

**SECTION [x]: FAIRHAVEN SMART GROWTH OVERLAY DISTRICT
(FSGOD)**

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Section [x] is to establish the Fairhaven Smart Growth Overlay District (FSGOD), to encourage smart growth in accordance with the purposes of G.L. Chapter 40R. Among the objectives of this Section [x] are to:

- a) Promote the public health, safety and welfare by encouraging diversity of housing opportunities;
- b) Provide for a full range of housing choices for households of all incomes, ages and sizes in order to meet the goal of preserving municipal character and diversity;
- c) Increase the production of a range of housing units to meet existing and anticipated housing needs;
- d) Provide a mechanism by which residential development can contribute directly to increasing the supply and diversity of housing;
- e) Increase capacity for new commercial, residential and mixed-use development in certain developed but inefficient and unattractive non-residential areas (e.g., shopping plazas) near Route 6, Route 240 and Alden Road, while preserving the historic and rural character of the remainder of the Town;
- f) Provide new development and redevelopment opportunities along portion(s) of the waterfront;
- g) Establish requirements, standards and guidelines, and ensure predictable, fair and cost-effective development review and permitting;
- h) Establish development standards to allow context-sensitive design and creative site planning;
- i) Guide sustainable and desirable economic development and build new capacity for growth in appropriate areas;
- j) Advance the goals of the Fairhaven 2040 Master Plan and of the Fairhaven Economic Development Plan, such as increasing commercial occupancy on Route 6, encouraging mixed-use development and supporting the growth of small businesses in the community; and
- k) Enable the City to receive Zoning Incentive Payments and Density Bonus Payments in accordance with G.L. Chapter 40R, 760 CMR 59.06 and additional Chapter 70 aid in accordance with G.L. Chapter 40S arising from the development of housing in the FSGOD.

2. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this Section [x], the following definitions shall apply. All capitalized terms shall be defined in accordance with the definitions established under the Governing Laws or Section 2.0, or as set forth in the PAA Regulations or in the Design Standards. With respect to their application to this Section [x], to the extent that there is any conflict between the definitions or terms set forth in, or otherwise regulated by, the Governing Laws and those defined or used in this Section [x], inclusive of any applicable Design Standards,

PAA Regulations, or any other applicable associated local zoning requirement (e.g., zoning requirement contained in another section of the Zoning Bylaw that is nonetheless incorporated by reference), the terms of the Governing Laws shall govern.

Affordable Homeownership Unit - an Affordable Housing unit required to be sold to an Eligible Household.

Affordable Housing - housing that is affordable to and occupied by Eligible Households.

Affordable Housing Restriction - a deed restriction of Affordable Housing meeting the statutory requirements in G.L. Chapter 184, Section 31 and the requirements of Section 6.6 of this Bylaw.

Affordable Rental Unit - an Affordable Housing unit required to be rented to an Eligible Household.

Applicant – the individual or entity that submits a Project application for Plan Approval.

As-of-right - a use allowed under Section 5 without recourse to a special permit, variance, zoning amendment, or other form of zoning relief. A Project that requires Plan Approval by the PAA pursuant to Sections 9 through 11 shall be considered an as-of-right Project, subject to review and approval by EOHLC of any Municipal 40R regulations, guidelines, application forms, or other requirements applicable to review of Projects by the Plan Approval Authority under the 40R Zoning and 760 CMR 59.00.

Design Standards – provisions of Section 13 made applicable to Projects within the FSGOD that are subject to the Plan Approval process.

Eligible Household - an individual or household whose annual income is less than or equal to 80 percent of the area-wide median income as determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), adjusted for household size, with income computed using HUD's rules for attribution of income to assets.

EOHLC - the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, including where applicable its predecessor agency the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), or any successor agency.

FSGOD – the Smart Growth Overlay District established in accordance with this Section [x].

Governing Laws - G.L. Chapter 40R and 760 CMR 59.00.

Mixed-Use Development Project – a Project containing a mix of residential uses and non-residential uses, as allowed in Section 5.2, and subject to all applicable provisions of this Section [x].

Monitoring Agent or Administering Agent – the local housing authority or other qualified housing entity designated by the PAA, pursuant to Section 6.2, to review and implement the Affordability requirements affecting Projects under Section 6.0.

PAA Regulations – the rules and regulations of the PAA adopted pursuant to Section 9.3.

Plan Approval - standards and procedures which all Projects in the FSGOD must meet pursuant to Sections 9.0 through 13.0 and the Governing Laws.

Plan Approval Authority (PAA) - The local approval authority authorized under Section 9.2 to conduct the Plan Approval process for purposes of reviewing Project applications and issuing Plan Approval decisions within the FSGOD.

Project - a Residential Project or Mixed-use Development Project undertaken within the FSGOD in accordance with the requirements of this Section [x].

Residential Project - a Project that consists solely of residential, parking, and accessory uses, as further defined in Section 5.1.

Zoning Bylaw - the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Fairhaven, as amended from time-to-time.

3. OVERLAY DISTRICT

3.1 Establishment. The Fairhaven Smart Growth Overlay District, hereinafter referred to as the “FSGOD,” is an overlay district having a land area of approximately 88.35 acres in size that is superimposed over the underlying zoning districts and on the Zoning Map as set forth on maps entitled “Fairhaven 40R Smart Growth Overlay 4-2 Smart Growth Zoning Map (Plaza Area SGOD),” dated 1/31/24, and “Fairhaven 40R Smart Growth Overlay 4-2 Smart Growth Zoning Map (Waterfront Area SGOD),” dated 5/03/24,” both prepared by Dodson & Flinker. These maps are hereby made a part of the Zoning Bylaw and are on file in the Office of the Town Clerk.

3.2 Subdistricts. The FSGOD contains the following subdistricts: Plaza Area; and Waterfront Area.

4. APPLICABILITY OF FSGOD – SCOPE AND AUTHORITY

4.1 Applicability of FSGOD. An Applicant may seek development of a Project located within the FSGOD in accordance with the provisions of the Governing Laws and this Section [x], including a request for Plan Approval by the PAA. In such case, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Zoning Bylaw, such application shall be subject to this Section [x] but shall not be subject to any other provisions of the Zoning Bylaw, including but not limited to limitations upon the issuance of building permits for residential uses related to a rate of development or phased growth limitation or to a local moratorium on the issuance of such permits, or to other building permit or dwelling unit

limitations. When a building permit is issued for any Project approved in accordance with this Section [x], the provisions of the underlying zoning district(s) shall no longer be applicable to the land shown on the site plan which was submitted pursuant to this Section [x] for such Project. To the extent that there is any conflict between the Governing Laws and this Section [x], inclusive of the Design Standards, the PAA Regulations, and any applicable associated local zoning requirement (e.g., zoning requirement contained in another section of the Zoning Bylaw that is nonetheless incorporated by reference), the Governing Laws shall govern.

4.2 Underlying Zoning. The FSGOD is an overlay district superimposed on all underlying zoning districts. The regulations for use, dimension, and all other provisions of the Zoning Bylaw governing the underlying zoning district(s) shall remain in full force, except for those Projects undergoing development pursuant to this Section [x]. Within the boundaries of the FSGOD, a developer may elect either to develop a Project in accordance with the requirements of the Smart Growth Zoning, or to develop a project in accordance with the requirements of the regulations for use, dimension, and all other provisions of the Zoning Bylaw governing the underlying zoning district(s).

4.3 Administration, Enforcement, and Appeals. The provisions of this Section [x] shall be administered by the Building Commissioner, except as otherwise provided herein. Any legal appeal arising out of a Plan Approval decision by the PAA, or any changes thereto, under Sections 9 through 12 of this Bylaw shall be governed by the applicable provisions of G.L. Chapter 40R. Any other request for enforcement or appeal arising under this Section [x] shall be governed by the applicable provisions of G.L. Chapter 40A.

5. PERMITTED USES - GENERAL

Subject to Plan Approval, the following uses are permitted As-of-Right for Projects within the FSGOD.

5.1 Residential Projects. A Residential Project within the FSGOD may include:

- a) Single-family dwellings, two-family dwellings, multifamily dwellings and/or Multi-family Housing, with As-of-right density as defined in Section 7.1;
- b) Parking accessory to any of the above permitted uses, including surface, garage-under, and structured parking (e.g., parking garages); and
- c) Accessory uses customarily incidental and subordinate to any of the above permitted uses.

5.2 Mixed-use Development Projects. A Mixed-use Development Project within the FSGOD may include:

- a) One (1) or more dwelling units, provided that the minimum allowable As-of-right density for residential use specified in Section 7.1 shall apply to the residential portion of any Mixed-use Development Project;

- b) Any non-residential use allowed As-of-right in the Town's Mixed Use District (MU), per Section 198-16 of the Zoning Bylaw (i.e., the Use Regulation Schedule);
- c) Any non-residential use allowed by special permit in the Town's Mixed Use District (MU), per Section 198-16 of the Zoning Bylaw (i.e., the Use Regulation Schedule), but only if a special permit is issued therefor;
- d) Parking accessory to any of the above permitted uses, including surface, garage-under, and structured parking (e.g., parking garages); and
- e) Accessory uses customarily incidental and subordinate to any of the above permitted uses.

The total gross floor area devoted to non-residential uses within a Mixed-use Development Project shall not exceed [33%] of the total gross floor area of the Project.

5.3 Other Uses. Any non-residential use allowed As-of-right in the Town's Mixed-Use District (MU), per Section 198-16 of the Zoning Bylaw (i.e., the Use Regulation Schedule), is permitted As-of-right in the FSGOD, subject to Plan Approval. Any non-residential use allowed by special permit in the Town's Mixed Use District (MU), per Section 198-16 of the Zoning Bylaw (i.e., the Use Regulation Schedule), is allowed by special permit in the FSGOD.

6. HOUSING AND HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

6.1 Number of Affordable Housing Units. For all Projects, not less than twenty percent (20%) of housing units constructed shall be Affordable Housing. Unless the PAA provides a waiver on the basis that the Project is not otherwise financially feasible, not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of rental dwelling units constructed in a Project containing rental units must be Affordable Rental Units. For purposes of calculating the number of units of Affordable Housing required within a Project, any fractional unit shall be deemed to constitute a whole unit.

6.2 Monitoring Agent. A Monitoring Agent, which may be the local housing authority or other qualified housing entity, shall be designated by the PAA (the "designating official"). In a case where the Monitoring Agent cannot adequately carry out its administrative duties, upon certification of this fact by the designating official or by EOHLC, such duties shall devolve to and thereafter be administered by a qualified housing entity designated by the designating official. In any event, such Monitoring Agent shall ensure the following, both prior to issuance of a Building Permit for a Project within the FSGOD, and on a continuing basis thereafter, as the case may be:

- a) Prices of Affordable Homeownership Units and/or rental amounts of Affordable Rental Units are properly computed;
- b) Income eligibility of households applying for Affordable Housing is properly and reliably determined;
- c) The housing marketing and resident selection plan conform to all requirements, have been approved by EOHLC specifically with regard to conformance with G.L. Chapter 40R and 760 CMR 59.00, and are properly administered;

- d) Sales and rentals are made to Eligible Households chosen in accordance with the housing marketing and resident selection plan with appropriate unit size for each household being properly determined and proper preference being given; and
- e) Affordable Housing Restrictions meeting the requirements of this section are approved by EOHLC specifically with regard to conformance with G.L. Chapter 40R and 760 CMR. 59.00, recorded with the proper registry of deeds or district registry of the Land Court.

6.3 Submission Requirements. As part of any application for Plan Approval for a Project within the FSGOD submitted under Sections 9 through 11, the Applicant must submit the following documents to the PAA and the Monitoring Agent:

- a) Evidence that the Project complies with the cost and eligibility requirements of Section 6.4;
- b) Project plans that demonstrate compliance with the design and construction requirements of Section 6.5; and
- c) A form of Affordable Housing Restriction that satisfies the requirements of Section 6.6.

These documents in combination, to be submitted with an application for Plan Approval, shall include details about construction related to the provision, within the Project, of units that are accessible to the disabled and appropriate for diverse populations, including households with children, other households, individuals, households including individuals with disabilities, and the elderly.

6.4 Cost and Eligibility Requirements. Affordable Housing shall comply with the following requirements:

- a) Affordable Housing required to be offered for rent or sale shall be rented or sold to and occupied only by Eligible Households.
- b) For an Affordable Rental Unit, the monthly rent payment, including applicable utility allowances, shall not exceed 30 percent of the maximum monthly income permissible for an Eligible Household, assuming a family size equal to the number of bedrooms in the unit plus one, unless another affordable housing program methodology for calculating rent limits as approved by EOHLC applies.
- c) For an Affordable Homeownership Unit, the monthly housing payment, including mortgage principal and interest, private mortgage insurance, property taxes, condominium and/or homeowner's association fees, and insurance, shall not exceed 30 percent of the maximum monthly income permissible for an Eligible Household, assuming a family size equal to the number of bedrooms in the unit plus one, unless another affordable housing program methodology for calculating rent limits as approved by EOHLC applies.

Prior to the granting of any Building Permit or Plan Approval for a Project, the Applicant must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Monitoring Agent, that the method by which

such affordable rents or affordable purchase prices are computed shall be consistent with state or federal guidelines for affordability applicable to the Town of Fairhaven.

6.5 Design and Construction. Units of Affordable Housing shall be finished housing units. With respect to the minimum required number for a given Project, units of Affordable Housing shall be equitably integrated and proportionately dispersed throughout the residential portion of the Project of which they are part, across all residential buildings, floors and distinct unit types in accordance with the Affordable Housing Restriction and marketing and tenant selection plan approved by EOHLC and be comparable in initial construction quality, size and exterior design to the other housing units in the Project. Unless expressly required otherwise under one or more applicable state or federal housing subsidy programs, the bedroom-per-unit average for the Affordable Housing must be equal to or greater than the bedroom-per-unit average for the unrestricted/market-rate units.

6.6 Affordable Housing Restriction. Each Project shall be subject to an Affordable Housing Restriction which is recorded with the appropriate registry of deeds or district registry of the Land Court and which contains the following:

- a) Specification of the term of the Affordable Housing Restriction which shall be the maximum period allowed by law but no less than ninety-nine (99) years;
- b) The name and address of the Monitoring Agent with a designation of its power to monitor and enforce the Affordable Housing Restriction;
- c) A description of the Affordable Homeownership Units, if any, by address and number of bedrooms; and a description of the overall quantity, initial unit designations and number of bedrooms and number of bedroom types of Affordable Rental Units in a Project or portion of a Project which are rental. Such restriction shall apply individually to the specifically identified Affordable Homeownership Unit; and shall apply to a percentage of rental units in a rental Project or the rental portion of a Project, with the initially designated Affordable Rental Units identified in and able to float subject to specific approval by EOHLC in accordance with, the corresponding Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan (AFHMP) and EOHLC's AFHMP guidelines.
- d) Reference to an affirmative fair housing marketing and resident selection plan, to which the Affordable Housing is subject, and which includes an affirmative fair housing marketing program, including public notice and a fair resident selection process. Such plan shall be consistent with EOHLC guidance and approved by EOHLC. Consistent with EOHLC guidance, such plan shall include a preference based on need for the number of bedrooms in a unit and a preference based on need for the accessibility features of a unit where applicable, and may only provide for additional preferences in resident selection, such as a local preference, to the extent such preferences are also consistent with applicable law and approved by EOHLC.
- e) A requirement that buyers or tenants will be selected at the initial sale or initial rental and upon all subsequent sales and rentals from a list of Eligible Households compiled in accordance with the housing marketing and selection plan;
- f) Reference to the formula pursuant to which rent of an Affordable Rental Unit or the maximum resale price of an Affordable Homeownership Unit will be set;

- g) A requirement that only an Eligible Household may reside in Affordable Housing and that notice of any lease of any Affordable Rental Unit shall be given to the Monitoring Agent;
- h) Provision for effective monitoring and enforcement of the terms and provisions of the Affordable Housing Restriction by the Monitoring Agent;
- i) Provision that the Affordable Housing Restriction on an Affordable Homeownership Unit shall run in favor of the Monitoring Agent and/or the Town, in a form approved by municipal counsel, and shall limit initial sale and re-sale to and occupancy by an Eligible Household;
- j) Provision that the Affordable Housing Restriction on Affordable Rental Units in a rental Project or rental portion of a Project shall run with the rental Project or rental portion of a Project and shall run in favor of the Monitoring Agent and/or the Town, in a form approved by municipal counsel, and shall limit rental and occupancy to an Eligible Household;
- k) Provision that the owner(s) or manager(s) of Affordable Rental Unit(s) shall file an annual report to the Monitoring Agent, in a form specified by the Monitoring Agent, certifying compliance with the affordability provisions of this Section [x] and containing such other information as may be reasonably requested in order to ensure affordability; and
- l) A requirement that residents in Affordable Housing provide such information as the Monitoring Agent may reasonably request in order to ensure affordability.

6.7 Costs of Housing Marketing and Selection Plan. The housing marketing and selection plan may make provision for payment by the Applicant of reasonable costs to the Monitoring Agent to develop, advertise, and maintain the list of Eligible Households and to monitor and enforce compliance with affordability requirements.

6.8 Age Restrictions. Nothing in this Section [x] shall permit the imposition of restrictions on age upon Projects unless proposed or agreed to voluntarily by the Applicant. However, the PAA may, in its review of a submission under Section 6.3, allow a specific Project within the FSGOD designated exclusively for the elderly, for persons with disabilities, or for assisted living, provided that any such Project shall be in compliance with all applicable federal, state and local fair housing laws and regulations and not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the housing units in such a restricted Project shall be restricted as Affordable units.

6.9 Phasing. For any Project that is approved and developed in phases in accordance with Section 9.4, the percentage of Affordable units in each phase shall be at least equal to the minimum percentage of Affordable Housing required under Section 6.1. Where the percentage of Affordable Housing is not uniform across all phases, the unit dispersal and bedroom proportionality requirements under Section 6.5 shall be applied proportionately to the Affordable Housing provided for in each phase.

6.10 No Waiver. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, the affordability provisions in this Section 6 shall not be waived unless expressly approved in writing by EOHLC.

7. DENSITY STANDARDS AND DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS - GENERAL

7.1 Table of Requirements. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Zoning Bylaw, the density standards and dimensional requirements applicable in the FSGOD, including all Substantially Developed Land therein, are as follows:

Plaza Area Subdistrict

Lot size	Not applicable
Frontage	20'
Front setback	Min/max by street type; <u>see</u> Design Standards
Side setback	10' (0' for attached buildings)
Rear setback	10'
Open space (minimum)	10%
Outdoor Amenity Space	Minimum of 24 sq ft per dwelling unit if directly accessible from a habitable room in the unit; Minimum of 100 sq ft per dwelling unit if shared [Note: can be counted toward open space]
Civic Space	If there are more than 50 dwelling units on a development site, then a minimum of 50 sq. ft. of civic space must be provided per unit
Building coverage (max)	75%
Building Height	Min: 22' Maximum height per sub-area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plazas A: max 4 stories (55') • Plazas B: max 5 stories (65') • Plazas C: max 6 stories (75') • Height also limited by District Transitional Buffer, below
District Transitional Buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applies to: areas designated on the map accompanying the Design Standards • Setback: 50' measured from the District boundary • Baseline Building Height: 50' (subject to additional height limitations by sub-area) • Stepback for additional stories: Additional stories above the

	Baseline Building Height must be stepped back at 1:1 ratio (height:stepback)
Upper story stepback at front of lot	An upper story stepback is required above 4 stories; each additional story above 4 stories, must be stepped back at a 1:1 ratio (height:stepback), measured from the minimum front setback
Story Height, Ground Floor	12' min
Story Height, Upper Story	10' min
Building frontage occupancy (min)	50%
Ground Floor Use Limitation Area	30' min
Density	<p>20 units/acre max As-of-right Up to 35 units/acre with incentives by waiver</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional affordable housing units: 9 bonus units for each additional affordable unit provided beyond those which are required • Deeper affordability level than that which is required: number of bonus units = (designated X %AMI/.80)*number of units at X %AMI • Publicly accessible outdoor amenity space: 5 bonus units per acre of the development site for each 3% of the development site designated as publicly accessible outdoor amenity space • Improvements to offsite Town-owned open space may qualify for bonus units on a case-by-case basis, as determined by the PAA • Complete streets improvements beyond those which are required (including offsite improvements) may qualify for bonus units on a case-by-case basis as determined by the PAA

Waterfront Area Subdistrict

Lot size	Not applicable
Frontage	20'

Front setback	Min/max by street type (5' min/15' max); <u>see Design Standards</u>
Side setback	10' (0' for attached buildings)
Rear setback	20'
Open space (minimum)	10%
Outdoor Amenity Space	Minimum of 24 sq ft per dwelling unit if directly accessible from a habitable room in the unit; Minimum of 100 sq ft per dwelling unit if shared [Note: can be counted toward open space]
Civic Space	If more than 25 dwelling units on a development site, then a minimum of 175 sq. ft. of civic space must be provided per unit
Building coverage (max)	75%
Building Height	Min: N/A Max: 4 stories (45') <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Height measured from highest flood elevation on a lot per 2070 1% ACEP per Massachusetts Coast Flood Risk Model (MC-FRM) Additional height limitations per District Transitional Buffer and Upper Story Stepback at Front of Lot
District Transitional Buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applies to: development adjacent to an existing parcel with an existing residential use that is not included in the FSGOD Setback: same as to applicable side or rear setback Baseline Building Height: 3 stories or 35 feet at the relevant side or rear setback Stepback for additional building height: Additional stories above the Baseline Building Height must be stepped back at 1:1 ratio (height:stepback)
Upper story stepback at front of lot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applies to: development fronting on Middle Street, Main Street, Bridge Street, or Pease Street Stepback: same as minimum front setback

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline Building Height: 3 stories and/or 35 feet • Stepback for additional building height: Additional stories above the Baseline Building Height must be stepped back at a 1:1 ratio (height:stepback), measured from the minimum front setback
Story Height, Ground Floor	10' min
Story Height, Upper Story	10' min
Building frontage occupancy (min)	<p>50%</p> <p>When a lot fronts on both Middle Street and Main Street, the building frontage occupancy requirement applies only to the Main Street frontage</p>
Ground Floor Use Limitation Area	30' min
Density	<p>35 units/acre max As-of-right</p> <p>Up to 60 units/acre with incentives by waiver</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional affordable housing units: 9 bonus units for each additional affordable unit provided beyond those which are required • Deeper affordability level than that which is required: number of bonus units = (designated X %AMI/.80)*number of units at X %AMI • Publicly accessible outdoor amenity space: 5 bonus units per acre of the development site for each 3% of the development site designated as publicly accessible outdoor amenity space • Improvements to offsite Town-owned open space may qualify for bonus units on a case-by-case basis, as determined by the PAA • Complete streets improvements beyond those which are required (including offsite improvements) may qualify for bonus units on a case-by-case basis, as determined by the PAA

7.2 Dimensional Waivers in Substantially Developed Sub-district. The PAA may, in order to encourage the development of infill housing units on undeveloped lots on Substantially Developed Land, grant a waiver to the dimensional standards of Section 7.1, in accordance with Section 11.3; provided, however, that the foregoing shall not preclude or restrict the PAA's grant of waiver(s) elsewhere in the FSGOD, or from other requirements of this Bylaw, in accordance with Section 11.3.

8. PARKING REQUIREMENTS - GENERAL

The parking requirements applicable for Projects within the FSGOD are as follows.

8.1 Number of Parking Spaces. Unless otherwise found to be Unduly Restrictive with respect to Project feasibility and approved by the PAA, parking requirements shall be in accordance with the Institute of Transportation Engineers' (ITE) Parking Generation Manual, Sixth Edition, as amended from time-to-time, and shall be based upon the use or mix of use(s) proposed as part of a development Project. The PAA may allow for a decrease in any required parking as provided in Sections 8.2 and 8.3 below.

8.2 Shared Parking. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, the use of shared parking to fulfill parking demands noted above that occur at different times of day is strongly encouraged. Minimum parking requirements above may be reduced by the PAA through the Plan Approval process, if the Applicant can demonstrate that shared spaces will meet parking demands by using accepted methodologies (e.g., the Urban Land Institute's Shared Parking Report, the ITE Shared Parking Guidelines, or other approved studies).

8.3 Reduction in Parking Requirements. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, any minimum required amount of parking may be reduced by the PAA through the Plan Approval process, if the Applicant can demonstrate that the lesser amount of parking will not cause excessive congestion, or endanger public safety, or that such lesser amount of parking will provide positive environmental or other benefits, taking into consideration:

- a) The availability of surplus off-street parking in the vicinity of the use being served and/or the proximity of a bus stop or transit station;
- b) The availability of public or commercial parking facilities in the vicinity of the use being served;
- c) Shared use of off street parking spaces serving other uses having peak user demands at different times;
- d) To the extent consistent with 760 CMR 59.04(1)(g) and 760 CMR 59.04(1)(i)1., age or other occupancy restrictions which are likely to result in a lower level of automobile usage;
- e) Impact of the parking requirement on the physical environment of the affected lot or the adjacent lots including reduction in green space, destruction of significant existing trees and other vegetation, destruction of existing dwelling units, or loss of pedestrian amenities along public ways; and
- f) Any applicable transportation demand management strategies that will be

integrated into the Project or such other factors as may be considered by the PAA.

8.4 Location of Parking. Any surface parking lot shall, to the maximum extent feasible, be located at the rear or side of a building, relative to any principal street, public open space, or pedestrian way.

9. PLAN APPROVAL OF PROJECTS: GENERAL PROVISIONS

9.1 Plan Approval. An application for Plan Approval shall be reviewed by the PAA for consistency with the purpose and intent of Sections 9 through 11. Such Plan Approval process shall be construed as an As-of-Right review and approval process as required by and in accordance with the Governing Laws. All Projects advanced under this Section [x] shall be subject to the Plan Approval process.

9.2 Plan Approval Authority (PAA). The Planning Board, consistent with G.L. Chapter 40R and 760 CMR 59.00, shall be the Plan Approval Authority (the “PAA”), and it is authorized to conduct the Plan Approval process for purposes of reviewing Project applications and issuing Plan Approval decisions within the FSGOD.

9.3 PAA Regulations. The Plan Approval Authority may adopt administrative rules and regulations relative to Plan Approval. Such rules and regulations and any amendments thereof must be approved by EOHLC.

9.4 Project Phasing. An Applicant may propose, in a Plan Approval submission, that a Project be developed in phases, provided that the submission shows the full buildout of the Project and all associated impacts as of the completion of the final phase, and subject to the approval of the PAA. Any phased Project shall comply with the provisions of Section 6.9.

10. PLAN APPROVAL PROCEDURES

10.1 Preapplication. Prior to the submittal of a Plan Approval submission, the PAA recommends that a “Concept Plan” be submitted to help guide the development of the definitive submission for Project buildout and individual elements thereof. Such Concept Plan should reflect the following:

- a) Overall building envelope areas;
- b) Open space and natural resource areas; and
- c) General site improvements, groupings of buildings, and proposed land uses.

The Concept Plan is intended to be used as a tool for both the Applicant and the PAA to ensure that the proposed Project design will be consistent with the Design Standards and other requirements of the FSGOD.

10.2 Required Submittals. An application for Plan Approval shall be submitted to the PAA on the form provided by the PAA and approved by EOHLC, along with an application

fee as set forth in the PAA Regulations. The application shall be accompanied by such plans and documents as may be required and set forth in the PAA Regulations. For any Project that is subject to the Affordability requirements of Section 6, the application shall be accompanied by all materials required under Section 6.3. All site plans shall be prepared by a certified architect, landscape architect, and/or a civil engineer registered in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. All landscape plans shall be prepared by a certified landscape architect registered in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. All building elevations shall be prepared by a certified architect registered in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. All plans shall be signed and stamped, and drawings prepared at a scale of one inch equals forty feet (1"=40') or larger, or at a scale as approved in advance by the PAA.

10.3 Filing. An Applicant for Plan Approval shall file the required number of copies of the application form and the other required submittals as set forth in the PAA Regulations with the Town Clerk and a copy of the application including the date of filing certified by the Town Clerk shall be filed forthwith with the PAA.

10.4 Circulation to Other Boards. Upon receipt of the application, the PAA shall immediately provide a copy of the application materials to the Select Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Health, Conservation Commission, Fire Department, Police Department, Building Commissioner, Public Works Department, the Monitoring Agent (if already identified, for any Project subject to the Affordability requirements of Section 6.0), and other municipal officers, agencies or boards as may be designated in the PAA Regulations, for comment; and any such board, agency or officer shall provide any written comments within 60 days of its receipt of a copy of the plan and application for approval.

10.5 Hearing. The PAA shall hold a public hearing for which notice has been given as provided in Section 11 of G.L. Chapter 40A. The decision of the PAA shall be made, and a written notice of the decision filed with the Town Clerk, within 120 days of the receipt of the application by the Town Clerk. The required time limit for such action may be extended by written agreement between the Applicant and the PAA, with a copy of such agreement being filed in the office of the Town Clerk. Failure of the PAA to take action within said 120 days or extended time, if applicable, shall be deemed to be an approval of the Plan Approval application.

10.6 Peer Review. The Applicant shall be required to pay for reasonable consulting fees to provide peer review of the Plan Approval application, pursuant to G.L. Chapter 40R, Section 11(a). Such fees shall be held by the Town in a separate account and used only for expenses associated with the review of the application by outside consultants, including, but not limited to, attorneys, engineers, urban designers, housing consultants, planners, and others. Any surplus remaining after the completion of such review, including any interest accrued, shall be returned to the Applicant forthwith.

11. PLAN APPROVAL DECISIONS

11.1 Plan Approval. Plan Approval shall be granted where the PAA finds that:

- a) The Applicant has submitted the required fees and information as set forth in the PAA Regulations; and
- b) The Project as described in the application meets all of the requirements and standards set forth in this Section [x], the PAA Regulations, and the Design Standards incorporated herein by reference, or a waiver has been granted therefrom; and
- c) Any extraordinary adverse potential impacts of the Project on nearby properties have been adequately mitigated.

For a Project subject to the Affordability requirements of Section 6, compliance with Item b) above shall include written confirmation by the Monitoring Agent that all requirements of such Section have been satisfied. Any Plan Approval decision for a Project subject to the Affordability requirements of Section 6 shall specify the term of such affordability, which shall be the maximum period allowed by law but no less than ninety-nine (99) years. The PAA may attach conditions to the Plan Approval decision that are necessary to ensure substantial compliance with this Section [x], or the accompanying Design Standards, or to mitigate any extraordinary adverse potential impacts of the Project on nearby properties.

11.2 Plan Disapproval. A Plan Approval application may be disapproved only where the PAA finds that:

- a) The Applicant has not submitted the required fees and information as set forth in the PAA Regulations; or
- b) The Project as described in the application does not meet all of the requirements and standards set forth in this Section [x], the PAA Regulations, and the Design Standards incorporated herein by reference, or that a requested waiver therefrom has not been granted; or
- c) It is not possible to adequately mitigate extraordinary adverse Project impacts on nearby properties by means of suitable conditions.

11.3 Waivers. Upon the request of the Applicant and subject to compliance with G.L. Chapter 40R, 760 CMR 59.00 and Section 6.10, the Plan Approval Authority may waive dimensional and other requirements of Section [x], including the Design Standards, in the interests of design flexibility and overall project quality, and upon a finding of consistency of such variation with the overall purpose and objectives of the FSGOD, or if it finds that such waiver will allow the Project to achieve the density, affordability, mix of uses, and/or physical character allowable under this Section [x].

11.4 Project Phasing. The PAA, as a condition of any Plan Approval, may allow a Project to be phased at the request of the Applicant, or it may require a Project to be phased for the purpose of coordinating its development with the construction of Planned Infrastructure Improvements, or to mitigate any extraordinary adverse Project impacts on nearby properties. For Projects that are approved and developed in phases, unless otherwise explicitly approved in writing by EOHLC in relation to the specific Project, the

proportion of Affordable units in each phase shall be at least equal to the minimum percentage of Affordable Housing required under Section 6.1.

11.5 Form of Decision. The PAA shall issue to the Applicant a copy of its decision containing the name and address of the owner, identifying the land affected, and the plans that were the subject of the decision, and certifying that a copy of the decision has been filed with the Town Clerk and that all plans referred to in the decision are on file with the PAA. If twenty (20) days have elapsed after the decision has been filed in the office of the Town Clerk without an appeal having been filed or if such appeal, having been filed, is dismissed or denied, the Town Clerk shall so certify on a copy of the decision. If a plan is approved by reason of the failure of the PAA to timely act, the Town Clerk shall make such certification on a copy of the application. A copy of the decision or application bearing such certification shall be recorded in the registry of deeds for the county and district in which the land is located and indexed in the grantor index under the name of the owner of record or recorded and noted on the owner's certificate of title with the district registry of the Land Court. The fee for recording or registering shall be paid by the Applicant.

11.6 Validity of Decision. A Plan Approval shall remain valid and shall run with the land indefinitely, provided that construction has commenced within two years after the decision is issued, which time shall be extended by the time required to adjudicate any appeal from such approval and which time shall also be extended if the Project proponent is actively pursuing other required permits for the Project or there is other good cause for the failure to commence construction, or as may be provided in a Plan Approval for a multi-phase Project.

12. CHANGE IN PLANS AFTER APPROVAL BY PAA

12.1 Minor Change. After Plan Approval, an Applicant may apply to make minor change(s) in a Project involving minor utility or building orientation adjustments, or minor adjustments to parking or other site details that do not affect the overall buildout or building envelope of the site, or provision of open space, number of housing units, or housing need or affordability features. Such minor change(s) must be submitted to the PAA on redlined print(s) of the approved plan, reflecting the proposed change(s), and on application form(s) provided by the PAA. The PAA may authorize such change(s) at any regularly scheduled meeting, without the need to hold a public hearing. The PAA shall set forth any decision to approve or deny such minor change(s) by motion and written decision, and provide a copy to the Applicant for filing with the Town Clerk.

12.2 Major Change. Those changes deemed by the PAA to constitute a major change in a Project because of the nature of the change in relation to the prior approved plan, or because such change cannot be appropriately characterized as a minor change as described above, shall be processed by the PAA as a new application for Plan Approval pursuant to Sections 9 through 11.

13. DESIGN STANDARDS - GENERAL

13.1 Adoption of Design Standards. Any Project undergoing the Plan Approval process shall be subject to compliance with design standards (“Design Standards”) entitled “Design Standards, Smart Growth Overlay Districts, Town of Fairhaven, MA,” dated May 20, 2024, prepared by Dodson & Flinker, which Design Standards are incorporated herein by reference. The Design Standards may be amended from time-to-time by majority vote of the PAA, subject to review and approval by EOHLC for compliance and consistency with G.L. Chapter 40R, 760 CMR 59.00, and this Section [x].

13.2 Purpose. The Design Standards are adopted to provide Applicants and the PAA with a shared understanding of appropriate design for Projects within the FSGOD. Applicants bring their own programmatic goals for their Projects and are faced with numerous choices, often amongst competing design priorities. The Design Standards explain the key aspects of design for the FSGOD so that incremental development Projects will add up to the intended cohesive vision for each Subdistrict within the FSGOD. The Design Standards help to ensure that the physical character of Projects within the FSGOD:

- a) will be complementary to nearby buildings and structures, roadways, greenways, pedestrian paths, and other public spaces;
- b) will be consistent with the Fairhaven 2040 Master Plan and of the Fairhaven Economic Development Plan; and
- c) will provide for high-density quality development consistent with the character of building types, streetscapes, and other community features traditionally found in, or desired for, more densely settled areas of the Town.

14. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Section [x] is found to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Section [x] shall not be affected but shall remain in full force. The invalidity of any provision of this Section [x] shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Town’s Zoning Bylaw.