

Mason 2009 Town Warrant - Zoning Amendments

Articles 2 and 3 of the Town Warrant are amendments to the zoning ordinance, to be voted on during the daytime ballot vote. Here's an explanation of why they are there and what they will do.

For a town to be eligible to participate in the National Flood Insurance program, the town must adopt a Model Floodplain Ordinance that meets the minimum requirements of Section 60.3(b) of the National Flood Insurance Programs regulations. After Mason joined the Nashua Regional Planning Commission last summer, the NRPC reviewed our floodplain ordinance against the current requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program. Our ordinance was found to be compliant and in good order, except for a couple of things.

First, the introduction to Mason's Model Floodplain Ordinance states that it incorporates by reference a section of State of New Hampshire law, RSA 674:52. Well, that particular RSA was repealed in 2002, and it is not necessary to cite an RSA, anyway. Article 2 of the Town of Mason 2009 Warrant amends the ordinance to remove the words "as permitted by RSA 674:52".

Second, a definition in the Floodplain Ordinance was omitted from the list of definitions in the section entitled "Item 1 Definition of Terms". Article 3 of the Town of Mason 2009 Warrant amends the ordinance to add the definition of "New Construction". The definition distinguishes structures built after the floodplain ordinance was adopted from structures built earlier.

Adopting these amendments makes our floodplain ordinance fully compliant. Should a holder of National Floodplain Insurance need to make a claim, lack of compliance will be one bureaucratic delay that won't happen. The Mason Planning Board recommends adoption of these amendments. Mason's Floodplain Ordinance can be found in Article XVIII of the Town of Mason Planning Ordinance (the zoning ordinance).