

5.13. ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

A. Purpose

The purposes of providing for Accessory Dwelling Units include:

- i. To facilitate housing production, diversity, and affordability in the Town's neighborhoods;
- ii. To allow older adults and households with disabled persons to remain in the Town and to better accommodate young families;
- iii. To use energy, water, and materials more efficiently by increasing the housing supply through concentrated, small scale development; and
- iv. To preserve historic homes, carriage houses, and barns by providing greater flexibility to homeowners.

B. Ownership. An Accessory Dwelling Unit shall not be owned separately than the Principal Dwelling with which the Accessory Dwelling Unit is associated. A Building with an Accessory Dwelling Unit may not be divided into condominiums, even if owned by the same person or entity.

C. Physical Requirements: The Accessory Dwelling Unit shall:

- i. Satisfy the requirements to be a Dwelling Unit as set forth in this Zoning Bylaw, the State Building Code and the State Fire Code, and any applicable health regulations, including having a separate entrance sufficient to meet requirements for safe egress.
- ii. Remain subordinate appearance to the Principal Dwelling including:
 - (A) Any detached Accessory Dwelling Unit or modifications to the exterior of the existing One-Unit Dwelling to accommodate the Accessory Dwelling Unit must match the style and architecture of the Principal Dwelling, including siding, roof pitch, trim, windows, and doors.
 - (B) Exterior doors of the Accessory Dwelling Unit shall not be on any building elevation which presents to a public street or private way, except that Accessory Dwelling Units which are built in detached structures existing as of the date of adoption of this Section 5.13 may have exterior doors in a building elevation presenting to a public street or private way.
 - (C) Exterior staircases must not be visible from a public way and shall be designed to complement the Principal Dwelling.
 - (D) Construction of an Accessory Dwelling Unit shall not increase the height of the structure beyond the height of the Principal Dwelling prior to construction of the Accessory Dwelling Unit.

- iii. An Accessory Dwelling Unit may be detached from the Principal Dwelling, but any detached Accessory Dwelling Unit may be located only in the Rear Yard and/or Side Yard of the principal dwelling or in a building on the lot which existed prior to the adoption of this Section 5.13.
- iv. (A) Contain at least 250 square feet of gross floor area and no more than the lesser of (i) 900 sq. ft. of gross floor area or (ii) 50% of the gross floor area of the Principal Dwelling, not including the Accessory Dwelling Unit, or basement, garage, or unenclosed deck or patio areas, and (B) otherwise meet the requirements of the definition of “Accessory Dwelling Unit” in Section 1A of chapter 40A of the General Laws.
- v. Subject to the provisions of Section 5.1 and 6.3, comply with all area and yard regulations applicable to the lot on which it is located.

D. Operational Requirements

- i. The record owner shall record in the Registry of Deeds a notice, in a form approved by the Planning Board, stating that the property includes an Accessory Dwelling Unit subject to the provisions of the Zoning Bylaw.
- ii. The minimum leasing term for the ADU shall be the greater of 30 days or such other period governing short term rentals which may be set forth from time to time in the Town Bylaws. The Accessory Dwelling Unit may not be leased more than once in any 30-day period.
- iii. There shall be no pickup or delivery of products and/or articles at the premises that is not customary in a residential area.
- iv. The Accessory Dwelling Unit may not be used for a Home Occupation.

E. Permitting Requirements

- i. Any person or entity applying for building and occupancy permits under the State Building Code for a building which will include an Accessory Dwelling Unit shall state in the application that the project proposes to include an Accessory Dwelling Unit. The Inspector of Buildings shall not issue a building permit for construction of such building or issue a certificate of occupancy for such building until the Planning Department, in accordance with Rules and Regulations adopted by the Planning Department, certifies that the building is in compliance with the provisions of Section 5.13.D
- ii. The record owner must submit an annual certification to the Planning Department, in a form determined by the Planning Board, that the Accessory Dwelling Unit has been constructed and is owned and operated in compliance with all provisions of the Zoning Bylaw.

- iii. Notice of Sale of the property containing the Accessory Dwelling Unit must be provided to the Planning Department.
 - iv. If the Accessory Dwelling Unit has been built or is being operated in violation of the provisions of this Section the Inspector of Buildings may, in addition to other remedies, order the removal of any one or more of the provisions that create a separate dwelling unit, such as living, sleeping, cooking, and eating.
- F. Rules and Regulations. The Planning Board shall adopt and may from time to time amend Rules and Regulations to implement this Section 5.13.
- G. Effective Date.
- i. This Section 5.13 shall apply to all building permits issued after September 1, 2022, for alteration of existing One-Unit Dwellings or construction of new One-Unit Dwellings.
 - ii. Any One-Unit Dwelling which was constructed prior to the date of adoption of this Section 5.13 and contains a self-contained housing unit, inclusive of sleeping, cooking and sanitary facilities on the same lot as a principal dwelling shall be brought into compliance with this Section 5.13 and if building permits for such work are issued prior to December 31, 2024, and associated construction completed by December 31, 2025, shall not be subject to penalties otherwise applicable to correction of non-conforming structures.

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