

## **SECTION 3 NONCONFORMANCE**

### **3.1 Purpose**

It is the intent of this Section to promote land use conformities, except that nonconforming conditions that existed before the effective date of this Ordinance or amendments thereto shall be allowed to continue, subject to the requirements set forth in this Section. Except as otherwise provided in this Ordinance, a nonconforming condition shall not be permitted to become more nonconforming.

### **3.2 General Provisions**

**3.2.1** The use of land, building or structure lawful at the time of adoption or subsequent amendment of this Ordinance may continue although such use does not conform to the provisions of this Ordinance.

**3.2.2** Nonconforming structures, lots, and uses may be transferred and the new owner may continue the nonconforming structure, lot or use subject to the provisions of this Ordinance.

**3.2.3** This Ordinance allows the normal upkeep and maintenance of nonconforming uses and structures including repairs or renovations which do not involve expansion of nonconforming use or structure and such other changes in a nonconforming use or structure as federal, state or local building and safety codes may require.

**3.2.4** Nothing in this Ordinance shall prevent the strengthening or restoring to safe condition any part of any building or structure declared unsafe by the Code Enforcement Officer.

### **3.3 Nonconforming Uses**

**3.3.1** A nonconforming use which is discontinued for a period of one year may not be resumed, except for nonconforming uses in existing structures in the Cobbossee Corridor District with Shoreland Overlay where the discontinuance period is extended to five years. The uses of land, building or structure shall thereafter conform to the provisions of this Ordinance.

**3.3.2** Whenever a nonconforming use is superseded by a permitted use of a structure, or structure and land in combination, land and structure shall thereafter conform to the provisions of this Ordinance and the nonconforming use may not thereafter be resumed.

**3.3.3** A nonconforming use may be expanded by a total of no more than 25% of the size or area in nonconforming use. A nonconforming use shall not be expanded in a Resource Protection, Shoreland or Shoreland Overlay District.

### **3.4 Nonconforming Lots of Record**

**3.4.1** A structure or dwelling may be erected on any single nonconforming lot of record existing at the time of adoption or amendment of this Ordinance, provided that such lot shall have at least

48 feet frontage; shall not be contiguous with any other lot in the same ownership; and shall meet all other provisions of this Ordinance except for lot area, lot width, and shore frontage. Any variance relating to setback or other requirements not involving lot area, lot width or shore frontage shall be obtained by action of the Board of Appeals.

**3.4.2** If two or more contiguous lots of record are in single or joint ownership at the time of, or since adoption or amendment of this Ordinance, and if any of these lots do not individually meet the dimensional requirements of this Ordinance, and if one or more of the lots are vacant or contain no principal structure, the lots shall be combined to the extent necessary to meet the dimensional requirements. This provision shall not apply to city approved subdivision lots created after September 22, 1971.

**3.4.3** If two or more contiguous lots of record are in single or joint ownership at the time of adoption of this Ordinance, and if all or part of the lots do not meet the requirements of this Ordinance and if a principal structure exists on each lot, the nonconforming lots may be conveyed separately or together. Any such lots located within the Shoreland or Resource Protection District may be conveyed separately only if the lots comply with the State Minimum Lot Size Law (12 M.R.S.A. Sections 4807-A through 4807-D) and the State of Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules.

**3.4.4** If two or more principal structures exist on a single lot of record as of the effective date of this Ordinance, each may be sold on a separate lot. When such lots are divided, each lot shall be as conforming as possible to the dimensional requirements of this Ordinance and shall meet the laws referenced in 3.4.3.

**3.4.5** A nonconforming lot of record in existence as of the effective date of this Ordinance shall not be divided so as to create further nonconformity.

### **3.5 Nonconforming Structures not Located in Shoreland, Resource Protection or Shoreland Overlay Districts**

**3.5.1** Any nonconforming structure may be expanded in conformance with the provisions of this Ordinance and the following:

**3.5.1.1** A nonconforming building may be expanded to the side, rear or front of the property if the proposed expansion is no closer than the existing building setback and is a minimum of 5 feet from the property boundary line.

**3.5.1.2** The construction or enlargement of a foundation beneath an existing nonconforming building shall not be considered an expansion of the building provided that the new foundation does not extend beyond the exterior dimensions of the building.

**3.5.2** Any nonconforming structure may be replaced within 18 months when such structure is removed, damaged, or destroyed regardless of the cause. Any structure not replaced within 18 months shall conform to the provisions of this Ordinance.

## **3.6 Nonconforming Structures Located in a Shoreland, Resource Protection or Shoreland Overlay District**

### **3.6.1 General**

**3.6.1.1** A nonconforming structure may be added to or expanded after obtaining a permit the same as that for a new structure, if such addition or expansion does not increase the nonconformity of the structure.

**3.6.1.2** No structure which is less than the required setback from the normal high-water line of a water body, tributary stream or upland edge of a wetland shall be expanded toward the water body, tributary stream or wetland.

### **3.6.2 Expansion**

**3.6.2.1** After January 1, 1989, if any portion of a structure is less than the required setback from the normal high-water line of a water body or tributary stream or the upland edge of a wetland, that portion of the structure shall not be expanded, as measured in floor area or volume, by more than 30% during the lifetime of the structure. If a replacement structure conforms to the requirements for Reconstruction or Replacement and is less than the required setback from a water body, tributary stream or wetland, the replacement structure may not be expanded if the original structure existing on January 1, 1989 has been expanded by 30% in floor area and volume since that date.

**3.6.2.2** Whenever a new, enlarged or replacement foundation is constructed under a nonconforming structure, the structure and new foundation shall be placed such that the setback requirement is met to the greatest practical extent as determined by the Planning Board, basing its decision on the criteria contained in 3.6.3.2. If the completed foundation does not extend beyond the exterior dimensions of the structure, except for expansion in conformity with 3.6.2.1, and the foundation does not cause the structure to be elevated by more than 3 additional feet, as measured from the uphill side of the structure (from original ground level to the bottom of the first floor sill), it shall not be considered to be an expansion of the structure.

### **3.6.3 Relocation**

**3.6.3.1** A nonconforming structure may be relocated within the boundaries of the parcel on which the structure is located provided that the site of relocation conforms to all setback requirements to the greatest practical extent as determined by the Planning Board and provided that the applicant demonstrates that the present subsurface wastewater disposal meets the requirements of State Land and Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules, or that a new system can be installed in compliance with the law and said Rules. In no case shall a structure be relocated in a manner that causes the structure to be more nonconforming.

**3.6.3.2** In determining whether the building relocation meets the setback to the greatest practical extent, the Planning Board shall consider the size of the lot, the slope of the land, the potential for soil erosion, the location of other structures on the property and on adjacent properties, the

location of the septic systems and other on-site soils suitable for septic systems and the type and amount of vegetation to be removed to accomplish the relocation. When it is necessary to remove vegetation within the water or wetland setback area in order to relocate a structure, the Planning Board shall require replanting of native vegetation to compensate for the destroyed vegetation. In addition, the area from which the relocated structure was removed must be replanted with vegetation. Replanting shall be required as follows:

**3.6.3.2.1** Trees removed in order to relocate a structure must be replanted with at least one native tree, 3 feet in height, for every tree removed. If more than 5 trees are planted, no one species of tree shall make up more than 50% of the number of trees planted. Replanted trees must be planted no further from the water or wetland than the trees that were removed.

**3.6.3.2.2** Other woody and herbaceous vegetation, and ground cover, that is removed or destroyed in order to relocate a structure must be re-established. An area at least the same size as the area where vegetation and/or ground cover was disturbed, damaged, or removed must be re-established within the setback area. The vegetation and/or ground cover must consist of native vegetation and/or ground cover similar to what was disturbed, destroyed or removed.

**3.6.3.2.3** Where feasible, when a structure is relocated on a parcel the original location of the structure shall be replanted with vegetation, which may consist of grasses, shrubs, trees or a combination thereof.

### **3.6.4 Destruction**

**3.6.4.1** Any nonconforming structure which is located less than the required setback from the normal high-water line of a water body or upland edge of a wetland, and which is removed, damaged or destroyed, regardless of the cause, by more than 50% of the market value of the structure before such damage, destruction, or removal, may be reconstructed or replaced provided that a permit is obtained within 18 months of the date of said damage, destruction or removal and provided that such reconstruction or replacement is in compliance with the water body, tributary stream or wetland setback requirement to the greatest practical extent as determined by the Planning Board in accordance with the purpose of this Ordinance. In no case shall a structure be reconstructed or replaced to increase its nonconformity. If the reconstructed or replacement structure is located less than the required setback it shall not be any larger than the original structure, except as allowed pursuant to 3.6.2 as determined by the nonconforming floor area and the volume of the reconstructed or replaced structure at its new location. If the total amount of floor area and volume of the original structure can be relocated or reconstructed beyond the required setback area, no portion of the relocated or reconstructed structure shall be replaced or constructed at less than the setback requirement for a new structure. When it is necessary to remove vegetation in order to replace or reconstruct a structure, vegetation shall be replanted in accordance with 3.6.3.

**3.6.4.2** In the Cobbossee Corridor District with Shoreland Overlay, reconstruction or replacement may take place within a five-year period. In no case shall a structure be reconstructed or replaced to increase its nonconformity.

**3.6.4.3** Any nonconforming structure which is located less than the required setback from a water body, tributary stream, or wetland and which is removed by 50% or less of the market value or damaged or destroyed by 50% or less of the market value of the structure, excluding normal maintenance and repair, may be reconstructed in place if a permit is obtained within one year of such damage, destruction, or removal, except in the Cobbossee Corridor District with Shoreland Overlay where a five-year period is allowed, if the floor area or volume after the repair or reconstruction is no greater than the floor area or volume before the removal, damage or destruction.

**3.6.4.4** In determining whether the building reconstruction or replacement meets the water setback to the greatest practical extent, the Planning Board shall consider in addition to the criteria in 3.6.3, the physical condition and type of foundation present, if any.