEO	CEO	CEO	yes	yes
32.	Filling and earth moving of >10 cubic yards	PB	PB	PB	CEO	CEO



**Town of Bristol, Maine**  
**Amended 03/21/2018**

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33.	Signs	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
34.	Uses similar to allowed uses	CEO	CEO	CEO	CEO	CEO
35.	Uses similar to uses requiring a CEO permit	CEO	CEO	CEO	CEO	CEO
36.	Uses similar to uses requiring a PB permit	PB	PB	PB	PB	PB
37.	Shoreland Zone Utility Installation (as defined)	PB	PB	PB	PB	PB

- 1) In RP not allowed within 75 feet horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of great ponds, except to remove safety hazards.
- 2) Requires permit from the Code Enforcement Officer if more than 100 square feet of surface area, in total, is disturbed.
- 3) In RP not allowed in areas so designated because of wildlife value.
- 4) Provided that a variance from the setback requirement is obtained from the Board of Appeals.
- 5) Functionally water-dependent uses, uses accessory to such water dependent uses and proposed uses that have no greater adverse impact on the subject and adjacent properties and resources
- 6) See further restrictions in Section 15 (L)(2).
- 7) Except when area is zoned for resource protection due to floodplain criteria in which case a permit is required from the PB.
- 8) Except as provided in Section 15 (H)(3).
- 9) Single family residential structures may be allowed by special exception only according to the provisions of Section 16(E), Special Exceptions. Two-family residential structures are prohibited.
- 10) Except for commercial uses otherwise listed in this Table, such as marinas and campgrounds, that are allowed in the respective district.
- 11) Excluding bridges and other crossings not involving earthwork, in which case no permit is required.
- 12) Permit not required but must file a written "notice of intent to construct" with CEO.

**NOTE:** A person performing any of the following activities shall require a permit from the Department of Environmental Protection, pursuant to 38 M.R.S.A. section 480-C, if the activity occurs in, on, over or adjacent to any freshwater or coastal wetland, great pond, river, stream or brook and operates in such a manner that material or soil may be washed into them:

- A. Dredging, bulldozing, removing or displacing soil, sand, vegetation or other materials;
- B. Draining or otherwise dewatering;
- C. Filling, including adding sand or other material to a sand dune; or
- D. Any construction or alteration of any permanent structure.

**15. Land Use Standards.** All land use activities within the Shoreland zone shall conform with the following provisions, if applicable.

A. Minimum Lot Standards	Minimum Lot Area (sq. ft.)	Minimum Shore Frontage (ft.)
(1)		
(b) Residential per dwelling unit		
(i) Within the Shoreland Zone Adjacent to Tidal Areas	1 acre	150 ft.
(ii) Within the Shoreland Zone Adjacent to Non-Tidal Areas	1 acre	200 ft.
(c) Governmental, Institutional, Commercial or Industrial per principle structure		
(i) Within the Shoreland Zone Adjacent to Tidal Areas: Exclusive of functionally water dependent uses	1 acre	200 ft.
(ii) Within the Shoreland Zone Adjacent to Tidal Areas for functionally	NONE	NONE

water dependent uses

(iii) Within the Shoreland Zone Adjacent to Non-Tidal Areas	1 acre	300 ft.
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(d) Public and Private Recreational Facilities

(i) Within the Shoreland Zone Adjacent to Tidal Areas and Non-Tidal Areas	1 acre	200 ft.
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- (2) Land below the normal high-water line of a water body or upland edge of a wetland and land beneath roads serving more than two (2) lots shall not be included toward calculating minimum lot area.
- (3) Lots located on opposite sides of a public or private road shall be considered each a separate tract or parcel of land unless such road was established by the owner of land on both sides thereof after September 22, 1971.
- (4) The minimum width of any portion of any lot within one hundred (100) feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of a water body or upland edge of a wetland shall be equal to or greater than the shore frontage requirement for a lot with the proposed use.
- (5) If more than one residential dwelling unit, principal governmental, institutional, commercial or industrial structure or use, or combination thereof, is constructed or established on a single parcel, all dimensional requirements shall be met for each additional dwelling unit, principal structure, or use.

**B. Principal and Accessory Structures**

- (1) All new principal and accessory structures shall be set back at least one hundred (100) feet, horizontal distance, from the normal high-water line of great ponds classified GPA and rivers that flow to great ponds classified GPA, and seventy-five (75) feet, horizontal distance, from the normal high-water line of other water bodies, tributary streams, or the upland edge of a wetland, except that in the Village District the setback from the normal high-water line shall be at least seventy five (75) feet, horizontal distance, except for functionally water-dependent uses for which there shall be no minimum setback. In the Resource Protection District the setback requirement shall be 250 feet, horizontal distance, except for structures, roads, parking spaces or other regulated objects specifically allowed in that district in which case the setback requirements specified above shall apply.

In addition:

- (a) The water body, tributary stream, or wetland setback provision shall neither apply to structures which require direct access to the water body or wetland as an operational necessity, such as piers, docks and retaining walls, nor to other functionally water-dependent uses.

- (b) For principal structures, water and wetland setback measurements shall be taken from the top of a coastal bluff that has been identified on Coastal Bluff maps as being “highly unstable” or “unstable” by the Maine Geological Survey pursuant to its “Classification of Coastal Bluffs” and published on the most recent Coastal Bluff map. If the applicant and the permitting official(s) are in disagreement as to the specific location of a “highly unstable” or “unstable” bluff, or where the top of the bluff is located, the applicant may at his or her expense, employ a Maine Registered Professional Engineer, a Maine Certified Soil Scientist, a Maine State Geologist, or other qualified individual to make a determination. If agreement is still not reached, the applicant may appeal the matter to the board of appeals.
  
- (c) On a non-conforming lot of record on which only a residential structure exists, and it is not possible to place an accessory structure meeting the required water body, tributary stream or wetland setbacks, the code enforcement officer may issue a permit to place a single accessory structure, with no utilities, for the storage of yard tools and similar equipment. Such accessory structure shall not exceed eighty (80) square feet in area nor eight (8) feet in height, and shall be located as far from the shoreline or tributary stream as practical and shall meet all other applicable standards, including lot coverage and vegetation clearing limitations. In no case shall the structure be located closer to the shoreline or tributary stream than the principal structure.

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**NOTE:** All tidal land which is subject to tidal action during the highest annual tide is coastal wetland.

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**NOTE:** A tributary stream may be perennial or intermittent. Where a tributary stream is present within the Shoreland zone, setback standards from that tributary stream are applicable.

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- (2) Principal or accessory structures excluding piers, docks, wharfs and bridges shall not be permitted on two acres or more of sustained slopes of 20% or greater, excluding the Village District and the Public Recreation District. However, if the applicant demonstrates that a site of 10,000 square feet or more with slopes of 20% or less exists within the sustained slope area, that site is excluded from the sustained slope area. A new structure may be permitted within this “excluded site” provided that it is at least five feet from the edge of the excluded site.
  
- (3) All new and expanded structures must conform to the provisions of the Bristol Flood Plain Management Ordinance.
  
- (4) Principal or accessory structures and expansions of existing structures which are permitted in the Shoreland Zone shall not exceed thirty-five (35) feet in height. This provision shall not apply to structures such as transmission towers, windmills, antennas, and similar structures having no floor area.

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**NOTE:** A municipality may also exempt a cupola, dome, widow’s walk or other similar feature from the height limits in accordance with 38 M.R.S.A. Section 439-A(9).

- (5) The lowest floor elevation or openings of all buildings and structures, including basements, shall be elevated at least one foot above the elevation of the 100 year flood, the flood of record, or in the absence of these, the flood as defined by soil types identified as recent flood-plain soils. In those municipalities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program and have adopted the April 2005 version, or later version, of the Floodplain Management Ordinance, accessory structures may be placed in accordance with the standards of that ordinance and need not meet the elevation requirements of this paragraph.
- (6) With the exception of the Village Districts located adjacent to coastal wetlands and rivers that do not flow to great ponds, non-vegetated surfaces shall not exceed a total of twenty (20) percent of the portion of the lot located within the Shoreland zone. This limitation does not apply to public boat launching facilities regardless of the district in which the facility is located.

In the Village District located adjacent to coastal wetlands, or rivers that do not flow to great ponds, non-vegetated surfaces shall not exceed a total of seventy (70) percent of the portion of the lot located within the Shoreland zone.

For the purposes of calculating lot coverage, non-vegetated surfaces include, but are not limited to the following: structures, driveways, parking areas, and other areas from which vegetation has been removed. Naturally occurring ledge and rock outcroppings are not counted as non-vegetated surfaces when calculating lot coverage for lots of record on March 24, 1990 and in continuous existence since that date.

- (7) The codes enforcement officer in accordance with 30-A MRSA §4353-A, may grant a variance to an owner of a residential dwelling for the purpose of making that dwelling accessible to a person with a disability who resides in or regularly uses the dwelling. The CEO shall restrict any variance granted under this subsection solely to the installation of equipment or the construction of structures necessary for access to or egress from the dwelling by the person with the disability. The CEO may impose conditions on the variance, including limiting the variance to the duration of the disability or to the time that the person with the disability lives in the dwelling. The term "structures necessary for access to or egress from the dwelling" shall include railing, wall or roof systems necessary for the safety or effectiveness of the structure. Any permit issued pursuant to this subsection is subject to Sections 16(H)(2)(f) and 16(H)(4)(b)(iv) below.)
- (8) Retaining walls that are not necessary for erosion control shall meet the structure setback requirement, except for low retaining walls and associated fill provided all of the following conditions are met:
- (a) The site has been previously altered and an effective vegetated buffer does not exist;
  - (b) The wall(s) is (are) at least 25 feet, horizontal distance, from the normal high-water line of a water body, tributary stream, or upland edge of a wetland;
  - (c) The site where the retaining wall will be constructed is legally existing lawn or is a site eroding from lack of naturally occurring vegetation, and which cannot be stabilized with vegetative plantings;

- (d) The total height of the wall(s), in the aggregate, are no more than 24 inches;
- (e) Retaining walls are located outside of the 100-year floodplain on rivers, streams, coastal wetlands, and tributary streams, as designated on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps or Flood Hazard Boundary Maps, or the flood of record, or in the absence of these, by soil types identified as recent flood plain soils.
- (f) The area behind the wall is revegetated with grass, shrubs, trees, or a combination thereof, and no further structural development will occur within the setback area, including patios and decks; and
- (g) A vegetated buffer area is established within 25 feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of a water body, tributary stream, or upland edge of a wetland when a natural buffer area does not exist. The buffer area must meet the following characteristics:
  - (i) The buffer must include shrubs and other woody and herbaceous vegetation. Where natural ground cover is lacking the area must be supplemented with leaf or bark mulch;
  - (ii) Vegetation plantings must be in quantities sufficient to retard erosion and provide for effective infiltration of stormwater runoff;
  - (iii) Only native species may be used to establish the buffer area;
  - (iv) A minimum buffer width of 15 feet, horizontal distance, is required, measured perpendicularly to the normal high-water line or upland edge of a wetland;
  - (v) A footpath not to exceed the standards in Section 15(P)(2)(a), may traverse the buffer

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**NOTE:** If the wall and associated soil disturbance occurs within 75 feet, horizontal distance, of a water body, tributary stream or coastal wetland, a permit pursuant to the *Natural Resource Protection Act* is required from the Department of Environmental Protection.

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- (9) Notwithstanding the requirements stated above, stairways or similar structures may be allowed with a permit from the Code Enforcement Officer, to provide shoreline access in areas of steep slopes or unstable soils provided: that the structure is limited to a maximum of four (4) feet in width; that the structure does not extend below or over the normal high-water line of a water body or upland edge of a wetland, (unless permitted by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to the *Natural Resources Protection Act*, 38 M.R.S.A. section 480-C); and that the applicant demonstrates that no reasonable access alternative exists on the property.

**C. Piers, Docks, Wharves, Bridges and Other Structures and Uses Extending Over or Below the Normal High-Water Line of a Water Body or Within a Wetland, and Shoreline Stabilization**

- (1) No more than one pier, dock, wharf or similar structure extending or located below the normal high-water line of a water body or within a wetland is allowed on a single lot; except that when a single lot contains at least twice the minimum shore frontage as specified in

Section 15(A), a second structure may be allowed and may remain as long as the lot is not further divided.

- (2) Access from shore shall be developed on soils appropriate for such use and constructed so as to control erosion.
- (3) The location shall not interfere with existing developed or natural beach areas.
- (4) The facility shall be located so as to minimize adverse effects on fisheries.
- (5) The facility shall be no larger in dimension than necessary to carry on the activity and be consistent with the surrounding character and uses of the area. A temporary pier, dock or wharf in non-tidal waters shall not be wider than six feet for non-commercial uses.
- (6) No new structure shall be built on, over or abutting a pier, wharf, dock or other structure extending beyond the normal high-water line of a water body or within a wetland unless the structure requires direct access to the water body or wetland as an operational necessity.

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**NOTE:** A structure constructed on a float or floats is prohibited unless it is designed to function as, and is registered with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife as a watercraft.

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- (7) New permanent piers and docks on non-tidal waters shall not be permitted unless it is clearly demonstrated to the Planning Board that a temporary pier or dock is not feasible, and a permit has been obtained from the Department of Environmental Protection, pursuant to the *Natural Resources Protection Act*.
- (8) No existing structures built on, over or abutting a pier, dock, wharf or other structure extending beyond the normal high-water line of a water body or within a wetland shall be converted to residential dwelling units in any district.
- (9) Except in the Village District, structures built on, over or abutting a pier, wharf, dock or other structure extending beyond the normal high-water line of a water body or within a wetland shall not exceed twenty (20) feet in height above the pier, wharf, dock or other structure.
- (10) Vegetation may be removed in excess of the standards in Section 15(P) of this ordinance in order to conduct shoreline stabilization of an eroding shoreline, provided that a permit is obtained from the Planning Board. Construction equipment must access the shoreline by barge when feasible as determined by the Planning Board.
  - (a) When necessary, the removal of trees and other vegetation to allow for construction equipment access to the stabilization site via land must be limited to no more than 12 feet in width. When the stabilization project is complete the construction equipment access way must be restored.
  - (b) Revegetation must occur in accordance with Section 15(S).

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**NOTE:** A permit pursuant to the *Natural Resource Protection Act* is required from the Department of Environmental Protection for Shoreline Stabilization activities.

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**NOTE:** New permanent structures, and expansions thereof, projecting into or over water bodies shall require a permit from the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to the *Natural Resources Protection Act*, 38 M.R.S.A. section 480-C. Permits may also be required from the Army Corps of Engineers if located in navigable waters.

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**D. Campgrounds.** Campgrounds shall conform to the minimum requirements imposed under State licensing procedures and the following:

- (1) Campgrounds shall contain a minimum of five thousand (5,000) square feet of land, not including roads and driveways, for each site. Land supporting wetland vegetation, or on sustained slopes of 20% or greater, and land below the normal high-water line of a water body shall not be included in calculating land area per site.
- (2) The areas intended for placement of a recreational vehicle, tent or shelter, and utility and service buildings shall be set back a minimum of one hundred (100) feet, horizontal distance, from the normal high-water line of a great pond classified GPA or a river flowing to a great pond classified GPA, and seventy-five (75) feet, horizontal distance, from the normal high-water line of other water bodies, tributary streams, or the upland edge of a wetland.

**E. Individual Private Campsites.** Individual private campsites not associated with campgrounds are allowed provided the following conditions are met:

- (1) One campsite per lot existing on the effective date of this Ordinance, or thirty thousand (30,000) square feet of lot area within the Shoreland zone, whichever is less, may be permitted.
- (2) When an individual private campsite is proposed on a lot that contains another principal use and/or structure, the lot must contain the minimum lot dimensional requirements for the principal structure and/or use, and the individual private campsite separately.
- (3) Campsite placement on any lot, including the area intended for a recreational vehicle or tent platform, shall be set back one hundred (100) feet, horizontal distance, from the normal high-water line of a great pond classified GPA or river flowing to a great pond classified GPA, and seventy-five (75) feet, horizontal distance, from the normal high-water line of other water bodies, tributary streams, or the upland edge of a wetland.
- (4) Only one recreational vehicle shall be allowed on a campsite. The recreational vehicle shall not be located on any type of permanent foundation except for a gravel pad, and no structure except a canopy shall be attached to the recreational vehicle.
- (5) The clearing of vegetation for the siting of the recreational vehicle, tent or similar shelter in a Resource Protection District or on sustained slopes of 20% or greater shall be limited to one thousand (1000) square feet.

(6) A written sewage disposal plan describing the proposed method and location of sewage disposal shall be required for each campsite and shall be approved by the Local Plumbing Inspector. Where disposal is off-site, written authorization from the receiving facility or land owner is required.

(7) When a recreational vehicle, tent or similar shelter is placed on-site for more than one hundred and twenty (120) days per year, all requirements for residential structures shall be met, including the installation of a subsurface sewage disposal system in compliance with the State of Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules unless served by public sewage facilities.

**F. Commercial and Industrial Uses.** The following new commercial and industrial uses are prohibited within the Shoreland zone adjacent to great ponds classified GPA, and rivers and streams which flow to great ponds classified GPA:

(1) Auto washing facilities

(2) Auto or other vehicle service and/or repair operations, including body shops

(3) Chemical and bacteriological laboratories

(4) Storage of chemicals, including herbicides, pesticides or fertilizers, other than amounts normally associated with individual households or farms

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**NOTE:** 22 M.R.S.A. section 1471-U requires municipal ordinances that apply to pesticide storage, distribution or use be filed with the Maine Board of Pesticides Control, 28 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333. If a municipality's ordinance is more inclusive or restrictive than these Guidelines, as it pertains to pesticides, a copy of the ordinance must be filed with the Board of Pesticides Control.

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(5) Commercial painting, wood preserving, and furniture stripping

(6) Dry cleaning establishments

(7) Electronic circuit assembly

(8) Laundromats, unless connected to a sanitary sewer

(9) Metal plating, finishing, or polishing

(10) Petroleum or petroleum product storage and/or sale except storage on same property as use occurs and except for storage and sales associated with marinas

(11) Photographic processing

(12) Printing

**G. Parking Areas**



- (1) Parking areas shall meet the shoreline and tributary stream setback requirements for structures for the district in which such areas are located, except that in the Village District parking areas shall be set back at least twenty-five (25) feet, horizontal distance, from the shoreline. The setback requirement for parking areas serving public boat launching facilities in Districts other than the Village District shall be no less than fifty (50) feet, horizontal distance, from the shoreline or tributary stream if the Planning Board finds that no other reasonable alternative exists further from the shoreline or tributary stream.
- (2) Parking areas shall be adequately sized for the proposed use and shall be designed to prevent stormwater runoff from flowing directly into a water body, tributary stream or wetland and where feasible, to retain all runoff on-site.
- (3) In determining the appropriate size of proposed parking facilities, the following shall apply:
  - (a) Typical parking space: Approximately ten (10) feet wide and twenty (20) feet long, except that parking spaces for a vehicle and boat trailer shall be forty (40) feet long.
  - (b) Internal travel aisles: Approximately twenty (20) feet wide.
- (4) Parking areas shall not be established on sustained slopes of 20% or greater.

**H. Roads and Driveways.** The following standards shall apply to the construction of roads and/or driveways and drainage systems, culverts and other related features.

- (1) Roads and driveways shall be set back at least one-hundred (100) feet, horizontal distance, from the normal high-water line of a great pond classified GPA or a river that flows to a great pond classified GPA, and seventy-five (75) feet, horizontal distance from the normal high-water line of other water bodies, tributary streams, or the upland edge of a wetland unless no reasonable alternative exists as determined by the Planning Board. If no other reasonable alternative exists, the road and/or driveway setback requirement shall be no less than fifty (50) feet, horizontal distance, upon clear showing by the applicant that appropriate techniques will be used to prevent sedimentation of the water body, tributary stream, or wetland. Such techniques may include, but are not limited to, the installation of settling basins, and/or the effective use of additional ditch relief culverts and turnouts placed so as to avoid sedimentation of the water body, tributary stream, or wetland.

On slopes of greater than twenty (20) percent the road and/or driveway setback shall be increased by ten (10) feet, horizontal distance, for each five (5) percent increase in slope above twenty (20) percent.

Section 15 (H)(1) does not apply to approaches to water crossings or to roads or driveways that provide access to permitted structures and facilities located nearer to the shoreline or tributary stream due to an operational necessity, excluding temporary docks for recreational uses. Roads and driveways providing access to permitted structures within the setback area shall comply fully with the requirements of Section 15(H)(1) except for that portion of the road or driveway necessary for direct access to the structure.

- (2) Existing public roads may be expanded within the legal road right of way regardless of their setback from a water body, tributary stream or wetland.
- (3) New roads and driveways are prohibited in a Resource Protection District and in areas with sustained slopes of 20% or greater, except that the Planning Board may grant a permit to construct a road or driveway to provide access to permitted uses within the district. A road or driveway may also be approved by the Planning Board in a Resource Protection District, upon a finding that no reasonable alternative route or location is available outside the district. When a road or driveway is permitted in a Resource Protection District the road and/or driveway shall be set back as far as practicable from the normal high-water line of a water body, tributary stream, or upland edge of a wetland.
- (4) Road and driveway banks shall be no steeper than a slope of two (2) horizontal to one (1) vertical, and shall be graded and stabilized in accordance with the provisions for erosion and sedimentation control contained in Section 15(T).
- (5) Road and driveway grades shall be no greater than ten (10) percent except for segments of less than two hundred (200) feet.
- (6) In order to prevent road and driveway surface drainage from directly entering water bodies, tributary streams or wetlands, roads and driveways shall be designed, constructed, and maintained to empty onto an un-scarified buffer strip at least (50) feet plus two times the average slope, in width between the outflow point of the ditch or culvert and the normal high-water line of a water body, tributary stream, or upland edge of a wetland. Surface drainage which is directed to an un-scarified buffer strip shall be diffused or spread out to promote infiltration of the runoff and to minimize channelized flow of the drainage through the buffer strip.
- (7) Ditch relief (cross drainage) culverts, drainage dips and water turnouts shall be installed in a manner effective in directing drainage onto un-scarified buffer strips before the flow gains sufficient volume or head to erode the road, driveway, or ditch. To accomplish this, the following shall apply:
  - (a) Ditch relief culverts, drainage dips and associated water turnouts shall be spaced along the road, or driveway at intervals no greater than indicated in the following table:

<b>Grade (Percent)</b>	<b>Spacing (Feet)</b>
0 - 2	250
3 - 5	200 - 135
6 - 10	100 - 80
11 - 15	80 - 60
16 - 20	60 - 45
21 +	40

- (b) Drainage dips may be used in place of ditch relief culverts only where the grade is ten (10) percent or less.

- (c) On sections having slopes greater than ten (10) percent, ditch relief culverts shall be placed at approximately a thirty (30) degree angle downslope from a line perpendicular to the centerline of the road or driveway.
- (d) Ditch relief culverts shall be sufficiently sized and properly installed in order to allow for effective functioning, and their inlet and outlet ends shall be stabilized with appropriate materials.
- (8) Ditches, culverts, bridges, dips, water turnouts and other stormwater runoff control installations associated with roads and driveways shall be maintained on a regular basis to assure effective functioning.
- I. Signs.** The following provisions shall govern the use of signs in the Resource Protection, Stream Protection and Residential Districts:
  - (1) Signs relating to goods and services sold on the premises shall be allowed, provided that such signs shall not exceed six (6) square feet in area and shall not exceed two (2) signs per premises. In the Village District, however, such signs shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet in area. Signs relating to goods or services not sold or rendered on the premises shall be prohibited.
  - (2) Name signs are allowed, provided such signs shall not exceed two (2) signs per premises, and shall not exceed twelve (12) square feet in the aggregate.
  - (3) Residential users may display a single sign not over three (3) square feet in area relating to the sale, rental, or lease of the premises.
  - (4) Signs relating to trespassing and hunting shall be allowed without restriction as to number provided that no such sign shall exceed two (2) square feet in area.
  - (5) Signs relating to public safety shall be allowed without restriction.
  - (6) No sign shall extend higher than twenty (20) feet above the ground.
  - (7) Signs may be illuminated only by shielded, non-flashing lights.
- J. Stormwater Runoff**
  - (1) All new construction and development shall be designed to minimize stormwater runoff from the site in excess of the natural predevelopment conditions. Where possible, existing natural runoff control features, such as berms, swales, terraces and wooded areas, shall be retained in order to reduce runoff and encourage infiltration of stormwaters.
  - (2) Stormwater runoff control systems shall be maintained as necessary to ensure proper functioning.

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**NOTE:** The *Stormwater Management Law* (38 M.R.S.A. section 420-D) requires a full permit to be obtained from the DEP prior to construction of a project consisting of 20,000 square feet or more of impervious area or 5 acres or more of a developed area in an urban impaired stream watershed or most-at-risk lake watershed, or a project with 1 acre or more of developed area in any other stream, coastal or wetland watershed. A permit-by-rule is necessary for a project with one acre or more of disturbed area but less than 1 acre impervious area (20,000 square feet for most-at-risk lakes and urban impaired streams) and less than 5 acres of developed area. Furthermore, a Maine Construction

General Permit is required if the construction will result in one acre or more of disturbed area.

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**K. Septic Waste Disposal**

- (1) All subsurface sewage disposal systems shall be installed in conformance with the State of Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules, and the following: a) clearing or removal of woody vegetation necessary to site a new system and any associated fill extensions, shall not extend closer than seventy-five (75) feet, horizontal distance, from the normal high-water line of a water body or the upland edge of a wetland and b) a holding tank is not allowed for a first-time residential use in the Shoreland zone.

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**NOTE:** The Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules require new systems, excluding fill extensions, to be constructed no less than one hundred (100) horizontal feet from the normal high-water line of a perennial water body. The minimum setback distance for a new subsurface disposal system may not be reduced by variance.

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**L. Essential Services**

- (1) Where feasible, the installation of essential services shall be limited to existing public ways and existing service corridors.
- (2) The installation of essential services, other than road-side distribution lines, is not allowed in a Resource Protection or Stream Protection District, except to provide services to a permitted use within said district, or except where the applicant demonstrates that no reasonable alternative exists. Where allowed, such structures and facilities shall be located so as to minimize any adverse impacts on surrounding uses and resources, including visual impacts.
- (3) Damaged or destroyed public utility transmission and distribution lines, towers and related equipment may be replaced or reconstructed without a permit.

**M. Mineral Exploration and Extraction.** Mineral exploration to determine the nature or extent of mineral resources shall be accomplished by hand sampling, test boring, or other methods which create minimal disturbance of less than one hundred (100) square feet of ground surface. A permit from the Code Enforcement Officer shall be required for mineral exploration which exceeds the above limitation. All excavations, including test pits and holes, shall be immediately capped, filled or secured by other equally effective measures to restore disturbed areas and to protect the public health and safety.

Mineral extraction may be permitted under the following conditions:

- (1) A reclamation plan shall be filed with, and approved, by the Planning Board before a permit is granted. Such plan shall describe in detail procedures to be undertaken to fulfill the requirements of Section 15 (M)(4) below.
- (2) No part of any extraction operation, including drainage and runoff control features, shall be permitted within one hundred (100) feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of a great pond classified GPA or a river flowing to a great pond classified GPA, and within seventy-five (75) feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of any other water body, tributary stream, or the upland edge of a wetland. Extraction operations shall not be permitted within fifty (50) feet, horizontal distance, of any property line without written permission of the owner of such adjacent property.

- (3) Within twelve (12) months following the completion of extraction operations at any extraction site, which operations shall be deemed complete when less than one hundred (100) cubic yards of materials are removed in any consecutive twelve (12) month period, ground levels and grades shall be established in accordance with the following:
- (a) All debris, stumps, and similar material shall be removed for disposal in an approved location, or shall be buried on-site. Only materials generated on-site may be buried or covered on-site.

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**NOTE:** The *State of Maine Solid Waste Laws*, 38 M.R.S.A., section 1301 and the solid waste management rules, Chapters 400-419 of the Department of Environmental Protection's regulations may contain other applicable provisions regarding disposal of such materials.

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- (b) The final graded slope shall be two and one-half to one (2 1/2:1) slope or flatter.
- (c) Top soil or loam shall be retained to cover all disturbed land areas, which shall be reseeded and stabilized with vegetation native to the area. Additional topsoil or loam shall be obtained from off-site sources if necessary to complete the stabilization project.
- (4) In keeping with the purposes of this Ordinance, the Planning Board may impose such conditions as are necessary to minimize the adverse impacts associated with mineral extraction operations on surrounding uses and resources.

#### **N. Agriculture**

- (1) All spreading of manure shall be accomplished in conformance with the *Manure Utilization Guidelines* published by the former Maine Department of Agriculture on November 1, 2001, and the *Nutrient Management Law* (7 M.R.S.A. sections 4201-4209).
- (2) Manure shall not be stored or stockpiled within one hundred (100) feet, horizontal distance, of a great pond classified GPA or a river flowing to a great pond classified GPA, or within seventy-five (75) feet horizontal distance, of other water bodies, tributary streams, or wetlands. All manure storage areas within the Shoreland zone must be constructed or modified such that the facility produces no discharge of effluent or contaminated stormwater.
- (3) Agricultural activities involving tillage of soil greater than forty thousand (40,000) square feet in surface area, within the Shoreland zone shall require a Conservation Plan to be filed with the Planning Board. Non-conformance with the provisions of said plan shall be considered to be a violation of this Ordinance.

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**NOTE:** Assistance in preparing a Conservation Plan may be available through the local Soil and Water Conservation District office.

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- (4) There shall be no new tilling of soil within one-hundred (100) feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of a great pond classified GPA; within seventy-five (75) feet,

horizontal distance, from other water bodies and coastal wetlands; nor within twenty-five (25) feet, horizontal distance, of tributary streams and freshwater wetlands. Operations in existence on the effective date of this ordinance and not in conformance with this provision may be maintained.

- (5) Newly established livestock grazing areas shall not be permitted within one hundred (100) feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of a great pond classified GPA; within seventy-five (75) feet, horizontal distance, of other water bodies and coastal wetlands, nor; within twenty-five (25) feet, horizontal distance, of tributary streams and freshwater wetlands. Livestock grazing associated with ongoing farm activities, and which are not in conformance with the above setback provisions may continue, provided that such grazing is conducted in accordance with a Conservation Plan that has been filed with the planning board.

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**NOTE:** 7 M.R.S.A. section 155 requires a municipality to provide the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry with a copy of any proposed ordinance that impacts farm operations. The law further requires the Commissioner to review the proposed ordinance and advise the municipality if the proposed ordinance would restrict or prohibit the use of best management practices. A copy of a Shoreland zoning ordinance that regulates no more restrictively than contained in these Guidelines need not be provided to the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

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**O. Timber Harvesting (REPEALED 03/21/2017)**

**O-1. Timber Harvesting – Statewide Standards (REPEALED 03/21/2017)**

**P. Clearing or Removal of Vegetation for Activities Other Than Timber Harvesting**

- (1) In a Resource Protection District or on sustained slopes of 20% or greater abutting a great pond, there shall be no cutting of vegetation within the strip of land extending 75 feet, horizontal distance, inland from the normal high-water line, except to remove hazard trees as described in section Q..

Elsewhere, in any Resource Protection District or on sustained slopes of 20% or greater the cutting or removal of vegetation shall be limited to that which is necessary for uses expressly authorized in that district.

- (2) Except in areas as described in Section P(1), above, within a strip of land extending one-hundred (100) feet, horizontal distance, inland from the normal high-water line of a great pond classified GPA or a river flowing to a great pond classified GPA, or within a strip extending seventy-five (75) feet, horizontal distance, from any other water body, tributary stream, or the upland edge of a wetland, a buffer strip of vegetation shall be preserved as follows:
  - (a) There shall be no cleared opening greater than 250 square feet in the forest canopy (or other existing woody vegetation if a forested canopy is not present) as measured from the outer limits of the tree or shrub crown. However, a single footpath not to exceed six (6) feet in width as measured between tree trunks and/or shrub stems is allowed for

accessing the shoreline provided that a cleared line of sight to the water through the buffer strip is not created.

- (b) Selective cutting of trees within the buffer strip is allowed provided that a well-distributed stand of trees and other natural vegetation is maintained. For the purposes of Section 15(P)(2)(b) a "well-distributed stand of trees" adjacent to a great pond classified GPA or a river or stream flowing to a great pond classified GPA, shall be defined as maintaining a rating score of 24 or more in each 25-foot by 50-foot rectangular (1250 square feet) area as determined by the following rating system.

<b>Diameter of Tree at 4-1/2 feet Above Ground Level (inches)</b>	<b>Points</b>
2 – < 4 in.	1
4 – < 8 in.	2
8 – < 12 in.	4
12 in. or greater	8

Adjacent to other water bodies, tributary streams, and wetlands, a "well-distributed stand of trees" is defined as maintaining a minimum rating score of 16 per 25-foot by 50-foot rectangular area.

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**NOTE:** As an example, adjacent to a great pond, if a 25-foot x 50-foot plot contains four (4) trees between 2 and 4 inches in diameter, two trees between 4 and 8 inches in diameter, three trees between 8 and 12 inches in diameter, and two trees over 12 inches in diameter, the rating score is:

$$(4 \times 1) + (2 \times 2) + (3 \times 4) + (2 \times 8) = 36 \text{ points}$$

Thus, the 25-foot by 50-foot plot contains trees worth 36 points. Trees totaling 12 points (36- 24 =12) may be removed from the plot provided that no cleared openings are created.

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The following shall govern in applying this point system:

- (i) The 25 foot by 50 foot rectangular plots must be established where the landowner or lessee proposes clearing within the required buffer;
- (ii) Each successive plot must be adjacent to, but not overlap a previous plot;
- (iii) Any plot not containing the required points must have no vegetation removed except as otherwise allowed by this Ordinance;
- (iv) Any plot containing the required points may have vegetation removed down to the minimum points required or as otherwise allowed by this Ordinance;
- (v) Where conditions permit, no more than 50% of the points on any 25 foot by 50 foot rectangular area may consist of trees greater than 12 inches in diameter.

For the purposes of Section 15(P)(2)(b) "other natural vegetation" is defined as retaining existing vegetation under three (3) feet in height and other ground cover and retaining at least five (5) saplings less than two (2) inches in diameter at four and one half (4 ½)

feet above ground level for each 25-foot by 50-foot rectangle area. If five saplings do not exist, no woody stems less than two (2) inches in diameter can be removed until 5 saplings have been recruited into the plot.

Notwithstanding the above provisions, no more than 40% of the total volume of trees four (4) inches or more in diameter, measured at 4 1/2 feet above ground level may be removed in any ten (10) year period.

- (c) In order to protect water quality and wildlife habitat, existing vegetation under three (3) feet in height and other ground cover, including leaf litter and the forest duff layer, shall not be cut, covered, or removed, except to provide for a footpath or other permitted uses as described in Section 15(P) paragraphs (2) and (2)(a) above.
  - (d) Pruning of tree branches, on the bottom 1/3 of the tree is allowed.
  - (e) In order to maintain a buffer strip of vegetation, when the removal of storm-damaged, dead or hazard trees results in the creation of cleared openings, these openings shall be replanted with native tree species in accordance with Section Q, below, unless existing new tree growth is present.
  - (f) In order to maintain the vegetation in the shoreline buffer, clearing or removal of vegetation for allowed activities, including associated construction and related equipment operation, within or outside the shoreline buffer, must comply with the requirements of Section 15 P(2).
- (3) At distances greater than one hundred (100) feet, horizontal distance, from a great pond classified GPA or a river flowing to a great pond classified GPA, and seventy-five (75) feet, horizontal distance, from the normal high-water line of any other water body, tributary stream, or the upland edge of a wetland, there shall be allowed on any lot, in any ten (10) year period, selective cutting of not more than forty (40) percent of the volume of trees four (4) inches or more in diameter, measured 4 1/2 feet above ground level. Tree removal in conjunction with the development of permitted uses shall be included in the forty (40) percent calculation. For the purposes of these standards volume may be considered to be equivalent to basal area.

In no event shall cleared openings for any purpose, including but not limited to, principal and accessory structures, driveways, lawns and sewage disposal areas, exceed in the aggregate, 25% of the lot area within the Shoreland zone or ten thousand (10,000) square feet, whichever is greater, including land previously cleared. This provision applies to the portion of a lot within the Shoreland zone, including the buffer area, but shall not apply to the Village District.

- (4) Legally existing nonconforming cleared openings may be maintained, but shall not be enlarged, except as allowed by this Ordinance.
- (5) Fields and other cleared openings which have reverted to primarily shrubs, trees, or other woody vegetation shall be regulated under the provisions of Section 15(P).

**Q. Hazard Trees, Storm-Damaged Trees, and Dead Tree Removal**



- (1) Hazard trees in the Shoreland zone may be removed without a permit after consultation with the Code Enforcement Officer if the following requirements are met:
  - (a) Within the shoreline buffer, if the removal of a hazard tree results in a cleared opening in the tree canopy greater than two hundred and fifty (250) square feet, replacement with native tree species is required, unless there is new tree growth already present. New tree growth must be as near as practicable to where the hazard tree was removed and be at least two (2) inches in diameter, measured at four and one half (4.5) feet above the ground level. If new growth is not present, then replacement trees shall consist of native species and be at least four (4) feet in height, and be no less than two (2) inches in diameter. Stumps may not be removed.
  - (b) Outside of the shoreline buffer, when the removal of hazard trees exceeds forty (40) percent of the volume of trees four (4) inches or more in diameter, measured at four and one half (4.5) feet above ground level in any ten (10) year period, and/or results in cleared openings exceeding twenty-five (25) percent of the lot area within the Shoreland zone, or ten thousand (10,000) square feet, whichever is greater, replacement with native tree species is required, unless there is new tree growth already present. New tree growth must be as near as practicable to where the hazard tree was removed and be at least two (2) inches in diameter, measured at four and one half (4.5) feet above the ground level. If new growth is not present, then replacement trees shall consist of native species and be at least two (2) inches in diameter, measured at four and one half (4.5) feet above the ground level.
  - (c) The removal of standing dead trees, resulting from natural causes, is permissible without the need for replanting or a permit, as long as the removal does not result in the creation of new lawn areas, or other permanently cleared areas, and stumps are not removed. For the purposes of this provision dead trees are those trees that contain no foliage during the growing season.
  - (d) The Code Enforcement Officer may require the property owner to submit an evaluation from a licensed forester or arborist before any hazard tree can be removed within the Shoreland zone.
  - (e) The Code Enforcement Officer may require more than a one-for-one replacement for hazard trees removed that exceed eight (8) inches in diameter measured at four and one half (4.5) feet above the ground level.
- (2) Storm-damaged trees in the Shoreland zone may be removed without a permit after consultation with the Code Enforcement Officer if the following requirements are met:
  - (a) Within the shoreline buffer, when the removal of storm-damaged trees results in a cleared opening in the tree canopy greater than two hundred and fifty (250) square feet, replanting is not required, but the area shall be required to naturally revegetate, and the following requirements must be met:
    - (i) The area from which a storm-damaged tree is removed does not result in new lawn areas, or other permanently cleared areas;

- (ii) Stumps from the storm-damaged trees may not be removed;
  - (iii) Limbs damaged from a storm event may be pruned even if they extend beyond the bottom one-third (1/3) of the tree; and
  - (iv) If after one growing season, no natural regeneration or regrowth is present, replanting of native tree seedlings or saplings is required at a density of one seedling per every eighty (80) square feet of lost canopy.
- (b) Outside of the shoreline buffer, if the removal of storm damaged trees exceeds 40% of the volume of trees four (4) inches or more in diameter, measured at four and one half (4.5) feet above the ground level in any ten (10) year period, or results, in the aggregate, in cleared openings exceeding 25% of the lot area within the Shoreland zone or ten thousand (10,000) square feet, whichever is greater, and no natural regeneration occurs within one growing season, then native tree seedlings or saplings shall be replanted on a one-for-one basis.

**R. Exemptions to Clearing and Vegetation Removal Requirements**

The following activities are exempt from the clearing and vegetation removal standards set forth in Section 15(P), provided that all other applicable requirements of this chapter are complied with, and the removal of vegetation is limited to that which is necessary:

- (1) The removal of vegetation that occurs at least once every two (2) years for the maintenance of legally existing areas that do not comply with the vegetation standards in this chapter, such as but not limited to cleared openings in the canopy or fields. Such areas shall not be enlarged, except as allowed by this section. If any of these areas, due to lack of removal of vegetation every two (2) years, reverts back to primarily woody vegetation, the requirements of Section 15(P) apply;
- (2) The removal of vegetation from the location of allowed structures or allowed uses, when the shoreline setback requirements of section 15(B) are not applicable;
- (3) The removal of vegetation from the location of public swimming areas associated with an allowed public recreational facility;
- (4) The removal of vegetation associated with allowed agricultural uses, provided best management practices are utilized, and provided all requirements of section 15(N) are complied with;
- (5) The removal of vegetation associated with brownfields or voluntary response action program (VRAP) projects provided that the removal of vegetation is necessary for remediation activities to clean-up contamination on a site in a general development district, commercial fisheries and maritime activities district or other equivalent zoning district approved by the Commissioner that is part of a state or federal brownfields program or a voluntary response action program pursuant 38 M.R.S.A section 343-E, and that is located along:

- (a) A coastal wetland; or
  - (b) A river that does not flow to a great pond classified as GPA pursuant to 38 M.R.S.A section 465-A.
- (6) The removal of non-native invasive vegetation species, provided the following minimum requirements are met:
- (a) If removal of vegetation occurs via wheeled or tracked motorized equipment, the wheeled or tracked motorized equipment is operated and stored at least twenty-five (25) feet, horizontal distance, from the shoreline, except that wheeled or tracked equipment may be operated or stored on existing structural surfaces, such as pavement or gravel;
  - (b) Removal of vegetation within twenty-five (25) feet, horizontal distance, from the shoreline occurs via hand tools; and
  - (c) If applicable clearing and vegetation removal standards are exceeded due to the removal of non-native invasive species vegetation, the area shall be revegetated with native species to achieve compliance.

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**NOTE:** An updated list of non-native invasive vegetation is maintained by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Natural Areas Program:  
[http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive\\_plants/invasives.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/invasives.htm)

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- (7) The removal of vegetation associated with emergency response activities conducted by the Department, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Coast Guard, and their agents.

## **S. Revegetation Requirements**

When revegetation is required in response to violations of the vegetation standards set forth in Section 15(P), to address the removal of non- native invasive species of vegetation, or as a mechanism to allow for development that may otherwise not be permissible due to the vegetation standards, including removal of vegetation in conjunction with a shoreline stabilization project, the revegetation must comply with the following requirements.

- (1) The property owner must submit a revegetation plan, prepared with and signed by a qualified professional that describes revegetation activities and maintenance. The plan must include a scaled site plan, depicting where vegetation was, or is to be removed, where existing vegetation is to remain, and where vegetation is to be planted, including a list of all vegetation to be planted.
- (2) Revegetation must occur along the same segment of shoreline and in the same area where vegetation was removed and at a density comparable to the pre-existing vegetation, except where a shoreline stabilization activity does not allow revegetation to occur in the same area and at a density comparable to the pre-existing vegetation, in which case revegetation

must occur along the same segment of shoreline and as close as possible to the area where vegetation was removed:

- (3) If part of a permitted activity, revegetation shall occur before the expiration of the permit. If the activity or revegetation is not completed before the expiration of the permit, a new revegetation plan shall be submitted with any renewal or new permit application.
- (4) Revegetation activities must meet the following requirements for trees and saplings:
  - (a) All trees and saplings removed must be replaced with native noninvasive species;
  - (b) Replacement vegetation must at a minimum consist of saplings;
  - (c) If more than three (3) trees or saplings are planted, then at least three (3) different species shall be used;
  - (d) No one species shall make up 50% or more of the number of trees and saplings planted;
  - (e) If revegetation is required for a shoreline stabilization project, and it is not possible to plant trees and saplings in the same area where trees or saplings were removed, then trees or sapling must be planted in a location that effectively reestablishes the screening between the shoreline and structures; and
  - (f) A survival rate of at least eighty (80) percent of planted trees or saplings is required for a minimum five (5) years period.
- (5) Revegetation activities must meet the following requirements for woody vegetation and other vegetation under three (3) feet in height:
  - (a) All woody vegetation and vegetation under three (3) feet in height must be replaced with native noninvasive species of woody vegetation and vegetation under three (3) feet in height as applicable;
  - (b) Woody vegetation and vegetation under three (3) feet in height shall be planted in quantities and variety sufficient to prevent erosion and provide for effective infiltration of stormwater;
  - (c) If more than three (3) woody vegetation plants are to be planted, then at least three (3) different species shall be planted;
  - (d) No one species shall make up 50% or more of the number of planted woody vegetation plants; and
  - (e) Survival of planted woody vegetation and vegetation under three feet in height must be sufficient to remain in compliance with the standards contained within this chapter for minimum of five (5) years
- (6) Revegetation activities must meet the following requirements for ground vegetation and ground cover:

- (a) All ground vegetation and ground cover removed must be replaced with native herbaceous vegetation, in quantities and variety sufficient to prevent erosion and provide for effective infiltration of stormwater;
- (b) Where necessary due to a lack of sufficient ground cover, an area must be supplemented with a minimum four (4) inch depth of leaf mulch and/or bark mulch to prevent erosion and provide for effective infiltration of stormwater; and
- (c) Survival and functionality of ground vegetation and ground cover must be sufficient to remain in compliance with the standards contained within this chapter for minimum of five (5) years.

**T. Erosion and Sedimentation Control**

- (1) All activities which involve filling, grading, excavation or other similar activities which result in unstabilized soil conditions and which require a permit shall also require a written soil erosion and sedimentation control plan. The plan shall be submitted to the permitting authority for approval and shall include, where applicable, provisions for:
  - (a) Mulching and revegetation of disturbed soil.
  - (b) Temporary runoff control features such as hay bales, silt fencing or diversion ditches.
  - (c) Permanent stabilization structures such as retaining walls or rip-rap.
- (2) In order to create the least potential for erosion, development shall be designed to fit with the topography and soils of the site. Areas of steep slopes where high cuts and fills may be required shall be avoided wherever possible, and natural contours shall be followed as closely as possible.
- (3) Erosion and sedimentation control measures shall apply to all aspects of the proposed project involving land disturbance, and shall be in operation during all stages of the activity. The amount of exposed soil at every phase of construction shall be minimized to reduce the potential for erosion.
- (4) Any exposed ground area shall be temporarily or permanently stabilized within one (1) week from the time it was last actively worked, by use of riprap, sod, seed, and mulch, or other effective measures. In all cases permanent stabilization shall occur within nine (9) months of the initial date of exposure. In addition:
  - (a) Where mulch is used, it shall be applied at a rate of at least one (1) bale per five hundred (500) square feet and shall be maintained until a catch of vegetation is established.
  - (b) Anchoring the mulch with netting, peg and twine or other suitable method may be required to maintain the mulch cover.
  - (c) Additional measures shall be taken where necessary in order to avoid siltation into the water. Such measures may include the use of staked hay bales and/or silt fences.
- (5) Natural and man-made drainage ways and drainage outlets shall be protected from erosion from water flowing through them. Drainage ways shall be designed and constructed in order to carry water from a twenty five (25) year storm or greater, and shall be stabilized with vegetation or lined with riprap.

- U. Soils.** All land uses shall be located on soils in or upon which the proposed uses or structures can be established or maintained without causing adverse environmental impacts, including severe erosion, mass soil movement, improper drainage, and water pollution, whether during or after construction. Proposed uses requiring subsurface waste disposal, and commercial or industrial development and other similar intensive land uses, shall require a soils report based on an on-site investigation and be prepared by state-certified professionals. Certified persons may include Maine Certified Soil Scientists, Maine Registered Professional Engineers, Maine State Certified Geologists and other persons who have training and experience in the recognition and evaluation of soil properties. The report shall be based upon the analysis of the characteristics of the soil and surrounding land and water areas, maximum ground water elevation, presence of ledge, drainage conditions, and other pertinent data which the evaluator deems appropriate. The soils report shall include recommendations for a proposed use to counteract soil limitations where they exist.
- V. Water Quality.** No activity shall deposit on or into the ground or discharge to the waters of the State any pollutant that, by itself or in combination with other activities or substances, will impair designated uses or the water classification of the water body, tributary stream or wetland.
- W. Archaeological Site.** Any proposed land use activity involving structural development or soil disturbance on or adjacent to sites listed on, or eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by the permitting authority, shall be submitted by the applicant to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission for review and comment, at least twenty (20) days prior to action being taken by the permitting authority. The permitting authority shall consider comments received from the Commission prior to rendering a decision on the application.

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**NOTE:** Municipal officials should contact the Maine Historic Preservation Commission for the listing and location of Historic Places in their community.

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- X. Shoreland Zone Utility Installations-Permit Required.** Prior to engaging in any construction within the scope of the definition of Shoreland Zone Utility Installation as set forth in this Ordinance, the applicant shall acquire a Shoreland Zone Utility Permit from the Planning Board. The Planning Board may, at a minimum, require that the permit applicant show compliance with any and all provisions of this Ordinance as they relate to Shoreland Zone Utility Permit's specifically and/or Land Use Permitting in general. Specifically a Shoreland Zone Utility Permit applicant shall comply with:
- (1) Permit Application requirements as set forth in Section 16(C) of this Ordinance;
  - (2) Installation Standards

Land based associated activities shall each be governed by the application standards in this ordinance and reviewable and governed by those standards, including but not limited to, Essential Services.
  - (3) Decommissioning Standards for Shoreland Zone Utility Installations
    - (a) The applicant or current owner/operator at time of decommission of any offshore utility or telecommunications installation associated with a Shoreland Zone Utility Installation in the Town of Bristol, shall, at its expense, complete decommissioning of the Shoreland Zone Utility Installation within: 1) twelve (12) months after the end of the useful life of the power generation facility to which the infrastructure is connected, or; 2) as specified

in the materials provided at the time of application. The Shoreland Zone Utility Installation will be presumed to be at the end of its useful life if no electricity or telecommunications are generated or transmitted over the permitted infrastructure for a continuous period of twelve (12) months.

- (b) Decommissioning shall include removal of all buildings, cabling, electrical components, roads, and any other associated facilities located within the Shoreland Zone which were installed or modified in conjunction with any Permit issued under this Ordinance. Restore to pre-construction condition or as approved by the Planning Board. All such components or facilities shall be removed unless, at the end of the useful life, as determined in accordance with Section 15(U)(3)(a), the applicant provides written evidence of plans for continued beneficial use of these components, and this evidence is approved by the Planning Board.
- (c) Except as otherwise provided by Section 15(U)(3)(b), disturbed earth shall be graded and re-seeded, with applicable permits for said activity to be acquired from the Planning Board.
- (d) The Applicant or subsequent owner/operator shall post and maintain decommissioning funds in an amount equal to 100% of the Estimated Decommissioning Costs as described in Section 3(b) above. The decommissioning funds shall be posted and maintained with a bonding company or Federal or State-chartered lending institution chosen by the Applicant, provided that the bonding company or lending institution is authorized to conduct such business within the State and is approved by the Town of Bristol. No work can begin within the Shoreland Zone before the decommissioning bond is issued and approved and deposit of fund proven to the Planning Board.
- (e) Decommissioning funds may be in the form of a performance bond, surety bond, or other form of financial assurance as may be acceptable to the Town of Bristol.
- (f) If the Applicant or current Owner/Operator does not complete decommissioning within the periods prescribed by this Section they shall be deemed to be in violation of this Ordinance and the Town of Bristol may take such measures as necessary, including court action, to ensure the completion of decommissioning at the expense of the applicant. The Town may additionally seek recovery of legal and other expenses associated with enforcement of this Ordinance.
- (g) The escrow agent shall release the decommissioning funds when the applicant or current owner/operator has demonstrated and the Planning Board concurs that the decommissioning has been satisfactorily completed, or upon written approval of the Town in order to implement the decommissioning plan.

## **16. Administration**

### **A. Administering Bodies and Agents**

- (1) **Code Enforcement Officer.** A Code Enforcement Officer shall be appointed or reappointed annually by July 1st.
- (2) **Board of Appeals.** A Board of Appeals shall be created in accordance with the provisions of 30-A M.R.S.A. section 2691.

(3) **Planning Board.** A Planning Board shall be created in accordance with the provisions of State law.

**B. Permits Required.** After the effective date of this Ordinance no person shall, without first obtaining a permit, engage in any activity or use of land or structure requiring a permit in the district in which such activity or use would occur; or expand, change, or replace an existing use or structure; or renew a discontinued nonconforming use. A person who is issued a permit pursuant to this Ordinance shall have a copy of the permit on site while the work authorized by the permit is performed.

(1) A permit is not required for the replacement of an existing road culvert as long as:

- (a) The replacement culvert is not more than 25% longer than the culvert being replaced;
- (b) The replacement culvert is no longer than 75 feet; and
- (c) Adequate erosion control measures are taken to prevent sedimentation of the water, and the crossing does not block fish passage in the watercourse.

(2) A permit is not required for an archaeological excavation as long as the excavation is conducted by an archaeologist listed on the State Historic Preservation Officer's level 1 or level 2 approved list, and unreasonable erosion and sedimentation is prevented by means of adequate and timely temporary and permanent stabilization measures.

(3) Any permit required by this Ordinance shall be in addition to any other permit required by other law or ordinance.

**C. Permit Application**

(1) Every applicant for a permit shall submit a written application, including a scaled site plan, on a form provided by the municipality, to the appropriate official as indicated in Section 14.

(2) All applications shall be signed by an owner or individual who can show evidence of right, title or interest in the property or by an agent, representative, tenant, or contractor of the owner with authorization from the owner to apply for a permit hereunder, certifying that the information in the application is complete and correct.

(3) All applications shall be dated, and the Code Enforcement Officer or Planning Board, as appropriate, shall note upon each application the date and time of its receipt.

(4) If the property is not served by a public sewer, a valid plumbing permit or a completed application for a plumbing permit, including the site evaluation approved by the Plumbing Inspector, shall be submitted whenever the nature of the proposed structure or use would require the installation of a subsurface sewage disposal system.

(5) When an excavation contractor will perform an activity that requires or results in more than one (1) cubic yard of soil disturbance, the person responsible for management of erosion and sedimentation control practices at the site must be certified in erosion control practices by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. This person must be present at the site each



day earthmoving activity occurs for a duration that is sufficient to ensure that proper erosion and sedimentation control practices are followed. This is required until erosion and sedimentation control measures have been installed, which will either stay in place permanently or stay in place until the area is sufficiently covered with vegetation necessary to prevent soil erosion. The name and certification number of the person who will oversee the activity causing or resulting in soil disturbance shall be included on the permit application. This requirement does not apply to a person or firm engaged in agriculture or timber harvesting if best management practices for erosion and sedimentation control are used; and municipal, state and federal employees engaged in projects associated with that employment.

- (6) For all Shoreland Zone Utility Permit Applications, the following submission standards are also required.

All information in the application, unless specified, will become part of the public record. Information submitted by the Applicant must be continuously updated throughout the application process as changes are made or new information becomes available.

The Applicant shall include a written application, which shall include:

- (a) Applicant's name and contact information.
- (b) Legal owner/operator and contact information (if different from the Applicant).
- (c) Description of the legal structure of the Applicant including a corporate organizational chart.
- (d) Location map of the project showing the location of the each utility cable or transmission line, associated facilities, all property under partial or total control of the Applicant including easements and those under lease with private landowners, roads, municipal boundaries, proximity to all major geographical features in the Town of Bristol.
- (e) Detailed site plan showing the location of each utility cable, transmission line and associated infrastructure and any of the following features located within the Shoreland Zone: property boundaries, required setbacks, topographic contour lines (maximum 2-foot interval), buildings (identify use), roads, driveways, right-of-ways, overhead utility lines, Scenic Features, tree cover, wetlands, streams, water bodies, areas proposed to be cleared of vegetation or re-graded, and areas proposed to be excavated or blasted.
- (f) Construction plans showing the detailed drawings of the proposed infrastructure, elevations, cross sections, plan view, capacity and installation requirements.
- (g) Copies of all private landowner agreements and easement agreements.
- (h) Copies of any deeds or purchase agreements for land owned or under option by the Applicant.
- (i) Receipt showing payment of application fees and escrow for professional and public hearing fees.
- (j) Proof of financing.
- (k) Documentation demonstrating a construction site erosion plan and stormwater runoff control plan as may be required by Section 15J of this Ordinance that minimizes potential adverse impacts on streams and wetlands and the Shoreland Zone.
- (l) Photographs of existing conditions of the proposed site(s) within the Shoreland Zone where surface disturbance, construction activity and installation of cables, transmission lines and associated facilities are proposed to be located.

- (m) An additional set of photographs of the existing conditions shall have the above ground portions of proposed cable or lines and associated infrastructure superimposed on it to accurately simulate the project when built.
- (n) Proof of Liability Insurance in the amount of two million dollars (\$2,000,000.00) per occurrence.
- (o) A plan for construction including: time-line showing all aspects of the construction, location of all activities within the Town and a list of contact persons for all stages of construction.
- (p) A map shall be provided showing all transmission lines/cables and rights-of-way that will need to be built or upgraded to accommodate the utility cable, transmission lines, and associated infrastructure. Applicant shall submit copies of signed letters of intent to grant easements, long-term leases or other property rights from involved landowners and any governmental unit responsible for access, approval or construction of transmission and distribution lines. The Applicant shall submit an affidavit stating that no property will need to be taken by eminent domain to facilitate the proposed activity within the Shoreland Zone necessary to support the project.
- (q) A written summary of all routine operation and maintenance procedures that may take place within the Shoreland Zone prior to decommissioning of the installation.
- (r) Document all potential hazardous wastes that will be used within the Shoreland Zone and how these wastes will be transported, handled, stored, cleaned up if spilled, and disposed of during any time prior to the decommissioning of the installation.
- (s) A road and property use and risk assessment plan in compliance with Section 16.C.5.bb.
- (t) A decommissioning plan in compliance with Section 15.U.3.
- (u) Copies of all written agreements and disclosure of all verbal promises, for contracts, subcontracts, employment, consulting fees, gifts or other payments in excess of \$10 (cash or in-kind) to property owners (or their assigns) or businesses in Bristol, either previously made or contingent on permitting of this project.
- (v) Applicant shall deliver a letter by certified mail to the owner of any property that the Applicant proposes to be impacted by the Permit. The letter will state that the Applicant has filed an application, list future development that will be restricted or impacted, and to what extent it will be restricted or impacted, by virtue of the permit being granted. Examples of restrictions include, but are not limited to, restrictions on building structures, digging or disrupting the earth or zones in which future utilities installations can expect interference from the installations proposed under this permitting process including all addendums and extensions to the permit. Applicant must provide fair compensation to any impacted or restricted landowners for restricting future development of their property.
- (w) Other relevant studies, reports, certifications and approvals as may be reasonably requested by the Planning Board to ensure compliance with this Ordinance.
- (x) Signed affidavit from the Applicant that Applicant has read the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Bristol and agrees to abide by its provisions, as may be amended from time to time.
- (y) Impact Statement

The applicant shall submit to the Planning Board plans showing the proposed location of the Shoreland Zone Utility Installation along with a statement describing the short and long term impacts associated with cables, line, and infrastructure construction, installation, operation and maintenance including but not limited to the disruption of earth, soils, ramps or paved areas and plans for restoration of disrupted areas.

In addressing how construction, installation and short or long term maintenance and operation of the cables, lines and infrastructure , as it lies in the Shoreland zone, will impact existing marine and Shoreland activities and marine and Shoreland resources, the statement must specifically address each of the following areas of impact:

- (i) impact on water pollution;
- (ii) impact on natural beauty and open space;
- (iii) impact on shore cover;
- (iv) impact on freshwater and coastal wetlands;
- (v) impact on fish spawning areas, aquatic life, bird and wildlife habitat;
- (vi) protection of buildings and structures from flooding;
- (vii) location of new buildings or infrastructure associated with the Shoreland Zone Utility Permit;
- (viii) impact on public access to the water including parking and loading activities, circulation of traffic and avoidance of congestion;
- (ix) impact on commercial fishing and the maritime industry; and
- (x) impact on archaeological and historic resources

(7) Proof of required permitting

The applicant shall additionally provide proof of issuance of all State and Federal Permits associated with the offshore utility/telecommunications installation which is associated with the Shoreland Zone Utility Installation. If the permit has not been issued, the applicant shall provide proof of application or consultation and an explanation as to the status of the review or consultation, or evidence of denial of the permit. Proof of permitting includes but is not limited to the following departments and agencies:

- (i) US Army Corps of Engineers-River and Harbors Act Section 10 Permit
- (ii) Maine Historic Preservation and/or Tribes
- (iii) Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
- (iv) CMP Utility Form 1190
- (v) Maine DEP – NRPA Section 9 Permit by Rule
- (vi) NOAA-NMFS, USFWS – ESA Section 7 Consultation
- (vii) NMFS and USFWS – Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
- (viii) NMFS – Marine Mammal Protection Act, Consultation
- (ix) NMFS – Magnuson – Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, EFH Consultation
- (x) US Coast Guard – Ports and Waterways Safety Act, Consultation
- (xi) Maine DOACF, Maine Coastal Program – CZMA Section 307(c)(3) Consultation (part of DEP permit process)
- (xii) Maine State Historic Preservation Office – National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 Consultation

(8) Plan and Risk Assessment for Road and Property Use within the Shoreland Zone

An application for a Shoreland Zone Utility Permit shall include a road and property use and risk assessment plan containing the following information and meeting the following

requirements. All references to public and private roads or ways or private or public property in this section shall be presumed to refer to such roads or property to the extent that they lie within the Shoreland Zone.

- (i) A description and map of all public and private ways, and other property, in the Shoreland Zone of the Town of Bristol to be used or affected in connection with the construction of the proposed infrastructure, including a description of how and when such ways and property will be used or affected.
  - (ii) A description of the type and length of vehicles and type, weight and length of loads to be conveyed on all public or private ways in the Town of Bristol Shoreland Zone.
  - (iii) A complete assessment of the proposed use of public ways in the Town of Bristol Shoreland Zone in connection with the construction of the proposed infrastructure, including: the adequacy of turning radii; the ability of the ways to sustain loads without damage; the need to remove or modify (permanently or temporarily) signs, trees, utilities, or anything else; any reasonably foreseeable damage to public or private ways or other property, public or private; any reasonably foreseeable costs that the Town may incur in connection with the use of property in the Town, including but not limited to costs relating to traffic control, public safety, or damage to public ways, or to other public or private property.
  - (iv) A traffic control and safety plan relating to the use of public ways in the Town in connection with the construction of the proposed infrastructure.
  - (v) Any additional relevant information that the Planning Board may request relating to the use of public or private ways or other effects on public and private property that may occur in connection with the construction and operation of the proposed infrastructure.
  - (vi) The Planning Board will evaluate the risk assessment plan with assistance from such consultants that it deems appropriate, including without limitation a third-party engineer chosen by the Planning Board, the cost to be solely borne by the Applicant. The Planning Board may document the condition of public ways and other property to be used in connection with the construction of the proposed infrastructure in such manner as it deems appropriate. The Planning Board may require changes to the risk assessment plan that it deems to be appropriate to protect public safety, to protect public and private property, and to address anticipated costs to the Town associated with construction.
  - (vii) If the Applicant requires the temporary closure of any public way, the Planning Board may require the Applicant to enter into an agreement relating to the use of the public way which may involve a construction schedule which accounts for accommodating heavy flow and tourism related traffic.
  - (viii) The Applicant shall be responsible for paying for any damage to any public way. If the risk assessment anticipates damage to any public way, the Planning Board may require the Applicant to provide a surety in an amount that the Planning Board determines appropriate to secure any obligation under the agreement, including but not limited to any obligation relating to alterations or modifications to public ways made in connection with the applicant's activities.
- (9) The Applicant for a Shoreland Zone Utility Permit shall submit an Estimate of Decommissioning Costs to the Planning Board at the time of the permit application. Such

Estimate shall describe any work required to be completed to meet the standards set forth in Section 15.U.3 Decommissioning Standards for Shoreland Zone Utility Installation above and the estimated cost of completion of that work.

**D. Procedure for Administering Permits.**

- (1) Within 35 days of the date of receiving a written application, the Planning Board or Code Enforcement Officer, as indicated in Section 14, shall notify the applicant in writing either that the application is a complete application, or, if the application is incomplete, that specified additional material is needed to make the application complete. The Planning Board or the Code Enforcement Officer, as appropriate, shall approve, approve with conditions, or deny all permit applications in writing within 35 days of receiving a completed application. However, if the Planning Board has a waiting list of applications, a decision on the application shall occur within 35 days after the first available date on the Planning Board's agenda following receipt of the completed application, or within 35 days of the public hearing, if the proposed use or structure is found to be in conformance with the purposes and provisions of this Ordinance.

The applicant shall have the burden of proving that the proposed land use activity is in conformity with the purposes and provisions of this Ordinance.

After the submission of a complete application to the Planning Board, the Board shall approve an application or approve it with conditions if it makes a positive finding based on the information presented that the proposed use:

- (a) Will maintain safe and healthful conditions;
- (b) Will not result in water pollution, erosion, or sedimentation to surface waters;
- (c) Will adequately provide for the disposal of all wastewater;
- (d) Will not have an adverse impact on spawning grounds, fish, aquatic life, bird or other wildlife habitat;
- (e) Will conserve shore cover and visual, as well as actual, points of access to inland and coastal waters;
- (f) Will protect archaeological and historic resources as designated in the comprehensive plan;
- (g) Will not adversely affect existing commercial fisheries, and other functionally water-dependent uses;
- (h) Will avoid problems associated with floodplain development and use; and
- (i) Is in conformance with the provisions of Section 15, Land Use Standards.

If a permit is either denied or approved with conditions, the reasons as well as conditions shall be stated in writing. No approval shall be granted for an application involving a

structure if the structure would be located in an unapproved subdivision or would violate any other local ordinance, or regulation or statute administered by the municipality.

(2) In addition to the above, all Shoreland Zone Utility Permits shall be subject to the additional submission standards below:

(a) When reviewing a Shoreland Zone Utility Permit for completeness, the Planning Board will notify the Applicant within 90 days from the date of submission whether the application is complete.

This completeness review period is specific to a Shoreland Zone Utility Permit application and supersedes the 35 day completeness review set forth in Section 16 D of this Ordinance. Specific studies may be required for a consideration of completeness including but not limited to State Agency certification and permitting, and environmental impact studies. If the application is deemed to be incomplete the Planning Board shall indicate the additional information needed. The application shall be deemed abandoned unless the Applicant provides the information requested, demonstrates that additional time is needed to complete required studies, or obtain permits, or submits in writing the reason for any delay within 30 days from the date of notice indicating the application is incomplete.

(b) Professional Services: In reviewing a Shoreland Zone Utility Permit application for compliance with this Ordinance, the Board may retain professional services as necessary to assist with its review, including but not limited to those of an attorney, engineer, biologist, or land use planner. Within fourteen (14) days of filing an application the Applicant shall deposit in a joint escrow account with the Town the sum of \$1,000.00 as partial payment for the appropriate Town expenses in hiring consultants and experts, as the Permitting Authority shall, at its discretion, deem necessary. If at any time the balance of the fund falls below \$1,000.00, the Applicant upon notice shall submit additional funds to maintain a balance of no less than \$1,000.00 so that the Town's full and actual expenses of examining and verifying the data presented by the Applicant can be paid in full by the Applicant. If at any time the balance of this fund falls below \$1,000.00 for a period of 30 days after notification the application shall be considered to have been withdrawn. The balance of the escrow account shall be returned to the Owner/operator after all expenses have been paid, and after a permit is granted or the Applicant has withdrawn. Also See Town of Bristol Permit Fee Schedule.

**E. Special Exceptions.** In addition to the criteria specified in Section 16(D) above, excepting structure setback requirements, the Planning Board may approve a permit for a single family residential structure in a Resource Protection District provided that the applicant demonstrates that all of the following conditions are met:

(1) There is no location on the property, other than a location within the Resource Protection District, where the structure can be built.

(2) The lot on which the structure is proposed is undeveloped and was established and recorded in the registry of deeds of the county in which the lot is located before the adoption of the Resource Protection District.

(3) All proposed buildings, sewage disposal systems and other improvements are:

- (a) Located on natural ground slopes of less than 20%; and
- (b) Located outside the floodway of the 100-year flood-plain along rivers and artificially formed great ponds along rivers and outside the velocity zone in areas subject to tides, based on detailed flood insurance studies and as delineated on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Boundary and Floodway Maps and Flood Insurance Rate Maps; all buildings, including basements, are elevated at least one foot above the 100-year flood-plain elevation; and the development is otherwise in compliance with any applicable municipal flood-plain ordinance.

If the floodway is not shown on the Federal Emergency Management Agency Maps, it is deemed to be 1/2 the width of the 100-year flood-plain.

- (4) The total footprint, including cantilevered or similar overhanging extensions, of all principal and accessory structures is limited to a maximum of 1,500 square feet. This limitation shall not be altered by variance.
- (5) All structures, except functionally water-dependent structures, are set back from the normal high-water line of a water body, tributary stream or upland edge of a wetland to the greatest practical extent, but not less than 75 feet, horizontal distance. In determining the greatest practical extent, the Planning Board shall consider the depth of the lot, the slope of the land, the potential for soil erosion, the type and amount of vegetation to be removed, the proposed building site's elevation in regard to the flood-plain, and its proximity to moderate-value and high-value wetlands.

**F. Expiration of Permit.** Permits shall expire one year from the date of issuance if a substantial start is not made in construction or in the use of the property during that period. If a substantial start is made within one year of the issuance of the permit, the applicant shall have one additional year to complete the project, at which time the permit shall expire.

**G. Installation of Public Utility Service.** A public utility, water district, sanitary district or any utility company of any kind may not install services to any new structure located in the Shoreland zone unless written authorization attesting to the validity and currency of all local permits required under this or any previous Ordinance has been issued by the appropriate municipal officials or other written arrangements have been made between the municipal officials and the utility.

#### **H. Appeals**

(1) Powers and Duties of the Board of Appeals. The Board of Appeals shall have the following powers:

- (a) **Administrative Appeals:** To hear and decide administrative appeals, on an appellate basis, where it is alleged by an aggrieved party that there is an error in any order, requirement, decision, or determination made by, or failure to act by, the Planning Board in the administration of this Ordinance; and to hear and decide administrative appeals on a de novo basis where it is alleged by an aggrieved party that there is an error in any order, requirement, decision or determination made by, or failure to act by, the Code Enforcement Officer in his or her review of and action on a permit application under this

Ordinance. Any order, requirement, decision or determination made, or failure to act, in the enforcement of this ordinance is not appealable to the Board of Appeals.

(b) **Variance Appeals:** To authorize variances upon appeal, within the limitations set forth in this Ordinance.

(2) **Variance Appeals.** Variances may be granted only under the following conditions:

(a) Variances may be granted only from dimensional requirements including, but not limited to, lot width, structure height, percent of lot coverage, and setback requirements.

(b) Variances shall not be granted for establishment of any uses otherwise prohibited by this Ordinance.

(c) The Board shall not grant a variance unless it finds that:

(i) The proposed structure or use would meet the provisions of Section 15 except for the specific provision which has created the non-conformity and from which relief is sought; and

(ii) The strict application of the terms of this Ordinance would result in undue hardship. The term "undue hardship" shall mean:

a. That the land in question cannot yield a reasonable return unless a variance is granted;

b. That the need for a variance is due to the unique circumstances of the property and not to the general conditions in the neighborhood;

c. That the granting of a variance will not alter the essential character of the locality; and

d. That the hardship is not the result of action taken by the applicant or a prior owner.

(d) The Board of Appeals shall limit any variances granted as strictly as possible in order to ensure conformance with the purposes and provisions of this Ordinance to the greatest extent possible, and in doing so may impose such conditions to a variance as it deems necessary. The party receiving the variance shall comply with any conditions imposed.

(e) A copy of each variance request, including the application and all supporting information supplied by the applicant, shall be forwarded by the municipal officials to the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection at least twenty (20) days prior to action by the Board of Appeals. Any comments received from the Commissioner prior to the action by the Board of Appeals shall be made part of the record and shall be taken into consideration by the Board of Appeals.

(3) **Administrative Appeals**

When the Board of Appeals reviews a decision of the Code Enforcement Officer the Board of Appeals shall hold a "de novo" hearing. At this time the Board may receive and consider new evidence and testimony, be it oral or written. When acting in a "de novo" capacity the Board



of Appeals shall hear and decide the matter afresh, undertaking its own independent analysis of evidence and the law, and reaching its own decision.

When the Board of Appeals hears a decision of the Planning Board, it shall hold an appellate hearing, and may reverse the decision of the Planning Board only upon finding that the decision was contrary to specific provisions of the Ordinance or contrary to the facts presented to the Planning Board. The Board of Appeals may only review the record of the proceedings before the Planning Board. The Board Appeals shall not receive or consider any evidence which was not presented to the Planning Board, but the Board of Appeals may receive and consider written or oral arguments. If the Board of Appeals determines that the record of the Planning Board proceedings are inadequate, the Board of Appeals may remand the matter to the Planning Board for additional fact finding.

#### **(4) Appeal Procedure**

##### **(a) Making an Appeal**

- (i) An administrative or variance appeal may be taken to the Board of Appeals by an aggrieved party from any decision of the Code Enforcement Officer or the Planning Board, except for enforcement-related matters as described in Section 16(H)(1)(a) above. Such an appeal shall be taken within thirty (30) days of the date of the official, written decision appealed from, and not otherwise, except that the Board, upon a showing of good cause, may waive the thirty (30) day requirement.
- (ii) Applications for appeals shall be made by filing with the Board of Appeals a written notice of appeal which includes:
  - a. A concise written statement indicating what relief is requested and why the appeal or variance should be granted.
  - b. A sketch drawn to scale showing lot lines, location of existing buildings and structures and other physical features of the lot pertinent to the relief sought.
- (iii) Upon receiving an application for an administrative appeal or a variance, the Code Enforcement Officer or Planning Board, as appropriate, shall transmit to the Board of Appeals all of the papers constituting the record of the decision appealed from.
- (iv) The Board of Appeals shall hold a public hearing on an administrative appeal or a request for a variance within thirty-five (35) days of its receipt of a complete written application, unless this time period is extended by the parties.

##### **(b) Decision by Board of Appeals**

- (i) A majority of the full voting membership of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of deciding an appeal.
- (ii) The person filing the appeal shall have the burden of proof.
- (iii) The Board shall decide all administrative appeals and variance appeals within thirty five (35) days after the close of the hearing, and shall issue a written decision on all appeals.
- (iv) The Board of Appeals shall state the reasons and basis for its decision, including a statement of the facts found and conclusions reached by the Board. The Board shall

cause written notice of its decision to be mailed or hand-delivered to the applicant and to the Department of Environmental Protection within seven (7) days of the Board's decision. Copies of written decisions of the Board of Appeals shall be given to the Planning Board, Code Enforcement Officer, and the municipal officers.

- (5) **Appeal to Superior Court.** Except as provided by 30-A M.R.S.A. section 2691(3)(F), any aggrieved party who participated as a party during the proceedings before the Board of Appeals may take an appeal to Superior Court in accordance with State laws within forty-five (45) days from the date of any decision of the Board of Appeals.
- (6) **Reconsideration.** In accordance with 30-A M.R.S.A. section 2691(3)(F), the Board of Appeals may reconsider any decision within forty-five (45) days of its prior decision. A request to the Board to reconsider a decision must be filed within ten (10) days of the decision that is being reconsidered. A vote to reconsider and the action taken on that reconsideration must occur and be completed within forty-five (45) days of the date of the vote on the original decision. Reconsideration of a decision shall require a positive vote of the majority of the Board members originally voting on the decision, and proper notification to the landowner, petitioner, planning board, code enforcement officer, and other parties of interest, including abutters and those who testified at the original hearing(s). The Board may conduct additional hearings and receive additional evidence and testimony.

Appeal of a reconsidered decision to Superior Court must be made within fifteen (15) days after the decision on reconsideration.

#### **I. Enforcement**

- (1) **Nuisances.** Any violation of this Ordinance shall be deemed to be a nuisance.
- (2) **Code Enforcement Officer**
  - (a) It shall be the duty of the Code Enforcement Officer to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance. If the Code Enforcement Officer shall find that any provision of this Ordinance is being violated, he or she shall notify in writing the person responsible for such violation, indicating the nature of the violation and ordering the action necessary to correct it, including discontinuance of illegal use of land, buildings or structures, or work being done, removal of illegal buildings or structures, and abatement of nuisance conditions. A copy of such notices shall be submitted to the municipal officers and be maintained as a permanent record.
  - (b) The Code Enforcement Officer shall conduct on-site inspections to insure compliance with all applicable laws and conditions attached to permit approvals. The Code Enforcement Officer shall also investigate all complaints of alleged violations of this Ordinance.
  - (c) The Code Enforcement Officer shall keep a complete record of all essential transactions of the office, including applications submitted, permits granted or denied, variances granted or denied, revocation actions, revocation of permits, appeals, court actions, violations investigated, violations found, and fees collected.
- (3) **Legal Actions.** When the above action does not result in the correction or abatement of the violation or nuisance condition, the Municipal Officers, upon notice from the Code Enforcement Officer, are hereby directed to institute any and all actions and proceedings,

either legal or equitable, including seeking injunctions of violations and the imposition of fines, that may be appropriate or necessary to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance in the name of the municipality. The municipal officers, or their authorized agent, are hereby authorized to enter into administrative consent agreements for the purpose of eliminating violations of this Ordinance and recovering fines without Court action. Such agreements shall not allow an illegal structure or use to continue unless there is clear and convincing evidence that the illegal structure or use was constructed or conducted as a direct result of erroneous advice given by an authorized municipal official and there is no evidence that the owner acted in bad faith, or unless the removal of the structure or use will result in a threat or hazard to public health and safety or will result in substantial environmental damage.

- (4) **Fines.** Any person, including but not limited to a landowner, a landowner's agent or a contractor, who violates any provision or requirement of this Ordinance shall be penalized in accordance with 30-A, M.R.S.A. section 4452.

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**NOTE:** Current penalties include fines of not less than \$100 nor more than \$2500 per violation for each day that the violation continues. However, in a resource protection district the maximum penalty is increased to \$5000 (38 M.R.S.A. section 4452).

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## **17. Definitions**

**Accessory structure or use** - a use or structure which is incidental and subordinate to the principal use or structure. Accessory uses, when aggregated, shall not subordinate the principal use of the lot. A deck or similar extension of the principal structure or a garage attached to the principal structure by a roof or a common wall is considered part of the principal structure.

**Aggrieved party** - an owner of land whose property is directly or indirectly affected by the granting or denial of a permit or variance under this Ordinance; a person whose land abuts land for which a permit or variance has been granted; or any other person or group of persons who have suffered particularized injury as a result of the granting or denial of such permit or variance.

**Agriculture** - the production, keeping or maintenance for sale or lease of plants or animals, including, but not limited to, forages and sod crops, grains and seed crops, dairy animals and dairy products, poultry and poultry products, livestock, fruits and vegetables and ornamental green-house products. Agriculture does not include forest management and timber harvesting activities.

**Aquaculture** - the growing or propagation of harvestable freshwater, estuarine, or marine plant or animal species.

**Basal Area** - the area of cross-section of a tree stem at 4 1/2 feet above ground level and inclusive of bark.

**Basement** - any portion of a structure with a floor-to-ceiling height of 6 feet or more and having more than 50% of its volume below the existing ground level.

**Boat Launching Facility** - a facility designed primarily for the launching and landing of watercraft, and which may include an access ramp, docking area, and parking spaces for vehicles and trailers.

**Bureau of Forestry** – State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry.

**Campground** - any area or tract of land to accommodate two (2) or more parties in temporary living quarters, including, but not limited to tents, recreational vehicles or other shelters.

**Canopy** – the more or less continuous cover formed by tree crowns in a wooded area.

**Coastal wetland** - all tidal and subtidal lands; all lands with vegetation present that is tolerant of salt water and occurs primarily in a salt water or estuarine habitat; and any swamp, marsh, bog, beach, flat or other contiguous low land that is subject to tidal action during the highest tide level for the year in which an activity is proposed as identified in tide tables published by the National Ocean Service. Coastal wetlands may include portions of coastal sand dunes.

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**NOTE:** All areas below the highest annual tide level are coastal wetlands. These areas may consist of rocky ledges, sand and cobble beaches, mud flats, etc., in addition to salt marshes and salt meadows.

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**Commercial use** - the use of lands, buildings, or structures, other than a "home occupation," defined below, the intent and result of which activity is the production of income from the buying and selling of goods and/or services, exclusive of rental of residential buildings and/or dwelling units.

**Development** – a change in land use involving alteration of the land, water or vegetation, or the addition or alteration of structures or other construction not naturally occurring.

**Dimensional requirements** - numerical standards relating to spatial relationships including but not limited to setback, lot area, shore frontage and height.

**Disability** - any disability, infirmity, malformation, disfigurement, congenital defect or mental condition caused by bodily injury, accident, disease, birth defect, environmental conditions or illness; and also includes the physical or mental condition of a person which constitutes a substantial handicap as determined by a physician or in the case of mental handicap, by a psychiatrist or psychologist, as well as any other health or sensory impairment which requires special education, vocational rehabilitation or related services.

**Driveway** - a vehicular access-way less than five hundred (500) feet in length serving two single-family dwellings or one two-family dwelling, or less.

**Emergency operations** - operations conducted for the public health, safety or general welfare, such as protection of resources from immediate destruction or loss, law enforcement, and operations to rescue human beings, property and livestock from the threat of destruction or injury.

**Essential services** - gas, electrical or communication facilities; steam, fuel, electric power or water transmission or distribution lines, towers and related equipment; telephone cables or lines, poles and related equipment; gas, oil, water, slurry or other similar pipelines; municipal sewage lines, collection or supply systems; and associated storage tanks. Such systems may include towers, poles, wires, mains, drains, pipes, conduits, cables, fire alarms and police call boxes, traffic signals, hydrants and similar accessories, but shall not include service drops or buildings which are necessary for the furnishing of such services.

**Expansion of a structure** - an increase in the footprint of a structure, including all extensions such as, but not limited to: attached decks, garages, porches and greenhouses.

**Expansion of use** - the addition of one or more months to a use's operating season; or the use of more footprint of a structure or ground area devoted to a particular use.

**Family** - one or more persons occupying a premises and living as a single housekeeping unit.

**Floodway** - the channel of a river or other watercourse and adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the 100-year flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation by more than one foot in height.

**Floor area** - the sum of the horizontal areas of the floor(s) of a structure enclosed by exterior walls.

**Footprint** - the entire area of ground covered by the structure(s) on a lot, including but not limited to cantilevered or similar overhanging extensions, as well as unenclosed structures, such as patios and decks.

**Forested wetland** - a freshwater wetland dominated by woody vegetation that is six (6) meters tall (approximately twenty (20) feet) or taller.

**Foundation** - the supporting substructure of a building or other structure, excluding wooden sills and post supports, but including basements, slabs, frost walls, or other base consisting of concrete, block, brick or similar material.

**Freshwater wetland** - freshwater swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas, other than forested wetlands, which are:

- (1) Of ten or more contiguous acres; or of less than 10 contiguous acres and adjacent to a surface water body, excluding any river, stream or brook, such that in a natural state, the combined surface area is in excess of 10 acres; and
- (2) Inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and for a duration sufficient to support, and which under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of wetland vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soils.

Freshwater wetlands may contain small stream channels or inclusions of land that do not conform to the criteria of this definition.

**Functionally water-dependent uses** - Those uses that require, for their primary purpose, location on submerged lands or that require direct access to, or location in, coastal or inland waters and that cannot be located away from these waters.

The following are considered functionally water-dependent uses:

- Working waterfront land
- Commercial fishing and boating facilities
- Uses compatible with commercial fishing activities
- Finfish and shellfish processing
- Fish-related storage
- Retail and wholesale fish marketing facilities

- Shipyards and boat launching facilities
- Navigation aids
- Basins and channels
- Shoreline structures necessary for erosion control purposes
- Waterfront dock and port facilities
- Uses that provide public access to coastal or inland waters
- Marine research and education

The following may be considered functionally water-dependent uses, with PB approval, as long as the proposed use does not adversely affect existing commercial fishing activities.

- Mixed uses that are compatible with the primary fisheries use
- Other uses that depend upon water to function
- Recreational fishing and boating facilities
- Industrial uses dependent upon water-borne transportation or requiring large volumes of cooling or processing water that cannot reasonably be located or operated at an inland site.
- Marinas
- Excursion vessels

The following are not considered functionally water-dependent uses:

- Recreational boat storage buildings
- Condos and other housing
- Restaurants
- Uses incompatible with commercial fishing activities

Definitions:

Working waterfront land - A parcel of land, or a portion thereof, abutting water to the head of tide or land located in the intertidal zone that is used primarily or used predominantly to provide access to or support the conduct of commercial fishing activities.

Support the conduct of commercial fishing activities means:

- A. To provide access to the water or the intertidal zone over waterfront property to persons directly engaged in commercial fishing activities.
- B. To conduct commercial business activities that provide goods or services that directly support commercial fishing activities.

Used predominantly means: used more than 90% for commercial fishing activity, allowing for limited uses for noncommercial or non-fishing activities if those activities are minor and purely incidental to a property's predominant use.

Used primarily means: used more than 50% for commercial fishing activity.

**Great pond** - any inland body of water which in a natural state has a surface area in excess of ten acres, and any inland body of water artificially formed or increased which has a surface area in excess of thirty (30) acres except for the purposes of this Ordinance, where the artificially formed or increased inland body of water is completely surrounded by land held by a single owner,

**Great pond classified GPA** - any great pond classified GPA, pursuant to 38 M.R.S.A. Article 4-A Section 465-A. This classification includes some, but not all impoundments of rivers that are defined as great ponds.

**Ground cover** – small plants, fallen leaves, needles and twigs, and the partially decayed organic matter of the forest floor.

**Hazard tree** - a tree with a structural defect, combination of defects, or disease resulting in a structural defect that under the normal range of environmental conditions at the site exhibits a high probability of failure and loss of a major structural component of the tree in a manner that will strike a target. A normal range of environmental conditions does not include meteorological anomalies, such as, but not limited to: hurricanes; hurricane-force winds; tornados; microbursts; or significant ice storm events. Hazard trees also include those trees that pose a serious and imminent risk to bank stability. A target is the area where personal injury or property damage could occur if the tree or a portion of the tree fails. Targets include roads, driveways, parking areas, structures, campsites, and any other developed area where people frequently gather and linger.

**Height of a structure** - the vertical distance between the mean original (prior to construction) grade at the downhill side of the structure and the highest point of the structure, excluding chimneys, steeples, antennas, and similar appurtenances that have no floor area.

**Home occupation** - an occupation or profession which is customarily conducted on or in a residential structure or property and which is 1) clearly incidental to and compatible with the residential use of the property and surrounding residential uses; and 2) which employs no more than two (2) persons other than family members residing in the home.

**Increase in nonconformity of a structure** - any change in a structure or property which causes further deviation from the dimensional standard(s) creating the nonconformity such as, but not limited to, reduction in water body, tributary stream or wetland setback distance, increase in lot coverage, or increase in height of a structure. Property changes or structure expansions which either meet the dimensional standard or which cause no further increase in the linear extent of nonconformance of the existing structure shall not be considered to increase nonconformity. For example, there is no increase in nonconformity with the setback requirement for water bodies, wetlands, or tributary streams if the expansion extends no further into the required setback area than does any portion of the existing nonconforming structure. Hence, a structure may be expanded laterally provided that the expansion extends no closer to the water body, tributary stream, or wetland than the closest portion of the existing structure from that water body, tributary stream, or wetland. Included in this allowance are expansions which in-fill irregularly shaped structures.

**Individual private campsite** - an area of land which is not associated with a campground, but which is developed for repeated camping by only one group not to exceed ten (10) individuals and which involves site improvements which may include but not be limited to a gravel pad, parking area, fire place, or tent platform.

**Industrial** - The assembling, fabrication, finishing, manufacturing, packaging or processing of goods, or the extraction of minerals.

**Institutional** – a non-profit or quasi-public use, or institution such as a church, library, public or private school, hospital, or municipally owned or operated building, structure or land used for public purposes.

**Lot area** - The area of land enclosed within the boundary lines of a lot, minus land below the normal high-water line of a water body or upland edge of a wetland and areas beneath roads serving more than two lots.

**Marina** - a business establishment having frontage on navigable water and, as its principal use, providing for hire offshore moorings or docking facilities for boats, and which may also provide accessory services such as boat and related sales, boat repair and construction, indoor and outdoor storage of boats and marine equipment, bait and tackle shops and marine fuel service facilities.

**Market value** - the estimated price a property will bring in the open market and under prevailing market conditions in a sale between a willing seller and a willing buyer, both conversant with the property and with prevailing general price levels.

**Mineral exploration** - hand sampling, test boring, or other methods of determining the nature or extent of mineral resources which create minimal disturbance to the land and which include reasonable measures to restore the land to its original condition.

**Mineral extraction** - any operation within any twelve (12) month period which removes more than one hundred (100) cubic yards of soil, topsoil, loam, sand, gravel, clay, rock, peat, or other like material from its natural location and to transport the product removed, away from the extraction site.

**Minimum lot width** - the closest distance between the side lot lines of a lot. When only two lot lines extend into the Shoreland zone, both lot lines shall be considered to be side lot lines.

**Multi-unit residential** - a residential structure containing three (3) or more residential dwelling units.

**Native** – indigenous to the local forests.

**Non-conforming condition** – non-conforming lot, structure or use which is allowed solely because it was in lawful existence at the time this Ordinance or subsequent amendment took effect.

**Non-conforming lot** - a single lot of record which, at the effective date of adoption or amendment of this Ordinance, does not meet the area, frontage, or width requirements of the district in which it is located.

**Non-conforming structure** - a structure which does not meet any one or more of the following dimensional requirements; setback, height, lot coverage or footprint, but which is allowed solely because it was in lawful existence at the time this Ordinance or subsequent amendments took effect.

**Non-conforming use** - use of buildings, structures, premises, land or parts thereof which is not allowed in the district in which it is situated, but which is allowed to remain solely because it was in lawful existence at the time this Ordinance or subsequent amendments took effect.

**Non-native invasive species of vegetation** - species of vegetation listed by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry as being invasive in Maine ecosystems and not native to Maine ecosystems.



**Normal high-water line (non-tidal waters)** - that line which is apparent from visible markings, changes in the character of soils due to prolonged action of the water or changes in vegetation, and which distinguishes between predominantly aquatic and predominantly terrestrial land. Areas contiguous with rivers and great ponds that support non-forested wetland vegetation and hydric soils and that are at the same or lower elevation as the water level of the river or great pond during the period of normal high-water are considered part of the river or great pond.

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**NOTE:** Adjacent to tidal waters, setbacks are measured from the upland edge of the “coastal wetland.”

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**Outlet stream** - any perennial or intermittent stream, as shown on the most recent highest resolution version of the national hydrography dataset available from the United States Geological Survey on the website of the United States Geological Survey or the national map that flows from a freshwater wetland.

**Person** - an individual, corporation, governmental agency, municipality, trust, estate, partnership, association, two or more individuals having a joint or common interest, or other legal entity.

**Piers, docks, wharves, bridges and other structures and uses** extending over or beyond the normal high-water line or within a wetland.

**Temporary:** Structures which remain in or over the water for less than seven (7) months in any period of twelve (12) consecutive months.

**Permanent:** Structures which remain in or over the water for seven (7) months or more in any period of twelve (12) consecutive months.

**Principal structure** - a structure other than one which is used for purposes wholly incidental or accessory to the use of another structure or use on the same lot.

**Principal use** - a use other than one which is wholly incidental or accessory to another use on the same lot.

**Public facility** - any facility, including, but not limited to, buildings, property, recreation areas, and roads, which are owned, leased, or otherwise operated, or funded by a governmental body or public entity.

**Recent floodplain soils** - the following soil series as described and identified by the National Cooperative Soil Survey:

· Fryburg	· Hadley	· Limerick	· Lovewell	· Medomak
· Ondawa	· Alluvial	· Cornish	· Charles	· Podunk
· Rumney	· Suncook	· Sunday	· Winoosko	

**Recreational facility** - a place designed and equipped for the conduct of sports, leisure time activities, and other customary and usual recreational activities, excluding boat launching facilities.

**Recreational vehicle** - a vehicle or an attachment to a vehicle designed to be towed, and designed for temporary sleeping or living quarters for one or more persons, and which may include a pick-up camper, travel trailer, tent trailer, camp trailer, and motor home. In order to be considered as a vehicle and not as a structure, the unit must remain with its tires on the ground, and must be registered with the State Division of Motor Vehicles.

**Replacement system** - a system intended to replace:

- 1.) an existing system which is either malfunctioning or being upgraded with no significant change of design flow or use of the structure, or
- 2.) any existing overboard wastewater discharge.

**Residential dwelling unit** - a room or group of rooms designed and equipped exclusively for use as permanent, seasonal, or temporary living quarters for only one family at a time, and containing cooking, sleeping and toilet facilities. The term shall include mobile homes and rental units that contain cooking, sleeping, and toilet facilities regardless of the time-period rented. Recreational vehicles are not residential dwelling units.

**Riprap** - rocks, irregularly shaped, and at least six (6) inches in diameter, used for erosion control and soil stabilization, typically used on ground slopes of two (2) units horizontal to one (1) unit vertical or less.

**River** - a free-flowing body of water including its associated floodplain wetlands from that point at which it provides drainage for a watershed of twenty five (25) square miles to its mouth.

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**NOTE:** The portion of a river that is subject to tidal action is a coastal wetland.

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**Road** - a route or track consisting of a bed of exposed mineral soil, gravel, asphalt, or other surfacing material constructed for or created by the repeated passage of motorized vehicles, excluding a driveway as defined.

**Salt marsh** - Areas of coastal wetland (most often along coastal bays) that support salt tolerant species, and where at average high tide during the growing season, the soil is irregularly inundated by tidal waters. The predominant species is saltmarsh cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*). More open areas often support widgeon grass, eelgrass, and Sago pondweed.

**Salt meadow** - Areas of a coastal wetland that support salt tolerant plant species bordering the landward side of salt marshes or open coastal water, where the soil is saturated during the growing season but which is rarely inundated by tidal water. Indigenous plant species include salt meadow cordgrass (*Spartina patens*) and black rush; common three-square occurs in fresher areas.

**Sapling** - a tree species that is less than two (2) inches in diameter at four and one half (4.5) feet above ground level.

**Seedling** - a young tree species that is less than four and one half (4.5) feet in height above ground level.

**Service drop** - any utility line extension which does not cross or run beneath any portion of a water body provided that:

- (1) in the case of electric service;
  - (a) the placement of wires and/or the installation of utility poles is located entirely upon the premises of the customer requesting service or upon a roadway right-of-way; and
  - (b) the total length of the extension is less than one thousand (1,000) feet.
- (2) in the case of telephone service;
  - (a) the extension, regardless of length, will be made by the installation of telephone wires to existing utility poles, or
  - (b) the extension requiring the installation of new utility poles or placement underground is less than one thousand (1,000) feet in length.

**Setback** - the nearest horizontal distance from the normal high-water line of a water body or tributary stream, or upland edge of a wetland, to the nearest part of a structure, road, parking space or other regulated object or area.

**Shore frontage** - the length of a lot bordering on a water body or wetland measured in a straight line between the intersections of the lot lines with the shoreline.

**Shoreland zone** - the land area located within two hundred and fifty (250) feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of any great pond or river; within 250 feet, horizontal distance, of the upland edge of a coastal wetland, including all areas affected by tidal action; within 250 feet of the upland edge of a freshwater wetland; or within seventy-five (75) feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of a stream.

**Shoreline** – the normal high-water line, or upland edge of a freshwater or coastal wetland.

**Storm-damaged tree** - a tree that has been uprooted, blown down, is lying on the ground, or that remains standing and is damaged beyond the point of recovery as the result of a storm event.

**Stream** - a free-flowing body of water from the outlet of a great pond or the confluence of two (2) perennial streams as depicted on the most recent, highest resolution version of the national hydrography dataset available from the United States Geological Survey on the website of the United States Geological Survey or the national map to the point where the stream becomes a river or where the stream meets the Shoreland zone of another water body or wetland. When a stream meets the Shoreland zone of a water body or wetland and a channel forms downstream of the water body or wetland as an outlet, that channel is also a stream.

**Structure** – anything temporarily or permanently located, built, constructed or erected for the support, shelter or enclosure of persons, animals, goods or property of any kind or anything constructed or erected on or in the ground. The term includes structures temporarily or permanently located, such as decks, patios, and satellite dishes. Structure does not include fences; poles and wiring and other aerial equipment normally associated with service drops, including guy wires and guy anchors; subsurface waste water disposal systems as defined in Title 30-A, section

4201, subsection 5; geothermal heat exchange wells as defined in Title 32, section 4700-E, subsection 3-C; or wells or water wells as defined in Title 32, section 4700-E, subsection 8.

**Substantial start** - completion of thirty (30) percent of a permitted structure or use measured as a percentage of estimated total cost.

**Subsurface sewage disposal system** – any system designed to dispose of waste or waste water on or beneath the surface of the earth; includes, but is not limited to: septic tanks; disposal fields; grandfathered cesspools; holding tanks; pretreatment filter, piping, or any other fixture, mechanism, or apparatus used for those purposes; does not include any discharge system licensed under 38 M.R.S.A. section 414, any surface waste water disposal system, or any municipal or quasi-municipal sewer or waste water treatment system..

**Sustained slope** - a change in elevation where the referenced percent grade is substantially maintained or exceeded throughout the measured area.

**Tidal waters** – all waters affected by tidal action during the highest annual tide.

**Timber harvesting** - the cutting and removal of timber for the primary purpose of selling or processing forest products. “Timber harvesting” does not include the cutting or removal of vegetation within the Shoreland zone when associated with any other land use activities. The cutting or removal of trees in the Shoreland zone on a lot that has less than two (2) acres within the Shoreland zone shall not be considered timber harvesting. Such cutting or removal of trees shall be regulated pursuant to Section 15 (P), *Clearing or Removal of Vegetation for Activities Other Than Timber Harvesting*.

**Tree** - a woody perennial plant with a well-defined trunk(s) at least two (2) inches in diameter at four and one half (4.5) feet above the ground, with a more or less definite crown, and reaching a height of at least ten (10) feet at maturity.

**Tributary stream** – means a channel between defined banks created by the action of surface water, which is characterized by the lack of terrestrial vegetation or by the presence of a bed, devoid of topsoil, containing waterborne deposits or exposed soil, parent material or bedrock; and which is connected hydrologically with other water bodies. “Tributary stream” does not include rills or gullies forming because of accelerated erosion in disturbed soils where the natural vegetation cover has been removed by human activity.

This definition does not include the term "stream" as defined elsewhere in this Ordinance, and only applies to that portion of the tributary stream located within the Shoreland zone of the receiving water body or wetland.

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**NOTE:** Water setback requirements apply to tributary streams within the Shoreland zone.

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**Upland edge of a wetland** - the boundary between upland and wetland. For purposes of a coastal wetland, this boundary is the line formed by the landward limits of the salt tolerant vegetation and/or the highest annual tide level, including all areas affected by tidal action. For purposes of a freshwater wetland, the upland edge is formed where the soils are not saturated for a duration sufficient to support wetland vegetation; or where the soils support the growth of wetland

vegetation, but such vegetation is dominated by woody stems that are six (6) meters (approximately twenty (20) feet) tall or taller.

**Vegetation** - all live trees, shrubs, and other plants including without limitation, trees both over and under 4 inches in diameter, measured at 4 1/2 feet above ground level.

**Velocity zone** - an area of special flood hazard extending from offshore to the inland limit of the primary frontal dune along an open coast and any other area subject to high velocity wave action from storms or seismic sources.

**Water body** - any great pond, river or stream.

**Water crossing** - any project extending from one bank to the opposite bank of a river, stream, tributary stream, or wetland whether under, through or over the water or wetland. Such projects include but may not be limited to roads, fords, bridges, culverts, water lines, sewer lines, and cables as well as maintenance work on these crossings. This definition includes crossings for timber harvesting equipment and related activities.

**Wetland** - a freshwater or coastal wetland.

**Woody Vegetation** - live trees or woody, non-herbaceous shrubs.

**Town of Bristol, Maine**  
*Amended 03/21/2018*

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STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 38 M.R.S.A. Section 438-A(5)

**AMENDED:**

March 1976 ▪ March 2, 1981 ▪ March 1983 ▪ March 1986 ▪ March 1988 ▪ March 1990 ▪ March 1991 ▪  
December 1991 ▪ March 1992 ▪ March 1983 ▪ March 1994 ▪ March 1999 ▪ March 2003 ▪ March 2008 ▪  
March 2009 ▪ March 2011 ▪ March 2014 ▪ March 2017 ▪ March 2018 ▪

**Approved by State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection:**

April 1992 ▪ January 1995 ▪ April 1999 ▪ March 2007 ▪ April 2008 ▪ May 2011 ▪ March 2015 ▪  
May 2017 ▪ May 2018 ▪

Given under our hands this Twenty First day of March A.D. 2018

/s/ Chad M. Hanna  
/s/ Harry M. Lowd  
/s/ Paul M. Yates  
Selectmen of Bristol