**1. Purposes.** The purposes of this Ordinance are to further the maintenance of safe and healthful conditions; to prevent and control water pollution; to protect fish spawning grounds, aquatic life, bird and other wildlife habitat; to protect buildings and lands from flooding and accelerated erosion; to protect archaeological and historic resources; to protect freshwater and wetlands; to control building sites, placement of structures and land uses; to conserve shore cover, and visual as well as actual points of access to inland waters; to conserve natural beauty and open space; and to anticipate and respond to the impacts of development within the Town of Otis.

**2. Authority.** This Ordinance has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Title 38 Sections 435-449 of the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated (M.R.S.A.).

1. **Applicability.** This Ordinance applies to all land areas within the Town of Otis, including land area within 250 feet horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of any great pond or river; within 250 feet, horizontal distance, of the upland edge of a freshwater wetland; and all land area within 75 feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of a stream. This Ordinance also applies to any structure built on, over or abutting a dock, wharf or pier, or other structure extending or located below the normal high-water line of a water body or within a wetland.

**4. Effective Date of Ordinance and Ordinance Amendments.** This Ordinance, which was originally adopted by the municipal legislative body on **May 18, 1992**, **and amended ….and further amended as adopted by the municipal legislative body on August 14, 2024,** shall not be effective unless approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection. A certified copy of the Ordinance or Ordinance Amendment, attested and signed by the Municipal Clerk, shall be forwarded to the Commissioner for approval. If the Commissioner fails to act on the Ordinance or Ordinance Amendment within forty-five (45) days of his/her receipt of the Ordinance or Ordinance Amendment, it shall be automatically approved.

Any application for a permit submitted to the municipality within the forty-five (45) day period shall be governed by the terms of this Ordinance or Ordinance Amendment, if the Ordinance or Ordinance Amendment, is approved by the Commissioner.

**5. Availability.** A certified copy of this Ordinance shall be filed with the Municipal Clerk and shall be accessible to any member of the public. Copies shall be made available to the public at reasonable cost at the expense of the person making the request. Notice of availability of this Ordinance shall be posted.

**6. Severability.** Should any section or provision of this Ordinance be declared by the courts to be invalid, such decision shall not invalidate any other section or provision of the Ordinance.

**7. Conflicts with Other Ordinances.** Whenever a provision of this Ordinance conflicts with or is inconsistent with another provision of this Ordinance or of any other ordinance, regulation or statute administered by the municipality, the more restrictive provision shall control.

**8.** **Amendments.** This Ordinance may be amended by majority vote of the legislative body. Copies of amendments, attested and signed by the Municipal Clerk, shall be submitted to the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection following adoption by the municipal legislative body and shall not be effective unless approved by the Commissioner. If the Commissioner fails to act on any amendment within forty-five (45) days of his/her receipt of the amendment, the amendment is automatically approved. Any application for a permit submitted to the municipality within the forty-five (45) day period shall be governed by the terms of the amendment, if such amendment is approved by the Commissioner.

**9. Districts and Zoning Map**

**A.**  Official Otis Zoning Map

The town of Otis, Maine is hereby divided into the following districts as shown on the Official Zoning Maps which are made a part of this Ordinance:

1. Resource Protection 2. Limited Residential

3. Stream Protection 4. Sensitive Development Area

5. Rural Residential 6. Air Park

**B. Scale of Map.** The Official Otis Zoning Map shall be drawn at a scale of not less than: 1 inch = ­­­­­2000 feet. District boundaries shall be clearly delineated and a legend indicating the symbols for each district shall be placed on the map

**C. Certification of Official Otis Zoning Map.** The Official Otis Zoning Map shall be certified by the attested signature of the Municipal Clerk and shall be located in the municipal office. In the event the municipality does not have a municipal office.

**D. Changes to the Official Otis Zoning Map.** If amendments, in accordance with Section 8, are made in the district boundaries or other matter portrayed on the Official Otis Zoning Map, such changes shall be made on the Official Otis Zoning Map within thirty (30) days after the amendment has been approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection.

**10. Interpretation of District Boundaries.** Unless otherwise set forth on the Official Otis Zoning Map, district boundary lines are property lines, the centerlines of streets, roads and rights of way, and the boundaries of the shore land area as defined herein. Where uncertainty exists as to the exact location of district boundary lines, the Board of Appeals shall be the final authority as to location.

**11. Land Use Requirements.** Except as hereinafter specified, no building, structure or land shall hereafter be used or occupied, and no building or structure or part thereof shall hereafter be erected, constructed, expanded, moved, or altered and no new lot shall be created except in conformity with all of the regulations herein specified for the district in which it is located, unless a variance is granted.

**12. Non-conformance.**

**A. Purpose.** It is the intent of this Ordinance to promote land use conformities, except that non-conforming conditions that existed before the effective date of this Ordinance or amendments thereto shall be allowed to continue, subject to the requirements set forth in Section 12, except as otherwise provided in this Ordinance, a non-conforming condition shall not be permitted to become more non-conforming.

**B. General**

(1) Transfer of Ownership. Non-conforming structures, lots, and uses may be transferred, and the new owner may continue the non-conforming use or continue to use the non-conforming structure or lot, subject to the provisions of this Ordinance.

(2)Repair and Maintenance. This Ordinance allows, without a permit, the normal

upkeep and maintenance of non-conforming uses and structures including repairs or

renovations that do not involve expansion of the non-conforming use or structure, and

such other changes in a non-conforming use or structure as federal, state, or local

building and safety codes may require.

**C. Non-conforming Structures**

(1) Expansions. A non-conforming structure may be added to or expanded after obtaining a permit from the same permitting authority as that for a new structure, if such addition or expansion does not increase the non-conformity of the structure, and is in accordance with subparagraphs (a), and (b) below. For the purposes of any expansions, a structure’s floor area may not be combined with a separate structure or square footage of a structure otherwise “credited” towards the expansion of another separate structure.

(a) Legally existing non-conforming principal and accessory structures that do not meet the water body, tributary stream or wetland setback requirements may be expanded or altered as follows, as long as all other applicable standards contained in this Ordinance are met.

i. Expansion of any structure that is within 25 feet horizontal distance of the normal high-water line of a water body, tributary stream or upland edge of a wetland is prohibited, even if the expansion will not increase nonconformity with the water body, tributary stream or wetland setback requirement. For clarity, this prohibition applies to the entire structure even if it is partly within the afore-described 25-foot setback distance.

ii. Within 25 feet horizontal distance of the normal high-water line of a water body, tributary stream or upland edge of a wetland. Expansion of an accessory structure that is located closer to the normal high-water line of a water body, tributary stream or upland edge of a wetland than the principal structure is prohibited, even if the expansion will not increase nonconformity with the water body or wetland setback requirement.

iii. For structures located less than 75 feet horizontal distance, from the normal high-water line of a water body, tributary stream or upland edge of a wetland, the maximum combined total floor area for all portions of those structures within that 75-foot distance is 1,000 square feet, and the maximum height of any portion of a structure that is within 75 feet, horizontal distance, of a water body, tributary stream or upland edge of a wetland is 20 feet or the height of the existing structure, whichever is greater.

iv For structures located less than 100 feet horizontal distance, from the normal high-water line of a great pond classified as GPA or a river flowing to a great pond classified as GPA, the maximum combined total floor area for all portions of those structures within the 100-foot distance is 1,500 square feet, and the maximum height of any portion of a structure that is within 100 feet, horizontal distance, of a great pond is 25 feet or the height of the existing structure, whichever is greater, except that any portion of those structures located less than 75 feet, horizontal distance from the normal high-water line of a water body, tributary stream or the upland edge of a wetland must meet the floor area and height limits of division (iii).

In addition to the limitations in subparagraphs (i) and (ii), for structures that are legally nonconforming due to their location within the Resource Protection District when located at less than 250 feet from the normal high-water line of a water body or the upland edge of a wetland, the maximum combined total floor area for all structures may not be expanded to a size greater than 1,500 square feet or 30% larger than the floor area that existed at the time the Resource Protection District was established on the lot, whichever is greater. The maximum height of any structure may not be made greater than 25 feet or the height of the existing structure, whichever is greater, except that any portion of those structures located less than 75 feet from the normal high-water line of a water body, tributary stream, or upland edge of a wetland must meet the footprint and height limits in Section 12(C)(1)(a)(iii) and Section 12(C)(1)(a)(i), above.

For the purpose of Section 12(C)(1)(a), a basement is not counted toward floor area.

(b) Whenever a new, enlarged, or replacement foundation is constructed under a non-conforming structure, the structure and new foundation must be placed such that the setback requirement is met to the greatest practical extent as determined by the Planning Board or its designee, basing its decision on the criteria specified in Section 12(C)(2) Relocation, below. If the completed foundation does not extend beyond the exterior dimensions of the structure and the foundation does not cause the structure to be elevated by more than three (3) additional feet, as measured from the uphill side of the structure, it shall not be considered to be an expansion of the structure.

(c) An approved plan for expansion of a nonconforming structure must be recorded by the applicant with the registry of deeds, within 90 days of approval. The recorded plan must show the existing and proposed floor area of the non-conforming structure, the existing and proposed structure height, the footprint of any other structures on the parcel, note references to buffer plans, the shore land zone boundary, and evidence of approval by the municipal review authority.

**(2) Relocation.** A non-conforming structure may be relocated within the boundaries of the parcel on which the structure is located provided that the site of relocation conforms to all setback requirements to the greatest practical extent as determined by the Planning Board, or its designee, and provided that the applicant demonstrates that the present subsurface sewage disposal system meets the requirements of State law and the State of Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules, or that a new system can be installed in compliance with the law and said Rules. In no case shall a structure be relocated in a manner that causes the structure to be more non-conforming.

In determining whether the building relocation meets the setback to the greatest practical extent, the Planning Board shall consider the size of the lot, the slope of the land, the potential for soil erosion, the location of other structures on the property and on adjacent properties, the location of the septic system and other on-site soils suitable for septic systems, and the type and amount of vegetation to be removed to accomplish the relocation. The board must also waive up to 20 feet of the right-of-way setback to be more conforming with the shoreline setback. When it is necessary to remove vegetation within the water or wetland setback area in order to relocate a structure, the Planning Board shall require replanting of native vegetation to compensate for the destroyed vegetation. In addition, the area from which the relocated structure was removed must be replanted with vegetation. Replanting shall be required as follows:

(a) Trees removed in order to relocate a structure must be replanted with a least one native tree, three (3) feet in height, for every tree removed. If more than five (5) trees are planted, no one species of tree shall make up more the 50% of the number of trees planted. Replaced trees must be planted no further from the water or wetland then the trees that were removed.

Other woody and herbaceous vegetation, and ground cover, that are removed or destroyed in order to relocate a structure must be re-established. An area at least the same size as the area where vegetation and/or ground cover was disturbed, damaged, or removed must be reestablished within the setback area. The vegetation and/or ground cover must consist of similar native vegetation and/or ground cover that was disturbed, destroyed or removed.

(b) Where feasible, when a structure is relocated on a parcel the original location of the structure shall be replanted with vegetation which may consist of grasses, shrubs, trees, or a combination thereof.

**(3) Reconstruction or Replacement**. Any non-conforming structure which is located less than the required setback from a water body, tributary stream, or a wetland and which is removed, or damaged or destroyed, regardless of the cause, by more than 50% of the market value of the structure before such damage, destruction or removal, may be reconstructed or replaced provided that a permit is obtained within eighteen (18) months of the date of said damage, destruction, or removal, and provided that such reconstruction or replacement is in compliance with the water body, tributary stream or wetland setback requirement to the greatest practical extent as determined by the Planning Board or its designee in accordance with the purposes of this Ordinance. In no case shall a structure be reconstructed or replaced so as to increase its non-conformity. If the reconstructed or replaced structure is less than the required setback it shall not be any larger than the original structure, except as allowed pursuant to Section 12 (C)(1) above, as determined by the non-conforming floor area of the reconstructed or replaced structure at its new location. If the total amount of floor area of the original structure can be relocated or reconstructed beyond the required setback area, no portion of the relocated or reconstructed structure shall be replaced or constructed less than the setback requirement of a new structure. When it is necessary to remove vegetation in order to replace or reconstruct a structure, vegetation shall be replanted in accordance with Section 12 (C)(2) above.

Any non-conforming structure which is located less than the required setback from a water body, tributary stream, or wetland and which is removed by 50% or less of the market value, or damaged or destroyed by 50% or less of the market value of the structure, excluding normal maintenance and repair, may be reconstructed in place if a permit is obtained from the Code Enforcement Officer within one year of such damage, destruction, or removal.

In determining whether the building reconstruction or replacement meets the water setback to the greatest practical extent the Planning Board or its designee shall consider, in addition to the criteria in Section 12 (C)(2) above, the physical condition and type of foundation present, if any.

**(4) Change of Use of a Non-conforming Structure**. The use of a non-conforming structure may not be changed to another use unless the Planning Board after receiving a written application determines that the new use will have no greater adverse impact on the water body or wetland or adjacent properties and resources than the existing use.

In determining that no greater adverse impact will occur, the Planning Board shall require written documentation from the applicant, regarding the probable effects on public health and safety, erosion and sedimentation, water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, vegetative cover, visual and actual points of public access to waters, natural beauty, floodplain management, archaeological and historic resources, and commercial fishing and maritime activities, and other functionally water-dependent uses.

1. For relocations, reconstructions, or replacements, the existing structure shall first be examined when making “greatest practical extent” determinations prior to consideration of any proposed expansions.

**(6) Special expansion allowance**. Existing principal and accessory structures that exceed the floor area or height limits set in Section 12(C)(1)(a)(iii) and Section 12(C)(1)(a)(iv) above may not be expanded, except that the limits may be exceeded by not more than 500 square feet provided that all of the following requirements are met.

(a) The principal structure is set back at least 50 feet horizontal distance from the normal high-water line of a water body, tributary stream or upland edge of a wetland.

(b) A well-distributed stand of trees and other natural vegetation as defined in Section 15(Q)(2)(b), extends at least 50 feet horizontal distance in depth as measured from the normal high-water line or upland edge for the entire width of the property.

If a well-distributed stand of trees and other vegetation meeting the requirements of Section 15 (Q)(2)(b) is not present, the 500 square foot special expansion allowance may be permitted only in conjunction with a written plan, including a scaled site drawing, by the property owner, and approved by the Planning Board or its designee, to reestablish a buffer of trees, shrubs, and other ground cover within 50 feet horizontal distance of the shorelines or tributary stream.

1. Adjacent to great ponds classified GPA and rivers flowing to great ponds classified GPA, except for the allowable footpath, there exists complete natural ground cover, consisting of forest duff, shrubs and other woody and herbaceous vegetation within 50 feet horizontal distance of the normal high-water line. Where natural ground cover is lacking the area must be supplemented with leaf or bark mulch and plantings of native shrubs, and other woody and herbaceous vegetation in quantities sufficient to retard erosion and provide for effective infiltration of storm water.

(d) A written plan by the property owner, including a scaled site drawing, is approved by the Planning Board and is developed, implemented, and maintained to address the following mitigation measures for the property within the shore land zone.

(i) Un-stabilized areas resulting in soil erosion must be mulched, seeded, or otherwise stabilized and maintained to prevent further erosion and sedimentation to water bodies, tributary streams and wetlands.

(ii) Roofs and associated drainage systems, driveways, parking areas, and other non-vegetated surfaces must be designed or modified, as necessary, to prevent concentrated flow of storm water runoff from reaching a water body, tributary stream or wetland. Where possible, runoff must be directed through a vegetated area or infiltrated into the soil through the use of a dry well, stone apron, or similar device.

**(e)**  **Planting requirements.** Any planting or re-vegetation required as a condition to the Special Expansion Allowance must be in accordance with a written plan drafted by a qualified professional, be implemented at the time of construction, and be designed to meet the rating scores and the ground cover requirements of Section 15 (Q)(2)(b) when the vegetation matures within the 50 foot strip. At a minimum, the plan must provide for the establishment of a well-distributed planting of saplings spaced so that there is at least one sapling per 80 square feet of newly established buffer. Planted saplings may be no less than three (3) feet tall for coniferous species and no less than six feet tall for deciduous species. The planting plan must include a mix of at least three native tree species found growing in adjacent areas, with no one species making up more than 50% of the number of saplings planted unless otherwise approved by the Planning Board or its designee, based on adjacent stand comparison. All aspects of the implemented plan must be maintained by the applicant and future owners.

**(f) Filing and reporting requirements:** Written plans required pursuant to this section must be filed with the Hancock County Registry of Deeds. A copy of all permits issued pursuant to this section must be forwarded by the municipality to the Department of Environmental Protection within 14 days of the issuance of the permit.

**D. Non-conforming Uses**

(1) Expansions. Expansions of non-conforming uses are prohibited, except that non-conforming residential uses may, after obtaining a permit from the Planning Board, be expanded within existing residential structures or within expansions of such structures as allowed in Section 12(C)(1)(a) above.

(2) Resumption Prohibited. A lot, building or structure in or on which a non-conforming use is discontinued for a period exceeding one year, or which is superseded by a conforming use, may not again be devoted to a non-conforming use except that the Planning Board may, for good cause shown by the applicant, grant up to a one year extension to that time period. This provision shall not apply to the resumption of a use of a residential structure provided that the structure has been used or maintained for residential purposes during the preceding five (5) year period.

(3) Change of Use. An existing non-conforming use may be changed to another non-conforming use provided that the proposed use has no greater adverse impact on the subject and adjacent properties and resources, including uses in the CFMA district, than the former use, as determined by the Planning Board. The determination of no greater adverse impact shall be made according to criteria listed in Section 12 (C) (4) above.

**E. Non-conforming Lots**

(1) Non-conforming Lots: A non-conforming lot of record established prior to the effective date of this Ordinance or amendment thereto may be built upon, without the need for a variance, provided that such lot is in separate ownership and not contiguous with any other lot in the same ownership, and that all provisions of this Ordinance except lot area, lot width and shore frontage can be met. Variances relating to setback or other requirements not involving lot area, lot width and shore frontage shall be obtained by action of the Board of Appeals.

(2) Contiguous Built Lots: If two or more contiguous lots or parcels are in a single or joint ownership of record at the time of adoption of this Ordinance, if all or part of the lots do not meet the dimensional requirements of this Ordinance, and if a principal use or structure exists on each lot, the non-conforming lots may be conveyed separately or together, provided that the State Minimum Lot Size Law (12 M.R.S.A. sections 4807-A through 4807-D) and the State of Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules are complied with.

If two or more principal uses or structures existed on a single lot of record on the effective date of this ordinance, each may be sold on a separate lot provided that the above referenced law and rules are complied with. When such lots are divided each lot thus created must be as conforming as possible to the dimensional requirements of this Ordinance.

(3) Contiguous Lots - Vacant or Partially Built: If two or more contiguous lots or parcels are in single or joint ownership of record at the time of or since adoption or amendment of this Ordinance, if any of these lots do not individually meet the dimensional requirements of this Ordinance or subsequent amendments, and if one or more of the lots are vacant or contain no principal structure the lots shall be combined to the extent necessary to meet the dimensional requirements.

This provision shall not apply to two (2) or more contiguous lots, at least one of which is non-conforming, owned by the same person or persons on the effective date of this Ordinance May 18, 1992 and recorded in the registry of deeds if the lot is served by a public sewer or can accommodate a subsurface sewage disposal system in conformance with the State of Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules; and

(a) Each lot contains at least 100 feet of shore frontage and at least 20,000 square feet of lot area; or

(b) Any lots that do not meet the frontage and lot size requirements of Section 12 (E)(3)(a) are reconfigured or combined so that each new lot contains at least 100 feet of shore frontage and 20,000 square feet of lot area.

**F. Buffer Requirements for Non-Conforming Areas within the Town of Otis (250 feet from the normal high water mark)**

(1.) Any earth moving of more than 10 cubic yard, additions to any non-conforming structure including a foundation under an existing structure, or expansions, relocations, or reconstructions of any non-conforming structure will require the applicant / owner of the property to establish a buffer that is a minimum of 15 feet from the normal high water or any natural barrier and the width of the property as approved by the Planning Board or its designee. If a natural buffer exists that meets the requirements of this section as approved by the Planning Board or its designee a new buffer may not be required. The buffer plan must be approved by the Planning Board or its designee prior to the issuance of a permit.

Note. This requirement is to promote the existence of a buffer strip on all shoreline properties.

(2.) For any activity requiring a permit, an Erosion and sedimentation control plan consistent with Erosion and Sedimentation Control Subsection 15 (R) must be submitted to the reviewing authority for approval before any earth moving activities begin.

(3.) If applicable, an approved copy of a PBR from DEP must be submitted to Code Enforcement before any earth moving construction can begin.

(4.) Section 12.F Buffer Requirements: A landscaped buffer of shrubs and non-native species is not an acceptable alternative. Of high importance is the protection of water quality. A buffer of trees, saplings, shrubs and the organic duff layer serves to filter rain and storm water before it flows to surface waters, and also acts as a sponge to reduce overland flow.

The owner must submit a buffer plan prepared and signed by a forester licensed pursuant to 32 MRSA, Chapter 76 or other qualified professional that considers specified site conditions and addresses visual screening, understory vegetation and erosion and sedimentation control. The plan is to be implemented at the time of construction and meet the requirements below. All aspects of the implemented plan must be maintained by the applicant and future owners.

In designing a planting plan the qualified professional, at a minimum, must address the following:

* The planting of trees must take into consideration the size available at nurseries, the type and depth of soils, depth to the water table, slope of the land, exposure to sun and wind and other factors that may affect the short and long-term survival of the trees.
* Saplings and shrubs must be native species that will be effective in preventing erosion, maintaining water quality and will complement the visual screening provided by the replanted trees.
* Site conditions – Soil conditions are important to the establishment of planted trees. Each tree species has its own growing needs, and a particular tree may grow well on a dry site, but due poorly in moist soils. Site conditions can also be a factor in developing a planting plan if large trees are to be planted. For example, in a wet land areas it may not be feasible to use heavy equipment without subjecting the area to significant soil disturbance. In those cases, it may be necessary to plant smaller trees than desirable.
* Planting Time – The planting should be done at a time of year when there is the greatest potential for survival of the plantings.
* Survival – The plan must address the planting of trees that do not survive during the first three years after planting. An 80 % survival rate should be guaranteed during the first three years following planting.
* At a minimum, the plan must provide for the establishment of a well-distributed planting of saplings spaced so that there is at least one sapling per 80 square feet of newly established buffer. Planted saplings may be no less than three (4) feet tall for coniferous species and no less than six feet tall for deciduous species. The planting plan must include a mix of at least three native tree species found growing in adjacent areas, with no one species making up more than 50% of the number of saplings planted unless otherwise approved by the Planning Board or its designee, based on adjacent stand comparison.
* A footpath not to exceed six (6) feet in width as measured between tree trunks and/or shrub stems is allowed provided that straight path to the water through the buffer strip is not created.

(5) Except for the allowable footpath, the buffer requires complete natural ground cover, consisting of forest duff, shrubs and other woody and herbaceous vegetation. Where natural ground cover is lacking the area must be supplemented with leaf or bark mulch and plantings of native shrubs, and other woody and herbaceous vegetation in quantities sufficient to retard erosion and provide for effective infiltration of storm water.

* Unstabilized areas resulting in soil erosion must be mulched, seeded, or otherwise stabilized and maintained to prevent further erosion and sedimentation to water bodies, tributary streams and wetlands.
* Roofs and associated drainage systems, driveways, parking areas, and other non-vegetated surfaces must be designed or modified, as necessary, to prevent concentrated flow of storm water runoff from reaching a water body, tributary stream or wetland. Where possible, runoff must be directed through a vegetated area or infiltrated into the soil through the use of a dry well, stone apron, or similar device.

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The plan must include, at least the:

* Site location and a drawing of the planting locations (see drawing below)
* Water body
* Tax map and lot number
* Owner’s name
* Mailing Address of owner; and

(6) Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Maine Erosion and Sediment Control Best Management Practices can be found at the web site <https://www.maine.gov/dep/land/erosion/escbmps/>.

**13. Establishment of Districts**

**A. Resource Protection District.** The Resource Protection District includes areas in which development would adversely affect water quality, productive habitat, biological ecosystems, or scenic and natural values. This district shall include the following areas when they occur within the limits of the shore land zone, exclusive of the Stream Protection District, except that areas which are currently developed and areas which meet the criteria for the Rural Residential and Air Park Districts need not be included within the Resource Protection District.

(1) Areas within 100 feet, horizontal distance of the normal high-water line of any great pond.

(2) Areas within 250 feet, horizontal distance, of the upland edge of freshwater wetland and wetland associated with great ponds and rivers, which are rated “moderate” or “high” value waterfowl and wading bird habitat, including nesting and feeding areas, by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIF&W) that are depicted on a Geographic Information System (GIS) data layer maintain by either MDIF&W or the Department as of December 31, 2008. For the purposes of this paragraph “wetlands associated with great ponds and rivers “ shall mean areas characterized by non-forested wetland vegetation and hydric soils that are contiguous with a great pond or river, and have a surface elevation at or below the water level of the great pond or river during the period of normal high water. “Wetland associated with great ponds or rivers” are considered to be part of the great pond or river.

(3) Flood plains along rivers and floodplains along artificially formed great ponds along rivers, defined by the 100 year floodplain as designated on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps or Flood Hazard Boundary Maps, or the flood of record, or in the absence of these, by soil types identified as recent floodplain soils. This district shall also include 100 year flood Floodplains adjacent to tidal waters as shown on FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps or Flood Hazard Boundary Maps.

(4) Areas of two or more contiguous acres with sustained slopes of 20% or greater.

(5) Areas of two (2) or more contiguous acres supporting wetland vegetation and hydric soils, which are not part of a freshwater wetland as defined, and which are not surficially connected to a water body during the period of normal high water.

1. Land areas along rivers subject to severe bank erosion, undercutting, or river bed movement.

**B.**  **Limited Residential District**

The Limited Residential District includes those areas suitable for residential and recreational development. It includes areas other than those in the Resource Protection District, or Stream Protection District, and areas which are used less intensively than those in the Rural Residential District, or the Air Park District

**C. Stream Protection District**

The Stream Protection District includes all land areas within seventy-five (75) feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of a stream, exclusive of those areas within two-hundred and fifty (250) feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of a great pond or river or within two hundred and fifty feet, horizontal distance, of the upland edge of a freshwater wetland. Where a stream and its associated shoreland area is located within two-hundred and fifty (250) feet, horizontal distance, of the above water bodies or wetlands, that land area shall be regulated under the terms of the shoreland district associated with that water body or wetland.

**D. Sensitive Development Area**

The Sensitive Development Area includes all land that development would have an adverse affect on Beech Hill Pond, such as all lands outside the Limited Residential area of West Shore Rd.bounded by the Gary Moore Rd. the Ellsworth / Otis Town Line and the Dedham / Otis Town Line.

**E. Rural Residential**

The Rural Residential includes all lands outside the Shoreland Zone and not covered by another zone

**F. Air Park**.

The Air Park includes a portion of Map R12-Lot 26 on the Springy Pond Road and would encompass 100 acres, outside the Shoreland Zone and not covered by another zone.

**Section 14. Table of Land Uses**

All land activities, as indicated in Table 1, Schedule of Uses, shall conform to all of the applicable land use standards in Section 15. The district designation for a particular site shall be determined from the Official Otis Zoning Map.

Key to Table 1:

Yes - Allowed (no permit required but the use must comply with all applicable land use standards).

No - Prohibited

PB - Requires permit issued by the Planning Board

CEO - Requires permit issued by the Code Enforcement Officer

LPI - Requires permit issued by the Local Plumbing Inspector

PA - Permitting Authority

Abbreviations:

**RP**- Resource Protection **LR**- Limited Residential **SP**- Stream Protection

**SD**- Sensitive Development  **RR**- Rural Residential **AP-** Air Par

**SCHEDULE OF USES**

**[NOTE: RE-STATED BELOW WITH CHANGES BOLD AND IN RED RE: FOMATTING]**

**LAND USES RP SP LR SD RR/AP**

1. Non-intensive recreation uses not requiring

structures such as hunting, fishing and hiking YES YES YES YES YES

2. Forest management activities except for timber

harvesting & land management roads YES YES YES YES YES

3. Timber Harvesting NO CEO CEO CEO CEO

4. Clearing or removal of vegetation for activities

other than timber harvesting PB1 CEO YES YES YES

5. Fire Prevention Activities YES YES YES YES YES

6. Wildlife management practices YES YES YES YES YES

7. Soil and Water conservation practices YES YES YES YES YES

8. Mineral Exploration NO NO YES-2 YES-2YES-2

9. Mineral Extraction/ sand/ gravel PB-7 NO PB PB PB

10. Surveying and Resource Analysis YES YES YES YES YES

11. Emergency Operations YES YES YES YES YES

12. Agriculture NO YES YES YES YES

13. Aquaculture NO PB PB PB PB

14. Principal Structures

A. One and Two Family Residential

including driveways PB-8 PB-3 PB PB CEO

B. Multi-unit Residential NO PB-3 PB PB PB

C. Light Commercial (two employees) NO NO NO NO CEO

D. Heavy Commercial (>two employees) NO NO NO NO PB

E. Industrial NO NO NO NO NO

F. Governmental & Institutional NO NO NO NO NO

G. Small non residential facilities for educational/

Scientific or nature interpretation purposes NO PB CEO CEO CEO

**LAND USES Districts RP SP LR SD RR/AP**

15. Structures accessory to allowed uses. NO CEO-3 PB PB CEO

16. Piers, Dock, Wharves, Bridges, and other

structures and use extending over or below the

normal high-water line or within a wetland**.**

A. Temporary CEO9 CEO9 CEO9 CEO9 CEO9

B. Permanent NO NO NO PB PB

17. Conversion of seasonal residential LPI LPI LPI LPI LPI

18. Home Occupation NO NO PB PB CEO

19. Sewage Disposal Systems LPI LPI LPI LPI LPI

20. Essential services PB-4 PB-4 PB-4 PB-4 YES

21. Service drops YES YES YES YES YES

22. Public and Private recreational area with

minimal structural development PB PB PB PB CEO

23. Individual, private campsites NO NO CEO CEO CEO

24. Campgrounds NO NO PB PB PB

25. Road & Driveway construction NO-1 NO-1 PB PB CEO

26. Parking Areas & Facilities NO-5 No PB PB CEO

27. Marinas NO NO PB PB PB

28. Filling or earth moving of < 10 cubic yards PB NO CEO CEO YES

29. Filling or earth moving of > 10 cubic yards PB NO PB PB CEO

31. Herbicide application NO NO YES YES YES

32. Uses similar to allowed uses PA PA PA PA PA

33. Uses similar to uses requiring CEO permit PB PB PB PB PB

34. Uses similar to uses requiring PB permit PB PB PB PB PB

**Table of Land Uses Footnotes**

1. **Except as provided in Section 15 (I) (3).**
2. **Requires a permit from the CEO if more then 100 sq. feet of surface area is disturbed.**
3. **Provided that a variance from the setback requirement is obtained from the Board of Appeals.**
4. **Requires a permit from the Planning Board if within the shoreland zone and see further restrictions in Section 15(M)**
5. **Except when area is zoned RP due to floodplain criterion in which case a permit is required from PB.**
6. **In RP District not allowed within 75 feet horizontal distance of the normal high water line of great ponds, except to remove safety hazards.**
7. **In RP District not allowed in areas so designated because of wildlife value.**
8. **Single family residential structures may be allowed by special exception only according to the provisions of Section 12(E) Non-conforming Lots.**
9. **Excluding and other crossings not involving earthwork in which case no permit is required.**

**Section 15. Land Use Standards:**

**A. Lot Standards:**

1. All lots shall meet or exceed the following minimum requirement as applicable:

Zone Minimum lot area Minimum Shore Frontage/ Lot Width\*

Rural Residential/ Air Park

Stream Protection 1 Acre 200 feet for residential uses,

Limited Residential 300 feet for non-residential uses.

Sensitive Development 5 Acres 300 feet.

Resource Protection No New Construction except as otherwise allowed by this Ordinance; and any new allowed land use activity must be on a Lot with a minimum of 1 acre and with a minimum 200 feet of shore frontage/lot width.

\* Note: The lot, regardless of shape, must at some point meets or exceed the minimum lot width. Any structure located on the lot must be accessible to emergency vehicles. Also see Section 15 (A) (4) below.

\*\* Note: Commercial lots shall have a minimum of 1 acre for each principle use.

One business shall have 5 parking spaces for retail business or 3 parking spaces for a professional business in addition to employee parking spaces. These parking standards shall increase by 2 for each additional business in retail and by 1 for each additional professional business.

(See Section 15 paragraph H. for parking space standards.)

2. Setbacks: The placement of structures on lots shall meet or exceed the following requirements:

a. 100 foot setback from the shoreline of any Great Pond or river flowing

into a great pond, except those zoned Resource Protection

b. 75 foot setback from the shoreline of any other river or any stream or any tributary stream.

c. 40 foot setback from edge of vehicle traveled rite-of-way for residential and commercial structures.

d. 10 foot setback from edge of rite-of way for all other structures.

e. 10 foot setback from property lines.

f. 250 foot setback from the shoreline of a water body or wetland zoned

Resource Protection District.

g. 100 foot setback from the upland edge of any freshwater wetland not

zoned Resource Protection.

3. If more than one residential dwelling unit or principle non-residential structure or use, or combination thereof, is constructed, established or placed, on a single parcel, all dimensional requirements shall be met for each additional residential dwelling unit, principle non-residential structure, or use.

4. The applicable shore frontage/minimum lot width distance must be applied to any portion of any lot within one hundred (100) feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of a water body or upland edge of a wetland.

5. Lots located on opposite sides of a public or private road shall be considered each a separate tract or parcel of land unless such road was established by the owner of land on both sides thereof after September 22, 1971.

6. Land below the normal high-water line of a water body or upland edge of a wetland and land beneath roads serving more than two lots shall not be included towards calculating minimum lot area.

**B. Principal and Accessory Structures**

1. All new principal and accessory structures shall be set back in conformance with Section 15 (A)(2) above.

In addition:

(a) The water body, tributary stream, or wetland setback provision shall neither apply to structures which require direct access to the water body or wetland as an operational necessity, such as piers, docks and retaining walls, nor to other functionally water-dependent uses.

**(b) On a non-conforming lot of record on which only a residential structure exists, and it is not possible to place an accessory structure meeting the required water body, tributary stream or wetland setback, the Code Enforcement Officer may issue a permit to place a single accessory structure, with no utilities, for storage of yard tools and similar equipment. Such accessory structures shall not exceed eighty (80) square feet in area nor eight (8) feet in height, and shall be located as far from the shoreline, tributary stream or wetland as practical and shall meet all other applicable standards, including lot coverage and vegetation clearing limitations. In no case shall the structure be located closer to the shoreline, tributary stream or wetland then the principal structure.**

(2) Principal or accessory structures and expansions of existing structures which are permitted in any district shall not exceed thirty-five (35) feet in height. This provision shall not apply to structures such as transmission towers, windmills, antennas, and similar structures having no floor area.

(3) The lowest floor elevation or openings of all buildings and structures including basements shall be elevated at least one foot above the elevation of the 100 year flood, the flood of record, or in the absence of these, the flood as defined by soil types identified as recent floodplain soils

(4) The total footprint area of all structures, parking lots and other non-vegetated surfaces, within the shore land zone shall not exceed twenty (20) percent of the lot or a portion thereof, located within the shore land zone, including land area previously developed.

(5) Retaining walls that are not necessary for erosion control shall meet the structure setback requirement, except for low retaining walls and associated fill provided all of the following conditions are met:

(a) The site has been previously altered and an effective vegetated buffer does not exist;

(b) The wall(s) is(are) at least 25 feet, horizontal distance, from the normal high-water line of

a water body, tributary stream, or upland edge of a wetland;

(c) The site where the retaining wall will be constructed is legally existing lawn or is

a site eroding from lack of naturally occurring vegetation, and which cannot be

stabilized with vegetative plantings;

(d) The total height of the wall(s), in the aggregate, are no more than 24 inches;

(e) Retaining walls are located outside of the 100-year floodplain on rivers, streams, wetlands, and tributary streams, as designated on the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps or Flood Hazard Boundary Maps, or the flood of record, or in the absence of these, by soil types identified as recent floodplain soils.

(f) The area behind the wall is revegetated with grass, shrubs, trees, or a combination thereof, and no further structural development will occur within the setback area, including patios and decks; and,

(g) A vegetated buffer area is established within 25 feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of a water body, tributary stream, or upland edge of a wetland when a natural buffer area does not exist. The buffer area must meet the following characteristics:

1. The buffer must include shrubs and other woody and herbaceous vegetation. Where natural ground cover is lacking the area must be supplemented with leaf or bark mulch;

(ii) Vegetation plantings must be in quantities sufficient to retard erosion and provide for effective infiltration of stormwater runoff;

* 1. Only native species may be used to establish the buffer area;
  2. A minimum buffer width of 15 feet, horizontal distance, is required, measured perpendicularly to the normal high-water line or upland edge of a wetland;
  3. A footpath not to exceed the standards in Section 15(Q)(2)(a), may traverse the buffer;

(6) Notwithstanding the requirements stated above, stairways or similar structures may be allowed with a permit from the Code Enforcement Officer, to provide shoreline access in areas of steep slopes or unstable soils provided: that the structure is limited to a maximum of four (4) feet in width; that the structure does not extend below or over the normal high-water line of a water body or upland edge of a wetland, (unless permitted by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to the Natural Resources Protection Act, 38, M.R.S.A. Section 480-C); and that the applicant demonstrates that no reasonable access alternative exists on the property.

**C. Piers, Docks, Wharves, Bridges and Other Structures and Uses Extending Over or Below the Normal High-Water Line of a Water Body or Within a Wetland.**

(1) No more than one pier, dock, wharf or similar structure extending or located below the normal high-water line of a water body or within a wetland is allowed on a single lot; except that when a single lot contains at least twice the minimum shore frontage as specified in Section 15(A), a second structure may be allowed and may remain as long as the lot is not further divided.

(2) Access from shore shall be developed on soils appropriate for such use and constructed so as to control erosion.

(3) The location shall not interfere with existing developed or natural beach areas.

(4) The facility shall be located so as to minimize adverse effects on fisheries.

(5) The facility shall be no larger in dimension than necessary to carry on the activity and be consistent with the surrounding character and use of the area. A temporary pier, dock or wharf shall not be wider than six feet.

(6) No structure shall be built on, over or abutting a pier, wharf, dock or other structure extending below the normal high-water line of a water body or within a wetland unless the structure requires direct access to the water or wetland as an operational necessity in which case the structure shall not exceed twenty (20) feet in height above the pier, wharf, dock or other structure.

(7) New permanent piers and docks shall not be permitted unless it is clearly demonstrated to the Planning Board that a temporary pier or dock is not feasible, and a permit has been obtained from the Department of Environmental Protection, pursuant to the Natural Protection Act.

(8) No existing structure built on, over or abutting a pier, dock, wharf or other structure extending below the normal high-water line of a water body or within a wetland shall be converted to a residential dwelling unit in any district.

(9) All temporary docks, piers and floats shall be removed from below the shoreline or from within the wetland by November 1 so as not to extend into the water body or wetland in such a way as to be hazardous during the winter months.

(10) Vegetation may be removed in excess of the standards in Section 15(P) of this ordinance in order to conduct shoreline stabilization of an eroding shoreline, provided that a permit is obtained from the Planning Board. Construction equipment must access the shoreline by barge when feasible as determined by the Planning Board.

(a) When necessary, the removal of trees and other vegetation to allow for construction equipment access to the stabilization site via land must be limited to no more than 12 feet in width. When the stabilization project is complete the construction equipment access way must be restored.

(b) Re-vegetation must occur in accordance with Section 15(S).

(c) A permit By Rule (PBR) must be obtained from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection before work is started.

**D. Campgrounds.** Campgrounds shall conform to the minimum requirements imposed under State licensing procedures and the following:

(1) Campgrounds shall contain a minimum of five thousand (5,000) square feet of land, not including roads and driveways, for each site. Land supporting wetland vegetation, and land below the normal high-water line of a water body shall not be included in calculating land area per site.

(2) The areas intended for placement of a recreational vehicle, tent or shelter, and utility and service buildings shall be set back a minimum of one hundred (100) feet, horizontal distance from the normal high-water line of a great pond classified GPA or a river flowing to a great pond classified GPA, and seventy-five (75) feet, horizontal distance from the normal high-water line of other water bodies, tributary streams, or the upland edge of a wetland.

**E. Individual-Private Campsites.** Individual, private campsites not associated with campgrounds are allowed provided the following conditions are met:

(1) One campsite per lot existing on the effective date of this Ordinance, or thirty thousand (30,000) square feet of lot area within the shoreland zone, whichever is less, may be permitted.

(2) When an individual private campsite is proposed on a lot that contains another principal use and/or structure, the lot must contain the minimum lot dimensional requirements for the principal structure and/or use, and the individual private campsite separately.

(2) Campsite placement on any lot, including the area intended for a recreational vehicle or tent platform, shall be set back one hundred (100) feet, horizontal distance from the normal high-water line of a great pond classified GPA or river flowing to a great pond classified GPA, and seventy-five (75) feet, horizontal distance from the normal high-water line of other water bodies, tributary streams, or the upland edge of a wetland.

(3) Only one recreational vehicle shall be allowed on a campsite. The recreational vehicle shall not be located on any type of permanent foundation except for a gravel pad, and no structure except a canopy shall be attached to the recreational vehicle.

(4) The clearing of vegetation for the sitting of the recreational vehicle, tent or similar

shelter in a Resource Protection District shall be limited to one thousand (1000) square

feet. The requirement for a maximum of 20 % non-vegetated area must be met.

(5) A written sewage disposal plan describing the proposed method and location of sewage disposal shall be required for each campsite and shall be approved by the Local Plumbing Inspector. Where disposal is off-site, written authorization from the receiving facility or land owner is required.

(6) When a recreational vehicle, tent or similar shelter is placed on-site for more than one hundred and twenty (120) days per year, all requirements for residential structures shall be met, including the installation of a subsurface sewage disposal system in compliance with the State of Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules unless served by public sewage facilities.

**F.** **Commercial and Industrial Uses:**

All commercial and industrial uses within 250 feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of any great pond or river; within 250 feet, horizontal distance, of the upland edge of a freshwater wetland; and within 75 feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of a stream, are prohibited.

**G.** **Home Occupations and Professional Offices:**

Home Occupations and Professional Offices shall be carried on wholly within the Principal Residential Structure or a structure accessory to the Principal residential structure and shall conform to the following standards:

1. No more the two persons who are not occupants of the residence shall be employed in the home occupation.

2. There shall be no exterior storage of materials.

3. There shall be no nuisance, noise, vibration, smoke, dust, orders, heat or glare generated by the home occupation.

4. Sufficient off street parking shall be provided for all vehicles associated with home occupation.

5. Anything not meeting the above shall be considered a commercial use.

**H. Parking Areas**

(1) Parking areas shall meet the shoreline and tributary stream setback requirements for structures for the district in which such areas are located. The setback requirement for parking areas serving public boat launching facilities shall be no less than fifty (50) feet horizontal distance, from the shoreline or tributary stream if the Planning Board finds that no other reasonable alternative exists further from the shoreline or tributary stream.

(2) Parking areas shall be adequately sized for the proposed use and shall be designed to prevent storm water runoff from flowing directly into a water body, tributary stream or wetland and where feasible, to retain all runoff on-site. Parking areas must also meet the requirements contained in the Storm Water Runoff Subsection 15 (K).

(3) In determining the appropriate size of proposed parking facilities, the following shall apply:

(a) Typical parking space: Approximately ten (10) feet wide and twenty (20) feet long, except that parking spaces for a vehicle and boat trailer shall be forty (40) feet long.

(b) Internal travel aisles: Approximately twenty (20) feet wide.

**I. Roads and Driveways.** The following standards shall apply to the construction of roads and/or driveways and drainage systems, culverts and other related features.

(1) Roads and driveways shall be set back at least one-hundred (100) feet, horizontal distance from the normal high-water line of a great pond classified GPA or a river that flows to a great pond classified GPA, and seventy-five (75) feet, horizontal distance from the normal high-water line of other water bodies, tributary streams, or the upland edge of a wetland unless no reasonable alternative exists as determined by the Planning Board. If no other reasonable alternative exists the road and/or driveway setback requirement shall be no less than fifty (50) feet, horizontal distance upon clear showing by the applicant that appropriate techniques will be used to prevent sedimentation of the water body, tributary stream or wetland Such techniques may include, but are not limited to, the installation of settling basins, and/or the effective use of additional ditch relief culverts and turnouts placed so as to avoid sedimentation of the water body, tributary stream, or wetland.

On slopes of greater than twenty (20) percent the road and/or driveway setback shall be increased by ten (10) feet, horizontal distance for each five (5) percent increase in slope above twenty (20) percent.

Section 15 (I)(1) does not apply to approaches to water crossings or to roads or driveways that provide access to permitted structures and facilities located nearer to the shoreline or tributary stream due to an operational necessity, excluding temporary docks for recreational uses. Roads and driveways providing access to permitted structures within the setback area shall comply fully with the requirements of Section 15(I)(1) except for that portion of the road or driveway necessary for direct access to the structure.

(2) Existing public roads may be expanded within the legal road right-of-way regardless of their setback from a water body, tributary stream or wetland

(3) New permanent roads are not allowed within the shoreland zone along Significant River Segments except:

(a) To provide access to structures or facilities within the zone; or

(b) When the applicant demonstrates that no reasonable alternative route exists outside the shoreland zone. When roads must be located within the shoreland zone they shall be set back as far as practicable from the normal high-water line and screened from the river by existing vegetation.

(4) New roads and driveways are prohibited in a Resource Protection District except that the Planning Board may grant a permit to construct a road or driveway to provide access to permitted uses within the district. A road or driveway may also be approved by the Planning Board in a Resource Protection District, upon a finding that no reasonable alternative route or location is available outside the district. When a road or driveway is permitted in a Resource Protection District the road and/or driveway shall be set back as far as practicable from the normal high-water line of a water body, tributary stream, or upland edge of a wetland.

(5) Road and driveway banks shall be no steeper than a slope of two (2) horizontal to one (1) vertical, and shall be graded and stabilized in accordance with the provisions for erosion and sedimentation control contained in Subsection 15 (R) and Storm Water Runoff Subsection 15 (K)

(6) Road and driveway grades shall be no greater than ten (10) percent except for segments of less than two hundred (200) feet.

1. In order to prevent road and driveway surface drainage from directly entering water bodies, tributary stream or wetland roads and driveway shall be designed, constructed, and maintained to empty onto an unscarified buffer strip at least (50) feet plus two times the average slope, in width between the outflow point of the ditch or culvert and the normal high-water line of a water body, tributary stream, or upland edge of a wetland. Surface drainage which is directed to an unscarified buffer strip shall be diffused or spread out to promote infiltration of the runoff and to minimize channelized flow of the drainage through the buffer strip.

(a ) Where such a filter strip is impracticable, appropriate techniques shall be used to avoid sedimentation of the water body, tributary stream, or wetland. Such techniques may include the installation of sump holes or settling basins, and/or the effective use of additional ditch relief culverts and ditch water turnouts placed to avoid sedimentation of the water body, tributary stream, or wetland. If, despite such precautions, sedimentation or the disruption of shoreline integrity occurs, such conditions must be corrected**.**

(8) Ditch relief (cross drainage) culverts, drainage dips and water turnouts shall be installed in a manner effective in directing drainage onto unscarified buffer strips before the flow gains sufficient volume or head to erode the road, or driveway, or ditch. To accomplish this, the following shall apply:

(a) Ditch relief culverts, drainage dips and associated water turnouts shall be spaced along the road, or driveway at intervals no greater than indicated in the following table:

Grade Spacing

(Percent) (Feet)

0-2 250

3-5 200-135

6-10 100-80

11-15 80-60

16-20 60-45

21 + 40

(b) Drainage dips may be used in place of ditch relief culverts only where the grade is ten (10) percent or less.

(c) On sections having slopes greater than ten (10) percent, ditch relief culverts shall be placed at approximately a thirty (30) degree angle down slope from a line perpendicular to the centerline of the road or driveway.

(d) Ditch relief culverts shall be sufficiently sized and properly installed in order to allow for effective functioning and their inlet and outlet ends shall be stabilized with appropriate materials.

(9) Ditches, culverts, bridges, dips, water turnouts and other storm water runoff control installations associated with roads and driveways shall be maintained on a regular basis to assure effective functioning.

**J. Signs.** The following provisions shall govern the use of signs in the shore land zone.

(1) Signs relating to goods and services sold on the premises shall be allowed, provided that such signs shall not exceed six (6) square feet in area and shall not exceed two (2) signs per premises. Signs relating to goods or services not sold or rendered on the premises shall be prohibited.

(2) Name signs are allowed, provided such signs shall not exceed two (2) signs per premises, and shall not exceed twelve (12) Sq Ft in the aggregate.

(3) Residential users may display a single sign not over three (3) square feet in area relating to the sale, rental, or lease of the premises.

(4) Signs relating to trespassing and hunting shall be allowed without restriction as to number provided that no such sign shall exceed two (2) square feet in area.

(5) Signs relating to public safety shall be allowed without restriction.

(6) No sign shall extend higher than twenty (20) feet above the ground.

(7) Signs may be illuminated only by shielded, non-flashing lights.

The following provisions shall govern the use of on-premise signs in all other areas of the Town of Otis:

l. On-premise signs on any one property shall not exceed five (5) in number nor exceed a combined total of 50 square feet. No one sign shall exceed 25 square feet. In the case of more than one business, facility or point of interest being conducted on one property, signs for each business, facility or point of interest shall not exceed five (5) in numbers, a combined total of 50 square feet, nor shall any one sign exceed 25 square feet in size.

2. On-premise signs shall be located within 1,000 feet of the principal building where the business or facility is carried on or practiced or within 1,000 feet of the point of interest. Storage areas, warehouses and other auxiliary structures and fixtures are not deemed to be buildings where the business, facility, or point of interest is carried on or practiced.

3. No on-premise sign may be permitted which is erected or maintained upon trees or painted or drawn upon rocks or other natural features.

4. The maxim height of on-premise signs shall be 25 feet above the ground level of land upon which it is located or if the sign is affixed to or is part of a building, the maximum is 10 feet above the roof of the building.

5. Any business or facility whose principal building, or a point of interest, which is located on a private way more than 1,000 feet from the nearest public way, or is not visible to traffic from the nearest public way, may erect no more than two (2) approach signs with a total surface area not to exceed 50 square feet per sign. These signs are to be located outside the public right-of-way limits within 300 feet of the junction of the public and private ways.

6. No on-premise signs may be permitted within 33 feet of the center line of any public way if the highway is less than 66 feet in width; within 20 feet from the outside edge of the paved portion of any public way with more than two (2) travel lanes and a total paved portion in excess of 24 feet in width; or within the full width of the right-of-way of any public way.

7. An on-premise sign shall be prohibited if it:

a. Attempts or appears to attempt to direct the movement of traffic or which interferes with, imitates or resembles any official traffic sign, signal or

devise;

b. Prevents the driver of a vehicle from having a clear and unobstructed view

of official signs and approaching or merging traffic;

c. Contains, includes or is illuminated by a flashing, intermittent or moving

light or lights;

d. Uses lighting in any way unless the light is effectively shielded as to

prevent beams or rays of light from being directed at any portion of the

public way or is of such intensity or brilliance as to cause glare or impair

the vision of the operator of any motor vehicle or as to otherwise interfere

with any driver’s operation of a motor vehicle; or

e. Moves or has any animated or moving parts.

**Off Premise Signs**

In all other areas of the Town of Otis the use of off-premise signs shall be governed by the Maine Department of Transportation’s Official Business Directional Sign (OBDS) Regulation.

**K. Storm Water Runoff**

(1) All new construction, reconstruction, expansion, relocation, and development shall be designed to minimizestorm water runoff from the site in excess of the natural predevelopment conditions. Run off from roofs and building drains must be contained to prevent sedimentation of the water body tributary stream, or wetland. Where possible, existing natural runoff control features, such as berms, swales, terraces and wooded areas, shall be retained in order to reduce runoff and encourage infiltration of storm waters.

(2) Techniques for the elimination of storm water runoff include: sump holes or settling basins, and/or the effective use of additional ditch relief culverts and ditch water turnouts placed to avoid sedimentation of the water body, tributary stream, or wetland. If, despite such precautions, sedimentation or the disruption of shoreline integrity occurs, such conditions must be corrected.

(3) Diverting the storm water runoff to a road ditching system that flows into the water body is not acceptable.

(4) Storm water runoff control systems shall be maintained as necessary to ensure proper functioning.

For reference, see Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Maine Erosion and Sediment Control Best Management Practices at the web site <https://www.maine.gov/dep/land/erosion/escbmps/>.

**L. Septic Waste Disposal**

(1) All subsurface sewage disposal systems shall be installed in conformance with the State of Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules and the following:

a) Clearing or removal of woody vegetation necessary to site a new system and any associated fill extension, shall not extend closer then seventy-five (75) feet, horizontal distance, from the normal high-water line of a water body or the upland edge of a wetland and

b) A holding tank is not allowed for a first time residential use in the Shoreland zone.

NOTE: The Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules require new systems, excluding fill extensions, to be constructed no less than one hundred (100) horizontal feet from the normal high-water line of a perennial water body. The minimum setback distance for a new subsurface disposal system may not be reduced by variance.

**M. Essential Services**

(1) Where feasible, the installation of essential services shall be limited to existing public ways and existing service corridors.

(2) The installation of essential services other then road-side distribution lines is not allowed in a Resource Protection District or Stream Protection District, except to provide services to a permitted use within said district, or except where the applicant demonstrates that no reasonable alternative exists. Where allowed, such structures and facilities shall be located so as to minimize any adverse impacts on surrounding uses and resources, including visual impacts.

**N. Mineral Exploration and Extraction.** Mineral exploration to determine the nature or extent of mineral resources shall be accomplished by hand sampling, test boring, or other methods which create minimal disturbance of less than one hundred (100) square feet of ground surface. A permit from the Code Enforcement Officer shall be required for mineral exploration which exceeds the above limitation. All excavations, including test pits and holes shall be immediately capped, filled or secured by other equally effective measures, so as to restore disturbed areas and to protect the public health and safety.

Mineral extraction may be permitted under the following conditions:

(1) A reclamation plan shall be filed with, and approved by the Planning Board before a permit is granted. Such plan shall describe in detail procedures to be undertaken to fulfill the requirements of Section 15(N) (4) below.

(2) No part of any extraction operation, including drainage and runoff control features shall be permitted within one hundred (100) feet horizontal distance of the normal high-water line of a great pond classified GPA or a river flowing to a great pond classified GPA, and within seventy-five (75) feet horizontal distance of the normal high-water line of any other water body, tributary stream, or the upland edge of a wetland. Extraction operations shall not be permitted within seventy-five (75) feet horizontal distance of any property line, without written permission of the owner of such adjacent property.

(3) Developers of new gravel pits along Significant River Segments shall demonstrate that no reasonable mining site outside the shoreland zone exists. When gravel pits must be located within the zone, they shall be set back as far as practicable from the normal high-water line and no less than seventy-five (75) feet and screened from the river by existing vegetation.

(4) Within twelve (12) months following the completion of extraction operations at any extraction site, which operations shall be deemed complete when less than one hundred (100) cubic yards of materials are removed in any consecutive twelve (12) month period, ground levels and grades shall be established in accordance with the following:

(a) All debris, stumps, and similar material shall be removed for disposal in an approved location, or shall be buried on-site. Only materials generated on-site may be buried or covered on-site.

(b) The final graded slope shall be two and one half to one (2 1/2:1) slope or flatter.

(c) Top soil or loam shall be retained to cover all disturbed land areas, which shall be reseeded and stabilized with vegetation native to the area. Additional topsoil or loam shall be obtained from off-site sources if necessary to complete the stabilization project.

(5) In keeping with the purposes of this Ordinance, the Planning Board may impose such conditions as are necessary to minimize the adverse impacts associated with mineral extraction operations on surrounding uses and resources.

**O. Agriculture**

(1) All spreading of manure shall be accomplished in conformance with the Manure Utilization Guidelines published by the Maine Department of Agriculture on November 1, 2001, and the Nutrient Management Law (7 M.R.S.A. sections 4201-4209).

(2) Manure shall not be stored or stockpiled within one hundred (100) feet, horizontal distance, of a great pond classified GPA or a river flowing to a great pond, classified GPA, or within seventy-five (75) feet horizontal distance, of other water bodies, tributary streams, or wetlands. All manure storage areas within the shoreland zone must be constructed or modified such that the facility produces no discharge of effluent or contaminated storm water.

1. Agricultural activities involving tillage of soil greater than forty thousand (40,000) square feet in surface area, within the shoreland zone shall require a Conservation Plan to be filed with the Planning Board. Non-conformance with the provisions of said plan shall be considered to be a violation of this Ordinance.

NOTE: Assistance in preparing a Conservation Plan may be available through the local Soil and Water Conservation District office.

(4) There shall be no new tilling of soil within one-hundred (100) feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of a great pond classified GPA; within seventy-five (75) feet, horizontal distance, from other water bodies; nor within twenty-five (25) feet, horizontal distance, of tributary streams and freshwater wetlands. Operations in existence on the effective date of this ordinance and not in conformance with this provision may be maintained.

(5) Newly established livestock grazing areas shall not be permitted within one hundred (100) feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of a great pond classified GPA; within seventy-five (75) feet, horizontal distance of other water bodies, within twenty-five (25) feet, horizontal distance, of tributary streams and freshwater wetlands. Livestock grazing associated with ongoing farm activities, and which are not in conformance with the above setback provisions may continue, provided that such grazing is conducted in accordance with a Conservation Plan.

**P-1. Timber Harvesting**

(1) Shoreline integrity and sedimentation. Persons conducting timber harvesting and related

activities must take reasonable measures to avoid the disruption of shoreline integrity, the

occurrence of sedimentation of water, and the disturbance of water body and tributary stream

banks, water body and tributary stream channels, shorelines, and soil lying within water

bodies, tributary streams and wetlands. If, despite such precautions, the disruption of

shoreline integrity, sedimentation of water, or the disturbance of water body and tributary

stream banks, water body and tributary stream channels, shorelines, and soil lying within

water bodies, tributary streams and wetlands occurs, such conditions must be corrected.

(2) Slash treatment. Timber harvesting and related activities shall be conducted such that slash

or debris is not left below the normal high-water line of any water body or tributary stream,

or the upland edge of a wetland. Section 15(P-1)(2) does not apply to minor, incidental

amounts of slash that result from timber harvesting and related activities otherwise conducted

in compliance with this section.

(a) Slash actively used to protect soil from disturbance by equipment or to stabilize exposed soil, may be left in place, provided that no part thereof extends more than 4 feet above the ground.

(b) Adjacent to great ponds, rivers and wetlands:

(i) No accumulation of slash shall be left within 50 feet, horizontal distance, of the

normal high-water line or upland edge of a wetland; and

(ii) Between 50 feet and 250 feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line or

upland edge of a wetland, all slash larger than 3 inches in diameter must be disposed

of in such a manner that no part thereof extends more than 4 feet above the ground.

(3) Timber harvesting and related activities must leave adequate tree cover and shall be

conducted so that a well-distributed stand of trees is retained. This requirement may be

satisfied by following one of the following three options:

(a) Option 1 (40% volume removal), as follows:

(i) Harvesting of no more than 40 percent of the total volume on each acre of trees 4.5

inches DBH or greater in any 10 year period is allowed. Volume may be considered

to be equivalent to basal area;

(ii) A well-distributed stand of trees which is windfirm, and other vegetation including

existing ground cover, must be maintained; and,

(iii) Within 75 feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of rivers, streams,

and great ponds, and within 75 feet, horizontal distance, of the upland edge of a

freshwater or coastal wetlands, there must be no cleared openings. At distances

greater than 75 feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of a river or

great pond or upland edge of a wetland, timber harvesting and related activities must

not create single cleared openings greater than 14,000 square feet in the forest

canopy. Where such openings exceed 10,000 square feet, they must be at least 100

feet, horizontal distance, apart. Such cleared openings will be included in the

Bureau has approved the alternative method. The Bureau may verify that adequate tree cover and a well-distributed stand of trees is retained through a field procedure that uses sample plots that are located randomly or systematically to provide a fair representation of the harvest area.

(4) Skid trails, yards, and equipment operation. This requirement applies to the construction,

maintenance, and use of skid trails and yards in shore land areas.

(a) Equipment used in timber harvesting and related activities shall not use river, stream or

tributary stream channels as travel routes except when surface waters are frozen and snow

covered, and the activity will not result in any ground disturbance.

(b) Skid trails and yards must be designed and constructed to prevent sediment and concentrated

water runoff from entering a water body, tributary stream, or wetland. Upon termination of

their use, skid trails and yards must be stabilized.

(c) Setbacks:

(i) Equipment must be operated to avoid the exposure of mineral soil within 25 feet,

horizontal distance, of any water body, tributary stream, or wetland. On slopes of 10

percent or greater, the setback for equipment operation must be increased by 20 feet,

horizontal distance, plus an additional 10 feet, horizontal distance, for each 5 percent

increase in slope above 10 percent. Where slopes fall away from the resource, no

increase in the 25-foot setback is required.

(ii) Where such setbacks are impracticable, appropriate techniques shall be used to avoid

sedimentation of the water body, tributary stream or wetland. Such techniques may

include the installation of sump holes or settling basins, and/or the effective use of

additional ditch relief culverts and ditch water turnouts placed to avoid sedimentation of

the water body, tributary stream, or wetland. If, despite such precautions, sedimentation

or the disruption of shoreline integrity occurs, such conditions must be corrected.

(5) Land Management Roads. Land management roads, including approaches to crossings of water bodies, tributary stream channels, and freshwater wetlands, ditches and other related structures, must be designed, constructed, and maintained to prevent sediment and concentrated water runoff from directly entering the water body, tributary stream or wetland. Surface water on or adjacent to water crossing approaches must be diverted through vegetative filter strips to avoid

sedimentation of the watercourse or wetland. Because roadside ditches may not extend to the

resource being crossed, vegetative filter strips must be established in accordance with the setback

requirements in Section 15(P-1)(7) of this rule.

(a) Land management roads and associated ditches, excavation, and fill must be set back at least:

(i) 100 feet, horizontal distance, from the normal high-water line of a great pond, river or

freshwater or coastal wetland;

(ii) 50 feet, horizontal distance, from the normal high-water line of streams; and

(iii) 25 feet, horizontal distance, from the normal high-water line of tributary streams

(b) The minimum 100 foot setback specified in Section 15(P-1)(5)(a)(i) above may be reduced to no less than 50 feet, horizontal distance, and the 50 foot setback specified in Section 15(P-

1)(5)(a)(ii) above may be reduced to no less than 25 feet, horizontal distance, if, prior to

construction, the landowner or the landowner’s designated agent demonstrates to the

Planning Board’s satisfaction that no reasonable alternative exists and that appropriate

techniques will be used to prevent sedimentation of the water body, tributary stream, or

wetland. Such techniques may include, but are not limited to, the installation of settling

basins, and/or the effective use of additional ditch relief culverts and turnouts placed to avoid

sedimentation of the water body, tributary stream or wetland. If, despite such precautions,

sedimentation or the disruption of shoreline integrity occurs, such conditions must be

corrected.

(c) On slopes of 10 percent or greater, the land management road setback must be increased by at

least 20 feet, horizontal distance, plus an additional 10 feet, horizontal distance, for each 5

percent increase in slope above 10 percent.

(d) New land management roads are not allowed within the shoreland area along Significant

River Segments as identified in 38 M.R.S.A. section 437, nor in a Resource Protection

District, unless, prior to construction, the landowner or the landowner’s designated agent

makes a clear demonstration to the Planning Board’s satisfaction that no reasonable

alternative route exists outside the shoreland zone, and that the new road must be set back as

far as practicable from the normal high-water line and screened from the river by existing

vegetation.

(e) Ditches, culverts, bridges, dips, water turnouts and other water control installations associated with roads must be maintained on a regular basis to assure effective functioning. Drainage structures shall deliver a dispersed flow of water into an unscarified filter strip no less than the width indicated in the setback requirements in Section 15(P-1)(7). Where such a filter

strip is impracticable, appropriate techniques shall be used to avoid sedimentation of the

water body, tributary stream, or wetland. Such techniques may include the installation of

sump holes or settling basins, and/or the effective use of additional ditch relief culverts and

ditch water turnouts placed to avoid sedimentation of the water body, tributary stream, or

wetland. If, despite such precautions, sedimentation or the disruption of shoreline integrity

occurs, such conditions must be corrected.

(f) Road closeout and discontinuance. Maintenance of the water control installations required in

Section 15(P-1)(5)(e) must continue until use of the road is discontinued and the road is put

to bed by effective installation of water bars or other adequate road drainage structures at

appropriate intervals, constructed to avoid surface water flowing over or under the water bar,

and extending a sufficient distance beyond the traveled way so that water does not reenter the

road surface.

(g) Upgrading existing roads. Extension or enlargement of presently existing roads must conform to the provisions of Section 15(P-1). Any nonconforming existing road may continue to exist and to be maintained, as long as the nonconforming conditions are not made more nonconforming.

(h) Exception. Extension or enlargement of presently existing roads need not conform

to the setback requirements of Section 15(P-1)(5)(a) if, prior to extension or enlargement, the

landowner or the landowner’s designated agent demonstrates to the Planning Board’s

satisfaction that no reasonable alternative exists and that appropriate techniques will be used

to prevent sedimentation of the water body, tributary stream, or wetland. Such techniques

may include, but are not limited to, the installation of settling basins, and/or the effective use

of additional ditch relief culverts and turnouts placed to avoid sedimentation of the water

body, tributary stream, or wetland. If, despite such precautions, sedimentation or the

disruption of shoreline integrity occurs, such conditions must be corrected.

(i) Additional measures. In addition to the foregoing minimum requirements,

persons undertaking construction and maintenance of roads and river, stream and tributary

stream crossings must take reasonable measures to avoid sedimentation of surface waters.

(6) Crossings of water bodies. Crossings of rivers, streams, and tributary streams must allow for fish passage at all times of the year, must not impound water, and must allow for the maintenance of normal flows.

(a) Determination of flow. Provided they are properly applied and used for the circumstances for

which they are designed, methods including but not limited to the following are acceptable as

a means of calculating the 10 year and 25 year frequency water flows and thereby

determining water crossing sizes as required in Section 15(P-1): The United States

Geological Survey (USGS) Methods; specifically: Hodgkins, G. 1999. Estimating the

Magnitude of Peak Flows for Streams in Maine for Selected Recurrence Intervals. U.S.

Geological Survey. Water Resources Investigations Report 99-4008. 45 pp.

(b) Upgrading existing water crossings. Extension or enlargement of presently existing water

crossings must conform to the provisions of Section 15(P-1). Any nonconforming existing

water crossing may continue to exist and be maintained, as long as the nonconforming

conditions are not made more nonconforming; however, any maintenance or repair work

done below the normal high-water line must conform to the provisions of Section 15(P-1).

(c) Other Agency Permits. Any timber harvesting and related activities involving the design,

construction, and maintenance of crossings on waterbodies other than a river, stream or

tributary stream may require a permit from the Land Use Regulation Commission, the

Department of Environmental Protection, or the US Army Corps of Engineers.

(d) Any timber harvesting and related activities involving the design, construction, and

maintenance of crossings of freshwater wetlands identified by the Department of Inland

Fisheries and Wildlife as essential wildlife habitat require prior consultation with the

Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

(e) Notice to Bureau of Forestry. Written notice of all water crossing construction maintenance,

alteration and replacement activities in shoreland areas must be given to the Bureau prior to

the commencement of such activities. Such notice must contain all information required by

the Bureau, including:

(i) a map showing the location of all proposed permanent crossings;

(ii) the GPS location of all proposed permanent crossings;

(iii) for any temporary or permanent crossing that requires a permit from state or federal agencies, a copy of the approved permit or permits; and

(iv) a statement signed by the responsible party that all temporary and permanent

crossings will be constructed, maintained, and closed out in accordance with the

requirements of this Section.

(f) Water crossing standards. All crossings of rivers require a bridge or culvert sized according

to the requirements of Section 15(P-1)(6)(g)) below. Streams and tributary streams may be

crossed using temporary structures that are not bridges or culverts provided:

(i) concentrated water runoff does not enter the stream or tributary stream;

(ii) sedimentation of surface waters is reasonably avoided;

(iii) there is no substantial disturbance of the bank, or stream or tributary stream channel;

(iv) fish passage is not impeded; and,

(v) water flow is not unreasonably impeded.

Subject to Section 15(P-1)(6)(f)(i-v) above, skid trail crossings of streams and tributary

streams when channels of such streams and tributary streams are frozen and snow-covered or

are composed of a hard surface which will not be eroded or otherwise damaged are not

required to use permanent or temporary structures.

(g) Bridge and Culvert Sizing. For crossings of river, stream and tributary stream channels with a

bridge or culvert, the following requirements apply:

(i) Bridges and culverts must be installed and maintained to provide an opening sufficient in

size and structure to accommodate 10 year frequency water flows or with a cross-

sectional area at least equal to 2 1/2 times the cross-sectional area of the river, stream, or

tributary stream channel.

(ii) Temporary bridge and culvert sizes may be smaller than provided in Section 15(P-1)(6)(g)(i) if techniques are effectively employed such that in the event of culvert or

bridge failure, the natural course of water flow is maintained and sedimentation of the

water body or tributary stream is avoided. Such crossing structures must be at least as

wide as the channel and placed above the normal high-water line. Techniques may

include, but are not limited to, the effective use of any, a combination of, or all of the

following:

1. use of temporary skidder bridges;

2. removing culverts prior to the onset of frozen ground conditions;

3. using water bars in conjunction with culverts;

4. using road dips in conjunction with culverts.

(iii) Culverts utilized in river, stream and tributary stream crossings must:

1. be installed at or below river, stream or tributary stream bed elevation;

2. be seated on firm ground;

3. have soil compacted at least halfway up the side of the culvert;

4. be covered by soil to a minimum depth of 1 foot or according to the

culvert manufacturer's specifications, whichever is greater; and

5. have a headwall at the inlet end which is adequately stabilized by riprap

or other suitable means to reasonably avoid erosion of material around the

culvert.

(iv)River, stream and tributary stream crossings allowed under Section 15(P-1), but located

in flood hazard areas (i.e. A zones) as identified on a community's Flood Insurance Rate

Maps (FIRM) or Flood Hazard Boundary Maps (FHBM), must be designed and

constructed under the stricter standards contained in that community's National Flood

Insurance Program (NFIP). For example, a water crossing may be required to pass a 100-

year flood event.

(v) Exception. Skid trail crossings of tributary streams within shoreland areas and wetlands

adjacent to such streams may be undertaken in a manner not in conformity with the

requirements of the foregoing subsections provided persons conducting such activities take

reasonable measures to avoid the disruption of shoreline integrity, the occurrence of

sedimentation of water, and the disturbance of stream banks, stream channels, shorelines, and

soil lying within ponds and wetlands. If, despite such precautions, the disruption of shoreline

integrity, sedimentation of water, or the disturbance of stream banks, stream channels,

shorelines, and soil lying within ponds and wetlands occurs, such conditions must be

corrected.

(h) Skid trail closeout. Upon completion of timber harvesting and related activities, or upon the

expiration of a Forest Operations Notification, whichever is earlier, the following

requirements apply:

(i) Bridges and culverts installed for river, stream and tributary stream crossings by skid

trails must either be removed and areas of exposed soil stabilized, or upgraded to comply

with the closeout standards for land management roads in Section15(P-1)(6)(i) below.

(ii) Water crossing structures that are not bridges or culverts must either be removed

immediately following timber harvesting and related activities, or, if frozen into the river,

stream or tributary stream bed or bank, as soon as practical after snowmelt.

(iii) River, stream and tributary stream channels, banks and approaches to crossings of water

bodies and tributary streams must be immediately stabilized on completion of harvest, or if the ground is frozen and/or snow-covered, as soon as practical after snowmelt. If,

despite such precautions, sedimentation or the disruption of shoreline integrity occurs,

such conditions must be corrected.

(i) Land management road closeout. Maintenance of the water control features must continue

until use of the road is discontinued and the road is put to bed by taking the following

actions:

(i) Effective installation of water bars or other adequate road drainage structures at

appropriate intervals, constructed to reasonably avoid surface water flowing over or

under the water bar, and extending sufficient distance beyond the traveled way so that

water does not reenter the road surface.

(ii) Water crossing structures must be appropriately sized or dismantled and removed in a

manner that reasonably avoids sedimentation of the water body or tributary stream.

(iii) Any bridge or water crossing culvert in roads to be discontinued shall satisfy one of the

following requirements:

1. it shall be designed to provide an opening sufficient in size and structure to

accommodate 25 year frequency water flows;

2. it shall be designed to provide an opening with a cross-sectional area at least 3 1/2

times the cross-sectional area of the river, stream or tributary stream channel; or

3. it shall be dismantled and removed in a fashion to reasonably avoid sedimentation of

the river, stream or tributary stream.

If, despite such precautions, sedimentation or the disruption of shoreline integrity occurs,

such conditions must be corrected.

(7) Slope Table

Filter strips, skid trail setbacks, and land management road setbacks must be maintained as

specified in Section 15(P-1), but in no case shall be less than shown in the following table.

Average slope of the land between exposed mineral Width of strip between exposed mineral

Soil and the shoreland (percent) soil and shoreline (feet along surface of the ground)

0--------------------------------------------------------------------------25

10------------------------------------------------------------------------45

20------------------------------------------------------------------------65

30------------------------------------------------------------------------85

40------------------------------------------------------------------------105

50------------------------------------------------------------------------125

60------------------------------------------------------------------------145

70------------------------------------------------------------------------165

**Q. Clearing or Removal of Vegetation for Activities Other Than Timber Harvesting.**

(1) In a Resource Protection District abutting a great pond, there shall be no cutting of vegetation within the strip of land extending 75 feet, horizontal distance, inland from the normal high-water line, except to remove safety hazards.

Elsewhere, in any Resource Protection District the cutting or removal of vegetation shall be limited to that which is necessary for uses expressly authorized in that district.

(2) Except in areas as described in Section 15(Q)(1), above, and except to allow for the development of permitted uses, within a strip of land extending one-hundred (100) feet, horizontal distance, inland from the normal high-water line of a great pond classified GPA or a river flowing to a great pond classified GPA, and seventy-five (75) feet, horizontal distance, from any other water body, tributary stream, or the upland edge of a wetland, a buffer strip of vegetation shall be preserved as follows:

(a) There shall be no cleared opening greater than 250 square feet in the forest canopy or other existing woody vegetation if a forested canopy is not present as measured from the outer limits of the tree or shrub crown. However, a footpath not to exceed six (6) feet in width as measured between tree trunks and/or shrub stems is allowed provided that a cleared line of sight to the water through the buffer strip is not created.

(b) Selective cutting of trees within the buffer strip is allowed provided that a well distributed stand of trees and other natural vegetation is maintained.

For the purposes of Section 15(Q)(2)(b) a "well-distributed stand of trees" adjacent to a great pond classified GPA or a river or stream flowing to a great pond classified GPA, shall be defined as maintaining a rating score of 24 or more in any 50-foot by 25-foot rectangular (1250 square feet) area as determined by the following rating system.

Diameter of Tree at 4-1/2 feet Above Points

Ground Level (inches)

2 <4 in. 1

4 <8 in. 2

8 < 12 in. 4

12 in. or greater 8

Adjacent to other water bodies, tributary streams, and wetlands, a "well-distributed stand of trees" is defined as maintaining a minimum rating score of 16 per 50-foot by 25 foot rectangular area.

The following shall govern in applying this point system:

(i) The 25-foot by 50-foot rectangular plots must be established where the

landowner or lessee proposes clearing within the required buffer;

(ii) Each successive plot must be adjacent to, but not overlap a previous plot;

(iii) Any plot not containing the required points must have no vegetation removed

except as otherwise allowed by this Ordinance;

(iv) Any plot containing the required points may have vegetation removed down

to the minimum points required or as otherwise allowed by is Ordinance;

(v) Where conditions permit, no more than 50% of the points on any 25-foot by

50- foot rectangular area may consist of trees greater than 12 inches in

diameter. For purposes of Section 15(Q)(2)(b) “other natural vegetation” is

defined as retaining existing vegetation under three (3) feet in height and other

ground cover and retaining at least five (5) saplings less than two (2) inches in

diameter at four and one half (4 ½) feet above ground level for each 25-foot by

50-foot rectangle area. If five saplings do not exist, no woody stems less than

two (2) inches in diameter can be removed until 5 saplings have been recruited

into the plot.

Notwithstanding the above provisions, no more than 40% of the total volume of trees four (4) inches or more in diameter, measured at 4 1/2 feet above ground level may be removed in any ten (10) year period.

(c) In order to protect water quality and wildlife habitat, existing vegetation under three (3) feet in height and other ground cover, including leaf litter and the forest duff layer, shall not be cut, covered or removed, except to provide for a footpath or other permitted uses as described in Section 15(Q) paragraphs (2) and (2)(a) above.

(d) Pruning of tree branches, on the bottom 1/3 of the tree, is allowed.

(e) In order to maintain a buffer strip of vegetation, when the removal of hazard trees, such as storm-damaged, diseased, unsafe, or dead trees, results in the creation of cleared openings, these openings shall be replanted with native tree species unless existing new tree growth is present.

Section 15(Q)(2) does not apply to those portions of public recreational facilities adjacent to public swimming areas as long as cleared areas are limited to the minimum area necessary.

(3) At distances greater than one hundred (100) feet, horizontal distance, from a great pond classified GPA or a river flowing to a great pond classified GPA, and seventy-five (75) feet, horizontal distance, from the normal high-water line of any other water body, tributary stream, or the upland edge of a wetland there shall be allowed on any lot, in any ten (10) year period, selective cutting of not more than forty (40) percent of the volume of trees four (4) inches or more in diameter, measured 4 1/2 feet above ground level. Tree removal in conjunction with the development of permitted uses shall be included in the forty (40) percent calculation. For the purposes of these standards volume may be considered to be equivalent to basal area.

In no event shall cleared openings for any purposed development, including but not limited to principal and accessory structures, driveways, lawns and sewage disposal areas, exceed in the aggregate, 20% of the lot area within the Shoreland zone or ten thousand (10,000) square feet, whichever is smaller, including land previously cleared. This provision shall not apply to the Rural Residential and Air Park Districts.

(4) Legally existing nonconforming cleared opening may be maintained, but shall not be enlarged, except as allowed by this Ordinance.

(5) Fields or other cleared openings which have reverted to primarily shrubs, trees, or other woody vegetation shall be regulated under the provisions of Section 15(Q).

**Q-1. Hazard Trees, Storm-Damaged Trees, and Dead Tree Removal**

(1) Hazard trees in the shoreland zone may be removed without a permit after consultation with the Code Enforcement Officer if the following requirements are met:

(a) Within the shoreline buffer, if the removal of a hazard tree results in a cleared opening in the tree canopy greater than two hundred and fifty (250) square feet, replacement with native tree species is required, unless there is new tree growth already present. New tree growth must be as near as practicable to where the hazard tree was removed and be at least two (2) inches in diameter, measured at four and one half (4.5) feet above the ground level. If new growth is not present, then replacement trees shall consist of native species and be at least four (4) feet in height, and be no less than two (2) inches in diameter. Stumps may not be removed.

(b) Outside of the shoreline buffer, when the removal of hazard trees exceeds forty (40) percent of the volume of trees four (4) inches or more in diameter, measured at four and one half (4.5) feet above ground level in any ten (10) year period, and/or results in cleared openings exceeding twenty-five (25) percent of the lot area within the shoreland zone, or ten thousand (10,000) square feet, whichever is greater, replacement with native tree species is required, unless there is new tree growth already present. New tree growth must be as near as practicable to where the hazard tree was removed and be at least two (2) inches in diameter, measured at four and one half (4.5) feet above the ground level. If new growth is not present, then replacement trees shall consist of native species and be at least two (2) inches in diameter, measured at four and one half (4.5) feet above the ground level.

(c) The removal of standing dead trees, resulting from natural causes, is permissible without the need for replanting or a permit, as long as the removal does not result in the creation of new lawn areas, or other permanently cleared areas, and stumps are not removed. For the purposes of this provision dead trees are those trees that contain no foliage during the growing season.

(d) The Code Enforcement Officer may require the property owner to submit an evaluation from a licensed forester or arborist before any hazard tree can be removed within the shoreland zone.

(e) The Code Enforcement Officer may require more than a one–for-one replacement for hazard trees removed that exceed eight (8) inches in diameter measured at four and one half (4.5) feet above the ground level.

(2) Storm-damaged trees in the shoreland zone may be removed without a permit after consultation with the Code Enforcement Officer if the following requirements are met:

(a) Within the shoreline buffer, when the removal of storm-damaged trees results in a cleared opening in the tree canopy greater than two hundred and fifty (250) square feet, replanting is not required, but the area shall be required to naturally revegetate, and the following requirements must be met:

(i) The area from which a storm-damaged tree is removed does not result in new lawn areas, or other permanently cleared areas;

(ii) Stumps from the storm-damaged trees may not be removed;

(iii) Limbs damaged from a storm event may be pruned even if they extend beyond the bottom one-third (1/3) of the tree; and

(iv) If after one growing season, no natural regeneration or regrowth is present, replanting of native tree seedlings or saplings is required at a density of one seedling per every eighty (80) square feet of lost canopy.

(b) Outside of the shoreline buffer, if the removal of storm damaged trees exceeds 40% of the volume of trees four (4) inches or more in diameter, measured at four and one half (4.5) feet above the ground level in any ten (10) year period, or results, in the aggregate, in cleared openings exceeding 25% of the lot area within the shoreland zone or ten thousand (10,000) square feet, whichever is greater, and no natural regeneration occurs within one growing season, then native tree seedlings or saplings shall be replanted on a one-for-one basis.

**R. Erosion and Sedimentation Control**

(1) All activities which involve filling, grading, excavation or other similar activities which result in unstabilized soil conditions and which require a permit shall require a written soil erosion and sedimentation control plan. The plan shall be submitted to the permitting authority for approval and shall include, where applicable, provisions for:

(a) Mulching and revegetation of disturbed soil.

(b) Temporary runoff control features such as hay bales, silt fencing or diversion ditches.

(c) Permanent stabilization structures such as retaining walls or riprap.

(2) When an excavation contractor will perform an activity that requires or results in more than one (1) cubic yard of soil disturbance, the person responsible for management of erosion and sedimentation control practices at the site must be certified in erosion control practices by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. This person must be present at the site each day earthmoving activity occurs for a duration that is sufficient to ensure that proper erosion and sedimentation control practices are followed. This is required until erosion and sedimentation control measures have been installed, which will either stay in place permanently or stay in place until the area is sufficiently covered with vegetation necessary to prevent soil erosion. The name and certification number of the person who will oversee the activity causing or resulting in soil disturbance shall be included on the permit application. This requirement does not apply to a person or firm engaged in agriculture or timber harvesting if best management practices for erosion and sedimentation control are used; and municipal, state and federal employees engaged in projects associated with that employment.

(3) In order to create the least potential for erosion, development shall be designed to fit with the topography and soils of the site. Areas of steep slopes where high cuts and fills may be required shall be avoided wherever possible, and natural contours shall be followed as closely as possible.

(4) Erosion and sedimentation control measures shall apply to all aspects of the proposed project involving land disturbance, and shall be in operation during all stages of the activity. The amount of exposed soil at every phase of construction shall be minimized to reduce the potential for erosion.

(5) Any exposed ground area shall be temporarily or permanently stabilized within one (1) week from the time it was last actively worked, by use of riprap, sod, seed, and mulch, or other effective measures. In all cases permanent stabilization shall occur within nine (9) months of the initial date of exposure. In addition:

(a) Where mulch is used, it shall be applied at a rate of at least one (1) bale per five hundred (500) square feet and shall be maintained until a catch of vegetation is established.

(b) Anchoring the mulch with netting, peg and twine or other suitable method may be required to maintain the mulch cover.

(c) Additional measures shall be taken where necessary in order to avoid siltation into the water. Such measures may include the use of staked hay bales and/or silt fences.

(6) Natural and man-made drainage ways and drainage outlets shall be protected from erosion from water flowing through them. Drainage ways shall be designed and constructed in order to carry water from a twenty five (25) year storm or greater, and shall be stabilized with vegetation or lined with riprap.

For reference, see Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Maine Erosion and Sediment Control Best Management Practices can be found at the web site https://www.maine.gov/dep/land/erosion/esc

**S. Revegetation Requirements**

When revegetation is required in response to violations of the vegetation standards set forth in Section 15(S,Q in Otis Ordinance), to address the removal of non- native invasive species of vegetation, or as a mechanism to allow for development that may otherwise not be permissible due to the vegetation standards, including removal of vegetation in conjunction with a shoreline stabilization project, the revegation must comply with the following requirements.

(1) The property owner must submit a revegetation plan, prepared with and signed by a qualified professional, that describes revegetation activities and maintenance. The plan must include a scaled site plan, depicting where vegetation was, or is to be removed, where existing vegetation is to remain, and where vegetation is to be planted, including a list of all vegetation to be planted.

(2) Revegetation must occur along the same segment of shoreline and in the same area where vegetation was removed and at a density comparable to the pre-existing vegetation, except where a shoreline stabilization activity does not allow revegetation to occur in the same area and at a density comparable to the pre-existing vegetation, in which case revegetation must occur along the same segment of shoreline and as close as possible to the area where vegetation was removed:

(3) If part of a permitted activity, revegetation shall occur before the expiration of the permit. If the activity or revegetation is not completed before the expiration of the permit, a new revegetation plan shall be submitted with any renewal or new permit application.

(4) Revegetation activities must meet the following requirements for trees and saplings:

(a) All trees and saplings removed must be replaced with native noninvasive species;

(b) Replacement vegetation must at a minimum consist of saplings;

(c) If more than three (3) trees or saplings are planted, then at least three (3) different species shall be used;

(d) No one species shall make up 50% or more of the number of trees and saplings planted;

(e) If revegetation is required for a shoreline stabilization project, and it is not possible to plant trees and saplings in the same area where trees or saplings were removed, then trees or sapling must be planted in a location that effectively reestablishes the screening between the shoreline and structures; and

(f) A survival rate of at least eighty (80) percent of planted trees or saplings is required for a minimum five (5) years period.

(5) Revegetation activities must meet the following requirements for woody vegetation and other vegetation under three (3) feet in height:

(a) All woody vegetation and vegetation under three (3) feet in height must be replaced with native noninvasive species of woody vegetation and vegetation under three (3) feet in height as applicable;

(b) Woody vegetation and vegetation under three (3) feet in height shall be planted in quantities and variety sufficient to prevent erosion and provide for effective infiltration of stormwater;

(c) If more than three (3) woody vegetation plants are to be planted, then at least three (3) different species shall be planted;

(d) No one species shall make up 50% or more of the number of planted woody vegetation plants; and

(e) Survival of planted woody vegetation and vegetation under three feet in height must be sufficient to remain in compliance with the standards contained within this chapter for minimum of five (5) years

(6) Revegetation activities must meet the following requirements for ground vegetation and ground cover:

(a) All ground vegetation and ground cover removed must be replaced with native herbaceous vegetation, in quantities and variety sufficient to prevent erosion and provide for effective infiltration of stormwater;

(b) Where necessary due to a lack of sufficient ground cover, an area must be supplemented with a minimum four (4) inch depth of leaf mulch and/or bark mulch to prevent erosion and provide for effective infiltration of stormwater; and

(c) Survival and functionality of ground vegetation and ground cover must be sufficient to remain in compliance with the standards contained within this chapter for minimum of five (5) years.

**T. Soils.**

All land uses shall be located on soils in or upon which the proposed uses or structures can be established or maintained without causing adverse environmental impacts, including severe erosion, mass soil movement, improper drainage, and water pollution, whether during or after construction. Proposed uses requiring subsurface waste disposal, and commercial or industrial development and other similar intensive land uses, shall require a soils report based on an on-site investigation and be prepared by state-certified professionals. Certified persons may include Maine Certified Soil Scientists, Maine Registered Professional Engineers, Maine State Certified Geologists and other persons who have training and experience in the recognition and evaluation of soil properties. The report shall be based upon the analysis of the characteristics of the soil and surrounding land and water areas, maximum ground water elevation, presence of ledge, drainage conditions, and other pertinent data which the evaluator deems appropriate. The soils report shall include recommendations for a proposed use to counteract soil limitations where they exist.

**U. Water Quality.**

No activity shall deposit on or into the ground or discharge to the waters of the State any pollutant that, by itself or in combination with other activities or substances, will impair designated uses or the water classification of the water body, tributary stream or wetland.

**V. Archaeological Site.**

Any proposed land use activity involving structural development or soil disturbance on or adjacent to sites listed on, or eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by the permitting authority shall be submitted by the applicant to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission for review and comment, at least twenty (20) days prior to action being taken by the permitting authority. The permitting authority shall consider comments received from the Commission prior to rendering a decision on the application.

**W. Fences**

Fences shall be constructed of such materials and in such a manner as to have minimal adverse effect on the environment. The fence as constructed will not obstruct fire fighting equipment, road maintenance crews or emergency crews in the proper performance of their duties, or present an undue hazard or nuisance to innocent passerby or abutting land owners. The Code Enforcement Officer will have the authority to order the removal or modification of any fence, regardless of when constructed, whenever it presents any of the above hazardous or nuisance conditions. Fences shall be set back from all property lines and/or right of ways a distance of two feet, unless the abutter agrees in writing to placement of fence on property line.

**X. Damage to Town Property.** Any and all damages caused by the land/home owner or contractor to any Town Property or Town Roads will be the responsibility of the land /home owner to repair.

**16. Administration**

**A. Administering Bodies and Agents**

(1) Code Enforcement Officer. A Code Enforcement Officer shall be appointed or reappointed annually by July 1st.

(2) Board of Appeals. A Board of Appeals shall be created in accordance with the provisions of 30-A M.R.S.A. section 2691.

(3) Planning Board. A Planning Board shall be created in accordance with the provisions of State law

**B. Permits Required.** After the effective date of this Ordinance no person shall, without first obtaining a permit, engage in any activity or use of land or structure requiring a permit in the district in which such activity or use would occur; or expand, change, or replace an existing use or structure; or renew a discontinued nonconforming use. A person who is issued a permit pursuant to this Ordinance shall have a copy of the permit on site while the work authorized by the permit is performed.

(1) A permit is not required for the replacement of an existing road culvert as long as:

(a) The replacement culvert is not more than 25 % longer than the culvert being replaced;

(b) The replacement culvert is not longer than 75 feet; and

(c) Adequate erosion control measures are taken to prevent sedimentation of the water, and the crossing does not block fish passage in the water course.

(2) A permit is not required for an archaeological excavation as long as the excavation is conducted by an archaeologist listed on the State Historic Preservation Officer’s level 1 or level 2 approved lists, and unreasonable erosion and sedimentation is prevented by means of adequate and timely temporary and permanent stabilization measures.

(3) Any permit required by this Ordinance shall be in addition to any other permits required by other law or ordinance.

**C. Permit Application**

1. Every applicant for a permit shall submit a written application, including a scaled site plan with current site, pictures of the area of the property for which the permit is submitted, and any other information requested on a form provided by the municipality.

(2) Applicants for shoreland development permits must submit before-and-after photos of the shoreline vegetation and development site (with “after” photos provided as a condition of approval).

(3) All applications shall be signed by an owner or individual who can show evidence of right, title or interest in the property or by an agent, representative, tenant, or contractor of the owner with authorization from the owner to apply for a permit hereunder, certifying that the information in the application is complete and correct.

(4) All applications shall be dated, and the Code Enforcement Officer and/or the Planning Board, as appropriate, shall note upon each application the date and time of its receipt.

(5) If the property is not served by a public sewer, a valid plumbing permit or a completed application for a plumbing permit, including the site evaluation approved by the Plumbing Inspector, shall be submitted whenever the nature of the proposed structure would require the installation of a subsurface sewage disposal system.

**D. Procedure for Administering Permits.** Within 35 days of the date of the application, the Planning board or Code Enforcement Officer, as indicated in Section 14, shall notify the applicant in writing that the application is a complete application or if the application is incomplete, that specified additional material is needed to make the application complete. The Planning Board or the Code Enforcement Officer, as appropriate, shall approve, approve with conditions, or deny all permit applications in writing within 35 days of receiving a completed application. However, if the Planning Board has a waiting list of applications, a decision on the application shall occur within 35 days after the first available date on the Planning Board's agenda following receipt of the completed application, or within 35 days of the public hearing, if the proposed use or structure is found to be in conformance with the purposes and provisions of this Ordinance.

If any person is found to be in violation of this Ordinance, no application for permits shall be processed unless and until that violation has been finally resolved. For the purposes of this requirement, any person includes any individual, entity, or entity in which an individual associated with an asserted violation is at least a 25% owner.

The applicant shall have the burden of proving that the proposed land use activity is in conformity with the purposes and provisions of this Ordinance.

After the submission of a complete application to the Planning Board, the Board shall approve an application or approve it with conditions if it makes a positive finding based on the information presented that the proposed use:

(1) Will maintain safe and healthful conditions;

(2) Will not result in water pollution, erosion, or sedimentation to surface waters;

(3) Will adequately provide for the disposal of all wastewater;

(4) Will not have an adverse impact on spawning grounds, fish, aquatic life, bird or other wildlife habitat;

(5) Will conserve shore cover and visual, as well as actual, points of access to inland and waters;

(6) Will protect archaeological and historic resources as designated in the comprehensive plan;

(7) Will avoid problems associated with floodplain development and use; and

(8) Is in conformance with the provisions of Section 15, Land Use Standards and if applicable Section 12, Non-conformance

If a permit is either denied or approved with conditions, the reasons as well as conditions shall be stated in writing. No approval shall be granted for an application involving a structure if the structure would be located in an unapproved subdivision or would violate any other local ordinance or regulation or any State law which the municipality is responsible for enforcing.

**E. Expiration of Permit.** Permits shall expire one year from the date of issuances if

substantial start is not made in construction or in the use of the property during that period. If a substantial start is made within one year of the issuance of the permit, the applicant shall have one additional year to complete the project, at which time the permit shall expire. Prior to expiration of a Permit, a permittee may apply to the reviewing authority that issued the permit for an extension for good cause shown.

**F.** **Fees.** Fees for permits will be reviewed and set by the Board of Selectmen on a yearly

basis.

**G. Installation of Public Utility Service.** A public utility, water district, sanitary district or any utility company of any kind may not install services to any new structure located in the shoreland zone unless written authorization attesting to the validity and currency of all local permits required under this or any previous Ordinance, has been issued by the appropriate municipal officials or other written arrangements have been made between the municipal officials and the utility.

**H. Appeals**

(1) Powers and Duties of the Board of Appeals. The Board of Appeals shall have the following powers:

1. Administrative Appeals: To hear and decide administrative appeals, on an appellate basis, where it is alleged by an aggrieved party that there is an error in any order, requirement, decision, or determination made by, or failure to act by, Planning Board or Code enforcement Officer in the administration of this Ordinance. Any order, requirement, decision or determination made, or failure to act by the Code Enforcement Officer in the enforcement of this ordinance is not appealable to the Board of Appeals.

(b) Variance Appeals: To authorize variances upon appeal, within the limitations set forth in this Ordinance.

**(2) Variance Appeals.**

Variances may be granted only under the following conditions:

(a) Variances may be granted only from dimensional requirements, including but not limited to; lot width, structure height, percent of lot coverage, and setback requirements.

(b) Variances shall not be granted for establishment of any uses otherwise prohibited by this Ordinance.

(c) The Board shall not grant a variance unless it finds that:

(i) The proposed structure or use would meet the provisions of Section 15 except for the specific provision which has created the non-conformity and from which relief is sought; and

(ii) The strict application of the terms of this Ordinance would result in undue hardship. The term "undue hardship" shall mean:

a. That the land in question cannot yield a reasonable return unless a variance is granted;

b. That the need for a variance is due to the unique circumstances of the property and not to the general conditions in the neighborhood;

c. That the granting of a variance will not alter the essential character of the locality; and

d. That the hardship is not the result of action taken by the applicant or a prior owner.

(d) Not withstanding Section 16(H)(2)(c)(ii) above, the Board of Appeals may grant a variance to an owner of a residential dwelling for the purpose of making that dwelling accessible to a person with a disability who resides in or regulary uses the dwelling. The board shall restrict any variance granted under this subsection solely to the installation of equipment or the construction of structures necessary for access to or egress from the dwelling by the person with the disability. The board may impose conditions on the variance, including limiting the variance to the duration of the disability or to the time that the person with the disability lives in the dwelling. The term “structures necessary for access to or egress from the dwelling" shall include railing, wall or roof systems necessary for the safety or effectiveness of the structure. Any permit issued pursuant to this subsection is subject to Sections 16(H)(2)(f) and 16(H)(4)(b)(iv) below.)

(e) The Board of Appeals shall limit any variances granted as strictly as possible in order to insure conformance with the purposes and provisions of this Ordinance to the greatest extent possible, and in doing so may impose such conditions to a variance as it deems necessary. The party receiving the variance shall comply with any conditions imposed.

(f) A copy of each variance request, including the application and all supporting information supplied by the applicant, shall be forwarded by the municipal officials to the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection at least twenty (20) days prior to action by the Board of Appeals. Any comments received from the Commissioner prior to the action by the Board of Appeals shall be made part of the record and shall be taken into consideration by the Board of Appeals.

(3) Administrative Appeals

When the Board of Appeals reviews a decision of the Code Enforcement Officer the Board of Appeals shall hold a “de novo” hearing. At this time the Board may receive and consider new evidence and testimony, be it oral or written. When acting in a “de novo” capacity the Board of Appeals shall hear and decide the matter afresh, undertaking its own independent analysis of evidence and the law, and reaching its own decision.

When the Board of Appeals hears a decision of the Planning Board, it shall hold an appellate hearing, and may reverse the decision of the Planning Board only upon finding that the decision was contrary to specific provisions of the Ordinance or contrary to the facts presented to the Planning Board. The Board of Appeals may only review the record of the proceedings before the Planning Board. The Board Appeals shall not receive or consider any evidence which was not presented to the Planning Board, but the Board of Appeals may receive and consider written or oral arguments. If the Board of Appeals determines that the records of the Planning Board proceedings are inadequate, the Board of Appeals may remand the matter to the Planning Board for additional fact finding.

(4) Appeal Procedure

(a) Making an Appeal

(i) An administrative or variance appeal may be taken to the Board of Appeals by an aggrieved party from any decision of the Code Enforcement Officer or the Planning Board, except for enforcement-related matters as described in Section 16(H)(1)(a) above. Such an appeal shall be taken within thirty (30) days of the date of the official written decision appealed from, and not otherwise, except that the Board, upon a showing of good cause, may waive the thirty (30) day requirement.

(ii) Application for appeals shall be made by filing with the Board of Appeals a written notice of appeal which includes:

a. A concise written statement indicating what relief is requested and why the appeal or variance should be granted.

b. A sketch drawn to scale showing lot lines, location of existing buildings and structures and other physical features of the lot pertinent to the relief sought.

(iii) Upon receiving an application for an administrative appeal or variance, the Code Enforcement Officer or Planning Board, as appropriate, shall transmit to the Board of Appeals all of the papers constituting the record of the decision appealed from.

(iv) The Board of Appeals shall hold a public hearing on an administrative appeal or a request for a variance within thirty-five (35) days of its receipt of a complete written application, unless this time period is extended by the parties.

(b) Decision by Board of Appeals

(i) A majority of the full voting membership of the board shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of deciding an appeal.

(ii) The person filing the appeal shall have the burden of proof.

(iii) The Board shall decide all administrative appeals and variance appeals within thirty five (35) days after the close of the hearing, and shall issue a written decision on all appeals.

(iv) The Board of Appeals shall state the reasons and basis for its decision, including a statement of the facts found and conclusions reached by the Board. The Board shall cause written notice of its decision to be mailed or hand-delivered to the applicant and to the Department of Environmental Protection within seven (7) days of the Board’s decision. Copies of written decisions of the Board of Appeals shall be given to the Planning Board, Code Enforcement Officer, and the municipal officers. All decisions shall become a part of the record and shall include a statement of findings and conclusions as well as the reasons or basis therefore, and the appropriate order, relief or denial thereof.

(5) Appeal to Superior Court. Except as provided by 30-A M.R.S.A. section 2691(3)(F), any aggrieved party who participated as a party during the proceedings before the Board of Appeals may take an appeal to Superior Court in accordance with State laws within forty-five (45) days from the date of any decision of the Board of Appeals.

(6) Reconsideration. In accordance with 30-A M.R.S.A. section 2691(3)(F), the Board of Appeals may reconsider any decision within forty-five (45) days of its prior decision.

A request to the Board to reconsider a decision must be filed within ten (10) days of the decision that is being reconsidered. A vote to reconsider and the action taken on that reconsideration must occur and be completed within forty-five (45) days of the date of the vote on the original decision. Reconsideration of a decision shall require a positive vote of the majority of the Board members originally voting on the decision, and proper notification to the landowner, petitioner, planning board, code enforcement officer, and other parties of interest, including abutters and those who testified at the original hearing(s). The Board may conduct additional hearings and receive additional evidence and testimony. Appeal of a reconsidered decision to Superior Court must be made within fifteen (15) days after the decision on reconsideration.

**I. Enforcement**

(1) Nuisances. Any violation of this Ordinance shall be deemed to be a nuisance.

(2) Code Enforcement Officer

(a) It shall be the duty of the Code Enforcement Officer to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance. If the Code Enforcement Officer shall find that any provision of this Ordinance is being violated, he or she shall notify in writing the person responsible for such violation, indicating the nature of the violation and ordering the action necessary to correct it, including discontinuance of illegal use of land, buildings or structures, or work being done, removal of illegal buildings or structures, and abatement of nuisance conditions. A copy of such notices shall be submitted to the municipal officers and be maintained as a permanent record.

(b) The Code Enforcement Officer shall conduct on-site inspections to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and conditions attached to permit approvals. The Code Enforcement Officer shall also investigate all complaints of alleged violations of this Ordinance. All code Enforcement records shall be kept in the Town Office.

(c) The Code Enforcement Officer shall keep a complete record of all essential transactions of the office, including applications submitted, permits granted or denied, variances granted or denied, revocation actions, revocation of permits, appeals, court actions, complaints and violations investigated (while retaining confidentiality), violations found, and fees collected.

(3) Legal Actions. When the above action does not result in the correction or abatement of the violation or nuisance condition, the Municipal Officers, upon notice from the Code Enforcement Officer, are hereby directed to institute any and all actions and proceedings, either legal or equitable, including seeking injunctions of violations and the imposition of fines, that may be appropriate or necessary to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance in the name of the municipality. The municipal officers, or their authorized agent, are hereby authorized to enter into administrative consent agreements for the purpose of eliminating violations of this Ordinance and recovering fines without Court action. Such agreements shall not allow an illegal structure or use to continue unless there is clear and convincing evidence that the illegal structure or use was constructed or conducted as a direct result of erroneous advice given by an authorized municipal official and there is no evidence that the owner acted in bad faith, or unless the removal of the structure or use will result in a threat or hazard to public health and safety or will result in substantial environmental damage.

(4) Fines. Any person, including but not limited to a landowner, a landowner's agent or a contractor, who violates any provision or requirements of this Ordinance shall be penalized in accordance with 30-A, M.R. 4452.

**(17) Definitions.**

**Accessory structure or use** - a use or structure which is incidental and subordinate to the principal use or structure. Accessory uses, when aggregated shall not subordinate the principal use of the lot. A deck or similar extension of the principal structure or a garage attached to the principal structure by a roof or a common wall is considered part of the principal structure.

**Aggrieved party** - an owner of land whose property is directly or indirectly affected by the granting or denial of a permit or variance under this Ordinance; a person whose land abuts land for which a permit or variance has been granted; or any other person or group of persons who have suffered particularized injury as a result of the granting or denial of such permit or variance.

**Agriculture** - the production, keeping or maintenance for sale or lease, of plants and/or animals, including but not limited to: forages and sod crops; grains and seed crops; dairy animals and dairy products; poultry and poultry products; livestock; fruits and vegetables; and ornamental and green house products. Agriculture does not include forest management and timber harvesting activities.

**Aquaculture** - the growing or propagation of harvestable freshwater, estuarine, or marine plant or animal species.

**Basal Area** - the area of cross-section of a tree stem at 4 1/2 feet above ground level and inclusive of bark.

**Basement** - any portion of a structure with a floor-to-ceiling height of 6 feet or more and having more than 50% of its volume below the existing ground level.

**Boat Launching F**acility - a facility designed primarily for the launching and landing of watercraft, and which may include an access ramp, docking area, and parking spaces for vehicles and trailers.

**Bureau** – State of Maine Department of Conservation’s Bureau of Forestry.

**Campground** - any area or tract of land to accommodate two (2) or more parties in temporary living quarters, including, but not limited to tents, recreational vehicles or other shelters.

**Camping** - means the erecting of a tent or shelter of natural or synthetic material, preparing a

sleeping bag or other bedding material for use, parking of a motor vehicle, motor home or

trailer, for the apparent purpose of overnight occupancy.

**Campsite** – a place used for camping

**Canopy** – the more or less continuous cover formed by tree crowens in a wooded area.

**Commercial use** - the use of lands, buildings, or structures, other than a "home occupation," defined below, the intent and result of which activity is the production of income from the buying and selling of goods and/or services, exclusive of rental of residential buildings and/or dwelling units.

**Cross-sectional area** – the cross-sectional area of a stream or tributary stream channel is determined by multiplying the stream or tributary stream channel width by the average stream or tributary stream channel depth. The stream or tributary stream channel width is the straight line distance from the normal high-water line on one side of the channel to the normal high-water line on the opposite side of the channel. The average stream or tributary stream channel depth is the average of the vertical distances from a straight line between the normal high-water lines of the stream or tributary stream channel to the bottom of the channel.

**DBH** – the diameter of a standing tree measured 4.5 feet from ground level.

**Development** – a change in land use involving alteration of the land, water or vegetation, or the addition or alteration of structures or other construction no naturally occurring.

**Dimensional requirements** - numerical standards relating to spatial relationships including but not limited to setback, lot area, shore frontage and height.

**Disability** - any disability, infirmity, malformation, disfigurement, congenital defect or mental condition caused by bodily injury, accident, disease, birth defect, environmental conditions or illness; and also includes the physical or mental condition of a person which constitutes a substantial handicap as determined by a physician or in the case of mental handicap, by a psychiatrist or psychologist, as well as any other health or sensory impairment which requires special education, vocational rehabilitation or related services.

**Disruption of shoreline integrity** - the alteration of the physical shape, properties, or condition of a shoreline at any location by timber harvesting and related activities. A shoreline where shoreline integrity has been disrupted is recognized by compacted, scarified and/or rutted soil, an abnormal channel or shoreline cross-section, and in the case of flowing waters, a profile and character altered from natural conditions.

**Driveway** - a vehicular access-way less than five hundred (500) feet in length serving two single-family dwelling or one two-family dwelling or less.

**Emergency operations** - operations conducted for the public health, safety or general welfare, such as protection of resources from immediate destruction or loss, law enforcement, and operations to rescue human beings, property and livestock from the threat of destruction or injury.

**Essential services** - gas, electrical or communication facilities; steam, fuel, electric power or water transmission or distribution lines, towers and related equipment; telephone cables or lines, poles and related equipment; gas, oil, water, slurry or other similar pipelines; municipal sewage lines, collection or supply systems; and associated storage tanks. Such systems may include towers, poles, wires, mains, drains, pipes, conduits, cables, fire alarms and police call boxes, traffic signals, hydrants and similar accessories, but shall not include service drops or buildings which are necessary for the furnishing of such services.

**Expansion of a structure** - an increase in the floor area or volume of a structure, including all extensions such as, but not limited to: attached decks, garages, porches and greenhouses.

**Expansion of use** - the addition of one or more months to a use's operating season; or the use of more floor area or ground area devoted to a particular use.

**Family** - one or more persons occupying a premises and living as a single housekeeping unit.

**Floor area** - the sum of the horizontal areas of the floor(s) of a structure enclosed by exterior walls, plus the horizontal area of any unenclosed portions of a structure such as lofts, atics, porches and decks.

**Forest management activities** - timber cruising and other forest resource evaluation activities, pesticide or fertilizer application, management planning activities, timber stand improvement, pruning, regeneration of forest stands, and other similar or associated activities, exclusive of timber harvesting **and the construction, creation or maintenance of roads.**

**Forested wetland** - a freshwater wetland dominated by woody vegetation that is six (6) meter tall (approximately twenty (20) feet) or taller.

**Forest Stand** - a contiguous group of trees sufficiently uniform in age class distribution,

composition, and structure, and growing on a site of sufficiently uniform quality, to be a

distinguishable unit.

**Foundation** - the supporting substructure of a building or other structure, excluding wooden sills and post supports, but including basements, slabs, frostwalls or other base consisting of concrete, block, brick or similar material.

**Freshwater wetland** - freshwater swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas, other than forested wetlands, which are:

1. Of ten or more contiguous acres; or of less than 10 contiguous acres and adjacent to a surface water body, excluding any river, stream or brook, such that in a natural state, the combined surface area is in excess of 10 acres; and

2. Inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and for a duration sufficient to support, and which under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of wetland vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soils.

Freshwater wetlands may contain small stream channels or inclusions of land that do not conform to the criteria of this definition.

**Functionally water-dependent uses** - those uses that require, for their primary purpose, location on submerged lands or that require direct access to, or location in, coastal or inland waters and that can not be located away from these waters. The uses include, but are not limited to commercial and recreational fishing and boating facilities, excluding recreational boat storage buildings, finfish and shellfish processing, fish storage and retail and wholesale fish marketing facilities, waterfront dock and port facilities, shipyards and boat building facilities, marinas, navigation aids, basins and channels, retaining walls, industrial uses dependent upon water-borne transportation or requiring large volumes of cooling or processing water that can not reasonably be located or operated at an inland site, and uses that primarily provide general public access to coastal or inland waters.

**Great pond** - any inland body of water which in a natural state has a surface area in excess of ten (10) acres, and any inland body of water artificially formed or increased which has a surface area in excess of thirty (30) acres except for the purposes of this Ordinance, where the artificially formed or increased inland body of water is completely surrounded by land held by a single owner,

**Great pond classified GPA** - any great pond classified GPA, pursuant to Title 38 Article 4-A Section 465-A. This classification includes some, but not all impoundments of rivers that are defined as great ponds.

**Ground cover** – small plants, fallen leaves, needles and twigs, and the partially decayed organic matter of the forest floor.

**Harvest Area** - the area where timber harvesting and related activities, including the cutting of trees, skidding, yarding, and associated road construction take place. The area affected by a harvest encompasses the area within the outer boundaries of these activities, excepting unharvested areas greater than 10 acres within the area affected by a harvest.

**Hazard tree** - a tree with a structural defect, combination of defects, or disease resulting in a structural defect that under the normal range of environmental conditions at the site exhibits a high probability of failure and loss of a major structural component of the tree in a manner that will strike a target. A normal range of environmental conditions does not include meteorological anomalies, such as, but not limited to: hurricanes; hurricane-force winds; tornados; microbursts; or significant ice storm events. Hazard trees also include those trees that pose a serious and imminent risk to bank stability. A target is the area where personal injury or property damage could occur if the tree or a portion of the tree fails. Targets include roads, driveways, parking areas, structures, campsites, and any other developed area where people frequently gather and linger.

**Height of a structure** - the vertical distance between the mean original( prior to construction) grade at the downhill side of the structure to the highest point of the structure, excluding chimneys, steeples, antennas, and similar appurtenances that have no floor area.

**Home occupation** - an occupation or profession which is customarily conducted on or in a residential structure or property and which is 1) clearly incidental to and compatible with the residential use of the property and surrounding residential uses; and 2) which employs no more than two (2) persons other than family members residing in the home.

**Increase in nonconformity of a structure** - any change in a structure or property which causes further deviation from the dimensional standard(s) creating the nonconformity such as, but not limited to, reduction in water body, tributary stream or wetland setback distance, increase in lot coverage, or increase in height of a structure. Property changes or structure expansions which either meet the dimensional standard or which cause no further increase in the linear extent of nonconformance of the existing structure shall not be considered to increase nonconformity. For example, there is no increase in nonconformity with the setback requirement for water bodies, wetlands, or tributary streams if the expansion extends no further into the required setback area than does any portion of the existing nonconforming structure. Hence, a structure may be expanded laterally provided that the expansion extends no closer to the water body, tributary stream or wetland than the closest portion of the existing structure from that water body tributary stream or wetland. Included in this allowance are expansions which in-fill irregularly shaped structures.

**Individual private campsite** - an area of land which is not associated with a campground, but which is developed for repeated camping by only one group not to exceed ten (10) individuals and which involves site improvements which may include but not be limited to gravel pad, parking area, fire place, or tent platform.

**Industrial** - The assembling, fabrication, finishing, manufacturing, packaging or processing

of goods, or the extraction of minerals.

**Institutional** – a non-profit or quasi-public use, or institution such as a church, library,

public or private school, hospital, or municipally owned or operated building, structure or

land used for public purposes.

**Land Management Road** **-** a route or track consisting of a bed of exposed mineral soil,

gravel, or other surfacing materials constructed for, or created by, the passage of motorized

vehicles and used primarily for timber harvesting and related activities, including associated

log yards, but not including skid trails or skid roads.

**Licensed Forester** - a forester licensed under 32 M.R.S.A. Chapter 76.

**Lot area** - The area of land enclosed within the boundary lines of a lot, minus land below the normal high-water line of a water body or upland edge of a wetland and areas beneath roads serving more than two lots.

**Marina** - a business establishment having frontage on navigable water and, as its principal use, providing for hire offshore moorings or docking facilities for boats, and which may also provide accessory services such as boat and related sales, boat repair and construction, indoor and outdoor storage of boats and marine equipment, bait and tackle shops and marine fuel service facilities.

**Market value** - the estimated price a property will bring in the open market and under prevailing market conditions in a sale between a willing seller and a willing buyer, both conversant with the property and with prevailing general price levels.

**New Construction** – Construction of a structure on a lot that is vacant or where no principal residence exists.

**Mineral exploration** - hand sampling, test boring, or other methods of determining the nature or extent of mineral resources which create minimal disturbance to the land and which include reasonable measures to restore the land to its original condition.

**Mineral extraction** - any operation within any twelve (12) month period which removes more than one hundred (100) cubic yards of soil, topsoil, loam, sand, gravel, clay, rock, peat, or other like material from its natural location and to transport the product removed, away from the extraction site.

**Minimum lot width** - the closest distance between the side lot lines of a lot. When only two lots lines extend into the Shoreland zone, both lot lines shall be considered to be side lot lines.

**Multi-unit residentia**l - a residential structure containing three (3) or more residential dwelling units.

**Native** – indigenous to the local forests.

**Non-conforming condition** – non-conforming lot, structure or use which is allowed solely

because it was in lawful existence at the time this Ordinance or subsequent amendment took

effect.

**Non-conforming lot** - a single lot of record which, at the effective date of adoption or

amendment of this Ordinance, does not meet the area, frontage, or width requirements of the

district in which it is located.

**Non-conforming structure** - a structure which does not meet any one or more of the following dimensional requirements; setback, height, or lot coverage, but which is allowed solely because it was in lawful existence at the time this Ordinance or subsequent amendments took effect.

**Non-conforming use** - use of buildings, structures, premises, land or parts thereof which is not allowed in the district in which it is situated, but which is allowed to remain solely because it was in lawful existence at the time this Ordinance or subsequent amendments took effect.

**Non-vegetated area** – for the purpose of this ordinance non-vegetated area does not include areas stabilized by mulch and or wood chips.

**Normal high-water line** - that line which is apparent from visible markings, changes in the character of soils due to prolonged action of the water or changes in vegetation, and which distinguishes between predominantly aquatic and predominantly terrestrial land. Areas contiguous with rivers and great ponds that support non-forested wetland vegetation and hydric soils and that are at the same or lower elevation as the water level of the river or great pond during the period of normal high-water are considered part of the river or great pond. In the case of wetlands adjacent to rivers and great ponds, the normal high-water line is the upland edge of the wetland, and not the edge of the open water.

**Parking Area**: a cleared area intended for parking vehicles. The term usually

refers to a dedicated area with a durable or semi-durable surface.

**Person** - an individual, corporation, governmental agency, municipality, trust, estate, partnership, association, two or more individuals having a joint or common interest, or other legal entity.

**Piers, docks, wharves, bridges and other structures and uses extending over or below the normal high-water line or within a wetland.**

**Temporary:** Structures which remain in or over the water for less than seven (7) months in any period of twelve (12) consecutive months.

**Permanent:** Structures which remain in or over the water for seven (7) months or more in any period of twelve (12) consecutive months.

**Principal structure** - a building other than one which is used for purposes wholly incidental or accessory to the use of another building or use on the same premises.

**Principal use** - a use other than one which is wholly incidental or accessory to another use on the same premises.

**Public, facility** - any facility, including, but not limited to, buildings, property, recreation areas, and roads, which are owned, leased, or otherwise operated, or funded by a governmental body or public entity.

**Recent floodplain soils** - the following soil series as described and identified by the National Cooperative Soil Survey

Fryeburg Haley Limerick Lovewell Medomak Ondawa Alluvial Cornish Charles Podunk Rumney Saco Suncook Sunday Winooski

**Recreational facility** - a place designed and equipped for the conduct of sports, leisure time activities, and other customary and usual recreational activities, excluding boat launching facilities.

**Recreational vehicle** - a vehicle or an attachment to a vehicle designed to be towed, and designed for temporary sleeping or living quarters for one or more persons, and which may include a pick-up camper, travel trailer, tent trailer, camp trailer, and motor home. In order to be considered as a vehicle and not as a structure, the unit must remain with its tires on the ground, and must be registered with the State Division of Motor Vehicles.

**Replacement system** - a system intended to replace:

1. an existing system which is either malfunctioning or being upgraded with no significant change of design flow or use of the structure.

2.) any existing overboard wastewater discharge.

**Residential dwelling unit** - a room or group of rooms designed and equipped exclusively for use as permanent, seasonal, or temporary living quarters for only one family at a time, and containing cooking, sleeping, and toilet facilities. The term shall include mobile homes and rented units that containing cooking, sleeping, and toilet facilities regardless of the time-period rented. Recreational vehicles are not residential dwelling units.

**Residual basal area** - the average of the basal area of trees remaining on a harvested site.

**Residual Stand** - a stand of trees remaining in the forest following timber harvesting and

related activities

**Riprap** - rocks, irregularly shaped, and at least six (6) inches in diameter, used for erosion control and soil stabilization, typically used on ground slopes of two (2) units horizontal to one (1) unit vertical or less.

**River** - a free-flowing body of water including its associated floodplain wetlands from that point at which it provides drainage for a watershed of twenty five (25) square miles to its mouth.

**Road** - a route or track consisting of a bed of exposed mineral soil, gravel, asphalt, or other surfacing material constructed for or created by the repeated passage of motorized vehicles, excluding a driveway as defined.

**Service drop** - any utility line extension which does not cross or run beneath any portion of a water body provided that:

1. In the case of electric service.

a. the placement of wires and/or the installation of utility poles is located entirely upon the premises of the customer requesting service or upon a roadway right-of-way; and

b. the total length of the extension is less than one thousand (1,000) feet.

2. In the case of telephone service

a. the extension, regardless of length, will be made by the installation of telephone wires to existing utility poles, or

b. the extension requiring the installation of new utility poles or placement underground is less than one thousand (1,000) feet in length.

**Setback** - the nearest horizontal distance from the normal high-water line of a water body or tributary stream, or upland edge of a wetland, to the nearest part of a structure, road, parking space or other regulated object or area.

**Shore frontage** - the length of a lot bordering on a water body or wetland measured in a straight line between the intersections of the lot lines with the shoreline.

**Shoreland zone** - the land area located within two hundred and fifty (250) feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of any great pond or river within 250 feet horizontal distance, of the upland edge of a freshwater wetland; or within seventy-five (75) feet horizontal distance of the normal high-water line of a stream.

**Shoreline** – the normal high-water line or upland edge of a freshwater wetland.

**Significant River Segments** – See 38 M.R.S.A. Section 437.

**Skid Road or Skid Trail** - a route repeatedly used by forwarding machinery or animal to

haul or drag forest products from the stump to the yard or landing, the construction of

which requires minimal excavation.

**Slash** - the residue, e.g., treetops and branches, left on the ground after a timber harvest.

**Storm damaged** **tree**- a tree that has been uprooted, blown down, is lying on the ground,

or that remains standing and is damaged beyond the point of recovery as the result of a

storm event.

**Stream** - a free-flowing body of water from the outlet of a great pond or the confluence of two (2) perennial streams as depicted on the most recent edition of a United States Geological Survey 7.5 minute series topographic map, or if not available, a 15-minute series topographic map, to the point where the body of water becomes a river or flows to another water body or wetland within the shoreland area.

**Structure** - anything built for the support, shelter or enclosure of persons, animals, goods or property of any kind, together with anything constructed or erected with a fixed location on or in the ground, exclusive of fences, and poles, wiring and other aerial equipment normally associated with service drops as well as guying and guy anchors. The term includes structures temporarily or permanently located, such as decks , patios, and satellite dishes.

**Substantial start** - completion of thirty (30) percent of a permitted structure or use measured as a percentage of estimated total cost.

**Subsurface sewage disposal system** – any system designed to dispose of waste or waste

water on or beneath the surface of the earth; includes, but is not limited to: septic tanks;

disposal fields; grandfathered cesspools; holding tanks; pretreatment filter, piping, or any

other fixture, mechanism, or apparatus used for those purposes; does not include any

discharge system licensed under 38 M.R.S.A. section 414, any surface waste water

disposal system, or any municipal or quasi-municipal sewer or waste water treatment

system

**Sustained slope** - a change in elevation where the referenced percent grade is substantially maintained or exceeded throughout the measured area.

**Timber harvesting** - the cutting and removal of timber for the primary purpose of selling or processing forest products. The cutting or removal of trees in the shoreland zone on a lot that has less than two (2) acres within the shoreland zone shall not be considered timber harvesting. Such cutting or removal of trees shall be regulated pursuant to Section 15 (Q), *Clearing* *or Removal of Vegetation for Activities Other Than Timber Harvesting*

**Timber harvesting and related activities** - timber harvesting, the construction and

maintenance of roads used primarily for timber harvesting and other activities conducted

to facilitate timber harvesting.

**Tributary stream** -– means a channel between defined banks created by the action of

surface water, which is characterized by the lack of terrestrial vegetation or by the

presence of a bed, devoid of topsoil, containing waterborne deposits or exposed soil,

parent material or bedrock; and which is connected hydrologically with other water

bodies. “Tributary stream” does not include rills or gullies forming because of

accelerated erosion in disturbed soils where the natural vegetation cover has been

removed by human activity.

This definition does not include the term "stream" as defined elsewhere in this Ordinance, and only applies to that portion of the tributary stream located within the shoreland zone of the receiving water body or wetland.

**NOTE:** Water setback requirements apply to tributary streams within the shoreland zone.

**Upland edge of a wetland** - the boundary between upland and wetland. For purposes of

a freshwater wetland, the upland edge is formed where the soils are not saturated for a

duration sufficient to support wetland vegetation; or where the soils support the growth

of wetland vegetation, but such vegetation is dominated by woody stems that are six (6)

meters (approximately twenty (20) foot) tall or taller.

**Vegetation** - all live trees, shrubs, and other plants including, without limitation, trees both over and under 4 inches in diameter, measured at 4 1/2 feet above ground level.

**Volume of a structure** - the volume of all portions of a structure enclosed by roof and fixed exterior walls as measured from the exterior faces of these walls and roof.

**Water body** - any great pond, river or stream

**Water crossing** - any project extending from one bank to the opposite bank of a river, stream, tributary stream, or wetland whether under, through, or over the water or wetland. Such projects include but may not be limited to roads, fords, bridges, culverts, water lines, sewer lines, and cables as well as maintenance work on these crossings. This definition includes crossings for timber harvesting equipment and related activities.

**Wetland** - a freshwater or coastal wetland.

**Wind firm** - the ability of a forest stand to withstand strong winds and resist wind throw,

wind rocking, and major breakage.

**Woody Vegetation** - live trees or woody, non-herbaceous shrubs.

**Note:** If a definition is not found within this Ordinance, refer to the Webster Collegiate Dictionary.

State of Maine County of Hancock

This is the Town of Otis attested copy of the Otis Land Use Ordinances.