

Harwich Planning Board Legal Notice - Proposed Zoning Amendment

In accordance with the provisions of MGL c.40A §5, the Harwich Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 no earlier than 6:30 pm in the Donn B. Griffin Room, Harwich Town Hall, 732 Main Street, Harwich, to consider amendments to the Harwich Zoning Codes:

ARTICLE: - Zoning Bylaw Article Special Provisions for Lifting Existing Structures to New Appropriate Elevations

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Zoning Bylaw Article XVII – Flood Plain Regulations by 1) changing §325-108 Definitions to §325-109 Definitions and 2) adding a new §325-108 “Special Provisions for Lifting Existing Structures to New and Appropriate Elevations” and by adding four new definitions, alphabetically, to the new §325-109 Definitions, and further to amend §325-2 Word usage and Definitions “Building/Structure Height” paragraph B by deleting the existing language and replacing it, as follows:

§325-108 Special Provisions for Lifting Existing Structures to New and Appropriate Elevations

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other provision of the Harwich Zoning By-law to the contrary, except as otherwise provided pursuant to paragraph (3) of this subsection, a person shall be allowed to lift an existing structure located in an Area of Special Flood Hazard to a new and appropriate elevation, or constructing a staircase or other attendant structure necessitated by such raising without the need for Board of Appeals relief, provided, however, this exemption shall apply only to the minimum extent or degree necessary to allow the structure to meet the new and appropriate elevation with adequate means of ingress, egress and accommodation of typical basement facilities.

(2) Appurtenant to lifting an existing structure, the existing structure may be relocated elsewhere on the lot as long as said relocation does not create a new, or increase the intensity of a setback nonconformity.

(3) The exemption established pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not be available to a person who has altered or is seeking to alter the original dimensions of a structure if, had the alteration not been made, the structure could have been raised to meet the new and appropriate elevation either without the exemption or with an exemption of lesser degree than is needed with the alteration.

And,

§325-109 Definitions, as the following:

ATTENDANT STRUCTURE means an area to accommodate utilities, laundry facilities or mechanicals which are otherwise typically located within a basement area.

EXISTING STRUCTURE means any commercial or municipal structure or residential dwelling that currently exists, or existed prior to the catastrophic event, at the time a request is made to elevate.

HIGHEST APPLICABLE FLOOD ELEVATION STANDARD means the one-percent (1%) FEMA base flood elevation plus up to an additional three (3) feet.

NEW AND APPROPRIATE ELEVATION means any elevation to which a structure is raised, or is to be raised, that is equal to or higher than the applicable FEMA base flood elevation, provided, however, in no case shall the new and appropriate elevation exceed the highest applicable flood elevation standard.

And,

§325-2 Building/Structure Height

B. For a building or structure located within an area of special flood hazard, refer to §325-108; or take any other action thereon.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard on these zoning proposals should appear at the time and place designated. The full text for the proposed amendments can be found on the Town Website <http://www.harwich-ma.gov/planning-board>, and in the Community Development and Town Clerk Offices at Town Hall, at the address noted above, during normal business hours.

In accordance with state law, this legal notice will also be available electronically at ‘www.masspublicnotices.org.’ The Town is not responsible for any errors in the electronic posting of this legal notice.

James Joyce, Chair

Cape Cod Chronicle Print Dates: 2/21/19, 2/28/19

PLEASE NOTE: On the following pages please find the existing bylaw and proposed bylaw language changes.

Existing language shown in regular text, deleted language shown in ~~strike-through~~ and new language shown in **bold underline**.

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§ 325-108 **109** Definitions.

The definitions contained herein pertain only to this article of the bylaw.

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§325-2 Word Usage and Definitions:

BUILDING/STRUCTURE HEIGHT

A. The height of a building or structure shall be calculated by averaging the distance between the lowest pre-existing grade point at the base of the building/structure and the top of said structure, and the distance between the highest pre-existing grade point at the base of the structure and the top of said structure. A structure shall include such elements as a rooftop deck, fence, railing, widow's walk, or other rooftop structure, parapet, or other attached structure. A cupola not larger than four feet in width and chimneys shall be exempt from the above requirements if they do not extend more than four feet in height above the roof. For developed lots, pre-existing grade shall be determined by calculating the average of existing high and low grade points at the base of the existing/original building or structure and top of said structure, where the highest point is at a minimum of eight inches below the top of foundation.

~~B. For a building or structure located in the special flood hazard area, height shall be measured from the base flood elevation in AE Zones rather than from pre-existing grade. In the AO or VE Zones, height shall be measured from the base flood elevation in the closest AE Zone rather than from pre-existing grade.~~

B. For a building or structure located within an area of special flood hazard, refer to §325-108