

ARTICLE I GENERAL PROVISIONS

175-1. Title.

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Durham, New Hampshire."

175-2. Authority.

This chapter is adopted pursuant to the authority granted by RSA 674:16, as amended, which provides for the local legislative body to adopt or amend a Zoning Ordinance under the Ordinance Enactment Procedure of RSA 675:2-5.

175-3. Purpose.

The provisions of this chapter are intended to regulate the use of land for the purpose of protecting the public health, safety, convenience and general welfare of the residents of the Town of Durham, in accordance with RSA 674:17. This chapter is adopted in accordance with and in order to implement the Master Plan and other policies designed to promote the orderly growth of the Town of Durham. Among other purposes, this chapter is specifically adopted to preserve air and water quality; to conserve open space and agricultural resources; to encourage the installation and use of renewable energy systems and protect access to renewable energy sources; to protect natural and scenic resources from degradation; to provide for recreational needs; to protect life and property from flooding and other natural hazards; to preserve historic sites and structures; and to ensure that development is commensurate with the character and physical limitations of the land. Further, this chapter is designed to ensure that the timing, location and nature of new development takes into account the immediate and long-range financial impacts of proposed uses and enhances the achievement of the town's economic development goals.

175-4. Applicability.

- A. No land shall be used and no building or structure shall be erected, structurally altered, enlarged, moved, or used unless such use or activity is in conformity with the provisions of this chapter, except as provided in Section 175-5.
- B. No building permit shall be issued for any proposed use, construction or activity which is not in compliance with the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Durham.

175-5. Applicability to Governmental Uses including the University of New Hampshire.

The provisions of this chapter shall be advisory with respect to governmental uses as identified by RSA 674:54 including the University of New Hampshire (UNH) except as provided in C. below.

- A. The state agency, county, municipal agency, university, school district or other governmental entity identified in RSA 674:54 shall provide the Planning Board with written notification of any use of its property or facilities that constitutes a substantial change in use or a substantial new use. This notification shall be provided to the Town Planner at least 60 days prior to the start of construction and shall contain plans, specifications, and explanations of the proposed use and an assessment of the potential impacts of the use on the community. The notification

for any project involving the University of New Hampshire shall be in accordance with the adopted “Process for Coordination and Communication” between the University and the Town. The Planning Board may hold a public hearing on the proposed use. If a hearing is held, the hearing shall be held within 30 days of the receipt of the written notification and at least 2 weeks after posting of the notice on the Town website. The purpose of such hearing shall be to bring to light possible problems of traffic circulation, parking, provision of utilities, the protection of persons and property or any other problems affecting the town or the neighborhood. A representative of the governmental entity or UNH shall be present at the hearing to present the plans, specifications, and construction schedule, and to provide explanations. The Planning Board may issue nonbinding written comments relative to conformity or nonconformity of the proposal with normally applicable land use regulations to the government entity or university within 30 days after the hearing, together with any recommendations for minimizing any adverse impacts of the project on the community.

- B. Any use of land or buildings for governmental or university purposes that is located on land or in buildings or structures that are not owned by the governmental entity or university but for which the entity acquires only the right to use, whether by rental, lease or other beneficial interest, may not be used for any other purpose not otherwise permitted by this chapter.
- C. Any use, construction, or development of land, buildings, or other facilities on governmentally owned or occupied land including UNH, that is not used for a governmental or university use as defined in RSA 674:54 shall comply with the provisions of this chapter including, but not limited to, the requirements for site plan review and the issuance of building and other permits.

175-5.1 Minimum Requirements.

The provisions of this chapter shall be construed to be the minimum requirements for the granting of any pertinent Town approvals. Compliance with these requirements, however, is not necessarily deemed sufficient for the granting of these approvals. All applicants must comply with all other applicable statutes, ordinances, regulations, rules, standards, and policies of the Town of Durham and of other governmental authorities. In particular, all applicants must comply with the Durham Site Plan Regulations and the Durham Subdivision Regulations which include specific requirements and provide for the reasonable judgment of the Planning Board in reviewing applications.

Nothing herein shall prevent the condemnation of land or buildings for municipal purposes by the Town of Durham or for public or institutional use by any agency, department, institution or public corporation of the State of New Hampshire or of the United States.