

ARTICLE 35

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST BY-LAW

Chapter 1: Purposes

The purpose of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (hereinafter "Trust") shall be to provide for the creation and preservation of affordable housing in the Town of Grafton ("the Town") for the benefit of low and moderate income households and in furtherance of this purpose, to acquire by gift, purchase, or otherwise, real estate and personal property, both tangible and intangible, of every sort and description; to use such property, both real and personal, in such manner as the Trustees shall deem most appropriate to carry out such purpose; provided however, that all property comprising this Trust and the net earnings thereof shall be used only in the Town exclusively for the benefit of all of the inhabitants of the Town for the creation and preservation of affordable housing therein.

Chapter 2: Tenure of Trustees and Appointment

The trustees hereunder shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Trustees shall serve for a term not to exceed two years and may be reappointed at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen. Only persons who are residents of the Town of Grafton shall be eligible to hold the office of Trustee. Any Trustee who ceases to be a resident of the Town shall cease to be a Trustee hereunder provided that a written notification of the change in residence has been filed with the Town Clerk.

Any Trustee may resign by written instrument signed and acknowledged by such Trustee and duly filed with the Town Clerk and recorded with the Registry of Deeds and filed with the Land Registration Office. Any Trustee may be removed or suspended by the Board of Selectmen pursuant to the Town Charter, Section 7-8.

If a Trustee shall die, resign, be removed or suspended, or for any other reason cease to be a Trustee hereunder before his/her term of office expires, a successor shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen to fill such vacancy provided that in each case the said appointment and acceptance in writing by the Trustee so appointed is filed with the Town Clerk and recorded with the Registry of Deeds and filed with the Land Registration Office. Upon the appointment of any succeeding Trustee and the filing of such appointment the title to the Trust estate shall thereupon and without the necessity of any conveyance be vested in such succeeding Trustee jointly with the remaining Trustees.

Reference to the Trustee shall mean the Trustee or Trustees for the time being hereunder. There shall be no more than six nor less than five Trustees of the Trust.

Chapter 3: Meetings of the Trust

There shall be monthly meetings of the Trust at such time and at such place as the Trustees shall determine. A written notice stating the place, day, hour, and agenda of each Meeting of the Trust shall be posted at Town Hall at least 48 hours before the date of such meeting in accordance with G.L. c. 39 § 23B. A quorum at any meeting shall be a majority of the Trustees qualified and present in person.

Chapter 4: Powers of Trustees

1. The powers of the Trustees, all of which shall be carried on in furtherance of the purposes set forth in General Laws Chapter 44 Section 55C, shall include the following:
 - a. With respect to all real and personal estate at any time held by them as if they were absolute owners thereof, and without limiting the foregoing generality:
 - b. to solicit and accept grants, gifts, devices and bequest or otherwise acquire real or personal property;
 - c. to invest any of the trust property in such manner as they may deem advisable without being limited as to the kind or amount of any investment;
 - d. to sell and exchange any or real personal property or any interest therein for such consideration and upon such terms and conditions as they deem advisable;
 - e. to join with others in the acquisition of real property or any interest therein;
 - f. to borrow money and mortgage or pledge any part of the trust estate assets and issue notes or other indebtedness;
 - g. to join with others in borrowings, mortgages and pledges and to guarantee and become surety on obligations of others in transactions in which the Trust has an interest;
 - h. to execute, as lessor or lessee leases, including for terms expiring after the possible expiration of the Trust;
 - i. to restore, construct, repair and maintain buildings and make other improvements and establish such reserves as they deem necessary therefore;
 - j. to pay, compromise, or adjust all obligations incurred and rights acquired in the administration of the Trust;
 - k. to obtain advice of counsel and to rely thereon;
 - l. to employ such other persons, agents, brokers, managers, accountants or advisors as they may deem advisable and to pay reasonable compensation and expenses, apportioning same between income and principal as the board deems advisable; and
 - m. to execute, acknowledge and deliver all such contracts, deeds, mortgages, leases, discharges, and partial releases of mortgages, or other instruments as they may deem advisable in the course of the administration of the Trust.
2. In accordance with G.L. c. 44 § 55C (16) (d), all moneys paid to the Trust shall be paid directly into the Trust and need not be appropriated or accepted and approved into the Trust. General revenues appropriated into the trust become Trust property, and to be expended, these funds need not be further appropriated. All moneys remaining in the trust at the end of any fiscal year, whether or not expended by the Trustees within one (1) year of the date that they were appropriated into the trust, remain trust property.

The Trustees shall have these and all powers set forth in G.L. c. 44 § 55C, and shall refrain from exercising any powers in such manner as to violate the provisions of said statute.

Chapter 5: Acts of Trustee

A majority of Trustees may exercise any or all of the powers of the Trustees hereunder and may execute on behalf of the Trustees any and all instruments with the same effects as though executed by all the Trustees. The Trustees may, by instrument executed by all the Trustees, delegate to any attorney, agent, or employee such other powers and duties as they deem advisable, including power to execute, acknowledge or deliver instruments as fully as the Trustees might themselves and to sign and endorse checks for the account of the Trustees of the Trust. The Trustees shall not delegate the authority to amend the Trust and no such delegation shall be effective. No Trustee shall be required to give bond. No license of court shall be required to confirm the validity of any transaction entered into by the Trustees with respect to the Trust Estate. No one dealing with the Trustees need inquire concerning the validity of anything the Trustees purport to do or see to the application of anything paid to or upon the order of the Trustees. No Trustee shall be liable for the acts, negligence or defaults of any other Trustee or any employee, agent, or representative of the Trustees selected with reasonable care, not for errors in judgment, nor mistakes of law or fact made in good faith nor in reliance in good faith on advice of counsel nor for other acts or omissions in good faith.

Chapter 6: Liability

Neither the Trustees nor any agent or officer of the Trust shall have the authority to bind the Town. The Trust is a public employer and the Trustees are public employees for purposes of G.L. c. 268A. The Trust shall be deemed a municipal agency and the Trustees special municipal employees for the purposes of G.L. c. 258.

Chapter 7: Accounts

The books and records of the Trust shall be audited by an independent auditor in accordance with accepted accounting practices. The results of the audit shall be provided to the Town. The Trust will give an annual report of its activities to the Town

(T.M. 5/11/09)

ARTICLE 36

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BY-LAW

SECTION 1: Purpose

The purpose of this By-law is to protect, maintain and enhance the public health, safety, environment and general welfare by establishing minimum requirements and procedures to control the adverse effects of increased post-development stormwater runoff and non-point source pollution associated with new development and redevelopment construction activity.

The Town of Grafton requires the use of Low Impact Development (LID) stormwater management practices whenever possible and better site design to minimize stormwater related impacts within the Town. The LID practices promoted in the Massachusetts Stormwater Management Regulations should be considered for use on development and redevelopment projects in the Town.

SECTION 2: Applicability

This By-law applies to any land-disturbing activity in the Town of Grafton as defined here in §2. All other land disturbing activities below the thresholds established below do not require an administrative review but shall employ best management practices to ensure that erosion is controlled and that disturbed soil is contained on site.

Stormwater Management Permit. The following land-disturbing activities, whether new development or redevelopment, shall require a Stormwater Management Permit:

1. Excavating, grading, or other activity which disturbs an area of 40,000 or more square feet or a volume of earth resulting in a total quantity equal to or greater than 1,000 cubic yards.

The application for a Stormwater Management Permit shall include the submittal of a Stormwater Management Plan to the Conservation Commission. This Stormwater Management Plan shall contain sufficient information for the Commission to evaluate the environmental impact, effectiveness, and acceptability of the measures proposed by the applicant for reducing adverse impacts from stormwater. The Plan shall be designed to meet, at a minimum, the Massachusetts Stormwater Management Standards as set forth in the DEP Stormwater Management Regulations, Volumes I and II and as amended from time to time. The Town of Grafton requires the use of nonstructural stormwater management practices, better site design practices or Low Impact Development (LID) practices, such as reducing impervious cover and the preservation of Open Space and other natural areas, to the maximum extent practicable.

SECTION 3: Exceptions

The provisions of this By-law shall not apply to:

- a. Work performed for normal maintenance or improvement of land in agricultural or forestry use;

- b. The removal of hazardous and/or dead trees;
- c. Routine maintenance of vegetation and removal of dead or diseased limbs or trees necessary to maintain the health of cultivated plants, to control noxious weeds or vines in accordance with a Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) approved Forest Management Plan, or to remedy a potential fire or health hazard or threat to public safety;
- d. Repair or replacement of individual sewage disposal systems serving a single- or two-family dwelling when required by the Board of Health for the protection of public health;
- e. Normal maintenance of existing landscaping, gardens or lawn areas associated with a single-family dwelling, provided that such maintenance does not include the following:
 - construction of any walls more than four feet in height;
 - alteration of existing grades by more than two feet in elevation; or
 - alteration of drainage patterns.
- f. Construction of utilities other than drainage (gas, water, sewer, electric, telephone, etc.) that will not alter terrain or drainage patterns.
- g. Routine maintenance and upgrade of existing municipal drainage system/stormwater system that will not significantly alter existing terrain or drainage system.
- h. Routine maintenance and upgrading of existing public ways including reclamation and paving, and other routine maintenance activities that apply to roadway maintenance that will not significantly alter the existing terrain or drainage system.

SECTION 4: Waivers

The Commission may waive strict compliance with any requirement of this By-law or the rules and regulations promulgated hereunder, where such action:

- a. Is allowed by federal, state and local statutes and/or regulations;
- b. Is in the public interest; and
- c. Is not inconsistent with the purpose and intent of this Bylaw.

Any applicant may submit a written request to be granted such a waiver. Such a waiver request shall be accompanied by an explanation or documentation supporting the waiver request and demonstrating that strict application of this Bylaw does not further the purposes or objectives of this By-law.

All waiver requests shall be discussed by the Commission and a decision will be made by the Commission within 30 days of receiving the waiver request.

If, in the Commission's opinion, additional time or information is required for review of a waiver request, the Commission may continue consideration of the waiver request to a date certain announced at the meeting. In the event the applicant refuses a continuance, or fails to provide the requested information, the waiver request shall be denied.

SECTION 5: Administration - Permits, Determination, and Conditions

The Grafton Conservation Commission, as established under M.G.L. C. 40, § 8C shall have authority to administer this Bylaw. The Conservation Commission shall administer, implement and enforce this Bylaw. Any powers granted to or duties imposed upon the Conservation Commission may be delegated in writing by the Conservation Commission to its employees or agents.

- a. Review. The Commission and its agents shall review all applications for Stormwater Management Permits, conduct inspections, issue a final permit and conduct any necessary enforcement action. The applicant shall submit all additional information requested by the Commission to issue a decision on the application.
- b. Standards. Projects shall meet the standards of the Massachusetts Stormwater Management Regulations.
- c. Action. The Commission may:
 1. Approve the Stormwater Management Permit application and issue an objectives and requirements of this Bylaw;
 2. Approve the Stormwater Management Permit application and issue a permit with conditions, modifications or restrictions that the Commission determines are required to ensure that the project will protect water resources and meet the objectives and requirements of this Bylaw;
 3. Disapprove the Stormwater Management Permit application and deny the permit if it finds that the proposed plan will not protect water resources or fails to meet the objectives and requirements of this By-law.
- d. Extensions. A Stormwater Management Permit shall be valid for three years from the date the permit is issued. The Commission may grant extensions for additional 1 year periods, upon written request for renewal no later than 30 days prior to expiration of the permit.

SECTION 6: Coordination with other Boards

Following receipt of a completed application, the Commission shall seek review and comments from the Planning Board, Board of Health, Building Inspector, and Department of Public Works. The Commission shall not make a decision on the Stormwater Management Permit until it has received comments from these entities or until 14 days have elapsed after receipt of the application materials without submission of comments thereon.

SECTION 7: Notice and Hearings

- a. Application. A completed application for a Stormwater Management Permit shall be filed with the Commission. A permit, or a determination that a permit is not required, must be obtained prior to the commencement of land disturbing activity. The permit application requirements are specified in regulations adopted by the Commission.

In an appropriate case, the Commission may accept as the application and plans under this By-law any application and plans filed under the Wetlands Protection Act (G.L. Ch. 131 §40) and regulations (310 CMR 10.00), but the Commission is not obliged to do so.

- b. **Public Hearing.** The Commission shall hold a public hearing within 30 days of the receipt of a complete application, with written notice given at the expense of the applicant five days prior to the hearing. The applicant shall also notify abutters by certified mail at least five days prior to the hearing. The Commission shall make the application available for inspection by the public during business hours at the Town Hall. The Commission shall take final action within 21 days from the time of the close of the hearing unless such time is extended by agreement between the applicant and the Commission.

In an appropriate case, the Commission may combine its hearing under this and regulations (310 CMR 10.00).

SECTION 8: Operation and Maintenance Plans

An operation and maintenance plan (O&M Plan) is required at the time of application for all projects subject to a Stormwater Management Permit. The maintenance plan shall be designed to ensure compliance with the permit, this By-law and that the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards, 314 CMR 4.00, are met in all seasons and throughout the life of the system. The Commission shall make the final decision on what maintenance option is appropriate in a given situation. The Commission will consider natural features, proximity of site to water bodies and wetland resource areas, extent of impervious surfaces, size of the site, the types of stormwater management structures, and potential need for ongoing maintenance activities when making this decision. The operation and maintenance plan shall remain on file with the Commission and shall be an ongoing requirement. Requirements for the content of the O&M Plan and its implementation are specified in Stormwater Management Rules and Regulations associated with this Bylaw.

SECTION 9: Certificate of Completion

Upon the completion of the activities allowed under a Stormwater Management Permit, the applicant shall notify the Commission and request a final inspection and certificate of completion. The applicant shall submit an as-built plan prepared by a professional land surveyor or registered professional engineer along with certification from a registered professional engineer that all construction has been done in accordance with the approved stormwater management plan.

SECTION 10: Stormwater Management Regulations

The Conservation Commission may adopt, and periodically amend, rules and regulations relating to the terms, conditions, definitions, enforcement, fees, procedures and administration of this By-law after conducting a public hearing to receive comments on any revisions. After public notice and public hearing, the Commission shall have authority to promulgate rules and regulations to implement this By-law, to review permit applications, to perform monitoring and inspections, to grant or deny permits, and to enforce the provisions of this By-law, and to take any other actions reasonable and appropriate to implement this By-law.

SECTION 11: Definitions

The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation and implementation of this By-law:

“Abutter” — The owner(s) of land sharing a common property line with the owner of land that is the subject of an application and the owners of land directly opposite on any public or private street or way, and abutters to the abutters within 300 feet of the property line of land that is the subject of the application as they appear on the most recent applicable tax list, notwithstanding that the land of any such owner is located in another city or town.

“Agriculture” — The normal maintenance or improvement of land in agricultural or aquacultural use, as defined by the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. C. 131, §~40) and its implementing regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and any agricultural activity which is consistent with an approved soil conservation plan prepared or approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service.

“Alteration” — Any activity that will measurably change the ability of a ground surface area to absorb water or will change existing surface drainage patterns. Alteration may be similarly represented as “alteration of drainage characteristics,” and “conducting land-disturbing activities.” Such changes include, but are not limited to: change from distributed runoff to confined, discrete discharge; change in the volume of runoff from the area; change in the peak rate of runoff from the area; and change in the recharge to groundwater on the area.

“Applicant” — Any “person,” as defined below, requesting a Stormwater Management Permit for a proposed land-disturbing activity.

“Best Management Practice (BMP)” — Structural, nonstructural and managerial techniques that are recognized to be the most effective and practical means to prevent and/or reduce increases in stormwater volumes and flows, reduce point source and non-point source pollution, and promote stormwater quality and protection of the environment. “Structural” BMPs are devices that are engineered and constructed to provide temporary storage and treatment of stormwater runoff. “Nonstructural” BMPs use natural measures to reduce pollution levels, do not require extensive construction efforts, and/or promote pollutant reduction by eliminating the pollutant source.

“Clearing” — Any activity that removes the vegetative surface cover. Clearing activities generally include disturbance or grubbing activity as defined below.

“Cold Water Fishery” – Environmental resources defined by Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife as meeting at least one of three criteria:

1. Brook, brown or rainbow trout has been determined;
2. Slimy sculpin or longnose sucker are present; or
3. The water is part of the Atlantic salmon restoration effort or is stocked with Atlantic salmon fry or parr.

“Development” — The modification of land to accommodate a new use or expansion of use, usually involving construction.

“Erosion” – The wearing away of the land surface by natural or artificial forces such as wind, water, ice, gravity, or vehicle traffic and the subsequent detachment and transportation of soil particles.

“Erosion And Sedimentation Control Plan” — A document containing narrative, drawings and details developed by a qualified professional engineer (PE), a professional land surveyor (PLS), a registered landscape architect (RLA), or a certified professional in erosion and sedimentation control (CPESC), which includes best management practices or equivalent measures designed to control surface runoff, erosion and sedimentation during pre-construction and construction-related land disturbance activities.

“Grubbing” — The act of clearing land surface by digging up roots and stumps.

“Land-Disturbing Activity or Land Disturbance” — Any activity, including clearing and grubbing, that causes a change in the position or location of soil, sand, rock, gravel, or similar earth material.

“Low-Impact Development (LID)” — Development that results in minimized alterations of the land for a more sustainable land development pattern. The site planning process first identifies critical natural resources and then determines appropriate building envelopes to preserve resources. LID also incorporates a range of best management practices (BMPs) that preserve the natural hydrology of the land, minimize impervious areas and preserve vegetation.

“Massachusetts Stormwater Management Policy” — The policy issued by the Department of Environmental Protection, as amended from time to time, that coordinates the requirements prescribed by state regulations promulgated under the authority of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. C. 131, §~40, and the Massachusetts Clean Waters Act, M.G.L. C. 21, §~23-56. The policy addresses stormwater impacts through implementation of performance standards to reduce or prevent pollutants from reaching water bodies and control the quantity of runoff from a site.

“Municipal Storm Drain System or Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)” — The system of conveyances designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater, including any road with a drainage system, street, gutter, curb, inlet, piped storm drain, pumping facility, retention or detention basin, natural or man made or altered drainage channel, reservoir, and other drainage structure that together comprise the storm drainage system owned or operated by the Town of Grafton.

“Non-Point Source Pollution” — Pollution from diffuse sources, as opposed to discrete conveyances, caused by water, including rainfall or snowmelt, moving over or through the ground.

“Operation and Maintenance Plan” — A plan describing the functional, financial, and organizational mechanisms for the ongoing operation and maintenance of a stormwater management system to ensure that it continues to function as designed.

“Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW)” — Waters designated by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection as ORWs. These waters have exceptional sociologic, recreational, ecological and/or aesthetic values and are subject to more stringent requirements under both the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards (314 CMR 4.00) and the Massachusetts

Stormwater Management Standards. ORWs include vernal pools certified by the Natural Heritage Program of the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement, all Class A designated public water supplies with their bordering vegetated wetlands, and other waters specifically designated.

“Person” — An individual, partnership, association, firm, company, trust, corporation, agency, authority, department or political subdivision of the Commonwealth or the federal government, to the extent permitted by law, and any officer, employee, or agent of such person.

“Point Source” — Any discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including, but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, or container from which pollutants are or may be discharged.

“Pre-Development” — Those conditions that exist at the time that plans for the land development of a site or parcel of land are submitted to the Committee. When phased development or plan approval occurs (preliminary grading, roads and utilities, etc.), the existing conditions at the time prior to the first plan submission shall establish pre-development conditions.

“Post-Development” — Those conditions that reasonably may be expected or anticipated to exist after completion of the land development activity on a specific site or parcel of land. Post-development also refers to the phase of a new development or redevelopment project after completion, and does not refer to the construction phase of a project.

“Redevelopment” — Development, rehabilitation, expansion, demolition or phased projects that disturb the ground surface or increase the impervious area on previously developed sites.

“Runoff” — Rainfall, snowmelt, or irrigation water flowing over the ground surface.

“Sediment” — Mineral or organic soil material that is transported by wind or water from its origin to another location; the product of erosion processes.

“Sedimentation” — The process or act of deposition of sediment.

“Site” — Any lot or parcel of land or area of property where land-disturbing activities are, were, or will be performed.

“Soil” — Earth materials, including decomposed organic material, humic materials, sand, rock and gravel.

“Stabilization” — The use, singly or in combination, of mechanical, structural, or vegetative methods, to prevent or retard erosion.

“Stormwater” — Stormwater runoff, snow melt runoff, and surface water runoff and drainage.

“Stormwater Management Permit (SMP)” — A permit issued by the Commission, which is designed to protect the environment of the Town of Grafton from the deleterious effects of uncontrolled and untreated stormwater runoff.

“Stormwater Management Plan” — A document containing narrative, drawings and details prepared by a qualified professional engineer (PE), a professional land surveyor (PLS), or a certified professional in erosion and sedimentation control (CPESC), which includes structural and nonstructural best management practices to manage and treat stormwater runoff generated from regulated development activity. A Stormwater Management Plan also includes an Operation and Maintenance Plan describing the maintenance requirements for structural best management practices.

“Wetland Resource Area” — Areas specified in the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. C. 131, §~40, and in Article 25, General Wetlands Protection Bylaw, of the Town of Grafton.

SECTION 12: Security

The Commission may require the applicant to post a surety bond, cash, or other acceptable security before the start of any land-disturbing activity. The form of the bond/surety shall be approved by Town Counsel and the Town Treasurer, and be in an amount deemed sufficient by the Commission to insure that the work will be completed in accordance with the permit. Any performance bond or certificate of guarantee shall be executed and maintained by a financial institution, surety, or guaranty company qualified to do business in the Commonwealth.

SECTION 13: Enforcement and Penalties

The Commission or its authorized agent shall enforce this By-law, its regulations, orders, violation notices, and enforcement orders, and may pursue all civil and criminal remedies for such violations.

Any person who violates any provision of this By-law, regulation, order or permit issued thereunder, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$300. Each day or part thereunder that such violation occurs or continues shall constitute a separate offense.

As an alternative to criminal prosecution or civil action, the Town may elect to utilize the non-criminal disposition procedure set forth in M.G.L. C. 40, §~21D, in which case the Commission or authorized agent shall be the enforcing person. The non-criminal penalty for violations shall be \$50 for the first violation, \$100 for the second violation, and \$300 for the third violation and each subsequent violation. Each day or part thereof that such violation occurs or continues shall constitute a separate offense.

SECTION 14: Inspection

Filing an application for a Stormwater Management Permit grants the Commission, or its agent, permission to enter the site of the land-disturbing activity, as permitted by law, to verify the information in the application and to inspect for compliance with permit conditions.

SECTION 15: Fees

The Commission by regulation shall promulgate an application fee schedule for stormwater management permit applications and completion certificates. The fee schedule shall be reasonably related to the costs of processing, reviewing and acting upon the application. The fee specified in such a fee schedule shall be made payable to the Town of Grafton and shall accompany the permit

application or request for certificate of completion. The Commission may require an additional fee for review of any change in or alteration from an approved permit. Said fee shall be paid into a special account set up by the Town Treasurer and may be expended by the Commission for the purpose allocated without further appropriation in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L C. 44, §~55E 1/2.

Pursuant to G.L. Ch. 44 §53G and regulations promulgated by the Commission, securing outside consultants, including engineers or other experts, in order to aid in the review of proposed projects. Such funds shall be deposited with the town treasurer, who shall create an account specifically for this purpose. Additional consultant fees may be requested where the requisite review is more expensive than originally calculated or where new information requires additional consultant services.

SECTION 16: Appeals

A decision by the Conservation Commission made under this By-law shall be reviewable in the Superior Court in an action filed within 60 days thereof, in accordance with M.G.L. C. 249 § 4.

SECTION 17: Relation to the Clean Water Act.

This By-law is adopted under authority granted by the Home Rule Amendment of the Massachusetts Constitution, the Home Rule Statutes, and the regulations of the Federal Clean Water Act found at 40 CFR 122.34.

SECTION 18: Severability

If any provision, paragraph, sentence, or clause of this By-law is held invalid for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

(ATM 5/11/09)

ARTICLE 37

ILLICIT DISCHARGE BY-LAW

SECTION 1: Purpose

Increased and contaminated stormwater runoff is a major cause of impairment of water quality and flow in lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, wetlands and groundwater; contamination of drinking water supplies; alteration or destruction of aquatic and wildlife habitat; and flooding.

Regulation of illicit connections and discharges to the municipal storm drain system is necessary for the protection of the town's water bodies and groundwater, and to safeguard the public health, safety, welfare and the environment.

The objectives of this by-law are:

- to prevent pollutants from entering the town's municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4);
- to prohibit illicit connections and unauthorized discharges to the MS4;
- to require the removal of all such illicit connections;
- to comply with state and federal statutes and regulations relating to stormwater discharges; and
- to establish the legal authority to ensure compliance with the provisions of this by-law through inspection, monitoring, and enforcement.

SECTION 2: Definitions

For the purposes of this by-law, the following shall mean:

“Authority”: Board of Selectmen.

“Authorized Administrative Agency”: The Department of Public Works hereafter the DPW its employees or agents designated to enforce this by-law.

“Best Management Practices (BMP)”: An activity, procedure, restraint, or structural improvement that helps to reduce the quantity or improve the quality of stormwater runoff.

“Clean Water Act”: The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 *et seq.*) as hereafter amended.

“Discharge of Pollutants”: The addition from any source of any pollutant or combination of pollutants into the municipal storm drain system or into the waters of the United States or Commonwealth from any source.

“Groundwater”: Water beneath the surface of the ground.

“Illicit Connection”: A surface or subsurface drain or conveyance, which allows an illicit discharge into the municipal storm drain system, including without limitation sewage, process wastewater, or wash water and any connections from indoor drains, sinks, or toilets, regardless of whether said connection was previously allowed, permitted, or approved before the effective date of this by-law.

“Illicit Discharge”: Direct or indirect discharge to the municipal storm drain system that is not composed entirely of stormwater, except as exempted in Section 8. The term does not include a discharge in compliance with an NPDES Storm Water Discharge Permit or a Surface Water Discharge Permit.

“Impervious Surface”: Any material or structure on or above the ground that prevents water infiltrating the underlying soil. Impervious surface includes without limitation roads, paved parking lots, sidewalks, and rooftops.

“Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) or Municipal Storm Drain System”: The system of conveyances designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater, including any road with a drainage system, street, gutter, curb, inlet, piped storm drain, pumping facility, retention or detention basin, natural or man-made or altered drainage channel, reservoir, and other drainage structure that together comprise the storm drainage system owned or operated by the town of Grafton.

“National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Storm Water Discharge Permit”: A permit issued by United States Environmental Protection Agency or jointly with the State that authorizes the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States.

“Non-Stormwater Discharge”: Discharge to the municipal storm drain system not composed entirely of stormwater

“Person”: An individual, partnership, association, firm, company, trust, corporation, agency, authority, department or political subdivision of the Commonwealth or the federal government, to the extent permitted by law, and any officer, employee, or agent of such person.

“Pollutant”: Any element or property of sewage, agricultural, industrial or commercial waste, runoff, leachate, heated effluent, or other matter whether originating at a point or non-point source, that is or may be introduced into any sewage treatment works or waters of the Commonwealth. Pollutants shall include without limitation:

- (1) paints, varnishes, and solvents;
- (2) oil and other automotive fluids;
- (3) non-hazardous liquid and solid wastes and yard wastes;
- (4) refuse, rubbish, garbage, litter, or other discarded or abandoned objects, ordnances, accumulations and floatables;
- (5) pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers;
- (6) hazardous materials and wastes; sewage, fecal coliform and pathogens;
- (7) dissolved and particulate metals;
- (8) animal wastes;

- (9) rock, sand, salt, soils;
- (10) construction wastes and residues; and
- (11) noxious or offensive matter of any kind.

“Process Wastewater”: Water which, during manufacturing or processing, comes into direct contact with or results from the production or use of any material, intermediate product, finished product, or waste product.

“Recharge”: The process by which groundwater is replenished by precipitation through the percolation of runoff and surface water through the soil.

“Stormwater”: Storm water runoff, snow melt runoff, and surface water runoff and drainage.

“Surface Water Discharge Permit”: A permit issued by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) pursuant to 314 CMR 3.00 that authorizes the discharge of pollutants to waters of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

“Toxic or Hazardous Material or Waste”: Any material, which because of its quantity, concentration, chemical, corrosive, flammable, reactive, toxic, infectious or radioactive characteristics, either separately or in combination with any substance or substances, constitutes a present or potential threat to human health, safety, welfare, or to the environment. Toxic or hazardous materials include any synthetic organic chemical, petroleum product, heavy metal, radioactive or infectious waste, acid and alkali, and any substance defined as Toxic or Hazardous under G.L. Ch.21C and Ch.21E, and the regulations at 310 CMR 30.000 and 310 CMR 40.0000.

“Watercourse”: A natural or man-made channel through which water flows or a stream of water, including a river, brook or underground stream.

“Waters of the Commonwealth”: All waters within the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth, including, without limitation, rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, springs, impoundments, estuaries, wetlands, costal waters, and groundwater.

“Wastewater”: Any sanitary waste, sludge, or septic tank or cesspool overflow, and water that during manufacturing, cleaning or processing, comes into direct contact with or results from the production or use of any raw material, intermediate product, finished product, byproduct or waste product.

SECTION 3: Applicability

This by-law shall apply to flows entering the municipally owned storm drainage system.

SECTION: Authority

This bylaw is adopted under the authority granted by the Home Rule Amendment of the Massachusetts Constitution and the Home Rule Procedures Act, and pursuant to the regulations of the federal Clean Water Act found at 40 CFR 122.34.

SECTION 5: Responsibility for Administration

The DPW shall administer, implement and enforce this by-law. Any powers granted to or duties imposed upon the DPW may be delegated in writing by the Board of Selectmen to the DPW.

SECTION 6: Regulations

The Board of Selectmen may promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this by-Law. Failure by the Board of Selectmen to promulgate such rules and regulations shall not have the effect of suspending or invalidating this by-law.

SECTION 7: Prohibited Activities

Illicit Discharges. No person shall dump, discharge, cause or allow to be discharged any pollutant or non-stormwater discharge into the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4), into a watercourse, or into the waters of the Commonwealth.

Illicit Connections. No person shall construct, use, allow, maintain or continue any illicit connection to the municipal storm drain system, regardless of whether the connection was permissible under applicable law, regulation or custom at the time of connection.

Obstruction of Municipal Storm Drain System. No person shall obstruct or interfere with the normal flow of stormwater into or out of the municipal storm drain system without prior written approval from Board of Selectmen.

SECTION 8: Exemptions

Discharge or flow resulting from fire fighting activities.

The following non-stormwater discharges or flows are exempt from the prohibition of non-stormwater provided that the source is not a significant contributor of a pollutant to the municipal storm drain system:

- (1) Waterline flushing;
- (2) Flow from potable water sources;
- (3) Springs;
- (4) Natural flow from riparian habitats and wetlands;
- (5) Diverted stream flow;
- (6) Rising groundwater;
- (7) Uncontaminated groundwater infiltration as defined in 40 CFR 35.2005(20), or uncontaminated pumped groundwater;
- (8) Water from exterior foundation drains, footing drains not including active groundwater dewatering systems, crawl space pumps.
- (9) Discharge from landscape irrigation or lawn watering or air conditioning condensation;
- (10) Water from individual residential car washing;

- (11) Discharge from dechlorinated swimming pool water (less than one ppm chlorine) provided the water is allowed to stand for one week prior to draining and the pool is drained in such a way as not to cause a nuisance;
- (12) Discharge from street sweeping;
- (13) Dye testing, provided writing notification is given to the DPW prior to the time of the test;
- (14) Non-stormwater discharge permitted under an NPDES permit or a Surface Water Discharge Permit, waiver, or waste discharge order administered under the authority of the United States Environmental Protection Agency or the Department of Environmental Protection, provided that the discharge is in full compliance with the requirements of the permit, waiver, or order and applicable laws and regulations,
- (15) Discharge for which advanced written approval is received from the Board of Selectmen as necessary to protect public health, safety, welfare or the environment,
- (16) For discharges pertaining to items defined in section 7 and 8 the Town shall require testing of currently conveyed or to be conveyed flow at the expense of the property owner. The town may also require a hydraulic capacity analysis of its drainage system to accommodate the flow conveyed or to be conveyed.

SECTION 9: Emergency Suspension of Storm Drainage System Access

The Board of Selectmen may suspend municipal storm drain system access to any person or property without prior written notice when such suspension is necessary to stop an actual or threatened discharge of pollutants that presents imminent risk of harm to the public health, safety, welfare or the environment. In the event any person fails to comply with an emergency suspension order, the Authorized Enforcement Agency may take all reasonable steps to prevent or minimize harm to the public health, safety, welfare or the environment.

SECTION 10: Notification of Spills

Notwithstanding other requirements of local, state or federal law, as soon as a person responsible for a facility or operation, or responsible for emergency response for a facility or operation has information of or suspects a release of materials at that facility or operation resulting in or which may result in discharge of pollutants to the municipal drainage system or waters of the Commonwealth, the person shall take all necessary steps to ensure containment, and cleanup of the release. In the event of a release of oil or hazardous materials, the person shall immediately notify the municipal fire and police departments and [insert other appropriate departments]. In the event of a release of non-hazardous material, the reporting person shall notify the Authorized Enforcement Agency no later than the next business day. The reporting person shall provide to the Authorized Enforcement Agency written confirmation of all telephone, facsimile or in-person notifications within three business days thereafter. If the discharge of prohibited materials is from a commercial or industrial facility, the facility owner or operator of the facility shall retain on-site a written record of the discharge and the actions taken to prevent its recurrence. Such records shall be retained for at least three years.

SECTION 11: Enforcement

The Board of Selectmen through the DPW shall enforce this by-law, regulations, orders, violation notices, and enforcement orders, and may pursue all civil and criminal remedies for such violations.

Civil Relief. If a person violates the provisions of this by-law, regulations, permit, notice, or order issued thereunder, the Board of Selectmen may seek injunctive relief in a court of competent jurisdiction restraining the person from activities which would create further violations or compelling the person to perform abatement or remediation of the violation.

Orders: The DPW may issue a written order to enforce the provisions of this by-law or the regulations thereunder, which may include:

- (a) elimination of illicit connections or discharges to the MS4
- (b) performance of monitoring, analyses, and reporting;
- (c) that unlawful discharges, practices, or operations shall cease and desist; and
- (d) remediation of contamination in connection therewith.

If the town determines that abatement or remediation of contamination is required, the order shall set forth a deadline by which such abatement or remediation must be completed. Said order shall further advise that, should the violator or property owner fail to abate or perform remediation within the specified deadline, the town may, at its option, undertake such work, and expenses thereof shall be charged to the violator.

Within thirty (30) days after completing all measures necessary to abate the violation or perform remediation, the violator and the property owner will be notified of the costs incurred by the town including administrative costs. The violator or property owner may file a written protest objecting to the amount or basis of costs with the Board of Selectmen within thirty (30) days of receipt of the notification of the costs incurred. If the amount due is not received by the expiration of the time in which to file a protest or within thirty (30) days following a decision of the Board of Selectmen affirming or reducing the costs, or from a final decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, the costs shall become a special assessment against the property owner and shall constitute a lien on the owner's property for the amount of said costs. Interest shall begin to accrue on any unpaid costs at the statutory rate provided in G.L. Ch. 59, 57 after the thirty-first day at which the costs first become due.

Criminal Penalty: Any person who violates any provision of this by-law, regulation, order or permit issued thereunder, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$ 250.00. Each day or part thereof that such violation occurs or continues shall constitute a separate offense.

Non-Criminal Disposition: As an alternative to criminal prosecution or civil action, the Board of Selectmen may elect to utilize the non-criminal disposition procedure set forth in G.L. Ch. 40, §21D in which case the DPW shall be the enforcing town department. The penalty for the 1st violation shall be \$100.00. The penalty for the 2nd violation shall be \$250.00. The penalty for the 3rd and subsequent violations shall be \$300.00. Each day or part thereof that such violation occurs or continues shall constitute a separate offense.

Entry to Perform Duties Under this By-Law: To the extent permitted by state law, or if authorized by the owner or other party in control of the property, the Board of Selectmen, its agents, officers, and employees may enter upon privately owned property for the purpose of performing their duties under this by-law and regulations and may make or cause to be made such examinations, surveys or sampling as the Board deems reasonably necessary.

Appeals: The decisions or orders of the Board of Selectmen shall be final. Further relief shall be to a court of competent jurisdiction.

Remedies Not Exclusive: The remedies listed in this by-law are not exclusive of any other remedies available under any applicable federal, state or local law.

SECTION 12: Severability

The provisions of this by-law are hereby declared to be severable. If any provision, paragraph, sentence, or clause, of this by-law or the application thereof to any person, establishment, or circumstances shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or application of this by-law.

SECTION 13: Transitional Provisions

Residential property owners shall have (90) ninety days from the effective date of the by-law to comply with its provisions provided good cause is shown for the failure to comply with the by-law during that period.

(ATM 5/11/09)

ARTICLE 38

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

SECTION 1. Purpose

The mission of the Agricultural Commission, hereinafter “the Commission”, is to represent the Town of Grafton’s agricultural community and interests. The Commission once appointed shall develop a work plan to guide its activities. Such activities include, but are not limited to the following: serve as facilitators for encouraging the pursuit of agriculture in Grafton; promote agriculture-based economic opportunities in the Town; act as mediators, advocates, educators, and/or negotiators on farming issues for established Town Committees and Departments; and pursue all initiatives appropriate to creating a sustainable agricultural community.

SECTION 2. Membership

The Commission shall consist of five members who shall be Grafton residents, appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The initial term of two members shall be three years, of two members shall be two years, and of one member shall be one year. After the initial term, the term of a member shall be three years. The Board of Selectmen may appoint two alternates and any number of non-voting advisory members without residency restrictions. The term of an alternate member shall be one year. The Board of Selectmen shall fill a vacancy based on the unexpired term of the vacancy in order to maintain the cycle of appointments. The Commission may recommend appointees to fill vacancies.(T.M. 5/10/2010)

Adopted at Special Town Meeting, October 28, 1958 with subsequent amendments voted at Town Meetings as noted.

Approved by the Attorney General, December 26, 1958, and subsequently. Dates on file in the Town Clerk's office.

A TRUE COPY,
ATTEST:

Maureen A. Clark, Town Clerk

APPENDIX A

ADMINISTRATIVE CODE FOR THE CREATION OF A DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

In accordance with Article 5, Section 5-1 (b) of the Town Charter, a Department of Public Works is hereby created this 17th day of October, 1988.

Background

Section 5-4 of the Town Charter mandates the creation of a department of public works, headed by a director appointed by the Town Administrator. The Department of Public Works shall assume all functions previously undertaken by the Tree Warden, Highway Department, Recreation Commission and Board of Health relating only to refuse collection and disposal.

Structure

The Department of Public Works shall consist of the Highway and Sanitation Divisions each with the following responsibilities:

HIGHWAY

- Street, road, sidewalk construction and maintenance
- Storm drainage construction and maintenance
- Snow and ice control
- Park construction and maintenance
- Tree removal and other activities associated with the Tree Warden.
- All other functions relating to public works construction and maintenance not under the jurisdiction of the sewer, Cemetery or Engineering Departments

SANITATION

- Refuse collection and disposal
- Maintenance and/or operation of the sanitary landfill

Director of Public Works

The Town Administrator shall be the director of public works responsible for the over-sight and administration of the department.

The superintendent of streets shall be responsible for the day to day operational aspects of the highway division as set forth in that position's job description.

The Board of Health will retain all its powers and responsibilities inherent with that body not in conflict with this code.

The Recreation Commission will retain all its powers held previously dealing with programs operated by that body. Only the construction and repair or recreational facilities will become the responsibility of the department of public works.

The Board of Selectmen, acting through the Town Administrator, shall be responsible for the overall supervision of the department of public works and for the establishment of policies and other guidelines to govern the operation of the department.

Public Works Advisory Committee

There shall be a public works advisory committee as set forth in Section 5-5 of the Town Charter. This body will be responsible as part of its duties to advise the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen on matters dealing with the department of public works.

Departments not Affected

The Cemetery, Sewer, Building Inspector, Building Maintenance and Engineering Departments are not affected by this action and will remain separate and distinct departments of the Town.