



TOWN OF NEEDHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

1471 Highland Avenue, Needham, MA 02492

Louise L. Miller, J.D.
Town Clerk

Tel: 781-455-7500 ext. 216
Email: LMiller@NeedhamMa.gov

**AT THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY OCTOBER 21, 2024,**

Town Meeting VOTED TO RECONSIDER Article 8 of the Monday October 21, 2024 Special Town Meeting Warrant for the purpose of amending Article 8 with language proposed in Article 10.

The Motion to Reconsider Article 8 passed by a majority vote as declared by the Moderator on a voice vote.

UNDER ARTICLE 8, under the main motion, it was

VOTED: That the Town amend the Needham Zoning By-Law as follows:

1. By amending Section 1.3, Definitions by adding the following terms:
Applicant – A person, business, or organization that applies for a building permit, Site Plan Review, or Special Permit.
2. By amending Section 2.1, Classes of Districts by adding the following after ASOD Avery Square Overlay District:

MFOD – Multi-family Overlay District
3. By inserting a new Section 3.17 Multi-family Overlay District:

3.17 Multi-family Overlay District

3.17.1 Purposes of District

The purposes of the Multi-family Overlay District include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) Providing Multi-family housing in Needham, consistent with the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 40A (the Zoning Act), Section 3A;
- (b) Supporting vibrant neighborhoods by encouraging Multi-family housing within a half-mile of a Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) commuter rail station; and
- (c) Establishing controls which will facilitate responsible development and minimize potential adverse impacts upon nearby residential and other properties.

Toward these ends, Multi-family housing in the Multi-family Overlay District is permitted to exceed the density and dimensional requirements that normally apply in the underlying zoning district(s) provided that such development complies with the requirements of this Section 3.17.

3.17.2 Scope of Authority

In the Multi-family Overlay District, all requirements of the underlying district shall remain in effect except where the provisions of Section 3.17 provide an alternative to such requirements, in which case these provisions shall supersede. If an Applicant elects to develop Multi-family housing in accordance with Section



TOWN OF NEEDHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

3.17, the provisions of the Multi-family Overlay District shall apply to such development. Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, where the provisions of the underlying district are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of the Multi-family Overlay District, the terms of the Multi-family Overlay District shall apply.

If the applicant elects to proceed under the zoning provisions of the underlying district (meaning the applicable zoning absent any zoning overlay) or another overlay district, as applicable, the zoning bylaws applicable in such district shall control and the provisions of the Multi-family Overlay District shall not apply.

3.17.2.1 Subdistricts

The Multi-family Overlay District contains the following sub-districts, all of which are shown on the MFOD Boundary Map and indicated by the name of the sub-district:

- (a) A-1
- (b) B
- (c) ASB-MF
- (d) CSB
- (e) HAB
- (f) IND

3.17.3 Definitions

For purposes of this Section 3.17, the following definitions shall apply.

Affordable housing – Housing that contains one or more Affordable Housing Units as defined by Section 1.3 of this By-Law. Where applicable, Affordable Housing shall include Workforce Housing Units, as defined in this Subsection 3.17.3 Definitions.

As of right – Development that may proceed under the zoning in place at time of application without the need for a special permit, variance, zoning amendment, waiver, or other discretionary zoning approval.

Compliance Guidelines – *Compliance Guidelines for Multi-Family Zoning Districts Under Section 3A of the Zoning Act* as further revised or amended from time to time.

EOHLC – The Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, or EOHLC’s successor agency.

Multi-family housing – A building with three or more residential dwelling units or two or more buildings on the same lot with more than one residential dwelling unit in each building and that complies with the requirements of M.G.L. c.40A, §3A and the rules and requirements thereunder.

Open space – Contiguous undeveloped land within a parcel boundary.

Parking, structured – A structure in which parking spaces are accommodated on multiple stories; a parking space area that is underneath all or part of any story of a structure; or a parking space area that is not underneath a structure, but is entirely covered, and has a parking surface at least eight feet below grade. Structured parking does not include surface parking or carports, including solar carports.



**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK**

Parking, surface – One or more parking spaces without a built structure above the space. A solar panel designed to be installed above a surface parking space does not count as a built structure for the purposes of this definition.

Residential dwelling unit – A single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation.

Section 3A – Section 3A of the Zoning Act.

Site plan review authority – The Town of Needham Planning Board.

Special permit granting authority – The Town of Needham Planning Board.

Sub-district – An area within the MFOD that is geographically smaller than the MFOD district and differentiated from the rest of the district by use, dimensional standards, or development standards.

Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI) – A list of qualified Affordable Housing Units maintained by EOHLIC used to measure a community's stock of low-or moderate-income housing for the purposes of M.G.L. Chapter 40B, the Comprehensive Permit Law.

Workforce housing unit – Affordable Housing Unit as defined by Section 1.3 of this By-Law but said Workforce Housing Unit shall be affordable to a household with an income of between eighty (80) percent and 120 percent of the area median income as defined.

3.17.4 Use Regulations

3.17.4.1 Permitted Uses

The following uses are permitted in the Multi-family Overlay District as a matter of right:

- (a) Multi-family housing.

3.17.4.2 Accessory Uses

The following uses are considered accessory as of right to any of the permitted uses in Subsection 3.17.4.1:

- (a) Parking, including surface parking and structured parking on the same lot as the principal use.
- (b) Any uses customarily and ordinarily incident to Multi-family housing, including, without limitation, residential amenities such as bike storage/parking, a swimming pool, fitness facilities and similar amenity uses.

3.17.5 Dimensional Regulations

3.17.5.1 Lot Area, Frontage and Setback Requirements

The following lot area, frontage and setback requirements shall apply in the Multi-family Overlay District sub-districts listed below. Buildings developed under the regulations of the Multi-family Overlay District shall



**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK**

not be further subject to the maximum lot area, frontage, and setback requirements of the underlying districts, as contained in Subsection 4.3.1 Table of Regulations, Subsection 4.4.1 Minimum Lot Area and Frontage, Subsection 4.4.4 Front Setback, Subsection 4.6.1 Basic Requirements, and Subsection 4.6.2 Front and Side Setbacks.

	A-1	B	ASB-MF	CSB	HAB	IND
Minimum Lot Area (square feet)	20,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Minimum Lot Frontage (feet)	120	80	80	80	80	80
Minimum Front Setback (feet) from the front property line	25	10	Minimum 10 Maximum 15 ^e .	20 feet for buildings with frontage on Chestnut Street 10 feet for all other buildings	20	25
Minimum Side and Rear Setback (feet)	20	10 ^{a, b}	10 ^{a, c}	20 (side) ^{a, b, d}	20 ^{a, b}	20 ^{a, b}

- (a) The requirement of an additional 50-foot side or rear setback from a residential district as described in Subsection 4.4.8 Side and Rear Setbacks Adjoining Residential Districts or Subsection 4.6.5 Side and Rear Setbacks Adjoining Residential Districts shall not apply.
- (b) Any surface parking, within such setback, shall be set back 10 feet from an abutting residential district and such buffer shall be suitably landscaped.
- (c) The rear and side setbacks are 20 feet along the MBTA right-of-way. With respect to any lot partially within an underlying residential district, (i) no building or structure for a multi-family residential use shall be placed or constructed within 110 feet of the lot line of an abutting lot containing an existing single family residential structure and (ii) except for access driveways and sidewalks, which are permitted, any portion of the lot within said residential district shall be kept open with landscaped areas, hardscaped areas, outdoor recreation areas (e.g., swimming pool) and/or similar open areas.
- (d) On the west side of Chestnut Street, the rear setback shall be 20 feet. On the east side of Chestnut Street, the rear setback shall be 30 feet.
- (e) Seventy percent (70%) of the main datum line of the front facade of the building shall be set back no more than 15 feet, except that periodic front setbacks greater than fifteen (15) feet are allowed if activated by courtyards, landscaping, drive aisles, amenity areas, or other similar site design features that enhance the streetscape. In the ASB-MF subdistrict, the Applicant may apply for a Special Permit from the Planning



**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK**

Board if less than seventy percent (70%) of the main datum line front facade of the building is set back 15 feet.

3.17.5.2 Building Height Requirements

The maximum building height in the Multi-family Overlay District sub-districts shall be as shown below. Buildings developed under the Multi-family Overlay District shall not be further subject to the maximum height regulations of the underlying district, as contained in Subsection 4.3.1 Table of Regulations, Subsection 4.4.2 Maximum Building Bulk, Subsection 4.4.3 Height Limitation, Subsection 4.6.1 Basic Requirements, and Subsection 4.6.4 Height Limitation.

	A-1	B	ASB-MF	CSB	HAB	IND
Maximum Building Height (stories)	3.0	3.0	3.0 ^c	3.0	3.0	3.0
Maximum Building Height (ft) ^{a,b}	40	40	40 ^c	40	40	40

- (a) Exceptions. The limitation on height of buildings shall not apply to chimneys, ventilators, towers, silos, spires, stair overruns, elevator overruns, mechanical equipment, roof parapets, architectural screening, or other ornamental features of buildings, which features (i) are in no way used for living purposes; (ii) do not occupy more than 25% of the gross floor area of the building and (iii) do not project more than 15 feet above the maximum allowable height.
- (b) Exceptions: Renewable Energy Installations. The Site Plan Review Authority may waive the height and setbacks in Subsection 3.17.5.2 Building Height Requirements and Subsection 3.17.5.1 Lot Area, Frontage and Setback Requirements to accommodate the installation of solar photovoltaic, solar thermal, living, and other eco-roofs, energy storage, and air-source heat pump equipment. Such installations shall be appropriately screened, consistent with the requirements of the underlying district; shall not create a significant detriment to abutters in terms of noise or shadow; and must be appropriately integrated into the architecture of the building and the layout of the site. The installations shall not provide additional habitable space within the development.
- (c) In the ASB-MF subdistrict, the Applicant may apply for a Special Permit from the Planning Board for a height of four stories and 50 feet, provided that the fourth story along Highland Avenue and West Street incorporates one or more of the following design elements: (i) a pitched roof having a maximum roof pitch of 45 degrees; (ii) a fourth story recessed from the face of the building by a minimum of 12 feet; and/or (iii) such other architectural design elements proposed by the Applicant and approved by the Planning Board during the Special Permit process.

3.17.5.3 Building Bulk and Other Requirements

The maximum floor area ratio or building coverage and the maximum number of dwelling units per acre, as applicable, in the Multi-family Overlay District sub-districts shall be as shown below, except that the area of a building devoted to underground parking shall not be counted as floor area for purposes of determining the maximum floor area ratio or building coverage, as applicable. Buildings developed under the regulations of



**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK**

the Multi-family Overlay District shall not be subject to any other limitations on floor area ratio or building bulk in Subsection 4.3.1 Table of Regulations, Subsection 4.4.2 Maximum Building Bulk, and Subsection 4.6.3 Maximum Lot Coverage.

	A-1	B	ASB-MF	CSB	HAB	IND
Floor Area Ratio (FAR)	0.50	N/A	1.3 ^{b, c}	0.70	0.70	0.50
Maximum Building Coverage (%)	N/A	25%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maximum Dwelling Units per Acre ^a	18	N/A	44 ^d	18	N/A	N/A

- (a) The total land area used in calculating density shall be the total acreage of the lot on which the development is located.
- (b) In the ASB-MF subdistrict, the Applicant may apply for a Special Permit from the Planning Board for an FAR of up to 1.7.
- (c) In the ASB-MF subdistrict, the following shall not be counted as floor area for purposes of determining the maximum floor area ratio: (i) interior portions of a building devoted to off-street parking; (ii) parking garages, structured parking or deck/rooftop parking that are screened from Highland Avenue as required by Section 3.17.6 inclusive of any waiver thereof and from West Street in a manner compatible with the architecture of the building. In the ASB-MF subdistrict, the Applicant may apply for a Special Permit from the Planning Board to exclude additional areas from floor area for purposes of determining the maximum floor area ratio.
- (d) In the ASB-MF subdistrict, Multi-family housing may exceed the maximum of 44 dwelling units per acre by special permit.

3.17.5.4 Multiple Buildings on a Lot

In the Multi-family Overlay District, more than one building devoted to Multi-family housing may be located on a lot, provided that each building complies with the requirements of Section 3.17 of this By-Law.

3.17.5.5 Use of Dwelling Units

Consistent with the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities’ Compliance Guidelines for Multi-family Zoning Districts Under Section 3A of the Zoning Act, and notwithstanding anything else contained in the Zoning By-Law to the contrary, Multi-family housing projects shall not be required to include units with age restrictions, and units shall not be subject to limit or restriction concerning size, the number or size of bedrooms, a cap on the number of occupants, or a minimum age of occupants.

3.17.6 Off-Street Parking



TOWN OF NEEDHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

- (a) The minimum number of off-street parking spaces shall be one space per dwelling unit for all subdistricts within the Multi-family Overlay District.
- (b) Parking areas shall be designed and constructed in accordance with Subsection 5.1.3 Parking Plan and Design Requirements. The remaining provisions of Section 5.1 Off Street Parking Regulations shall not apply to projects within the Multi-family Overlay District.
- (c) In the ASB-MF subdistrict, the façade(s) of all parking garages, structured parking and deck/rooftop parking visible from Highland Avenue shall be designed to be generally indistinguishable from the façade(s) of the residential portion of the building(s), and shall allow no view of parked vehicles from Highland Avenue except where such view is intermittent and incidental to the operation of the parking area, such as a view afforded by the opening of an automated garage door.
- (d) Enclosed parking areas shall comply with Subsection 4.4.6 Enclosed Parking.
- (e) No parking shall be allowed within the front setback. Parking shall be on the side or to the rear of the building, or below grade.
- (f) The minimum number of bicycle parking spaces shall be one space per dwelling unit.
- (g) Bicycle storage. For a multi-family development of 25 units or more, no less than 25% of the required number of bicycle parking spaces shall be integrated into the structure of the building(s) as covered spaces.

3.17.7 Development Standards

- (a) Notwithstanding anything in the Zoning By-Law outside of this Section 3.17 to the contrary, Multi-family housing in the Multi-family Overlay District shall not be subject to any special permit requirement.
- (b) Buildings shall be designed with due regard to their relationship to open spaces, existing buildings, and community assets in the area.
- (c) Building entrances shall be available from one or more streets on which the building fronts and, if the building fronts Chestnut Street, Garden Street, Highland Avenue, Hillside Avenue, Rosemary Street, or West Street, the primary building entrance must be located on at least one such street.
- (d) The site shall be designed so that all collection and storage areas for residential refuse shall be internal to the building(s), or otherwise shall not be visible from any public way and appropriately screened from abutting properties, and adequate management and removal of refuse shall be provided for.
- (e) Site arrangement and driveway layout shall provide sufficient access for emergency and service vehicles, including fire, police, and rubbish removal.
- (f) Plantings shall be provided and include species that are native or adapted to the region. Plants on the Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List, as may be amended, are prohibited.
- (g) All construction shall be subject to the current town storm water bylaws, regulations, and policies along with any current regulations or policies from DEP, state, and federal agencies.



**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK**

- (h) Control measures shall be employed to mitigate any substantial threat to water quality or soil stability, both during and after construction.
- (i) There shall be adequate water, sewer, and utility service provided to serve the project.
- (j) Off-site glare from headlights shall be controlled through arrangement, grading, fences, and planting. Off-site light over-spill from exterior lighting shall be controlled through luminaries selection, positioning, and mounting height so as to not add more than one foot candle to illumination levels at any point off-site.
- (k) Pedestrian and vehicular movement within and outside the project site shall be protected, through selection of egress points, provision for adequate sight distances, and through reasonable mitigation measures for traffic attributable to the project.
- (l) Site arrangements and grading shall minimize to the extent practicable the number of removed trees 8" trunk diameter or larger, and the volume of earth cut and fill.
- (m) No retaining wall shall be built within the required yard setback except a retaining wall with a face not greater than four (4) feet in height at any point and a length that does not exceed forty (40) percent of the lot's perimeter. Notwithstanding the foregoing, retaining walls may graduate in height from four (4) to seven (7) feet in height when providing access to a garage or egress entry doors at the basement level, measured from the basement or garage floor to the top of the wall. In such cases, the wall is limited to seven (7) feet in height for not more than 25% of the length of the wall.
- (n) Retaining walls with a face greater than twelve (12) feet in height are prohibited unless the Applicant's engineer certifies in writing to the Building Commissioner that the retaining wall will not cause an increase in water flow off the property and will not adversely impact adjacent property or the public.
- (o) Construction activity shall be consistent with Section 3.8 of the General By-Laws and any reasonable conditions on construction activity that are warranted at a particular site and included in the applicable site plan approval, including but not limited to hours during which construction activity may take place, the movement of trucks or heavy equipment on or off the site, measures to control dirt, dust, and erosion and to protect existing vegetation to be preserved on the site.

Special Development Standards for the A-1 Subdistrict

The following requirements apply to all development projects within the A-1 subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District:

- (a) 4.3.2 Driveway Openings
- (b) 4.3.3 Open Space
- (c) 4.3.4 Building Location, with the substitution of "Multifamily Dwelling" for "apartment house."

Special Development Standards for the B and IND Subdistricts of the Multi-Family Overlay District:



TOWN OF NEEDHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

- (a) The requirements of the first paragraph of 4.4.5 Driveway Openings shall apply to all development projects within the Multi-family Overlay District within the B and IND subdistricts.

Special Development Standards for the ASD-MF Subdistrict of the Multi-Family Overlay District:

- (a) Multi-family housing in the ASD-MF subdistrict shall employ existing curb cuts on Highland Avenue and West Street to the extent feasible. Existing curb cuts may be improved, reconstructed and modified. Additional curb cuts may be added subject to site plan review.

3.17.8 Affordable Housing

Any multi-family building with six or more dwelling units shall include Affordable Housing Units as defined in Section 1.3 of this By-Law and the requirements below shall apply.

3.17.8.1 Provision of Affordable Housing

Not fewer than 12.5% of housing units constructed shall be Affordable Housing Units. For purposes of calculating the number of Affordable Housing Units required in a proposed development, any fractional unit shall be rounded up to the nearest whole number and shall be deemed to constitute a whole unit.

In the event that the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) determines that the calculation detailed above does not comply with the provisions of Section 3A of MGL c.40A, the following standard shall apply:

Not fewer than 10% of housing units constructed shall be Affordable Housing Units. For purposes of calculating the number of Affordable Housing Units required in a proposed development, any fractional unit shall be rounded up to the nearest whole number and shall be deemed to constitute a whole unit.

3.17.8.2 Affordable Housing Development Standards

Affordable Units shall be:

- (a) Integrated with the rest of the development and shall be compatible in design, appearance, construction, and quality of exterior and interior materials with the other units and/or lots;
- (b) Dispersed throughout the development;
- (c) Located such that the units have equal access to shared amenities, including light and air, and utilities (including any bicycle storage and/or Electric Vehicle charging stations) within the development;
- (d) Located such that the units have equal avoidance of any potential nuisances as market-rate units within the development;
- (e) Distributed proportionately among unit sizes; and
- (f) Distributed proportionately across each phase of a phased development.



TOWN OF NEEDHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

- (g) Occupancy permits may be issued for market-rate units prior to the end of construction of the entire development provided that occupancy permits for Affordable Units are issued simultaneously on a pro rata basis.

3.17.9 Site Plan Review

3.17.9.1 Applicability

Site Plan Review, as provided for in this Section 3.17, is required for all Multi-family housing projects within the Multi-Family Overlay District. Notwithstanding any other provision contained in the Zoning By-Law, except as expressly provided for in this Section 3.17, Multi-family housing projects are not subject to site plan or special permit review pursuant to Section 7.

3.17.9.2 Submission Requirements

The Applicant shall submit the following site plan and supporting documentation as its application for Site Plan Review, unless waived in writing by the Planning and Community Development Director:

- (a) Locus plan;
- (b) Location of off-site structures within 100 feet of the property line;
- (c) All existing and all proposed building(s) showing setback(s) from the property lines;
- (d) Building elevation, to include penthouses, parapet walls and roof structures; floor plans of each floor; cross and longitudinal views of the proposed structure(s) in relation to the proposed site layout, together with an elevation line to show the relationship to the center of the street;
- (e) Existing and proposed contour elevations in one-foot increments;
- (f) Parking areas, including the type of space, dimensions of typical spaces, and width of maneuvering aisles and landscaped setbacks;
- (g) Driveways and access to site, including width of driveways and driveway openings;
- (h) Facilities for vehicular and pedestrian movement;
- (i) Drainage;
- (j) Utilities;
- (k) Landscaping including trees to be retained and removed;
- (l) Lighting;
- (m) Loading and unloading facilities;
- (n) Provisions for refuse removal; and



TOWN OF NEEDHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

- (o) Projected traffic volumes in relation to existing and reasonably anticipated conditions based on standards from the Institute of Transportation Engineers and prepared by a licensed traffic engineer and including, if applicable, recommended traffic mitigation measures based on the traffic attributable to a particular project.

3.17.9.3 Timeline

Upon receipt of an application for Site Plan Review for a project in the MFOD, the Site Plan Review Authority shall transmit a set of application materials to the Department of Public Works, Town Engineer, Police Department, Fire Department, Design Review Board, and to any other Town agency it deems appropriate, which shall each have thirty five (35) days to provide any written comment. Upon receipt of an application, the Site Plan Review Authority shall also notice a public hearing in accordance with the notice provisions contained in M.G.L. c.40A, §11. Site plan review shall be performed expeditiously and in general shall be completed, with a decision rendered and filed with the Town Clerk, no later than 6 months after the date of submission of the application.

3.17.9.4 Site Plan Approval

Site Plan approval for uses listed in Subsection 3.17.3 Permitted Uses shall be granted upon determination by the Site Plan Review Authority that the following criteria have been satisfied. The Site Plan Review Authority may impose reasonable conditions, at the expense of the applicant, to ensure that these criteria have been satisfied.

- (a) the Applicant has submitted the information as set forth in Subsection 3.17.9.2 Submission Requirements; and
- (b) the project as described in the application meets the dimensional and density requirements contained in Subsection 3.17.5 Dimensional Regulations, the parking requirements contained in Subsection 3.17.6 Off-Street Parking, the development standards contained in Subsection 3.17.7 Development Standards, and Subsection 3.17.8.2 Affordable Housing Development Standards.

3.17.9.5 Waivers

When performing site plan review, the Planning Board may waive the requirements of Subsection 3.17.6 hereof and/or Subsection 5.1.3 Parking Plan and Design Requirements, or particular submission requirements.

When performing site plan review for a Multi-family Housing project that involves preservation of a structure listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Massachusetts Register of Historical Places, the Inventory of Historic Assets for the Town of Needham, or is in pending for inclusion in any such register or inventory, the Planning Board as part of site plan review may reduce the applicable front, side or rear setbacks in this Section 3.17 by up to 40%.

3.17.9.6 Project Phasing

An Applicant may propose, in a Site Plan Review submission, that a project be developed in phases subject to the approval of the Site Plan Review Authority, provided that the submission shows the full buildout of the project and all associated impacts as of the completion of the final phase. However, no project may be phased



TOWN OF NEEDHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

solely to avoid the provisions of Subsection 3.17.8 Affordable Housing.

3.17.10 Design Guidelines

The Planning Board may adopt and amend, by simple majority vote, Design Guidelines which shall be applicable to all rehabilitation, redevelopment, or new construction within the Multi-family Overlay District. Such Design Guidelines must be objective and not subjective and may contain graphics illustrating a particular standard or definition to make such standard or definition clear and understandable. The Design Guidelines for the Multi-family Overlay District shall be as adopted by the Planning Board and shall be available on file in the Needham Planning Department.

3.17.11 Special Permits

In those specific occasions where this Section 3.17 authorizes relief in the form of a special permit only, applications shall be reviewed and decided by the Planning Board in accordance with Section 7.5.2.

4. By amending the first sentence of Section 7.6.1, Special Permit Granting Authority, to add Section 3.17 to the list of Sections for which the Planning Board is the Special Permit Granting Authority, so that this sentence reads as follows:

The Planning Board shall act as a Special Permit Granting Authority only where so designated in Sections 3.4, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.14, 3.16, 3.17, 4.2.10, 4.2.11, 4.2.12, 4.4.5, 4.4.9, 4.4.10, 5.1.1.6, 6.6, 6.8 and 7.4 of this By-Law.

5. By amending the first paragraph of Section 7.7.2.2, Authority and Specific Powers, to add site plan reviews under Section 3.17 to the jurisdiction of the Design Review Board, so that this paragraph reads as follows:

The Design Review Board shall review requests for site plan review and approval submitted in accordance with Section 3.17 Multi-family Overlay District, Section 7.4 Site Plan Review and requests for special permits in accordance with Section 4.2.11 Planned Residential Development, Section 4.2.10 Flexible Development and Section 6.11 Retaining Walls and, for a minor project that only involves a change in the exterior facade of a building in the Center Business District, shall review and may approve such facade change.

6. By amending Section 7.7.3, Procedure, by inserting in the second paragraph, after the second sentence, a new sentence to read as follows:

Within fifteen (15) days of the meeting, a final advisory design review report shall be sent both to the applicant and to the Planning Board, when a site plan review is required under Section 3.17.

so that this paragraph reads as follows:

Within twenty (20) days of receipt of a Design Review application, the Design Review Board shall hold a meeting, to which the applicant shall be invited, for the purpose of conducting a review of the proposed project or activity. Within fifteen (15) days of the meeting, a preliminary design review report shall be sent to both the applicant and to the Planning Board, when a special permit is required under Sections 7.4, 4.2.11 and 4.2.10. Within fifteen (15) days of the meeting, a final advisory design review report shall be sent both to the applicant and to the Planning Board, when a site plan review is required under Section 3.17. However, if the proposed project or activity involves only a building permit or sign permit from the Building Commissioner,



TOWN OF NEEDHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

or is a “Minor Project” under Site Plan Review (all as described in Subsection 7.7.2.2), no preliminary report is required and the written advisory report of the Design Review Board to the applicant and the Building Commissioner shall be a final report.

To which Main Motion, **ARTICLE 10** was offered as an amendment and Town Meeting

VOTED: That the Town amend the Needham Zoning By-Law as follows:

1. By amending Section 1.3, Definitions by adding the following terms:
Applicant – A person, business, or organization that applies for a building permit, Site Plan Review, or Special Permit.

2. By amending Section 2.1, Classes of Districts by adding the following after ASOD Avery Square Overlay District:

MFOD – Multi-family Overlay District

3. By inserting a new Section 3.17 Multi-family Overlay District:

3.17 Multi-family Overlay District

3.17.1 Purposes of District

The purposes of the Multi-family Overlay District include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (d) Providing Multi-family housing in Needham, consistent with the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 40A (the Zoning Act), Section 3A;
- (e) Supporting vibrant neighborhoods by encouraging Multi-family housing within a half-mile of a Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) commuter rail station; and
- (f) Establishing controls which will facilitate responsible development and minimize potential adverse impacts upon nearby residential and other properties.

Toward these ends, Multi-family housing in the Multi-family Overlay District is permitted to exceed the density and dimensional requirements that normally apply in the underlying zoning district(s) provided that such development complies with the requirements of this Section 3.17.

3.17.2 Scope of Authority

In the Multi-family Overlay District, all requirements of the underlying district shall remain in effect except where the provisions of Section 3.17 provide an alternative to such requirements, in which case these provisions shall supersede. If an Applicant elects to develop Multi-family housing in accordance with Section 3.17, the provisions of the Multi-family Overlay District shall apply to such development. Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, where the provisions of the underlying district are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of the Multi-family Overlay District, the terms of the Multi-family Overlay District shall apply.



TOWN OF NEEDHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

If the applicant elects to proceed under the zoning provisions of the underlying district (meaning the applicable zoning absent any zoning overlay) or another overlay district, as applicable, the zoning bylaws applicable in such district shall control and the provisions of the Multi-family Overlay District shall not apply.

3.17.2.1 Subdistricts

The Multi-family Overlay District contains the following sub-districts, all of which are shown on the MFOD Boundary Map and indicated by the name of the sub-district:

- (g) A-1
- (h) B
- (i) ASB-MF
- (j) CSB
- (k) HAB
- (l) IND

3.17.3 Definitions

For purposes of this Section 3.17, the following definitions shall apply.

Affordable housing – Housing that contains one or more Affordable Housing Units as defined by Section 1.3 of this By-Law. Where applicable, Affordable Housing shall include Workforce Housing Units, as defined in this Subsection 3.17.3 Definitions.

As of right – Development that may proceed under the zoning in place at time of application without the need for a special permit, variance, zoning amendment, waiver, or other discretionary zoning approval.

Compliance Guidelines – *Compliance Guidelines for Multi-Family Zoning Districts Under Section 3A of the Zoning Act* as further revised or amended from time to time.

EOHLC – The Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, or EOHLC’s successor agency.

Multi-family housing – A building with three or more residential dwelling units or two or more buildings on the same lot with more than one residential dwelling unit in each building and that complies with the requirements of M.G.L. c.40A, §3A and the rules and requirements thereunder.

Open space – Contiguous undeveloped land within a parcel boundary.

Parking, structured – A structure in which parking spaces are accommodated on multiple stories; a parking space area that is underneath all or part of any story of a structure; or a parking space area that is not underneath a structure, but is entirely covered, and has a parking surface at least eight feet below grade. Structured parking does not include surface parking or carports, including solar carports.

Parking, surface – One or more parking spaces without a built structure above the space. A solar panel designed to be installed above a surface parking space does not count as a built structure for the purposes of this definition.



**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK**

Residential dwelling unit – A single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation.

Section 3A – Section 3A of the Zoning Act.

Site plan review authority – The Town of Needham Planning Board.

Special permit granting authority – The Town of Needham Planning Board.

Sub-district – An area within the MFOD that is geographically smaller than the MFOD district and differentiated from the rest of the district by use, dimensional standards, or development standards.

Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI) – A list of qualified Affordable Housing Units maintained by EOHLC used to measure a community's stock of low-or moderate-income housing for the purposes of M.G.L. Chapter 40B, the Comprehensive Permit Law.

Workforce housing unit – Affordable Housing Unit as defined by Section 1.3 of this By-Law but said Workforce Housing Unit shall be affordable to a household with an income of between eighty (80) percent and 120 percent of the area median income as defined.

3.17.4 Use Regulations

3.17.4.1 Permitted Uses

The following uses are permitted in the Multi-family Overlay District as a matter of right:

- (a) Multi-family housing.

3.17.4.2 Accessory Uses

The following uses are considered accessory as of right to any of the permitted uses in Subsection 3.17.4.1:

- (c) Parking, including surface parking and structured parking on the same lot as the principal use.
- (d) Any uses customarily and ordinarily incident to Multi-family housing, including, without limitation, residential amenities such as bike storage/parking, a swimming pool, fitness facilities and similar amenity uses.

3.17.5 Dimensional Regulations

3.17.5.1 Lot Area, Frontage and Setback Requirements

The following lot area, frontage and setback requirements shall apply in the Multi-family Overlay District sub-districts listed below. Buildings developed under the regulations of the Multi-family Overlay District shall not be further subject to the maximum lot area, frontage, and setback requirements of the underlying districts, as contained in Subsection 4.3.1 Table of Regulations, Subsection 4.4.1 Minimum Lot Area and Frontage, Subsection 4.4.4 Front Setback, Subsection 4.6.1 Basic Requirements, and Subsection 4.6.2 Front and Side Setbacks.



**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK**

	A-1	B	ASB-MF	CSB	HAB	IND
Minimum Lot Area (square feet)	20,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Minimum Lot Frontage (feet)	120	80	80	80	80	80
Minimum Front Setback (feet) from the front property line	25	10	Minimum 10 Maximum 15 ^e .	20 feet for buildings with frontage on Chestnut Street 10 feet for all other buildings	20	25
Minimum Side and Rear Setback (feet)	20	10 ^{a, b}	10 ^{a, c}	20 (side) ^{a, b, d}	20 ^{a, b}	20 ^{a, b}

- (f) The requirement of an additional 50-foot side or rear setback from a residential district as described in Subsection 4.4.8 Side and Rear Setbacks Adjoining Residential Districts or Subsection 4.6.5 Side and Rear Setbacks Adjoining Residential Districts shall not apply.
- (g) Any surface parking, within such setback, shall be set back 10 feet from an abutting residential district and such buffer shall be suitably landscaped.
- (h) The rear and side setbacks are 20 feet along the MBTA right-of-way. With respect to any lot partially within an underlying residential district, (i) no building or structure for a multi-family residential use shall be placed or constructed within 110 feet of the lot line of an abutting lot containing an existing single family residential structure and (ii) except for access driveways and sidewalks, which are permitted, any portion of the lot within said residential district shall be kept open with landscaped areas, hardscaped areas, outdoor recreation areas (e.g., swimming pool) and/or similar open areas.
- (i) On the west side of Chestnut Street, the rear setback shall be 20 feet. On the east side of Chestnut Street, the rear setback shall be 30 feet.
- (j) Seventy percent (70%) of the main datum line of the front facade of the building shall be set back no more than 15 feet, except that periodic front setbacks greater than fifteen (15) feet are allowed if activated by courtyards, landscaping, drive aisles, amenity areas, or other similar site design features that enhance the streetscape. In the ASB-MF subdistrict, the Applicant may apply for a Special Permit from the Planning Board if less than seventy percent (70%) of the main datum line front facade of the building is set back 15 feet.



**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK**

3.17.5.2 Building Height Requirements

The maximum building height in the Multi-family Overlay District sub-districts shall be as shown below. Buildings developed under the Multi-family Overlay District shall not be further subject to the maximum height regulations of the underlying district, as contained in Subsection 4.3.1 Table of Regulations, Subsection 4.4.2 Maximum Building Bulk, Subsection 4.4.3 Height Limitation, Subsection 4.6.1 Basic Requirements, and Subsection 4.6.4 Height Limitation.

	A-1	B	ASB-MF	CSB	HAB	IND
Maximum Building Height (stories)	3.0	3.0	3.0 ^c	3.0	3.0	3.0
Maximum Building Height (ft) ^{a,b}	40	40	40 ^c	40	40	40

- (d) Exceptions. The limitation on height of buildings shall not apply to chimneys, ventilators, towers, silos, spires, stair overruns, elevator overruns, mechanical equipment, roof parapets, architectural screening, or other ornamental features of buildings, which features (i) are in no way used for living purposes; (ii) do not occupy more than 25% of the gross floor area of the building and (iii) do not project more than 15 feet above the maximum allowable height.
- (e) Exceptions: Renewable Energy Installations. The Site Plan Review Authority may waive the height and setbacks in Subsection 3.17.5.2 Building Height Requirements and Subsection 3.17.5.1 Lot Area, Frontage and Setback Requirements to accommodate the installation of solar photovoltaic, solar thermal, living, and other eco-roofs, energy storage, and air-source heat pump equipment. Such installations shall be appropriately screened, consistent with the requirements of the underlying district; shall not create a significant detriment to abutters in terms of noise or shadow; and must be appropriately integrated into the architecture of the building and the layout of the site. The installations shall not provide additional habitable space within the development.
- (f) In the ASB-MF subdistrict, the Applicant may apply for a Special Permit from the Planning Board for a height of four stories and 50 feet, provided that the fourth story along Highland Avenue and West Street incorporates one or more of the following design elements: (i) a pitched roof having a maximum roof pitch of 45 degrees; (ii) a fourth story recessed from the face of the building by a minimum of 12 feet; and/or (iii) such other architectural design elements proposed by the Applicant and approved by the Planning Board during the Special Permit process.

3.17.5.3 Building Bulk and Other Requirements

The maximum floor area ratio or building coverage and the maximum number of dwelling units per acre, as applicable, in the Multi-family Overlay District sub-districts shall be as shown below, except that the area of a building devoted to underground parking shall not be counted as floor area for purposes of determining the maximum floor area ratio or building coverage, as applicable. Buildings developed under the regulations of the Multi-family Overlay District shall not be subject to any other limitations on floor area ratio or building bulk in Subsection 4.3.1 Table of Regulations, Subsection 4.4.2 Maximum Building Bulk, and Subsection 4.6.3 Maximum Lot Coverage.



**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK**

	A-1	B	ASB-MF	CSB	HAB	IND
Floor Area Ratio (FAR)	0.50	N/A	1.3 ^{b, c}	0.70	0.70	0.50
Maximum Building Coverage (%)	N/A	25%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maximum Dwelling Units per Acre ^a	18	N/A	44 ^d	18	N/A	N/A

- (e) The total land area used in calculating density shall be the total acreage of the lot on which the development is located.
- (f) In the ASB-MF subdistrict, the Applicant may apply for a Special Permit from the Planning Board for an FAR of up to 1.7.
- (g) In the ASB-MF subdistrict, the following shall not be counted as floor area for purposes of determining the maximum floor area ratio: (i) interior portions of a building devoted to off-street parking; (ii) parking garages, structured parking or deck/rooftop parking that are screened from Highland Avenue as required by Section 3.17.6 inclusive of any waiver thereof and from West Street in a manner compatible with the architecture of the building. In the ASB-MF subdistrict, the Applicant may apply for a Special Permit from the Planning Board to exclude additional areas from floor area for purposes of determining the maximum floor area ratio.
- (h) In the ASB-MF subdistrict, Multi-family housing may exceed the maximum of 44 dwelling units per acre by special permit.

3.17.5.4 Multiple Buildings on a Lot

In the Multi-family Overlay District, more than one building devoted to Multi-family housing may be located on a lot, provided that each building complies with the requirements of Section 3.17 of this By-Law.

3.17.5.5 Use of Dwelling Units

Consistent with the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities' Compliance Guidelines for Multi-family Zoning Districts Under Section 3A of the Zoning Act, and notwithstanding anything else contained in the Zoning By-Law to the contrary, Multi-family housing projects shall not be required to include units with age restrictions, and units shall not be subject to limit or restriction concerning size, the number or size of bedrooms, a cap on the number of occupants, or a minimum age of occupants.

3.17.6 Off-Street Parking

- (h) The minimum number of off-street parking spaces shall be one space per dwelling unit for all subdistricts within the Multi-family Overlay District.



TOWN OF NEEDHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

- (i) Parking areas shall be designed and constructed in accordance with Subsection 5.1.3 Parking Plan and Design Requirements. The remaining provisions of Section 5.1 Off Street Parking Regulations shall not apply to projects within the Multi-family Overlay District.
- (j) In the ASB-MF subdistrict, the façade(s) of all parking garages, structured parking and deck/rooftop parking visible from Highland Avenue shall be designed to be generally indistinguishable from the façade(s) of the residential portion of the building(s), and shall allow no view of parked vehicles from Highland Avenue except where such view is intermittent and incidental to the operation of the parking area, such as a view afforded by the opening of an automated garage door.
- (k) Enclosed parking areas shall comply with Subsection 4.4.6 Enclosed Parking.
- (l) No parking shall be allowed within the front setback. Parking shall be on the side or to the rear of the building, or below grade.
- (m) The minimum number of bicycle parking spaces shall be one space per dwelling unit.
- (n) Bicycle storage. For a multi-family development of 25 units or more, no less than 25% of the required number of bicycle parking spaces shall be integrated into the structure of the building(s) as covered spaces.

3.17.7 Development Standards

- (p) Notwithstanding anything in the Zoning By-Law outside of this Section 3.17 to the contrary, Multi-family housing in the Multi-family Overlay District shall not be subject to any special permit requirement.
- (q) Buildings shall be designed with due regard to their relationship to open spaces, existing buildings, and community assets in the area.
- (r) Building entrances shall be available from one or more streets on which the building fronts and, if the building fronts Chestnut Street, Garden Street, Highland Avenue, Hillside Avenue, Rosemary Street, or West Street, the primary building entrance must be located on at least one such street.
- (s) The site shall be designed so that all collection and storage areas for residential refuse shall be internal to the building(s), or otherwise shall not be visible from any public way and appropriately screened from abutting properties, and adequate management and removal of refuse shall be provided for.
- (t) Site arrangement and driveway layout shall provide sufficient access for emergency and service vehicles, including fire, police, and rubbish removal.
- (u) Plantings shall be provided and include species that are native or adapted to the region. Plants on the Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List, as may be amended, are prohibited.
- (v) All construction shall be subject to the current town storm water bylaws, regulations, and policies along with any current regulations or policies from DEP, state, and federal agencies.
- (w) Control measures shall be employed to mitigate any substantial threat to water quality or soil stability, both during and after construction.



TOWN OF NEEDHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

- (x) There shall be adequate water, sewer, and utility service provided to serve the project.
- (y) Off-site glare from headlights shall be controlled through arrangement, grading, fences, and planting. Off-site light over-spill from exterior lighting shall be controlled through luminaries selection, positioning, and mounting height so as to not add more than one foot candle to illumination levels at any point off-site.
- (z) Pedestrian and vehicular movement within and outside the project site shall be protected, through selection of egress points, provision for adequate sight distances, and through reasonable mitigation measures for traffic attributable to the project.
- (aa) Site arrangements and grading shall minimize to the extent practicable the number of removed trees 8" trunk diameter or larger, and the volume of earth cut and fill.
- (bb) No retaining wall shall be built within the required yard setback except a retaining wall with a face not greater than four (4) feet in height at any point and a length that does not exceed forty (40) percent of the lot's perimeter. Notwithstanding the foregoing, retaining walls may graduate in height from four (4) to seven (7) feet in height when providing access to a garage or egress entry doors at the basement level, measured from the basement or garage floor to the top of the wall. In such cases, the wall is limited to seven (7) feet in height for not more than 25% of the length of the wall.
- (cc) Retaining walls with a face greater than twelve (12) feet in height are prohibited unless the Applicant's engineer certifies in writing to the Building Commissioner that the retaining wall will not cause an increase in water flow off the property and will not adversely impact adjacent property or the public.
- (dd) Construction activity shall be consistent with Section 3.8 of the General By-Laws and any reasonable conditions on construction activity that are warranted at a particular site and included in the applicable site plan approval, including but not limited to hours during which construction activity may take place, the movement of trucks or heavy equipment on or off the site, measures to control dirt, dust, and erosion and to protect existing vegetation to be preserved on the site.

Special Development Standards for the A-1 Subdistrict

The following requirements apply to all development projects within the A-1 subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District:

- (d) 4.3.2 Driveway Openings
- (e) 4.3.3 Open Space
- (f) 4.3.4 Building Location, with the substitution of "Multifamily Dwelling" for "apartment house."

Special Development Standards for the B and IND Subdistricts of the Multi-Family Overlay District:

- (b) The requirements of the first paragraph of 4.4.5 Driveway Openings shall apply to all development projects within the Multi-family Overlay District within the B and IND subdistricts.

Special Development Standards for the ASD-MF Subdistrict of the Multi-Family Overlay District:



TOWN OF NEEDHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

- (b) Multi-family housing in the ASD-MF subdistrict shall employ existing curb cuts on Highland Avenue and West Street to the extent feasible. Existing curb cuts may be improved, reconstructed and modified. Additional curb cuts may be added subject to site plan review.

3.17.8 Affordable Housing

Any multi-family building with six or more dwelling units shall include Affordable Housing Units as defined in Section 1.3 of this By-Law and the requirements below shall apply.

3.17.8.1 Provision of Affordable Housing

Not fewer than 12.5% of housing units constructed shall be Affordable Housing Units. For purposes of calculating the number of Affordable Housing Units required in a proposed development, any fractional unit shall be rounded up to the nearest whole number and shall be deemed to constitute a whole unit.

In the event that the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) determines that the calculation detailed above does not comply with the provisions of Section 3A of MGL c.40A, the following standard shall apply:

Not fewer than 10% of housing units constructed shall be Affordable Housing Units. For purposes of calculating the number of Affordable Housing Units required in a proposed development, any fractional unit shall be rounded up to the nearest whole number and shall be deemed to constitute a whole unit.

3.17.8.2 Affordable Housing Development Standards

Affordable Units shall be:

- (h) Integrated with the rest of the development and shall be compatible in design, appearance, construction, and quality of exterior and interior materials with the other units and/or lots;
- (i) Dispersed throughout the development;
- (j) Located such that the units have equal access to shared amenities, including light and air, and utilities (including any bicycle storage and/or Electric Vehicle charging stations) within the development;
- (k) Located such that the units have equal avoidance of any potential nuisances as market-rate units within the development;
- (l) Distributed proportionately among unit sizes; and
- (m) Distributed proportionately across each phase of a phased development.
- (n) Occupancy permits may be issued for market-rate units prior to the end of construction of the entire development provided that occupancy permits for Affordable Units are issued simultaneously on a pro rata basis.



**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK**

3.17.9 Site Plan Review

3.17.9.1 Applicability

Site Plan Review, as provided for in this Section 3.17, is required for all Multi-family housing projects within the Multi-Family Overlay District. Notwithstanding any other provision contained in the Zoning By-Law, except as expressly provided for in this Section 3.17, Multi-family housing projects are not subject to site plan or special permit review pursuant to Section 7.

3.17.9.2 Submission Requirements

The Applicant shall submit the following site plan and supporting documentation as its application for Site Plan Review, unless waived in writing by the Planning and Community Development Director:

- (p) Locus plan;
- (q) Location of off-site structures within 100 feet of the property line;
- (r) All existing and all proposed building(s) showing setback(s) from the property lines;
- (s) Building elevation, to include penthouses, parapet walls and roof structures; floor plans of each floor; cross and longitudinal views of the proposed structure(s) in relation to the proposed site layout, together with an elevation line to show the relationship to the center of the street;
- (t) Existing and proposed contour elevations in one-foot increments;
- (u) Parking areas, including the type of space, dimensions of typical spaces, and width of maneuvering aisles and landscaped setbacks;
- (v) Driveways and access to site, including width of driveways and driveway openings;
- (w) Facilities for vehicular and pedestrian movement;
- (x) Drainage;
- (y) Utilities;
- (z) Landscaping including trees to be retained and removed;
- (aa) Lighting;
- (bb) Loading and unloading facilities;
- (cc) Provisions for refuse removal; and
- (dd) Projected traffic volumes in relation to existing and reasonably anticipated conditions based on standards from the Institute of Transportation Engineers and prepared by a licensed traffic engineer and



TOWN OF NEEDHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

including, if applicable, recommended traffic mitigation measures based on the traffic attributable to a particular project.

3.17.9.3 Timeline

Upon receipt of an application for Site Plan Review for a project in the MFOD, the Site Plan Review Authority shall transmit a set of application materials to the Department of Public Works, Town Engineer, Police Department, Fire Department, Design Review Board, and to any other Town agency it deems appropriate, which shall each have thirty five (35) days to provide any written comment. Upon receipt of an application, the Site Plan Review Authority shall also notice a public hearing in accordance with the notice provisions contained in M.G.L. c.40A, §11. Site plan review shall be performed expeditiously and in general shall be completed, with a decision rendered and filed with the Town Clerk, no later than 6 months after the date of submission of the application.

3.17.9.4 Site Plan Approval

Site Plan approval for uses listed in Subsection 3.17.3 Permitted Uses shall be granted upon determination by the Site Plan Review Authority that the following criteria have been satisfied. The Site Plan Review Authority may impose reasonable conditions, at the expense of the applicant, to ensure that these criteria have been satisfied.

- (c) the Applicant has submitted the information as set forth in Subsection 3.17.9.2 Submission Requirements; and
- (d) the project as described in the application meets the dimensional and density requirements contained in Subsection 3.17.5 Dimensional Regulations, the parking requirements contained in Subsection 3.17.6 Off-Street Parking, the development standards contained in Subsection 3.17.7 Development Standards, and Subsection 3.17.8.2 Affordable Housing Development Standards.

3.17.9.5 Waivers

When performing site plan review, the Planning Board may waive the requirements of Subsection 3.17.6 hereof and/or Subsection 5.1.3 Parking Plan and Design Requirements, or particular submission requirements.

When performing site plan review for a Multi-family Housing project that involves preservation of a structure listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Massachusetts Register of Historical Places, the Inventory of Historic Assets for the Town of Needham, or is in pending for inclusion in any such register or inventory, the Planning Board as part of site plan review may reduce the applicable front, side or rear setbacks in this Section 3.17 by up to 40%.

3.17.9.6 Project Phasing

An Applicant may propose, in a Site Plan Review submission, that a project be developed in phases subject to the approval of the Site Plan Review Authority, provided that the submission shows the full buildout of the project and all associated impacts as of the completion of the final phase. However, no project may be phased solely to avoid the provisions of Subsection 3.17.8 Affordable Housing.



TOWN OF NEEDHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

3.17.10 Design Guidelines

The Planning Board may adopt and amend, by simple majority vote, Design Guidelines which shall be applicable to all rehabilitation, redevelopment, or new construction within the Multi-family Overlay District. Such Design Guidelines must be objective and not subjective and may contain graphics illustrating a particular standard or definition to make such standard or definition clear and understandable. The Design Guidelines for the Multi-family Overlay District shall be as adopted by the Planning Board and shall be available on file in the Needham Planning Department.

3.17.11 Special Permits

In those specific occasions where this Section 3.17 authorizes relief in the form of a special permit only, applications shall be reviewed and decided by the Planning Board in accordance with Section 7.5.2.

4. By amending the first sentence of Section 7.6.1, Special Permit Granting Authority, to add Section 3.17 to the list of Sections for which the Planning Board is the Special Permit Granting Authority, so that this sentence reads as follows:

The Planning Board shall act as a Special Permit Granting Authority only where so designated in Sections 3.4, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.14, 3.16, 3.17, 4.2.10, 4.2.11, 4.2.12, 4.4.5, 4.4.9, 4.4.10, 5.1.1.6, 6.6, 6.8 and 7.4 of this By-Law.

5. By amending the first paragraph of Section 7.7.2.2, Authority and Specific Powers, to add site plan reviews under Section 3.17 to the jurisdiction of the Design Review Board, so that this paragraph reads as follows:

The Design Review Board shall review requests for site plan review and approval submitted in accordance with Section 3.17 Multi-family Overlay District, Section 7.4 Site Plan Review and requests for special permits in accordance with Section 4.2.11 Planned Residential Development, Section 4.2.10 Flexible Development and Section 6.11 Retaining Walls and, for a minor project that only involves a change in the exterior facade of a building in the Center Business District, shall review and may approve such facade change.

6. By amending Section 7.7.3, Procedure, by inserting in the second paragraph, after the second sentence, a new sentence to read as follows:

Within fifteen (15) days of the meeting, a final advisory design review report shall be sent both to the applicant and to the Planning Board, when a site plan review is required under Section 3.17.

so that this paragraph reads as follows:

Within twenty (20) days of receipt of a Design Review application, the Design Review Board shall hold a meeting, to which the applicant shall be invited, for the purpose of conducting a review of the proposed project or activity. Within fifteen (15) days of the meeting, a preliminary design review report shall be sent to both the applicant and to the Planning Board, when a special permit is required under Sections 7.4, 4.2.11 and 4.2.10. Within fifteen (15) days of the meeting, a final advisory design review report shall be sent both to the applicant and to the Planning Board, when a site plan review is required under Section 3.17. However, if the proposed project or activity involves only a building permit or sign permit from the Building Commissioner, or is a "Minor Project" under Site Plan Review (all as described in Subsection 7.7.2.2), no preliminary report



TOWN OF NEEDHAM
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

is required and the written advisory report of the Design Review Board to the applicant and the Building Commissioner shall be a final report.

Article 10 Passed By: Majority Vote on a Hand Counted Vote of 118 in favor and 90 opposed.

The Main Motion under Article 8 as Amended by Article 10 passed by Majority Vote as declared by the Moderator on a voice vote.

A true copy

ATTEST: _____

Louise L. Miller, J.D.
Town Clerk