

TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Summary of significant changes, restructuring and updates to the Town's Bylaws

The Town has contracted with an outside vendor to re-format and update all its bylaws and regulations. The update will provide an on-line, fully searchable source on our Town website for residents to learn about Town regulations, requirements, fees and fines, all in one place. The vendor also reformatted all the bylaws into a standard format that is currently being used by over 100 communities in Massachusetts.

As part of the project, the Town departments have updated the description of their duties, removed outdated information, changed nomenclatures (E.g. "Building Inspector" to "Building Commissioner") corrected misspellings and grammatical errors, removed references to Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator and substituted Town Council and Town Manager where appropriate. Most changes impact only internal rules governing internal affairs within the Town Offices.

The entire list of changes, entitled "List of Changes - Bylaws (Schedule A)", can be accessed by Town residents for their review on the Town of East Longmeadow website, under Government, Proposed Bylaw Updates. That list of changes is 44-pages long. The following summarizes the significant changes contained in the 44 pages:

The following sections of the 1982 General Bylaws are repealed in their entirety:

- Chapter 5, § 5.030, regarding the Inspector of Weights and Measures.
- Chapter 5, § 5.050, regarding the Building Inspector.
- Chapter 8, § 8.100, Limitation on the Use, Sale, Keeping and Storage of Fuel Burning Portable Space Heaters.
- Chapter 10, §10.011, regarding consultant fees.
- Chapter 10, § 10.050, regarding the Industrial Development Committee.
- Chapter 10, § 10.060, regarding the Industrial Development Financing Authority.

The following nomenclature changes are made throughout the bylaws:

- "Building Inspector" is changed to "Building Commissioner".
- "Board of Public Works" is changed to "Department of Public Works".
- "Collector of Taxes", "Tax Collector", "Treasurer" and "Treasurer-Collector" are changed to "Collector/Treasurer".
- "Library Trustees" is changed to "Board of Library Trustees".
- "Ordinance" is changed to "bylaw".

As part of their comprehensive review of the bylaws, the Town Manager, the Boards and Department Heads, and the Town Council made a few significant updates, revisions and additions to the Bylaws as follows:

- The required size of house/building street numbers is increased from 3 inches to 4 inches [Ch 321]
- Public use/consumption of marijuana is prohibited with a fine of \$100 [Ch 359]
- Recreational marijuana facilities prohibited [Ch 360]
- Outdoor public entertainment requires a license from the Town Council [Ch 379]
- The Stormwater Management bylaw prohibits the deposit of construction site wastes such as demolition debris, litter and sanitary wastes [Ch 402]
- The annual Stormwater fee structure shall be proposed by the Superintendent of Public Works, but approved by the Town Council [Ch 402]
- A builder's bond may be retained by the Town for failure to file an "as built" plan within 2 years of completion of the project. [Ch 402-6].

Also as part of the bylaw update project, fines were reviewed and several were increased:

- Public consumption of alcoholic beverages increased from \$50 to \$100 [Ch 310]
- The fine for solicitors who fail to file with the ELPD is raised from \$20 to \$50 [Ch 393]
- The fine for depositing trash or other filth illegally, and fine for loitering after warning by a police officer, is increased from \$25 to \$100 [Ch 407-3]
- The fine for failure to remove snow/ice from sidewalks within 24 hours of storm is \$50/day, plus the cost of removal by the DPW if homeowner does not act within 72 hours. [Ch 407-5]
- The fine for vehicles towed at the request of police during a declared weather emergency is increased from \$15 to \$30 in addition to the costs of the tow. [Ch 416]
- Fire lane signs must be revised by the property-owner to reflect the new fine of \$100 for any violation, and the fine for parking in a fire lane is increased to \$100 [Ch 416]

For more details, the entire list of changes can be accessed by Town residents for their review on the Town of East Longmeadow website, under Government, Proposed Bylaw Updates.