

EARTH REMOVAL BY-LAW

ARTICLE 4: Voted by a majority vote to amend the Town's earth removal by-law adopted under Article 7 of the 1970 Special Town Meeting of May 28th, by deleting it in its entirety and substituting therefore the following:

TOWN OF MIDDLEBOROUGH EARTH REMOVAL BY-LAW

Section 1: DEFINITIONS

- A. The term "earth" shall mean all forms of soil, including, but limited to, loam, sand, gravel, clay, peat, hardpan or rock.
- B. The term "removal" shall mean stripping, excavating or blasting earth from one lot and carrying it away from said lot.
- C. The term "lot" shall mean a single parcel of land lying in a single body and separated from contiguous land by property liens, street lines, or Town lines.
- D. The term "property line" shall mean a line separating land in one ownership from land in a different ownership, or from other land in the same ownership. A municipal boundary shall be a property line.
- E. The term "owner" shall mean the owner of the land from which earth is sought to be removed.
- F. The term "Board" shall mean the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Middleborough.

Section 2: SCOPE

This By-law shall apply to all earth removal activities in the Town of Middleborough, except as otherwise limited herein.

Section 3: PERMITS REQUIRED

No earth shall be removed from any lot in the Town of Middleborough unless a permit shall have first been obtained by the owner from the Board pursuant to this By-law, except as otherwise provided herein. All permits granted by the Board shall be subject to conditions which will guarantee, to the satisfaction of the Board, proper and reasonable surface drainage during and after operations and reasonable re-use of available topsoil. The Board shall adopt regulations including, but limited to, exhibits, fees and bond requirements. The Board may impose permit conditions or restrictions on any permit in the best interest of the Town. The conditions or restrictions related to a permit, including the expiration date, shall be clearly set forth on the permit. No such permit shall be issued until an application therefore has been filed with the Board and the Board has held a public hearing on the application. Notice of the filing of an application and the date and time of the public hearing thereon shall be advertised, at the expense of the applicant, in a newspaper in general circulation in the Town, seven days at least before such hearing and by written notice to the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission and the abutters. Following the hearing, the Board may grant, grant in part, or deny the application.

Section 4: EXEMPTIONS

The following are exempted from the provisions of this By-law:

- a.) Any earth removal operations involving 25 cubic yards or less per lot per year.
- b.) Any earth removal operations involving 800 cubic yards or less per acre on lots of 4 acres or less occurring in conjunction with work subject to a valid Building Permit.
- c.) Any earth removal operations in compliance with the requirements of a subdivision plan approved by the Town's Planning Board.

Section 5: LENGTH OF PERMIT

A permit may be issued for a period of up to three (3) years. At the Board's discretion a permit may be extended for up to one (1) year beyond the initial permit period. If an Earth Removal project is not completed following the initial period plus any extension period, the applicant must reapply to the Board for a new permit to complete the project. The applicant must meet all By-law and regulation requirements in effect at the time of reapplication for a new permit. Current valid permits which are in effect prior to August 1, 1992, may continue in operation for up to three (3) years from the adoption of this By-law subject to all conditions and restriction of the permit and Article 7 of the May 28, 1970 Town Meeting By-law requirements without applying for annual renewal. Such existing earth removal project shall be subject to the provisions of this By-law after three years from the adoption of this By-law.

A copy of the earth Removal Order of Conditions must be filed with the Registry of Deeds, at the applicants expense, as a notice to all that the conditions restrict work on the lot under the Permit.

A Certificate of Completion must be issued by the Board of Selectmen at the completion of the project attesting that the project was completed in accordance with the approved plans. Issuance of the Certificate of Completion operates to terminate the permit. The Certificate of Completion must also be filed with the Registry of Deeds at the applicants expense.

Section 6: ENFORCEMENT

The Board of Selectmen shall be responsible for the administration and enforcement of this By-law. A violation of a condition or restriction of the permit shall be a violation of the By-law. The Town Manager shall be the Agent of the Board for enforcement purposes and may issue a written cease and desist order requiring the immediate cessation of all work on the permitted property if the Town Manager believes a violation of any condition or restriction of the permit has occurred. In the absence of the Town Manager the Board of Selectmen may designate another Agent. The Written order shall specify the alleged violation. A copy of the order will be given to the Board members as soon as possible after it is issued. The Board of Selectmen shall, within three (3) weeks of the issuance of the cease and desist order, hold a public hearing to review the facts and to determine whether a violation has occurred. If a violation is found, the Board, in its discretion, may revoke, revise or modify the conditions or restriction of the permit. The penalty for violation of this By-law shall be a fine of up to \$50 for the first offense, \$100 for the second offense and \$200 for each offense after the second offense. Each day of operation in violation of the By-law shall be treated as a separate offense.

Section 7: GENERAL PROVISIONS

An earth removal permit issued under this By-law shall not authorize a use which is not permitted under applicable provisions of the Town of Middleborough Zone By-law. No earth removal permit shall authorize screening or other processing of earth materials in a Residential Zone. This shall not be construed to prohibit screening of earth on a lot which is the subject of an earth removal permit, in a Residential Zone, for use on the same lot to provide gravel for roadways, loam for final grading and/or sand for bogs.

Section 8: SEVERABILITY CLAUSE

The provisions of this By-law are severable; and if any provision or application of such provision to any person or circumstances is held invalid or unconstitutional, this shall not affect the remaining provisions.

**Article 4 of 11/9/92 Special Town Meeting
Approved by Attorney General on 2/18/93**

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 3. Of its Earth Removal By-law, by adding the following paragraph:

After an Earth Removal Permit Application has been submitted, no tree removal, utility installation, ditching, grading or construction of roads, no grading of land, no excavation except for purposes of soil testing, no dredging or filling, and no construction of buildings or structures shall be initiated on any part of that area in which the proposed earth removal will take place until the application has been received and approved and an Order of Conditions issued as provided for by this By-law, and that all activity, as described above, shall continue to be prohibited throughout the duration of the Earth Removal Permit except for what is permitted and referenced on the approved plan. This paragraph shall not apply to land in active agricultural use including normal maintenance of cranberry bogs.

Adopted at Fall 1996 STM

EARTH REMOVAL RULES & REGULATIONS

Initial Review:

An Initial Review to conform compliance with permit conditions and restrictions must be performed by the Board's Agent before the commencement of any earth removal activities. The fee for this review is due and payable at the time the permit holder notifies the Board's Agent that all requirements of the permit which must be done prior to the commencement of work have been accomplished, and the permit holder is ready for the agent to perform the Initial Review.

Quarterly Review:

Quarterly Reviews must be performed by the Board's Agent following commencement of earth removal work. These reviews will include a field review and plan review to determine on-going compliance with the permit. The fee for each such review is due and payable to the Town three months after the commencement of earth removal on the lot and every three months thereafter for the duration of the permitted project.

Required Reviews and Fees:

The fee for each review (both Initial and Quarterly) is based on the size of the earth removal project as follows:

<u>SIZE OF PROJECT</u>	<u># OF HOURS</u>	<u>HOURLY RATE</u>	<u>FEE</u>
Up to 250,000 c.yds.	10	\$40	\$ 400
250,000-500,000 c.yds.	15	\$40	\$ 600
500,000-750,000 c.yds.	20	\$40	\$ 800
Over 750,000 c.yds.	40	\$40	\$1600

Permit Duration and Commencement of Removal:

The Board of Selectmen may issue a permit for up to three years duration. If the earth removal work and site restoration is not completed within the initial permit period, the Selectmen may vote to extend the permit for one additional year, not to exceed a total of four years. If the Permit expires, either because the three year period ends without completion of the project and the Selectmen do not extend the permit, or, in the event of a one-year extension, the full four year period ends without completion of the project, the Permit Holder/Applicant just reapply to the Board, in the same manner as an Initial Application for a permit to complete the project. A public hearing will be held on the application, and notices to abutters will be required. The applicant must meet all By-law and regulation requirements in effect at the time of reapplication for a new permit.

If the permit period expires and work is not completed and the Permit Holder/Applicant does not reapply or is denied a permit on reapplication, the Board may elect to call any performance bond and use the proceeds to restore the area to a safe conditions, replace topsoil and seed the area.

Following the Initial Review by the Board's Agent, the Agent will file a written report with the Board of Selectmen. If the Agent reports that all permit conditions and restrictions which must be performed prior to commencement of removal have been

accomplished, the Board's Agent will notify the Board of the authorized date of Initial Removal. Said date will become the date of the commencement of earth removal for purposes of determining the duration of the Permit.

If actual earth removal does not commence within six months of the signing of the Earth Removal Order of Conditions by the Selectmen, the date of commencement of earth removal for purposes of determining the duration of the permit will revert to the date of the signing of the Earth Removal Order of Conditions.

COMPLAINCE REVIEW FORM

Standard Conditions:

Special Conditions:

Maintenance of:

- Buffers
- Signs
- Fences
- Slopes
- Dust Control
- Erosion Control

Complaints, if any, including date:

- Corrective action, if any, on complaints

Phone Contact to Abutters:

Construction in Compliance with Plan: