

ZONING BYLAWS OF THE VILLAGE OF OLD BENNINGTON

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ARTICLE I - PURPOSE

SECTION 10 - PURPOSE

The purpose of the Zoning Bylaws is to protect the Village's historical and cultural sites; to preserve the existing appearance of the Village as a community predominantly composed of older, single-family dwellings of eighteenth and nineteenth century design; to ensure that any future development complies with Design Review provisions; to preserve the existing low population density and ample open space; to limit commercial activity to the few existing commercial uses; to provide adequate public facilities for present and future growth; to provide for public safety, well-being and convenience, and to channel future development towards these purposes.

ARTICLE II - DEFINITIONS

SECTION 20 - DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of these bylaws, the following terms or words shall have the meaning stated below:

ABUTTING NEIGHBORS - Neighbors sharing a common property line, and neighbors within a direct line of sight, which may be separated by a road.

ACCESSORY STRUCTURES - Any structure which is subordinate to, and the use of which is incidental and accessory to, the use of and existing principal structure on the same lot, or an adjoining lot under the same ownership. A detached accessory structure shall be one that is not attached to the principal structure by any covered porch, breezeway, or other roofed structure.

ACCESSORY USE - A use customarily incidental and subordinate to a principal use on the same lot. For the purposes of this bylaw, accessory uses shall include, but not be limited to garages, terraces and patios, swimming pools, ponds, tennis courts, storage sheds, gazebos, stables, energy-producing installations, and greenhouses.

ALTERATIONS – Any change to a structure because of construction, maintenance or other means, including addition or replacement of exterior doors, windows, porches, decks, siding, architectural details, energy and communications installations, lighting or location of TV or radio sending or receiving devices.

BED & BREAKFAST – A small lodging establishment, usually in an owner-occupied residence, that offers overnight accommodations and breakfast.

BOARDING HOUSE – A house in which people pay to live as guests with the family who owns it, often for an extended period of time.

BUILDING – A roofed structure intended to house persons, animals, or materials including any attached porches, decks, etc. which enclose or cover ground area on a lot.

BUILDING HEIGHT - The vertical distance from the finished grade at the primary entrance to the structure to the highest point of the roof of the structure.

BUILDING LINE - A line parallel to a street at a distance equal to the required front yard, or at a greater distance when otherwise established by the municipality or by private covenant.

CONDITIONAL USE - A use of property otherwise prohibited by zoning bylaws but permitted by the Village including, but not limited to, churches, schools, museums, public monuments, and select commercial ventures.

COVERAGE AREA - The ground area covered, or enclosed by a building, other roofed entities, any adjacent patios and attached decks, covered or uncovered.

DECK - An open platform used as an outdoor seating area generally made of wood.

DEVELOPMENT ENVELOPE - A specific area delineated on a lot within which all structures, accessory structures, accessory use structures, and other designated site improvements (e.g., parking area) are to be located, and outside of which no structures, accessory structures, accessory use structures, are to be located. The Commission may, as a condition(s) of plat approval, limit other site development activities, such as cutting trees, outside of the development envelope.

DISTRICT- A district established by the provisions of Section 30 of this bylaw.

DWELLING, MULTI-FAMILY – A detached residential structure, consisting of three or more complete residential units, each unit of which is configured for occupancy by one family, and each unit of which is occupied solely by:

1. The property owner and his or her family; OR
2. A lessee and his or her family, subject to the provisions of **SECTION 50** of this Bylaw.
3. Persons employed by the property owner or lessee of one of the residential units, who fulfill one or more needs of family members, such as personal caregivers or property caretakers.

Such use shall not include bed and breakfast, boarding house, or rooming house use.

DWELLING, ONE-FAMILY – A detached residential structure occupied solely by:

1. The property owner and his or her family; OR
2. A lessee and his or her family, subject to the provisions of **SECTION 50** of this Bylaw.
3. Persons employed by the property owner or lessee of one of the residential units, who fulfill one or more needs of family members, such as personal caregivers or property caretakers.

Such use shall not include bed and breakfast use, boarding house or rooming house use.

DWELLING, TWO-FAMILY – A detached residential structure consisting of two complete residential units, each unit of which is configured for occupancy by one family, and each unit of which is occupied solely by:

1. The property owner and his or her family; OR
2. A lessee and his or her family, subject to the provisions of **SECTION 50** of this bylaw.
3. Persons employed by the property owner or lessee of one of the residential units, who fulfill one or more needs of family members, such as personal caregivers or property caretakers.

Such use shall not include bed and breakfast use, boarding house or rooming house use.

DWELLING UNIT - A dwelling or part of a dwelling occupied or intended to be occupied by one family for residential purposes, containing full housekeeping facilities for the exclusive use of the occupants. A house trailer or mobile home shall not be deemed to be a dwelling unit.

DWELLING UNIT, ACCESSORY – An efficiency or one bedroom dwelling unit located within, or appurtenant to, an owner-occupied one-family dwelling, that is clearly subordinate to the one-family dwelling, which has facilities and provisions for independent living, including sleeping, food preparation, and sanitation; provided that the property has sufficient wastewater capacity, and that the unit does not exceed 30 percent of the total habitable floor area of the one-family dwelling, but is at least 400 square feet in floor area.

ERECTION OF A STRUCTURE - Any construction designed to create a structure or to modify an existing edifice so that it becomes a structure.

FAMILY - Any number of individuals related by blood, marriage or adoption, living together as a single housekeeping unit provided that a group of not more than three persons keeping house together, but none related by blood or marriage to each other, may be considered a family.

FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME OR FACILITY - A home or facility where the owner or operator is licensed or registered by the State for childcare.

HOME OCCUPATION - A business customarily conducted in a minor portion of a dwelling, and not changing the residential character and appearance of the dwelling.

INN - A structure providing lodging for persons with or without meals, and intended for the accommodation of transients, and so designated that normal ingress and egress are controlled from a central point. An inn is not a dwelling unit.

INOPERATIVE MOTOR VEHICLE - An automobile, motorcycle, truck, or other such vehicle, or parts of said vehicle, which is mechanically incapable of self-propelled motion or is not currently registered.

LAND DEVELOPMENT – The division of a parcel into two or more parcels, the construction, reconstruction, conversion, structural alteration, relocation or enlargement of any building or other structure, or of any mining, excavation or landfill, and any change in the use of any building or other structure, or land, or extension of use of land.

LOT - A plot or parcel of land occupied or capable of being occupied by one principal structure and any accessory structures or uses customarily incident to it, including such open spaces as are required by the bylaw. In the case of multiple dwellings and public, institutional, commercial or agricultural structures, a group of structures on the same or contiguous premises all under the same ownership, may be considered as occupying the same lot.

LOT, CORNER - A lot at the intersection of and abutting on, two or more streets where the angle of intersection is not more than 135 degrees or where the intersection is rounded by a curve having a radius of less than one hundred feet.

LOT COVERAGE - The ratio of the aggregate coverage area to the total area of the lot.

LOT, INTERIOR - A lot other than a corner or through lot.

LOT, THROUGH - A lot, other than a corner lot, which abuts two or more streets which do not intersect at the lot.

LOT LINE - The established division line between lots or between a lot and a street. (See Section 53 Lot Line (Yard) Setback Requirements).

MOBILE HOME – Any vehicle or object on wheels, with or without motor power of its own, and which is so designed and constructed, or added to so as to permit the use and occupancy thereof for human habitation whether resting on wheels, jacks or other foundation.

NEW CONSTRUCTION – Is:

- The initial erection or placement of any structure on a lot, or
- Relocation of a structure to another portion of the same lot, or to another lot, or
- Additions to structures
- Modifications to any of the above are alterations, as defined in Section 20.

NEW OR CHANGED USE - Any proposed use that differs from the present use of a lot.

NONCONFORMING STRUCTURE - A structure, the location, size, height or construction of which does not conform to all the applicable provisions of this bylaw, but was legally existing at the effective date hereof, or of any pertinent amendment hereto.

NONCONFORMING USE - A use of land, structure, or premises which is not a use permitted by the provisions of this bylaw for the district in which such land, structure or premises are situated, but which was legally existing at the effective date thereof, or any pertinent amendment hereto.

OPEN LAND - Since present zoning laws require at least 80,000 square feet for development, open land is defined as a parcel within Village borders of 160,000 square feet or more with one dwelling, or an undeveloped parcel of 80,000 square feet or more.

ORNAMENTATION – Objects used to decorate, embellish or adorn the exterior of a residence, garden or structure.

PERSON - An individual, a corporation, a partnership, a limited liability company, an association and any other incorporated or unincorporated organization or group.

PREMISES - A lot as defined in this section.

PRINCIPAL STRUCTURE - The structure on the lot containing the major permitted use of the lot.

PUBLIC SEWER - A system of sanitary sewers owned and operated by a municipality or other governmental unit.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY - A system of water supply owned and operated by a municipality or other governmental unit or by a corporation authorized and regulated by the State of Vermont for purposes of public water supply.

RENTAL PROPERTY – An entire one-family dwelling, an accessory dwelling unit located within or appurtenant to an owner occupied one-family dwelling, or one or more complete units in either a two-family or multi-family dwelling, that may be leased subject to the provisions of **SECTION 50** of this Bylaw.

REPAIR - Work required to restore a structure or area to its condition prior to damage or injury, so as to render the repaired structure or area indistinguishable from its condition and appearance prior to the damage or injury. Consult the Administrative Officer to determine whether a zoning permit is required due to the nature or extent of the work contemplated. (Also see “Replacement in Kind”)

REPLACEMENT IN KIND – Correction of a defect or damage to a structure or area, solely by the addition, replacement or substitution of the same materials, so as to render the structure or area indistinguishable from its condition and appearance prior to occurrence of the defect or damage. Consult the Administrative Officer to determine whether a zoning permit is required due to the nature or extent of the work contemplated. (Also see “Repair”)

ROOMING HOUSE – A place where a person lives, and shares a kitchen and bathroom with others.

SIGN – An object, made of any material, including, but not limited to, garden or other statuary, ornamentation, objects d’art, or bearing symbols, lettering, or logos; freestanding, or located on any surface, the purpose of which is to call attention to, advertise or decorate a place, building, structure, product, land use, service or person from without the building.

STREET - A town or state highway, a street of an incorporated Village or a street shown on a subdivision plan approved by the planning commission. The word "street" shall include the entire right-of-way thereof. If a boundary of the right-of-way has not been surveyed and so recorded, and is not marked by fence line or other physical feature, the boundary shall be deemed to be 25 feet from the center of the traveled way.

STREET LINE - The line dividing the street and the lot.

STRUCTURE - An assembly of materials for occupancy or use, including but not limited to a building, mobile home or trailer, billboard, sign, wall, fence, driveway (paved or unpaved), pond, pool, energy and communications installations, or tennis court.

SUBDIVISION – The division of a single parcel of property into two or more parcels, suitable for development in accordance with pertinent regulations or ordinances.

SUBSTANTIAL ALTERATION OF A STRUCTURE - Any modification of an existing structure designed to alter its height, change the distance of its outside walls to any lot line, increase the building coverage or change the architectural style of the structure.

TAG SALE - The sale of used articles including household effects, clothing, furnishings, and other such items that belong to residents.

YARD, REQUIRED FRONT, REAR OR SIDE - So much of the front, rear or side yard as required by the applicable provisions of this bylaw.

YARD, SIDE - An open space between a structure and a side lot line, extending the full length of the lot.

YARDS, DEPTH OR WIDTH OF - The depth of front and rear yards and the width of side yards shall be measured perpendicular to the perspective lot lines.

ARTICLE III - CREATION OF DISTRICT

SECTION 30 - CREATION OF DISTRICT

There shall be only one zoning district in the Village of Old Bennington, which is designated as a rural residential district, with a minimal lot size of 80,000 square feet.

SECTION 31 - ZONING MAP

The boundaries of said district are set forth on the Zoning Map, which map is hereby declared to be part of this bylaw, a copy of which is appended hereto

SECTION 32 - ZONING OF STREETS

The zoning district shall include the beds of streets lying within the Village boundaries.

SECTION 33 - LAND UNDER WATER

The zoning district shall include any land under streams, wetlands or ponds lying within it.

ARTICLE IV - GENERAL REGULATIONS

SECTION 40 - COMPLIANCE WITH BYLAWS

No structure or part hereof shall be constructed, reconstructed, extended, enlarged, moved or altered, except in conformity with this bylaw.

SECTION 41 - CREATION OF SUBSTANDARD LOTS

No lot shall be created or diminished in size nor shall any open space be reduced, except in strict conformity with Section 53 of these bylaws.

SECTION 42 - PRE-EXISTING SUBSTANDARD LOTS

Any lot which has an area less than the required minimum lot size specified in Section 53 of these bylaws, may be developed for purposes permitted by Article V of these bylaws, as set forth by 24 VSA 4406(1) provided that:

- A. Said lot has remained in separate and distinct ownership from adjoining lots since a time before the adoption of the original bylaws in 1973; and
- B. Said lot has a minimum lot size of 5,000 square feet in area; and
- C. Said lot has a minimum width of forty feet.
- D. If a pre-existing substandard lot subsequently comes under common ownership with one or more contiguous lots, the nonconforming lot shall be deemed merged with the contiguous lot. However, the nonconforming lot shall not be deemed merged and may be separately conveyed if all of the following apply:
 - 1. The lots are conveyed in their preexisting, nonconforming configuration;
 - 2. Each lot was developed with a water supply and wastewater disposal system prior to the adoption of the original bylaws in 1973;
 - 3. At the time of transfer, each water supply and wastewater system is functioning in an acceptable manner;
 - 4. The deeds of conveyance create appropriate easements on both lots for replacement of one or more wastewater systems, potable water systems, or both, in case there is a failed system or failed supply as defined in 10 V.S.A. Chapter 64.

SECTION 43 – ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL DWELLING UNITS ON A LOT

If more than one principal dwelling is to be placed on any lot, such additional dwelling(s) shall be placed so that each dwelling, and accessories to each, could be set off as a separate lot, with separate electric, water and septic utilities, and shall conform to the applicable dimensional requirements of these bylaws. No such structures shall be sold into separate ownership unless a valid subdivision permit is obtained from the Planning Commission.

SECTION 44 - ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

An accessory dwelling unit may be located either within a one-family dwelling, or in a structure appurtenant to an owner occupied single-family dwelling. Such accessory dwelling unit shall be an efficiency or one bedroom apartment that is clearly subordinate to a single-family dwelling, and has facilities and provisions for independent living, including sleeping, food preparation, and sanitation.

- A. **Accessory dwelling units within a one-family dwelling:** An accessory dwelling unit, located within a one-family dwelling, is permitted as a use subordinate to the one-family dwelling, provided such accessory dwelling unit meets all applicable setback, coverage, wastewater and parking requirements, does not exceed 30 percent of the total habitable floor area of the one-family dwelling, but is at least 400 square feet in floor area.
- B. **Accessory dwelling units in a structure appurtenant to a one-family dwelling:** A dwelling unit appurtenant to, but not located within, a one-family dwelling shall meet all of the requirements of subsections, A and B herein.

Conditional Use review, pursuant to Section 86 of this Bylaw, is required if creation of the accessory dwelling unit involves:

1. The construction of a new accessory structure,
2. An increase in the height or floor area of any existing structure, or
3. An increase in the dimension of a parking area,

SECTION 45 - REQUIRED STREET FRONTAGE

Land development will be permitted only on lots which have a front lot line of at least one hundred fifty (150) feet in length, or with approval of the Planning Commission, have access to such a street by a permanent easement or right-of-way not less than twenty feet wide.

SECTION 46 – LIMITATIONS ON MUNICIPAL LAWS

In accordance with Section 4413 of the Vermont Municipal and Regional Planning and Development Act, Title 24 V.S.A. Chapter 117, the following uses may be regulated only with respect to location, size, height, building bulk, yards, courts, setbacks, density of buildings, off-street parking, loading facilities, traffic, noise, lighting, landscaping and screening requirements, and only to the extent that regulations do not have the effect of interfering with the intended use:

1. State or community-owned and operated institutions and facilities
2. Public and private schools and other educational institutions certified by the state department of education.
3. Churches and places of worship, convents and parish houses.
4. Public and private hospitals.
5. Regional solid waste management facilities certified under 10 V.S.A. Chapter 159.
6. Hazardous waste management facilities for which a notice to construct has been received pursuant to 30 V.S.A. 6606(a).
7. Public utility and generating plants and transmission facilities regulated under 30 V.S.A. 248.
8. Accepted agricultural and silvicultural practices, including the construction of farm structures, as those practices are defined by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, or the Commissioner of Forests, parks and Recreation, respectively, under subsections 1021(f) and 1259(f) of Title 10, and Section 4810 of Title 6.

SECTION 47 – REFERRAL TO STATE DEPARTMENTS

No zoning permit for land development of the following types, located within the following designated areas, may be granted by any municipality prior to the expiration of a period of 30 days following the submission of a report to the State agency designated in each case, describing the proposed use, the location requested, and an evaluation of the effect of such proposed use on the plan of the municipality, and on the regional plan, if any:

- A. Department of Water Resources: any of the following uses or activities affecting ground or surface water resources:

1. Any area designated as a flood plain or wetland.
 2. The damming of streams, so as to form an impounding area of five acres or more for reservoir or recreational purposes.
 3. The drilling of wells deeper than 50 feet or with a potential yield greater than 25,000 gallons per day, except that this shall not apply to a well drilled by the owner of a farm or residence for his own use, or the use of the farm.
- B. Fish and Wildlife Department: Game lands and stream bank area owned or leased by the State
- C. Vermont Agency of Transportation: Airports
- D. Forests and Parks Departments:
1. Ski areas with lifts or other equipment other than tows, with a total capacity of more than 500 persons per hour.
 2. Camps with accommodations for more than 50 persons.
 3. Marinas with accommodations for 20 or more boats with lengths in excess of 20 feet.
 4. Public beaches or lands within 1000 feet thereof.
 5. Natural areas, as defined in 10 V.S.A. Section 1309.
- E. Highway Department: Any use within 500 feet of the intersection of any entrance or exit ramp providing access to a limited access highway.

ARTICLE V -RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT

SECTION 50 - PERMITTED USES

The following uses are permitted and no other:

- A. One family dwellings
- B. Accessory structures to one-family dwellings and accessory dwelling units
- C. Rental Properties, subject to the following:
 1. The Village Plan highlights our unique character as a small, quiet, peaceful, historic village. It underscores the need to protect that unique character by working to minimize the impact of excessive traffic and by effectively managing future growth and development.
 2. Short-term residential rentals, or rentals of partial dwelling units, may be associated with increased noise disturbances in the neighborhood, significantly increased vehicular traffic, excessive parking of vehicles on residential lots in the historic district, and other land-use impacts not typically associated with longer term rentals of entire residential units. Therefore, the following are required:
 - a. Documentary evidence of a rental term of three months or longer.
 - b. Any property rental must include one or more entire dwelling units.

- D. Applications for rentals that do not meet the term requirements of paragraph “C”: above, may be made, by letter, to the Old Bennington Planning Commission. Such applications will be considered on their respective merits.
- E. Customary home occupations subject to the following provisions:
1. Seventy (70%) percent of the gross floor area of the dwelling, exclusive of the basement or cellar, must remain exclusively in residential use; and
 2. All activities associated with the home occupation must be carried on by residents of the premises, with not more than one employee or associate who is not a resident therein; and
 3. No trading in merchandise may be carried on; and
 4. No sign or other outward evidence of the occupation may be displayed on the premises; and
 5. No occupation shall be carried on which causes more than one automobile of customers or clients to be parked on the premises at a time; and
 6. Adequate off-street parking must be provided; and
 7. Physical alterations in conjunction with the home occupation shall not change the exterior appearance of the dwelling and shall meet the requirements of the design review provisions of this bylaw; and
 8. No overnight lodging of guests for payment shall be permitted, except under emergency conditions when commercial accommodation is not available
 9. A site plan must be prepared and approved by the Planning Commission, at or after a public hearing, after public notice.
- F. A family childcare home or facility serving six or fewer children. A family childcare home or facility serving no more than six full-time children and four part-time children, as defined in 33 V.S.A. 4902(3)(A) is permitted, but requires site plan approval pursuant to this bylaw.
- G. A residential care home or group home operated under state licensing or registration, serving not more than eight persons who have a handicap or disability as defined in 9 V.S.A. Section 4501, except that no such home shall be permitted if located within 1,000 feet of another such existing or permitted home.
- H. Permitted Special Events. Funerals and weddings held at Old First Church which are coordinated with the Police Commissioner are permitted. Other special events which could pose a traffic problem or result in excessive noise require a permit (See Section 50(I)).
- I. Other Special Events. A special event is any activity which may result in traffic congestion or unsafe traffic conditions on the roads, along the sidewalks, and in public areas or a disturbance of the quiet enjoyment by residents in the Village.
1. Special Events approved by the State and scheduled to be held on State property must be approved by the Administrative Officer. Requests for approval must be submitted to the Administrative Officer immediately following State approval of the calendar of seasonal events or a minimum of 3 weeks prior to the first event,

whichever is earlier. Requests shall include the dates and a detailed description of each event, including among other things, likely volume of cars and people, the name of the sponsoring entity, and steps the sponsoring entity plans to take to ameliorate any negative impact on the community of atypical traffic/parking and noise.

The State approved list may be subject to provisions individually or collectively. The provisions may include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. Monument personnel must notify the Police Commissioner upon any approval and abide by any requirements imposed by the Commissioner for the purpose of public safety and traffic control on public roads.
- b. Monument personnel or the sponsor shall post traffic control signs approved by the Road and Police Commissioners on Monument property and take other measures specified in the approval.
- c. A requirement to return all property, public and private, to the condition it was in prior to the event as soon as possible to preclude an ongoing hazard or public eyesore. Sponsor is responsible for repairing all damage to Village property resulting from the event.
- d. Public notice to residents likely to be affected by the event, as determined by the Administrative Officer, at least 2 weeks prior to the event. Such notice shall include a schedule and the approximate time of any, planned disturbance such as cannon or musket fire, outdoor music, etc. that could result in excessive noise.

2. Special Events held at the Old First Church Barn.

- a. The Old First Church secretary shall notify the Administrative Officer upon receipt of all requests to utilize the Old First Church Barn for a special event to determine if a permit is necessary. If a permit is required, requests consistent with (1)(a) above shall be submitted at least one week in advance of the event.
- b. Provisions (1)(a)-(d) may apply, along with other possible restrictions.

3. Tag sales or auctions are permitted in any dwelling or accessory structure when conducted by the occupant. Prior to the sale, a permit shall be obtained from the Administrative Officer. Such sales are subject to the following provisions:

- a. Articles offered for sale must be displayed within the dwelling, an accessory building, or a tent erected for the period of the sale.
- b. Sales shall not exceed three days in duration.
- c. One on-premise sign is permitted. Such sign will not exceed six square feet in area including both sides, and is to be removed immediately upon the conclusion of the sale. No off-premise signs shall be displayed.

- d. A deputy sheriff or parking attendant shall supervise parking. For an auction, a deputy sheriff is mandatory.
- e. Merchandise to be sold in such sales must meet one of the following
 - i. Is owned by a resident who is moving out of the dwelling within sixty days thereafter, or
 - ii. Was owned previously by a resident who is recently deceased, or
 - iii. Is owned by a resident who has not conducted such a sale with in the last three years.

Notwithstanding the above, any nonprofit eleemosynary organization may hold a tag sale for not more than three consecutive days at the Old First Church barn located on Monument Circle. Prior to the sale, permission must be obtained from the Old First Church, as well as a permit from the Administrative Officer. The provisions of Section I(3)(d) above apply to these sales.

- 4. All other special events not expressly exempt in these bylaws that may result in noticeable on-street parking, the erection of a sizable tent or temporary shelters similar in purpose to a tent, or excessive noise, may require a permit. The Village Administrative Officer will determine if a permit is necessary. If so, conditions may apply.

SECTION 51 – CONDITIONAL USES

The following may be permitted as conditional uses in conformity with the provisions of Section 86 of this bylaw:

- A. Two-family dwellings and multifamily dwellings provided the following conditions are met:
 - 1. The dwelling shall be at least twenty-five years old; and
 - 2. The conversion shall be made without major changes to the exterior of the dwelling, and shall comply with the design review provisions of this bylaw; and
 - 3. The dwelling shall contain at least 1600 square feet for a two-family dwelling and 2200 square feet for a multifamily dwelling, exclusive of additions made within two years of the application; and
 - 4. One dwelling unit in each such two-family or multifamily dwelling shall have a floor area of at least 1000 square feet. Each additional dwelling unit shall have a floor area of at least 400 square feet.
 - 5. Each dwelling unit shall be connected to the sanitary sewer system or conform to the sanitary code, if any; and
 - 6. Adequate off-street parking shall be provided for all dwelling units; and
 - 7. No signs shall be erected advertising the dwelling in any way; and
 - 8. At least one of the dwelling units shall be occupied by the owner, or the owner’s “on-site” manager.
- B. Cultural, religious or eleemosynary institutions operated by a government unit, non-profit corporation, foundation, or community association under the following conditions:

1. All structures shall conform to the dimensional requirements set forth in Section 53; and
 2. Maximum building height shall be 40 feet; and
 3. Off-street parking shall be provided as required by Section 55; and
 4. Landscaping and fencing shall be furnished to screen the parking areas, and beautify the structures, as required by the Planning Commission; and
 5. The total square-foot area of signs shall not exceed 25 square feet.
- C. Exterior lighting of public monuments shall be permitted, provided that the Zoning Board of Adjustment finds that the following conditions are met:
1. The lighting utilizes only white light.
 2. The lighting lights as much of the monument as is feasible while adhering to the aesthetic goals and limited light intensity set forth below.
 3. The lighting is limited in intensity so as to minimize glare and light pollution, not appear excessive when considered in the context of its surrounds, and in no event shall the illumination exceed .01 foot-candle from a distance of 100 feet from the public monument and six feet above the ground.
 4. Utilize below ground equipment and fixed light sources to minimize safety risks and be physically and aesthetically unobtrusive.
 5. For purposes of this section, “public monuments” means structures that can be entered and excludes statues, fountains, and places of commerce.

SECTION 52 – ACCESSORY USES

- A. Accessory uses, including swimming pools, ponds, telecommunications, energy-producing installations, tennis courts, and other structures, incidental to a permitted use and structure, may be permitted, provided all dimensional and design review requirements are satisfied. Property line setbacks for private and shared driveways, as well as the distance between a private or shared driveway, and the residence, are design review matters, for Planning Commission determination.
- B. Uses and structures, including swimming pools, ponds, telecommunications, energy-producing installations, tennis courts, and other structures, which are accessory to any conditional use in the Village, are permitted only when applied for and granted as part of the conditional use. Similarly, in such matters, property line setbacks for private and shared driveways, as well as the distance between a private or shared driveway, and the residence, are design review matters, for Planning Commission determination.

SECTION 53 – DIMENSIONAL AND LOT LINE (YARD) SETBACK REQUIREMENTS

Minimum Lot Size in square feet:	80,000
Lot Width	150’
Front Yard Setback	25’

Side Yard Setback	25'
Rear Yard Setback	25'
Lot Coverage	5%
Maximum Building Height	30' (cf. Section 20 for Definition of Building Height)

The size of any addition to an existing dwelling must be in reasonable proportion to the size of that dwelling, but shall not exceed 30% of the square footage of the original (not necessarily the existing) dwelling.

The height limitation set forth in Section 51 (B)(1) for certain conditional uses, and herein for other uses, shall not apply to spires, cupolas, chimneys or similar parts of a structure not used for human occupancy, but shall be in reasonable proportion to the structure on which they are located, as determined in the design review process.

Flagpoles, radio or television aerials, satellite dishes, energy producing installations (wind or solar) shall not exceed the height limitation. In addition, all installations shall not compromise the aesthetic beauty of the Village or neighboring owners' views. Please consult the Administrative Officer for guidance and permit needs for any installation.

SECTION 54 – SIGNS, ORNAMENTATION, ILLUMINATION, AND LANDSCAPING

- A. SIGNS:** Permitted signs shall include only signs showing the house number and name of the occupant or building; signs telling the original owner and date of construction. Other signs are subject to design review and the following:
1. Signs advertising apartments for rent (see Section 51(A)), or vehicles for sale or rent, or tag sales and auctions (see Section 50(I)), or signs advertising customary home occupations (see Section 50(C)).
 2. Signs of conditional uses, operated by cultural, religious and eleemosynary institution, are limited to 25 square feet in size (see Section 51(B)).
 3. Non-conforming signs shall not be expanded in size or number or changed in shape, color, design or location, without approval of the Zoning Board of Adjustment pursuant to Section 60 of these bylaws.
 4. Certain off-premises signs, temporary or permanent, normally placed in the highway right-of-way or on public property, may be permitted subject to regulations of the Village Trustees adopted October 7, 1986. Such signs require a permit from the Zoning Administrator.
 5. General regulations applicable to all signs unless otherwise stated herein:
 - a. Signs shall be limited to six (6) square feet in size which includes both sides.
 - b. Signs shall not be illuminated. Reflective materials or paint shall not be used to increase reflection or visibility.
 - c. Free standing signs and their associate support structures shall be installed at least three (3) feet from the inner edge of sidewalks; where sidewalks do

not exist, the setback shall be at least ten (10) feet from the traveled way or edge of pavement of the street or highway. Supports and frames should be minimal and unobtrusive.

- B. ORNAMENTATION:** Installation of garden or other premises ornamentation (statuary, fountains, etc.), without a zoning permit, is authorized only if the feature is not visible from adjacent properties, rights-of-way, or roads.

Installation of garden or other premises ornamentation, if visible from adjacent properties, rights-of-way or roads, shall be subject to design review by the Planning Commission, and permitted only if it is determined that such proposed installation is consistent with the character of the Village in design, size and scale.

- C. ILLUMINATION:** Except as specifically authorized herein, exterior lighting shall not be used to illuminate structures or parts of structures (as defined in 24 V.S.A. Section 4303), nor signs, lawns, lawn ornaments, shrubbery, driveways, or walkways for the purpose of (1) drawing attention, or (2) to deter theft.

1. Lamp posts installed on private property are subject to design review by the Planning Commission, and shall not exceed seven feet in height, unless the Commission determines that a taller installation is appropriate as being in proportion to, and consistent with, the scale of the residence.
2. This provision shall not prevent the use of porch lights, entrance lights, small and dim lights marking the edges of driveways or walks, municipal streetlights, seasonal holiday decorations or pre-existing nonconforming lighting.
3. Illuminated seasonal decorations may be installed for a total period of six weeks, and shall be removed no more than two weeks after the holiday.
4. Exterior, motion activated lighting in excess of 25 watts or equivalent lumens is prohibited if visible from the street or by adjacent neighbors.
5. Exterior lighting of structures or parts thereof, where such lighting constitutes a - legally permitted non-conforming use, shall not be changed, moved, increased in intensity or hours of use, or number of lights, changed in color of light, or changed in design or location, without the approval of the Zoning Board of Adjustment pursuant to Section 60 of these bylaws.

- D. LANDSCAPING:** Residents shall maintain their property consistent with the general aesthetic of the Village, keep such property free from vegetation overgrowth and debris, and shall ensure existing or new plantings do not impinge on sidewalks or public walk ways. Residents also have the responsibility to maintain any portion of their property for which the Village has a right-of-way in a fashion consistent with other Village right-of-ways, public areas, and existing bylaws and ordinances.

- E. PROPERTY MAINTENANCE:** Residents shall maintain their property to ensure that safety to any person on public right-of-ways is not compromised. For those homeowners who do not reside full-time on that property, contact information should be provided to the Village Administrative Officer.

SECTION 55 – OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS

- A. The provisions of this section shall apply prospectively only to new structures or to applications made pursuant to Sections 60(C) or 61 of this bylaw.
- B. Parking facilities off the street or highway right-of-way shall be provided on the same lot as the structures or use they serve and shall provide for not less than the minimum number of parking spaces set forth below, exclusive of driveways and ramps necessary for access:
1. For dwellings, two parking spaces per dwelling unit.
 2. For restaurants, theaters, assembly halls or churches, one space for each three seats and one space for each person normally employed at one time;
 3. For places of public assembly or public recreation not otherwise listed, one space for each three legal occupants plus one space for each person normally employed at one time;
 4. For inns, one space for each sleeping room.
- C. Required minimum parking facilities shall have adequate all-weather surfacing, capable of free and safe movement of all vehicles customarily using the facility.
- D. Parking space dimensional requirements:

					LOT CONFIGURATION							
					1 ROW PARKING		2 ROWS PARKING		3 ROWS PARKING		4 ROWS PARKING	
					+ 1 DRIVE		+ 1 DRIVE		+2 DRIVES		+2 DRIVES	
Angle	Curb Length	Min:	Of	Stall	Per	Stall	Drive	Sq.Ft.	Sq.Ft.	Sq.Ft.	Sq.Ft.	
Parking	Width	Veh.	Depth	Width	Width	/Veh.	Width	/Veh.	Width	/Veh.	Width	/Veh.
0°	9'	23' 0"	9' 0"	12'	21' 0"	483	30' 0"	345	51' 0"	391	60' 0"	345
	10'	23' 0"	10' 0"	12'	22' 0"	506	32' 0"	368	54' 0"	414	64' 0"	368
30°	9'	18' 0"	17' 4"	11'	28' 4"	510	45' 8"	411	66' 2"	397	83' 6"	376
	10'	20' 0"	18' 3"	11'	29' 3"	585	47' 6"	475	68' 0"	453	86' 2"	431

45°	9'	12' 9"	19' 10"	13'	32' 10"	420	52' 8"	336	79' 0"	376	98' 10"	315
	10'	14' 2"	20' 6"	13'	33' 6"	490	54' 0"	383	80' 4"	379	100' 10"	358
60°	9'	10' 5"	21' 0"	18'	39' 0"	407	60' 0"	313	95' 0"	330	116' 0"	305
	10'	11' 6"	21' 6"	18'	39' 6"	455	61' 0"	351	95' 6"	366	116' 6"	335
90°	9'	9' 0"	19' 0"	24'	43' 0"	387	62' 0"	279	105' 0"	315	124' 0"	279
	10'	10' 0"	19' 0"	24'	43' 0"	430	62' 0"	310	105' 0"	350	125' 0"	310

ARTICLE VI – NON-CONFORMING USES AND STRUCTURES

SECTION 60 – NONCONFORMING USES

Any nonconforming use of a structure or premises which was lawfully existing at the time of the original adoption of this bylaw in 1973, or any pertinent amendment thereto, may be continued, and any structure so existing which was designed, arranged, intended for, or devoted to a non-conforming use, may be reconstructed and structurally altered, and the nonconforming use thereof changed, subject to the following regulations:

- A. A nonconforming use may not be changed, except to a conforming use, or with the approval of the Board of Adjustment, to another nonconforming use not more objectionable in character.
- B. A nonconforming use shall not, if once changed into a conforming use, be changed back into a nonconforming use.
- C. A nonconforming use shall not be extended or expanded, except with the approval of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, which must find that:
 1. The proposal will not alter the essential character of the neighborhood in which the property is located, nor substantially or permanently impair the appropriate use or development of adjacent property, nor be detrimental to the public health, traffic safety or welfare; and
 2. The proposal will represent the minimum expansion or extension necessary to afford relief and will represent the least modification possible of these bylaws and the plan; and

3. Strict enforcement of these bylaws would result in undue hardship upon the owner of the established non-conforming use.

D. A nonconforming use, which has been discontinued for a period of six months, shall not be resumed thereafter.

SECTION 61 – ENLARGEMENT OF NONCONFORMING STRUCTURES

No structure which does not conform to the requirements of this bylaw regarding building height, limit, area and width of lot, percentage of coverage and required yards and parking facilities shall be enlarged or substantially altered, unless such enlarged or altered portion conforms to the regulations, including use regulations.

SECTION 62 – RECONSTRUCTION AFTER DAMAGE

Nothing in this bylaw shall prevent the restoration or reconstruction, within one year, of a structure that has been damaged or destroyed by fire, explosion, accident, or by public enemy, subsequent to the adoption of this bylaw, to its condition prior to such damage or destruction, nor prevent the restoration of an unsafe wall or structural member. The Planning Commission, for good cause shown, may extend the restoration or reconstruction period.

ARTICLE VII – SPECIAL REGULATIONS

SECTION 70 - PARKING

Overnight parking is restricted to driveways. Parking that blocks a sidewalk or public walkway is prohibited. Parking on landscaped areas is prohibited unless on a temporary basis. Any such parking for a period in excess of seven (7) days requires the express approval of the Administrative Officer.

SECTION 71 – STORAGE OF GARBAGE AND WASTE MATERIALS

No garbage, trash or routine waste material shall be stored in open view of the street on any lot; nor placed off the lot by the street. While awaiting haulage, such materials shall be stored in the interior of the lot, in a structure or otherwise obscured from clear view by adjacent neighbors. Material scheduled for regular trash collection shall be placed curb-side no more than twelve hours prior to collection, and removed promptly thereafter.

SECTION 72 - STORAGE OF ROLL-OFF DUMPSTERS/CONTAINERS/HEAVY EQUIPMENT

No roll-on or roll-off dumpsters or heavy equipment may be stored on any lot for a period in excess of seven (7) days without the express approval of the Zoning Administrator.

SECTION 73 – STORAGE OF INOPERATIVE MOTOR VEHICLES, TRAILERS, MOBILE HOMES OR BOATS

No inoperative or unregistered motor vehicle, or any registered or unregistered trailer, mobile home or boat, may be stored on any lot for a period in excess of seven (7) days, unless within a structure.

SECTION 74 – STORAGE OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLE

A commercially registered vehicle, if parked or stored overnight, should be as far to the rear of the property as is feasible and out of sight from the street and other dwellings. Commercially registered vehicles, in excess of two tons unladen weight may not be parked or stored overnight in the Village.

ARTICLE VIII – ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

SECTION 80 – ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

The provisions of this bylaw shall be administered and enforced by the Administrative Officer nominated by the Planning Commission and appointed by the Board of Trustees for a term of three years, as provided by law. Such officer shall literally enforce the provisions of these regulations, inspect land development, maintain records of any actions taken and perform all other necessary and required tasks to carry out the provisions of these regulations and the duties of the office.

SECTION 81 – PLANNING COMMISSION AND ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

There shall be a Planning Commission and a Zoning Board of Adjustment created as provided in 24 V.S.A. 4460 with the powers and duties provided therein, and as hereinafter set forth.

A. PLANNING COMMISSION: The Old Bennington Village Planning Commission is the appropriate municipal panel to perform the following review functions:

1. Review of proposals for all land development within the Village, including requests to deviate from specific design criteria set forth in Article IX of these bylaws.
2. Review of Planned Unit Developments as authorized by 24 V.S.A. 4417.
3. Site plan review as authorized in 24 V.S.A. 4416.
4. Review of proposed subdivisions as authorized in 24 V.S.A. 4418.
5. Review of wireless telecommunications facilities, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 4413(13).
6. Design Review pursuant to Article IX of these Zoning Bylaws.
7. Review of Energy Installations.
8. All other reviews required by these bylaws, including, but not limited to, those items set forth in Section 82 of these bylaws.

In addition to its review functions, the Planning Commission is also responsible for the periodic review and updating of the Village Municipal Plan, and for formulating updated and proposed Village Ordinances, Zoning Bylaws and Subdivision Regulations, for submission to the Board of Trustees for their review, approval, and possible enactment.

B. ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: The Old Bennington Village Zoning Board of Adjustment is the appropriate municipal panel empowered to perform the following functions:

1. Review of proposed conditional uses as authorized in 24 V.S.A. 4413(3)
2. Review of requests for variances pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 4469.
3. Review of requests for waivers pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 4418(8).

Appeals from the Administrative Officer's issuance of a Notice of Violation pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 4465.

SECTION 82 – ZONING PERMITS

A zoning permit must be obtained from the Administrative Officer, subject to Planning Commission approval, before any of the following may occur:

- A. Land development, as defined in 24 V.S.A 4303(10) and Section 20 of these bylaws.
- B. Any land or building that is devoted to a new or changed use, including the addition of an apartment to a single-family residence, or an accessory building.
- C. New construction, as defined in Section 20.
- D. Alterations to structures, as defined in Section 20, except those alterations qualifying as "Repair(s)" or "Replacements in Kind," as defined in Section 20.
- E. Any change in exterior color.
- F. Removal of trees over 6" diameter breast height (DBH) located forward of the building line of the principal building within any yard fronting a street, and which are also within 150' of the street right-of-way. Removal of dead trees does not require a permit.
- G. On a vacant lot, removal of more than 20% of trees over 6" diameter breast height (DBH) unless the removal is being done under a forest management plan prepared by a licensed forester. On an occupied lot, removal of more than 20% of trees forward of the building line of the principal building in any yard fronting a street. Removal of trees or plantings in the back or sides of the property should be considered in conjunction with an assessment of the contributions they offer to the overall character of the neighborhood, as well as, to the privacy and/or other concerns of the adjoining neighbors.
- H. Razing of a building.

Application for such a permit shall be made on a prescribed form, accompanied by a fee in an amount established by the Board of Trustees. Before issuing any such permit, the Administrative Officer shall certify that the proposed structure and use literally complies with all of the provisions of this bylaw. The Administrative Officer shall maintain a full and accurate record of all applications, permits and violations acted upon by the Officer, copies of which shall be filed with the Board of Listers of the Town of Bennington and the town clerk, as provided for in 24 V.S.A. Section 4449. A copy of all permits also must be posted in at least one public place in the municipality until the expiration of 15 days from issuance of the permit. Unless otherwise extended by the authority issuing such permit, all projects authorized by any permit, including any design review permit must be fully completed within one year after the issuance of the permit.

For any property for which a permit has been issued, a notice of permit shall be posted within view from the public right-of-way most nearly adjacent to the subject property until the time for appeal (24 V.S.A. Section 4465) has passed.

No permit shall take effect until the time for appeal (24 V.S.A. Section 4465) has passed, or in the event that an appeal is properly filed, no such permit shall take effect until adjudication of the appeal

by the Board of Adjustment is complete and the time for taking an appeal to the environmental court has passed without an appeal being taken. If an appeal is taken to the environmental court, the permit shall not take effect until the environmental court rules in accordance with 10 V.S.A. Section 8504 on whether to issue a stay, or until the expiration of 15 days, whichever comes first.

SECTION 83 - MINOR PERMITS

Please contact the Administrative Officer regarding any questions about the nature and scope of a proposed project in the Village. When, in the opinion of the Administrative Officer, an application would be of such minor nature as not to have any adverse impact on the existing character of the Village of Old Bennington, or the property upon which the proposed project is located, or any abutting property, the Administrative Officer may issue a permit for the project. The decision of the Administrative Officer whether or not to issue such a permit shall be in the discretion of the Administrative Officer, after consultation with the Planning Commission Chair, and no party may appeal the decision not to issue such a permit.

The sole remedy of an aggrieved party shall be to have review of the application by the Planning Commission.

Copies of minor permits shall be posted and mailed to the applicant and the chairperson of the Planning Commission. Fifteen days after the mailing and posting of the minor permit, if no interested person, not any member of the Planning Commission shall request, in writing to the Administrative Officer, a review of the application by the Planning Commission, the permit shall be considered final, without approval of the building plans by the Planning Commission.

SECTION 84 – CERTIFICATES OF USE

It shall be unlawful to use or occupy, or permit use or occupancy of any land or structure, or part thereof created, erected, changed, converted, or wholly or partly altered or enlarged in its use or structure, including any and all infrastructure installed pursuant to a subdivision permit, after the effective date of these bylaws, within the Village of Old Bennington, until a Certificate of Use is issued by the Administrative Officer, stating that the proposed use of the structure or land conforms to the requirements of the zoning regulations.

SECTION 85 – SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- A. A site development plan shall be required for new construction, major additions or alterations, driveway and accessory building changes or relocations, and for any use specified in Sections 50E, 50F, 50G, 51, 52A, or 60C.
- B. Such site development plan shall be at a scale prescribed by the Planning Commission and shall show where applicable:
- C. Such site development plan shall be at a scale prescribed by the Planning Commission and shall show where applicable:
 - 1. Scale of drawing
 - 2. North arrow
 - 3. The boundaries and area of the affected lot and required setbacks; and

4. Easements, Rights of Way or other restrictions
5. Existing and proposed structures on the lot and adjacent lots within a distance of 200 feet from the boundaries of the lot
6. Proposed energy installations
7. Proposed vehicular circulation, driveways, and parking
8. Proposed pedestrian circulation, and walks
9. Open space
10. Park and playground facilities
11. Landscape details (existing and proposed), including designation of trees to be removed
12. Proposed grading
13. Water supply and fire protection
14. Sanitary sewage
15. Storm drainage and natural drainage ways and watercourses
16. Existing contours and land conditions
17. Building elevations of all sides included in the work, door and window types, shutters, roof type and other details common in architectural design.
18. Description of exterior building materials and colors.
19. Existing and proposed exterior lighting
20. Description of any wetlands and their boundaries as supported by notations and/or submitted maps.
21. Development envelope
22. Any other factor which may impact the proposed use.
23. Other information as required by the Commission.

Note: Drawings must be complete, needing no verbal explanations from the applicant to comprehend them.

- D. The site development plan shall be submitted to the Planning Commission in triplicate. The Planning Commission must approve the site development plan at or after a public hearing, and before any permit may be issued, and may impose such reasonable conditions as may be necessary to achieve the objectives of this section.
- D. Applicants shall consult with the Administrative Officer if they have any questions concerning the specific information, or degree of detail required to be included, in the site development plan.

SECTION 86 – CONDITIONAL USE APPROVAL, VARIANCES AND WAIVERS

- A. **CONDITIONAL USES:** A conditional use may be approved by the Board of Adjustment only after a public hearing provided that the Board shall have found the use will not adversely affect:
 1. The capacity of existing or planned community facilities
 2. The character of the area affected, as defined by the policies and objectives of these bylaws and the Village Plan

3. Traffic on roads and highways in the vicinity.
4. The proposed use in accord with other provisions of ordinances, regulations and bylaws of the Village applicable thereto, and each use so approved shall meet any standards applicable to the specific use as to lot and building dimensional requirements, landscaping, design and location of signs. Approval of the Board shall be based on a site development plan prepared in conformance with Section 83, and failure of the development to conform to such site development plan shall constitute a violation of this bylaw, punishable pursuant to Section 86.

Fifteen days before the public hearing, the Board shall refer the application for a conditional use, together with a copy of the proposed site development plan to the Planning Commission, and the report of the Planning Commission on such application and site development plan shall be made a part of the record of the hearing.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment may impose reasonable conditions as may be necessary to achieve the objectives of this section or to mitigate any impact generated by the granting of a permit.

B. VARIANCES: The Board of Adjustment shall consider appeals for variances from the provisions of this bylaw and shall render a decision in favor of the appellant if all of the following facts are found (24 V.S.A. Section 4469):

1. There are unique physical circumstances or conditions, including irregularity, narrowness, or shallowness of lot size or shape, or exceptional topographical or conditions peculiar to the particular property, and that unnecessary hardship is due to these conditions, and not the circumstances or conditions generally created by the provisions of the bylaw in the neighborhood or district in which the property is located.
2. Because of these physical circumstances or conditions, there is no possibility that the property can be developed in strict conformity with the provisions of the bylaw, and that the authorization of a variance is therefore necessary to enable the reasonable use of the property.
3. The unnecessary hardship has not been created by the appellant.
4. The variance, if authorized, will not alter the essential character of the neighborhood or district in which the property is located, substantially or permanently impair the appropriate use or development of adjacent property, reduce access to renewable energy resources, or be detrimental to the public welfare.
5. The variance, if authorized, will represent the minimum variance that will afford relief and will represent the least deviation possible from the bylaw and from the plan.

C. WAIVERS: Requests for waivers are considered by the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Any request for a waiver will be warned and a public hearing held pursuant to Section 87 of this bylaw. The purpose of waivers is to allow for minor additions to a principal or accessory structure that would not be counter to the purpose of these bylaws or the Village Plan, but which might not meet the standards for the granting of a variance. A waiver may be granted only to reduce dimensional requirements as provided below, and compliance with all other requirements of this bylaw is required. The Board of Adjustment may grant a waiver provided all of the following conditions are satisfied:

1. The proposal is for a one-story addition to an existing principal or accessory structure, and said addition shall not increase the building footprint by more than 100 square feet.
2. The addition is the minimum size that is necessary for it to serve its intended function.
3. The addition is specifically intended to improve access for disabled persons.
4. No setback (front, side, or rear) shall be reduced to less than 15 feet.

The Board of Adjustment may impose conditions regarding the design and screening of the addition to mitigate any impacts on neighboring properties.

SECTION 87 – PUBLIC NOTICE AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

Any public notice that is required for a public hearing under this bylaw shall be given as required by 24 V.S.A. Section 4464.

In all cases coming before the Planning Commission or Zoning Board of Adjustment for hearing, the applicant for a permit shall furnish the Administrative Officer with names and addresses of all owners of property adjoining the subject lot, and shall send notice of the hearing, verified by a certificate of mailing, to the adjoining property owners.

SECTION 88 – PLANNING COMMISSION AND ZONING BOARD DECISIONS AND APPEALS

- A. **DECISIONS:** The Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment shall issue a written decision on any application under review, within 45 days of the adjournment of the public hearing, as required by 24 V.S.A. 4464(b)(1). The Zoning Administrator's Report, when issued on unopposed applications, or pursuant to Section 82 of these bylaws, shall constitute the Planning Commission's written decision thereon.
- B. **APPEALS:** An interested person may appeal a decision of the Administrative Officer by filing a Notice of Appeal with the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Administrative Officer as provided in 24 V.S.A. 4465 - 4470. An interested person may appeal a decision of the Planning Commission or Zoning Board of Adjustment to the Environmental Court, as provided for in 24 V.S.A. 4471 and 4472.

SECTION 89 – ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURE, PENALTIES

- A. Section 4451 of the Vermont Municipal and Regional Planning and Development Act (24 V.S.A. Chapter 117) provides that any person who violates any bylaw after it has been adopted under this chapter, or who violates a comparable ordinance or regulation adopted under prior enabling laws, shall be fined not more than \$100 for each offense. No action may be brought under this section unless the alleged offender has had at least seven (7) days warning notice by certified mail. Action may be brought without the seven-day notice and opportunity to cure, if the alleged offender repeats the violation after the seven-day warning period and within the next succeeding twelve months. The seven-day warning notice shall state:

1. A violation exists; and
2. The alleged offender has the opportunity to cure the violation within seven days; and
3. The alleged offender will not be entitled to an additional warning notice occurring after the seven days.

Each day the violation continues shall constitute a separate offense. (24 V.S.A.4451).

- B. In default of payment of the fine, the owner, members of an owner partnership, the principal officers of an owner corporation or any other owner entity, shall each pay double the amount of such fine. In addition to any fines that may be imposed in connection with a bylaw violation, the owner or owners of the property may be required to restore the property to its prior condition, or otherwise cure the violation.

An enforcement proceeding must be instituted within 15 years from the date the alleged violation first occurred and not thereafter, and any such proceeding shall be subject to such other limitations as are contained in 24 V.S.A. Section 4454.

- C. The provisions of this bylaw will be enforced by the Administrative Officer in accordance with 24 VSA 4452 as follows:

“ If any street, building, structure or land is, or is proposed to be, erected, constructed, re-constructed, altered, maintained, or used in violation of any bylaw, the administrative officer shall institute in the name of the municipality an appropriate action, injunction or other proceeding to prevent, restrain, correct or abate such construction or use or to prevent, in or about such premises, any act, conduct, business or use constituting a violation. A court action under this section may be initiated in environmental court, or as appropriate, before the judicial bureau, as provided under 24 V.S.A. Section 1974a of this title.”

ARTICLE IX – DESIGN REVIEW

SECTION 90 – PURPOSE

The purpose of design review in Old Bennington is to provide organization, procedures and design criteria, within the context of enabling legislation, to ensure that future development will be compatible with and appropriate to the existing character of the Village. This Article is concerned with the visual appearance of structures, their relation to each other and to the area.

SECTION 91 – DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Article IX only, the following terms are defined as follows:

- A. **“Buildings”** have been defined to include structures with roofs, intended to house persons, animals or materials, plus other structures over eight feet tall which extends Design Review to storage sheds, barns, stables, gazebos, greenhouses, solar porches, and satellite dish antennas eight feet or more in height.

- B. “**Structure**” is defined to include buildings, decks, mobile homes, trailers, signs, telecommunication and energy installations, walls, driveways and fences, except walls and fences on an operating farm.

SECTION 92 – ORGANIZATION FOR DESIGN REVIEW

Any person seeking design review shall submit an application to the Administrative Officer pursuant to Section 93. The Planning Commission shall administer the design review provisions. The goal is to ensure that the design review principles and criteria set forth herein are properly observed.

SECTION 93 – PROCEDURES FOR DESIGN REVIEW

- A. The erection, reconstruction, exterior alteration, movement, demolition, or change in use or type of occupancy of any structure in the Village, will require the submission of a Zoning Permit Application with a site development plan, in triplicate, to the Administrative Officer. Interior alterations or changes that do not affect, change, or add to the exterior of a structure will not be subject to design review regulations.
- B. Until an application is filed and while it is pending, applicants shall not anticipate approval by commencing clearing of trees, soil disturbance or other site preparation.
- C. The site development plan shall conform, in all respects, to the provisions of Section 85, “Site Development Plan.”
- D. The Administrative Officer shall, within five (5) days after submission by the applicant, refer all site development plans to the Planning Commission for analysis. If, in the joint opinion of the Administrative Officer and the Chair of the Planning Commission, the proposal constitutes a repair, reconstructs an existing structure with the same design and materials, or will not have any impact upon the visual characteristics of the village, the Commission may approve the project without any further proceedings under this article, according to the provisions of Section 83: “Minor Permits.”
- E. Unless otherwise directed by the Administrative Officer, the applicant shall give notice of the application by first class mail to the applicant’s abutting neighbors and certify to the Administrative Officer the service of such notice under penalty of perjury.
- F. Within forty-five (45) days after receipt of the site development plan from the applicant, the Planning Commission shall hold a public hearing on such application. At or after such hearing, the Planning Commission shall: issue a permit, issue a permit with special conditions or modifications, defer approval pending receipt of additional information requested by the Commission, or deny the application. All actions and documentation thereof shall be made a part of the permanent records of the Commission.

One copy of the approved site development plan, endorsed by the Chair of the Planning Commission, shall be returned to the applicant and must be kept readily available at the site during the construction period. One copy shall also be filed in the permanent records of the Planning Commission. Construction must proceed without variation from the written plans as approved and within the time set forth in Section 81.

SECTION 94 – BASIS FOR DECISION

Fair and proper administration of design review requires criteria that are clear, objective and known. Criteria to be used by the Planning Commission are set forth in Section 95 of this bylaw.

The Planning Commission shall use thoughtful judgment in applying the criteria in order to ensure that the legitimate needs of the Village residents are considered within the context of preserving the architecture and character of Old Bennington.

SECTION 95 – DESIGN REVIEW CRITERIA

Old Bennington offers a blend of architectural styles and landscapes, which are harmonious and aesthetically pleasing. The character basically reflects design patterns common in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Of the 81 principal buildings in the Village, 33% were built in the Georgian/Federal periods (1764-1820), 5% in the Greek Revival period (1820-1850) and 37% built later but in the Colonial Revival style, a total of 75% in these styles. 20% were built in the Shingle Style or Victorian styles (1850-1900) and 5% in miscellaneous styles (Italianate, modern, ranch, etc.) This range offers Old Bennington an adequate mix of architectural styles, while providing a distinctive identity to the Village. Within this framework, the following criteria shall be used by the Planning Commission in the evaluation of site and building plans.

SECTION 96 - GENERAL CRITERIA

- A. When the applicant proposes the construction of a new building, the architectural style shall be in harmony with the character of the Village at large. Appropriate styles include Georgian/Federal, Greek Revival, and Colonial Revival. It is recognized that there are many variations within each architectural style. Even architectural historians sometimes disagree on stylistic classifications. While reinforcing stylistic preferences, the Planning Commission will also consider design compatibility and visual harmony in its evaluations. The Planning Commission shall be guided by the context of the neighborhood and what is appropriate to it in terms of siting, styles, scale, building materials, colors and landscaping, giving consideration to applicable zoning regulations, design criteria set forth herein, and guidelines included in the Subdivision Bylaw.
- B. Additions, alterations or restorations of an existing structure shall be architecturally consistent with the existing principal structure. Accessory buildings shall follow the style of the principal structures.
- C. Dimensional requirements concerning lot area, lot width, front, rear and side dimensions, building height and coverage and minimum building area shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Section 53 of this bylaw.
- D. Design Review also regulates the following objects and construction: lawn decorations, swimming pools, artificial ponds, patios, awnings, walks and driveways, trees and landscaping, roads, gutters, sidewalks, lighting, signs, trees, shrubbery, energy installations, utility lines and poles, as well as historical markers, monuments and statues.

SECTION 97 - SPECIFIC CRITERIA

It is the purpose of this section to provide criteria to ensure that the decisions of the Planning Commission will protect the character and ambience of the Village of Old Bennington, and promote decisions that are objective and reasonable, and to allow residents to plan projects

for prompt approval.

New buildings, additions, alterations, and/or restorations to existing buildings shall exhibit architectural principles of perpendicularity, parallelism and symmetry. Buildings shall be parallel with, and/or perpendicular to, the street.

A. Basic design characteristics of the preferred styles include the following:

1. Federal – Flat, generally undecorated wall surfaces of local material, usually brick or wood clapboard. Low-pitched, gabled roof. End chimneys. Large, multi-paned windows. Fanlight and narrow sidelights at entrance.
2. Greek Revival – Inspired by the architecture of ancient Greece. Bold, classical detailing with columns, pilasters, full entablatures and pediments, ornaments, temple-like gable front, as well as more traditional eaves-front buildings. Stylistic emphasis is often on the main entry, a paneled door, flanked by side lights and robust Doric columns or pilasters and topped by a transom and three part entablature.
3. Colonial Revival – Derived from architectural styles first used in the 18th century, and popular from the late 19th century to the present. Decorative features are based on details from the earlier style, but can be distinguished from them by their large scale, and often unusual, placement on the building façade. Among the most typical details are Palladian windows, quoins, garlands, heavy details, pedimented dormers, classical columns or pilasters, multi-paned windows with shutters, entrance with fan light and side-lights.

B. Exterior: Building materials shall be consistent with materials used in existing village buildings, including, but not limited to wood clapboard, red brick and stone of the region. Stucco, metal, vinyl, or other synthetic material shall not be used. Building materials must be of similar quality and characteristic so as to be consistent with the historic nature of the Village.

The reveal of clapboards or shingles shall be no less than three inches, and no greater than six inches.

C. Proportions:

1. Length – Principal buildings shall have facades facing the street no less than 20 feet, and no more than 50 feet in length.
2. Height – Principal buildings shall be no more than two full stories tall. An attic with dormers is acceptable as an additional half-story.
3. Roof Slopes – Roofs shall be of gable construction, and shall have a minimum slope of 4/12, or a maximum slope of 8/12.
4. Symmetry – Principal building facilities shall be generally symmetrical.
5. Secondary Buildings or Wings – Secondary buildings or wings shall be parallel or perpendicular to the principal buildings; shall not be greater in height or proportions than the principal building, and shall have facades similar to the principal building.

D. Porches and Decks: Porches shall be constructed using columns, gable roofs and

entablatures appropriate to the architectural style of the building. Proposed enclosure of existing open porches shall be reviewed. Second-story decks should be consistent in style, architecture and character to the existing structure and the floor(s) below.

- E. Open decks shall not be clearly visible from the street.
- F. Doors: The principal entrance door on the street side of the building shall have raised wooden panels and trim appropriate to the architectural style of the building, and paint color shall be in all ways appropriate.
- G. Windows: Windows shall generally be double hung wood windows, with true divided lites, or with simulated divided lites with muntins applied to both sides of the glass, appropriate to the architectural style of the building avoiding the use of vinyl, aluminum, or other inappropriate materials. Side, transom, or fan-lights shall also be in a style appropriate to the building. It is inappropriate to install new or replacement windows with applied internal grids to imitate multiple panes.
 - 1. Glazing – Only clear, colorless glass may be used.
 - 2. Trim – Windows in wood walls shall have projecting sills, and trim on all sides, with a minimum width of 3-1/2 inches. Windows in brick or stone walls shall have brick-mould trim, sills shall be stone or brick, and lintels shall be stone or flat-arched brick.
- H. Shutters: Existing shutters are required to remain or be replaced in-kind. Shutters are not required on new structures, but they may be provided if compatible with the architectural style of the building. Shutters may not be used on doorways.
 - 1. Materials – Shutters shall be made of wood, and may be louvered or have raised panels.
 - 2. Proportions – Shutters shall be mounted on shutter hinges and sized to fit within the window frame when closed.
- I. Cornices: Cornices and eaves shall project not less than 8 inches, nor more than 14 inches from the wall of the building, and shall be constructed with the crown, soffit and eave moldings appropriate to the architectural style of the building.
- J. Roofs: Roof coverings shall extend to the eaves, and shall be made of slate, wooden shingles, or architectural grade asphalt shingles of a slate-gray color. Copper or matte finished snow slides, that approximate the roof color, may be installed, extending a maximum of four feet up from the eaves.
 - 1. Cornice Returns – Gable ends shall have cornices with partial or full returns.
 - 2. Gutters – If exterior-applied rain gutters are required, they shall be copper, or painted to match the color of the building.
- K. Chimneys: Chimneys shall be located at the interior of the structure, or flush with the outside face of a gable end wall. Interior chimneys, and that part of the chimney that projects above the roof, shall be made of brick laid horizontally. Chimney masonry that was not previously painted shall not be painted.

L. Foundations:

1. Materials – Foundations may be made of concrete, stone or brick. Concrete foundations shall be clad with brick or stone veneer where exposed above grade.
2. Exposure – Foundations shall extend above the ground between one and two feet Above the highest grade around its perimeter.

M. Wetlands: Residents shall not in any way disturb, alter, or infringe on mapped wetland areas and their changing boundaries without a permit and written approval from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.

N. Site Elements:

1. Building Setback – Building setbacks shall conform to the setback provisions of this bylaw.
2. Walkways and Driveways – Walkways shall be parallel or perpendicular to the street, and paved with marble or concrete. Driveways shall be no more than 12 feet wide. Driveways shall be paved, or may be unpaved with pea gravel topping, provided a proper base is installed to prevent washout and rutting. Curbing shall not be used.
3. Exterior lighting – Outside lighting shall be limited to entry doors and associated walks. Posts, lamps or lanterns next to doorways shall be replicas of early nineteenth century designs, compatible with the style of the building, and shall be copper, brass, or painted black.

O. Accessory Buildings:

1. Design Compatibility – Barns, garages, gazebos, dog shelters, tool sheds, and similar accessory buildings shall, in general, follow the design requirements for principal buildings.
2. Free Standing Accessory Buildings – Free standing accessory buildings, such as garages shall be located to the rear of the main structure, so that they do not detract from the streetscape.
3. Garage and Barn Doors – Garage doorways shall be a maximum of 10 feet wide, and have flat or elliptical archways.
4. Garages, whether free-standing, or built into the dwelling, shall be positioned so that their doors are not visible from the street or sidewalks.

P. Landscape: Site and Building Plans shall include reasonable amounts of plantings, landscaping and screening, with particular emphasis on trees, as required to maintain and improve the visual quality of the Village. Residents shall maintain their properties carefully, including landscaping, trees and any right of way. Proposed landscaping and trees shall consider long-term growth and maintenance, with attention to visual appearance from the street and neighboring properties. Residents shall not clear-cut property in the Village, nor remove mature or healthy trees or plantings that contribute to the character of open land, neighboring property and the neighborhood without obtaining a permit.

Q. Solar Installations:

1. Ground installations shall be installed in locations that minimize their visibility, such as a side or rear yard, and be screened from view of streets, public rights-of-way, and adjoining properties.
 2. Solar panels and other roof-or-wall-mounted structures shall not be placed in a location that can be seen from the street or by neighbors.
 3. Roof - or building-mounted systems on an historic building shall not physically damage the structure, alter its character-defining features, including existing roof lines or dormers, nor obstruct significant architectural features, such as overlaying windows or architectural detailing. Attachment points must be minimized and allow for future removal.
 4. Roof-mounted installations shall be placed below and behind parapet walls and dormers, on rear-facing roofs where feasible. Panels are to be mounted flush with, and at the same angle as, the existing roof surface and, on flat roofs, set back from the roof edge to minimize visibility. Setbacks: Except for transmission and distribution lines and utility connections, all energy facilities including substations, commercial, utility and net-metered generation facilities and accessory structures must meet minimum setback requirements for the land use districts in which they are located.
 5. Solar technology is improving. New products or applications that are substantially less intrusive and noticeable than available presently may not be subject to all the provisions outlined above.
- R. Miscellaneous structures: Trash receptacles, dish antennas, fuel tanks, kennels, stables, pools, ponds, tennis courts, energy-producing installations, and similar structures, shall be screened from view from the street and neighbors by appropriate shrubbery or fencing. They should be placed on the lot at a sufficient distance from the primary structure to minimize any appearance of overcrowding on the lot. If a structure is a source of noise or odor, that will be an additional consideration for design review.
- S. Color: Exterior colors used on structures and fences are subject to design review. The preferred color of the body and trim of a structure is white, though other subtle colors may be approved, if the applicant can demonstrate to the Planning Commission that they are historic and/or appropriate for the structure, and consistent with neighboring structures. Accent colors may be used on separate features, such as shutters and doors, with Planning Commission approval.
1. If a building is being erected, reconstructed, or altered, design review is required, and will include, and address color of both the structure and the trim, approving either white or such other colors as are not vivid, strikingly unusual in the Village context, unbecoming to the architectural style of the building, or in visual conflict with surrounding buildings. Unusual colors, especially when vivid in hue, attract attention to themselves, and away from the overall visual impression.
 2. Any change of an existing color is considered a substantial alteration, and design review is required.
- T. Fences and Walls: Fences and walls shall be parallel and/or perpendicular to the street, or parallel to the lot lines. Ornamental walls and fences shall have a maximum height of 48". Walls shall be solid, made of stone, and unpainted. Ornamental fences may be approved for

location along boundary lines, or to divide parts of a lot, provided they are constructed of wood or wood composites, are picket and rail design, and are painted white. Fences may only be proposed for installation in the interior of properties, for purposes such as confining animals or protecting children from swimming pools, and provided they are screened from view from adjacent streets or nearby residences.

U. Signs shall be governed by Section 54 of this bylaw.

ARTICLE X – INTERPRETATION OF BYLAWS

SECTION 100 – INTERPRETATION OF BYLAWS

- A. In their interpretation and application, the provisions of this bylaw shall be held to be the minimum requirements necessary for the promotion of the general health, safety, convenience and general welfare of the residents. It is not intended for this bylaw to repeal, abrogate, annul or in any way impair or interfere with existing provisions of the law or ordinance or any rules, regulations or permits previously adopted or issued pursuant to the law relating to the use of structures or premises, nor is it intended by this bylaw to interfere with or abrogate or annul any easements, covenants or other agreements between parties, provided however that where this bylaw imposes a greater restriction upon the use of structures or premises, or upon the height of structures, or requires larger yards, courts or other open spaces than are imposed or required by existing provisions of law or ordinance, or by such rules, regulations or permits or by such easements, covenants or agreements, the provisions of this bylaw shall control.
- B. The masculine shall be deemed to include the feminine and the singular shall be deemed to include the plural, where appropriate.

SECTION 101 – SEVERABILITY

If a court of competent jurisdiction adjudges any section or provision of this bylaw to be invalid said adjudication shall affect only the portion of the bylaw so adjudged and shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this bylaw.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENT AND REVIEW

SECTION 110 – AMENDMENTS

This bylaw may be amended from time to time after a public hearing as provided by law.

SECTION 111 – REVIEW

Every five years, the Planning Commission shall review this bylaw and recommend such changes and amendments, if any, as may be necessary to the Board of Trustees. The Planning Commission shall hold not less than one public hearing at the time of review.

THIS ZONING BYLAW WAS COMPLETE AT THE TIME OF PRINTING. SINCE THAT TIME, HOWEVER, AMENDMENTS MAY HAVE BEEN MADE. CHECK WITH THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR ANY CHANGES.

THIS BYLAW SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT UNTIL SUCH ACTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OR VOTERS OF THE VILLAGE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCEDURES OF THE VERMONT MUNICIPAL AND REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, TITLE 24, V.S.A., CHAPTER 117 DETERMINE OTHERWISE.