

Citizens Petition for Warrant Article for April 22, 2024 Northborough Town Meeting

I move to amend the Northborough Town Code and the Northborough Zoning Bylaw Section 7-03-060 Design Review by removing the text in its entirety (as shown below in strikethrough).

The Design Review and “Design Review Committee” would be terminated and no longer a function within the Town of Northborough. Removing Design Review and Design Review Committee from all references in the Northborough Zoning Bylaw and the Northborough Town Code wherever it appears.

NORTHBOROUGH TOWN CLERK
RCUD 2024 MAR 11 PM 1:05

NORTHBOROUGH TOWN CLERK
 ROD 2024 FEB 11 AM 10:5

Town of Northborough, MA
 Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Chapter 7-03. Administration and Enforcement

§ 7-03-060. Design review.

[Amended 4-27-2015 ATM, Art. 47; 4-23-2018 ATM, Art. 39; 4-22-2019 ATM, Art. 29]

- A. ~~Purpose. The purpose of design review is to preserve historic land uses and structures and to promote architectural and ecological considerations for the betterment of the community. Further, the design review process is intended to provide guidance to the proponent in the development or evaluation of site and building design, to establish principles and standards to guide development, and to promote the following objectives:~~
- ~~(1) To strengthen the character of Downtown Northborough as the focal point of a prosperous rural New England community and as a destination for shopping, services and government;~~
 - ~~(2) To encourage development that is distinctive and appropriate to locations within other business districts, supportive of the function of the Highway Business District and Business South District as gateways into Northborough, and supportive of the function of the Business East and Business West Districts as neighborhood business areas and as gateways to Downtown Northborough;~~
 - ~~(3) To encourage development within the Downtown Neighborhood District that respects the character of established neighborhoods; and to encourage that more intensive uses, where they occur, draw upon appropriate local or regional models of traditional neighborhood design; and~~
 - ~~(4) To assure that future construction, alterations or additions maintain a relationship to the historic development of the town through appropriate design.~~
- B. ~~Applicability~~
- ~~(1) Design review by the design review committee shall be required as part of the site plan approval or a special permit with site plan approval for any of the following:~~
 - ~~(a) In any business district, new construction or exterior alterations or expansion of any commercial, municipal, institutional or multifamily structure;~~
 - ~~(b) In the Downtown Neighborhood District, new construction or exterior alterations or expansion of any multifamily structure or any structure requiring a special permit;~~
 - ~~(c) In the Major Commercial Development Overlay District, new construction or exterior alterations or expansion of any multifamily structure or any structure requiring a special permit;~~
 - ~~(d) In any industrial district, new construction of any extensive uses, institutional uses, mixed uses, business uses, public service or public utility, or industrial uses; or~~
 - ~~(e) In the RC, GR, MSR, and DN districts, any special permit application to the Planning Board for a two-family dwelling.~~
 - ~~(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to conflict with MGL C. 40, § 3, which prohibits the regulation or restriction of the use of materials or methods of construction of structures~~

- ~~(2) When a proponent applies for a special permit prior to submitting a site plan for review by the special permit granting authority, the Design Review Committee's review shall occur in conjunction with the special permit granting authority's review of the site plan under Section 7-03-050(D). The Design Review Committee shall review such plans in accordance with its design guidelines and any special permit conditions imposed by the special permit granting authority.~~

~~D. Design guidelines. The Design Review Committee shall prepare and adopt design guidelines to assist property owners, proponents, architects and landscape architects with project planning and developing submissions for review under this section. The guidelines shall serve as a supplement to, and shall not be inconsistent with, the site development standards in Section 7-09-020. The guidelines shall be on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and the Planning Department.~~

~~E. Appointment of the Design Review Committee.~~

- ~~(1) The Planning Board shall appoint a Design Review Committee. Such Committee shall be chaired by a member of the Planning Board and shall additionally consist of four (4) members, as follows:~~
- ~~(a) One (1) degreed architect;~~
 - ~~(b) One (1) degreed landscape architect;~~
 - ~~(c) One (1) representative nominated by the Chamber of Commerce; and~~
 - ~~(d) One (1) interested and responsible citizen of the town; or~~
 - ~~(e) A balance of representation as close as possible to this mix.~~

~~(4-27-09 ATM, Art. 31; 4-26-10 ATM, Art. 28; 4-27-15 ATM, Art. 47; 4-23-18 ATM, Art. 39.)~~

