

2022 Annual Town Meeting: Article 18 – Ministerial Amendments to the Town’s General By-law.

General changes throughout the document:

1. By-law was made uniform to read as “By-law”. Throughout the document it read as “bylaw”, “Bylaw”, By-Law” and By-law”.
2. Reference to any Massachusetts General Laws were made uniform to read as “G.L. c.##, §##”. Similar to “By-law”, references to MGL were printed in various formats.
3. Sections and subsections of the By-law Articles are now presented in a uniform order and numbering system. In the most current document, for example, some By-law Articles use Arabic numbering and others use Roman numerals while others use alpha subsections and others use numbers for the sub-sections.
4. References to numbers in the body of the By-laws were made uniform, such as any number 10 and above shows as numeric and any number referenced below ten is spelled out and the presenting of dollar amounts were made uniform. (I have not yet had the opportunity to ensure this was done in every case, but can reread again before the end of the day.)
5. Any reference to “chairman” was changed to “chair” and any reference to “secretary” of a committee was changed to “clerk”.
6. This update uniformly formats all “Definition” sections for all the By-law Articles.

Specific changes:

- Article II. Powers and Duties of Town Officers

Section 3. “forty-eight hours” was replaced with “two business days”.

Section 5. Two minor grammatical corrections.

Section 8. One minor grammatical correction.

Section 13.4 irrelevant/incorrect references to G.L.s were deleted.

Section 16. Transitional language for Memorial Day Committee member appointments was eliminated as it is no longer relevant, as well as unintentional/irrelevant language erroneously copied from the warrant article was eliminated.

- Article III. Police Regulations:

Section 12.

This sentence clause was corrected from:

“Town may also, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 85, section 11C, enforce by non-criminal ticketing violations of this section and of any regulations adopted hereunder.”

To this:

“Town may also, pursuant to G.L. c. 85, §11E, enforce violations of this section and of any regulations adopted hereunder by non-criminal disposition in accordance with G.L. c.40, §21D.”

Section 13. “...or his designee...” was changed to “...the Chief’s designee...”

- Article VIII Zoning By-Law:

The last revision is shown effective as of May 2017. However, it was last revised as of May 2021. So this date was updated.

(OVER)

- Article IX By-laws Regulating Billboards, Signs or Other Advertising Devices

The language “(Not available in print for distribution)” is changed to “(See Section VII, Zoning By-law, Printed Separately)”

- Article XII Employees Vacation

This Article was deleted as it is outdated/incorrect. Most of the union contracts have different stipulations due to collective bargaining.

- Article XVI (Accumulated Sick Leave)

This Article was deleted as it is outdated/incorrect. Most of the union contracts have different stipulations due to collective bargaining.

- Article XX. Dog Regulations

Section 2. Language regarding dogs being six months or older was made clearer.

Sections 4 and 7. Unnecessary language defining service dogs was deleted and replaced with “service dog”

Sections 7.3.3 and 7.3.4. Clarifies dogs can be unleashed if in a vehicle.

Section 7.3.7. “hunting” was clarified as “lawful hunting”.

- Article XXII Permanent Building Committee

Section 3. Updates the Massachusetts bidding threshold from \$25,000 to the current amount of \$50,000.

- Article XXIV Crescent Street Historic District:

Section 3. Substitutes “attached to” with “on file with the Town Clerk...”

- Article XXVII Stormwater and Erosion Control:

Section 2. In the definition for Massachusetts Stormwater Management Standards the following language was added to the citing of the Wetlands Protection and Massachusetts Clean Waters Acts: “as these laws may be amended from time to time.”

Section 3. Replacing the words “...and the Home Rule statutes...” with “...Article LXXXIX, and the Home Rule Procedures Act, G.L. c. 43B, et seq.,...”

- Article XXIX Community Preservation Committee:

Section 1. Second paragraph: Transitional language for CPC member appointments was eliminated as it is no longer relevant.

Section 3. Open Meeting Law was cited incorrectly under Mass General Law. It’s listed as G.L. c. 39, section 23B when it should be G.L. c.30A, §§18-25

Throughout this Article, community preservation committee was capitalized.

- Article XXXII Stretch Energy Code:

Section 1. Correcting the citing for 780 CMR and the Appendix of the State Building Code.

- Article XXXIV Department Revolving Fund:

The last three paragraphs were deleted as, due to the Massachusetts Modernization Act, this By-law Article no longer needs to be voted on an annual basis for maintaining funds. The only times it needs to be voted are when changes are to be made.