

# CITY OF NORTHAMPTON

## MASSACHUSETTS

*In the Year Two Thousand and Sixteen*

Upon the Recommendation of Office of Planning and Sustainability

**16.158**

### **An Ordinance**

### **Relative to photovoltaic systems and related accessory structures in various zoning districts**

An Ordinance of the City of Northampton, Massachusetts. Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Northampton, in City Council assembled, as follows:

#### SECTION 1

That Section 350 of the Code of Ordinances Attachment 7 Table of Use and Dimensional Regulations for Urban Residential B (URB) be amended by adding the following bullet in list of uses allowed by special permit shown below.

#### **URB USES ALLOWED**

***Special Permit Approval required for the following uses by Planning Board unless otherwise noted:***

- Solar photovoltaic (PV), large-scale groundmounted not requiring the removal of more than 25,000 board feet of timber. Setbacks:
  - Front: 50 feet
  - Side: 50 feet
  - Rear: 50 feet
  - Maximum height = 30 feet
  - Open space = 20%

A planted buffer to abutting residential property shall be at least 15 feet in width along the property boundary. It shall contain a screen of plantings of vertical habit in the center of the strip not less than three feet in width and six feet in height at the time of occupancy of such lot. Individual shrubs shall be planted not more than five feet on center, and individual trees thereafter shall be maintained by the owner or occupants so as to maintain a dense screen yearround. At least 50% of the plantings shall be evenly spaced. Whenever possible, existing trees and ground cover should be preserved in this strip, reducing the need to plant additional trees. Trees may not be cut down in this strip without site plan approval.

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#### SECTION 2

That Section 350 of the Code of Ordinances Attachment 6 Table of Use and Dimensional Regulations for Urban Residential A (URA) be amended by adding the following bullet in list of uses allowed by special permit shown below.

#### **URA USES ALLOWED**

***[Special Permit Approval required for the following uses by Planning Board unless otherwise noted:]***

- Solar photovoltaic (PV), large-scale groundmounted not requiring the removal of more than 25,000 board feet of timber. Setbacks:
  - Front: 50 feet

Side: 50 feet  
Rear: 50 feet  
Maximum height = 30 feet  
Open space = 20%

A planted buffer to abutting residential property shall be at least 15 feet in width along the property boundary. It shall contain a screen of plantings of vertical habit in the center of the strip not less than three feet in width and six feet in height at the time of occupancy of such lot. Individual shrubs shall be planted not more than five feet on center, and individual trees thereafter shall be maintained by the owner or occupants so as to maintain a dense screen yearround. At least 50% of the plantings shall be evenly spaced. Whenever possible, existing trees and ground cover should be preserved in this strip, reducing the need to plant additional trees. Trees may not be cut down in this strip without site plan approval.

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### SECTION 3

That Section 350 of the Code of Ordinances Attachment 5 Table of Use and Dimensional Regulations for Suburban Residential (SR) be amended by adding the following bullet in list of uses allowed by special permit shown below.

#### **SR USES ALLOWED**

***Special Permit Approval required for the following uses by Planning Board unless otherwise noted:***

- Solar photovoltaic (PV), large-scale groundmounted not requiring the removal of more than 25,000 board feet of timber. Setbacks:
  - Front: 50 feet
  - Side: 50 feet
  - Rear: 50 feet
  - Maximum height = 30 feet
  - Open space = 20%

A planted buffer to abutting residential property shall be at least 15 feet in width along the property boundary. It shall contain a screen of plantings of vertical habit in the center of the strip not less than three feet in width and six feet in height at the time of occupancy of such lot. Individual shrubs shall be planted not more than five feet on center, and individual trees thereafter shall be maintained by the owner or occupants so as to maintain a dense screen yearround. At least 50% of the plantings shall be evenly spaced. Whenever possible, existing trees and ground cover should be preserved in this strip, reducing the need to plant additional trees. Trees may not be cut down in this strip without site plan approval.

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### SECTION 4

That Section 350 of the Code of Ordinances Attachment 4 Table of Use and Dimensional Regulations for Rural Residential (RR) be amended by adding the following bullet in list of uses allowed by special permit shown below.

#### **RR USES ALLOWED**

***Special Permit Approval required for the following uses by Planning Board unless otherwise noted:***

- Solar photovoltaic (PV), large-scale ground mounted not requiring the removal of more than 25,000 board feet of timber. Setbacks:
  - Front: 50 feet
  - Side: 50 feet
  - Rear: 50 feet
  - Maximum height = 30 feet
  - Open space = 20%

A planted buffer to abutting residential property shall be at least 15 feet in width along the property boundary. It shall contain a screen of plantings of vertical habit in the center of the strip not less than three feet in width and six feet in height at the time of occupancy of such lot. Individual shrubs shall be planted not more than five feet on center, and individual trees thereafter shall be maintained by the owner or occupants so as to maintain a dense screen year round. At least 50% of the plantings shall be evenly spaced. Whenever possible, existing trees and ground cover should be preserved in this strip, reducing the need to plant additional trees. Trees may not be cut down in this strip without site plan approval.