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OFFICIALS

OF THE

TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE

Town Hall
Memorial Square
7 Main Street
Whitinsville, MA 01588
Telephone: (508) 234-2095
FAX: (508) 234-7640

2014

Board of Selectmen

CHARLES AMPAGOOMIAN, JR., **Chair**
DANIEL J. NOLAN
JAMES R. MARZEC
THOMAS J. MELIA
JAMES J. ATHANAS

Town Manager
THEODORE D. KOZAK

Town Clerk
DOREEN A. CEDRONE

Town Counsel
KOPELMAN & PAIGE, P.C.

04 - 01 - 2014

PREFACE

The Town of Northbridge was removed from Uxbridge on July 14, 1772, and established as a district. Subsequently, on August 23, 1775, by general act, it became a town. Located some 46 miles southwest of Boston, the town was, at various times, a leading manufacturer of cotton goods, boots and shoes, lumber, leather and, with the Whitin Machine Works in Whitinsville, industrial parts. The town has continued to expand, and today is a pleasant, vital community, proud of its heritage and always looking to the future.

The Town of Northbridge has, over the years, passed through a process of legislative change common to many American communities. While only a few simple laws were necessary at the time of the establishment of the town, subsequent growth of the community, together with the complexity of modern life, has created the need for new and more detailed legislation for the proper function and government of the town. The recording of local law is an aspect of municipal history, and as the community develops and changes, review and revision of old laws and consideration of new laws, in the light of current trends, must keep pace. The orderly collection of these records is an important step in this ever-continuing process. Legislation must be more than mere chronological enactments reposing in the pages of old records. It must be available and logically arranged for convenient use and must be kept up-to-date. It was with thoughts such as these in mind that the following republication of the town's legislation was ordered.

Contents of Code

The various chapters of the Code contain all currently effective legislation of a general and permanent nature enacted by the Town Meeting, the Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board and the Board of Health of the Town of Northbridge, as well as certain rules, regulations and/or bylaws adopted by various boards, commissions, departments and/or agencies, which were deemed to be general and permanent in nature and appropriate for inclusion in the volume. The organization of the Code as originally published in 1987 has been revised to accommodate the bylaws adopted in 1997 in Division 1.

Division of Code

The Code is divided into five major parts, known as "Divisions." Division 1 contains the bylaws adopted by the Town Meeting. Division 2 contains the Zoning and Subdivision Regulations. Division 3 contains the regulations promulgated by the Board of Selectmen. Division 4 contains the regulations adopted by the Board of Health. Division 5 contains other miscellaneous regulations.

Table of Contents

The Table of Contents details the arrangement of material by chapter as a means of identifying specific areas of legislation. Wherever two or more items of legislation have been combined by the editor into a single chapter, titles of the several articles are listed beneath the chapter title in order to facilitate the location of the individual item of legislation.

Pagination

A unique page-numbering system has been used, in which each chapter forms an autonomous unit. One hundred pages have been allotted to each chapter, and the first page of each is the number of that chapter followed by the numerals "01." Thus, Chapter 6 begins on page 601, Chapter 173 on page 17301, etc. By use of this system, it is possible to add or to change pages in any chapter without affecting the sequence of subsequent pages in other chapters, and to insert new chapters without affecting the existing organization.

Numbering of Sections

A chapter-related section-numbering system is employed in Divisions 2, 3, 4 and 5, in which each section of every item of legislation is assigned a number which indicates both the number of the chapter in which the legislation is located and the location of the section within that chapter. Thus, the first section of Chapter 6 is § 6-1, while the fourth section of Chapter 173 is § 173-4. New sections can then be added between existing sections using a decimal system. Thus, for example, if two sections were to be added between §§ 173-4 and 173-5, they would be numbered as §§ 173-4.1 and 173-4.2. In Division 1, the original numbering of the bylaws has been retained, which differs from the numbering used in the rest of the Code.

Scheme

The Scheme is the list of section titles which precedes the text of each chapter. These titles are carefully written so that, taken together, they may be considered as a summary of the content of the chapter. Taken separately, each describes the content of a particular section. For ease and precision of reference, the Scheme titles are repeated as section headings in the text.

Histories

At the end of the Scheme in each chapter in Divisions 2, 3, 4 and 5 is located the legislative history for that chapter. This History indicates the specific legislative source from which the chapter was derived, including the enactment number, if pertinent, and the date of adoption. In the case of chapters containing parts or articles derived from more than one item of legislation, the source of each part or article is indicated in the text, under its title. Amendments to individual sections or subsections are indicated by histories where appropriate in the text.

General References; Editor's Notes

In each chapter containing material related to other chapters in the Code, a table of General References is included to direct the reader's attention to such related chapters. Editor's Notes are used in the text to provide supplementary information and cross-references to related provisions in other chapters.

Disposition List

The Disposition List is a chronological listing of legislation adopted since the republication of the Code in 1998, indicating its inclusion in the Code or the reason for its exclusion. The

Disposition List will be updated with each supplement to the Code to include the legislation reviewed with said supplement.

Index

There are three separate indexes in the Code: one for Division 1, one for Division 2 and one for Divisions 3, 4 and 5. Each is included following the end of the respective Division. These Indexes are guides to information. Since it is likely that this Code will be used by persons without formal legal training, the Indexes have been formulated to enable such persons to locate a particular section quickly. Each section of each chapter has been indexed. The Indexes will be supplemented and revised from time to time as new legislation is added to the Code.

Instructions for Amending the Code

All changes to the Code, whether they are amendments, deletions or complete new additions, should be adopted as amending the Code. In doing so, existing material that is not being substantively altered should not be renumbered.

New sections. Where new sections are to be added to a chapter in Divisions 2, 3, 4 or 5, they can be added at the end of the existing material (continuing the numbering sequence) or inserted between existing sections as decimal numbers (e.g., a new section between §§ 220-5 and 220-6 should be designated § 220-5.1).

New chapters. New chapters should be added to Divisions 2, 3, 4 and 5 in the proper alphabetical sequence in the appropriate division utilizing the reserved chapter numbers. New chapter titles should begin with the key word for the alphabetical listing (e.g., new legislation on abandoned vehicles should be titled "Vehicles, Abandoned" under "V" in the table of contents, and a new enactment on coin-operated amusement devices should be "Amusement Devices" or "Amusement Devices, Coin-Operated" under "A" in the table of contents). Where a reserved number is not available, an "A" chapter should be used (e.g., a new chapter to be included between Chapters 220 and 221 should be designated Chapter 220A).

New articles. New articles may be inserted between existing articles in a chapter (e.g., adding a new district to the Zoning Regulations) by the use of "A" articles (e.g., a new article to be included between Articles XVI and XVII should be designated Article XVIA). The section numbers would be as indicated above (e.g., if the new Article XVIA contains six sections and existing Article XVI ends with § 173-30 and Article XVII begins with § 173-31, Article XVIA should contain §§ 173-30.1 through 173-30.6).

Supplementation

Supplementation of the Code will follow the adoption of new legislation. New legislation or amendments to existing legislation will be included and repeals will be indicated as soon as possible after passage. Supplemental pages should be inserted as soon as they are received and old pages removed, in accordance with the Instruction Page which accompanies each supplement.

Acknowledgment

The assistance of Muriel Barry is gratefully acknowledged by the editor. The codification and subsequent republication of the legislation of the Town of Northbridge reflects an appreciation of the needs of a progressive and expanding community. As in many other municipalities, officials are faced with fundamental changes involving nearly every facet of community life. Problems increase in number and complexity and range in importance from everyday details to crucial areas of civic planning. It is the profound conviction of General Code Publishers Corp. that this Code will contribute significantly to the efficient administration of local government. As Samuel Johnson observed, "The law is the last result of human wisdom acting upon human experience for the benefit of the public."