

**CITY OF MARLBOROUGH  
PLANNING BOARD  
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 01752**

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

**Public Hearing – Proposed Zoning Amendment to Chapter 650 “Zoning” to amend §22 “Retirement Community Overlay Districts” to include Map 39, Parcels 5 and 26B located on Robin Hill Street.**

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Board of the City of Marlborough will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** on **Monday, November 13, 2023, at 7:00 PM** in Memorial Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, City Hall, 140 Main Street, Marlborough, Massachusetts to amend Chapter 650, §22 “Retirement Community Overlay Districts” to include Map 39, Parcels 5 and 26 B on Robin Hill Street.

THAT, PURSUANT TO § 5 OF CHAPTER 40A OF THE GENERAL LAWS, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARLBOROUGH, HAVING RECEIVED FOR ITS CONSIDERATION CHANGES IN THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MARLBOROUGH, AS AMENDED, TO FURTHER AMEND CHAPTER 650, NOW ORDAINS THAT THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MARLBOROUGH, AS AMENDED, BE FURTHER AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

1. By amending the Zoning Map established by Section 650-8, “Boundaries Established; Zoning Map”, by superimposing the Retirement Community Overlay District, RCO-D/T and RCO-MF, over Assessors Map 39, Parcels 5 and 26B; and
2. By amending certain provisions of Section 650-22, “Retirement Community Overlay Districts”, as follows (new text underlined, deleted text in ~~strikethrough~~):

**§ 650-22. Retirement Community Overlay Districts.**

- A. Purpose. The purpose of the Retirement Community Overlay District shall be to advance the public health, safety and welfare by providing for the development of retirement communities that provide housing choices for persons aged 55 or over on sites which are otherwise zoned for other purposes but which, because of the size of the parcel being developed and its proximity to other residential neighborhoods and/or residential amenities and supportive services, will provide an appropriate environment for a retirement community.  
[Amended 4-8-2019 by Ord. No. 18/19-1007452G]
- B. Location. For the purposes of this section, a Retirement Community Overlay District shall be considered superimposed on the other districts existing at the time that any land in any said underlying district is also included in the Retirement Community Overlay District. The rezoning of any or all of the land included in the Retirement Community Overlay District from one underlying zoning classification to another shall not affect its inclusion in the Retirement Community Overlay District, unless said land is specifically removed from the said Retirement Community Overlay District.
- C. Permitted uses. All permitted uses must comply with the appropriate provisions of Article V and Article VII, except as otherwise specified herein or as otherwise approved by the City Council as part of the Special Permit process. In addition to those uses which are allowed, either as of right or by special permit, in the underlying district of any land which has been included in the Retirement Community Overlay District, the City Council may, by special permit in accordance with § 650-59, permit a retirement community-detached and townhomes ~~or~~ and a retirement community-multifamily, as defined in § 650-5 except as otherwise set forth herein, consistent with the following provisions:  
[Amended 3-10-2003 by Ord. No. 03-9944B; 4-25-2011 by Ord. No. 11-1002806-1A; 4-8-2019 by Ord. No. 18/19-1007452G]

(1) Retirement community - detached and townhomes (RCO-D/T).

- (a) No building in an RCO-D/T community shall be more than 2 1/2 stories in height.
- (b) Each building in an RCO-D/T community shall face either upon an existing street or upon a public or private way constructed within said RCO-D/T community and shall have a minimum front yard of no less than 20 feet from the edge of the paved way to the closest point of the structure and a side yard of not less than 10 feet from the edge of the paved way to the closest point of the structure. Each building, whether principal or accessory, shall be at least 10 feet distant from any other building by airline distance between the nearest points of the buildings.
- (c) No dwelling in an RCO-D/T community shall contain less than 1,000 square feet of living area or more than 2,400 square feet of living area.
- (d) All dwelling units in an RCO-D/T community shall be detached from the others or attached only along side walls in the so-called "townhouse" style.
- (e) The lot or lots on which an RCO-D/T community is located shall contain, on a consolidated basis, at least 7,000 square feet per housing unit.
- (f) No part of any principal building in an RCO-D/T community shall be less than 25 feet from any exterior lot line or less than 50 feet from the side of any public way.
- (g) Each dwelling unit in an RCO-D/T community shall have its own attached yard area.
- (h) Required off-street parking for each dwelling unit in an RCO-D/T community shall be adjacent thereto. Each unit shall be required to provide at least one parking space inside a garage and an additional space in front of a garage, said garage to be attached to said unit. The City Council may, as a condition of its special permit, require additional off-street parking areas to be used in common by dwelling unit owners and their invitees. In addition, the City Council may, as a condition of the special permit, require the adoption of legally enforceable condominium bylaws or other similar regulations to limit or prohibit the presence in an RCO-D/T community, either entirely or except in designated locations, of boats, boat trailers, campers, or other recreational vehicles.
- (i) Maximum combined lot coverage in an RCO-D/T community shall not exceed 40% of the total lot size.
- (j) Each lot or contiguous lots upon which an RCO-D/T community is located shall have total frontage on an existing public way of at least 250 feet. Each lot or combination of lots shall have a total size of not less than 10 acres. The underlying zoning district for all said land shall be either Industrial or Limited Industrial.
- (k) The City Council may, as a permit condition, require that all proposed condominium bylaws or similar binding RCO-D/T community regulations which may be relevant to the issuance of the permit, including but not limited to bylaw provisions prohibiting the presence of children residing in an RCO-D/T community and limiting or prohibiting the presence in a RCO-D/T community of boats, boat trailers, or recreational vehicles, be made a part of the special permit and that any change to or failure to enforce said provisions shall be a violation of said special permit.

- (l) The City Council may, as a permit condition, require that a proposed RCO-D/T community be constructed entirely on one lot, and that, from and after the date of the issuance of the building permit for said community or any portion thereof, no subdivision of said lot shall be allowed without the express approval of the City Council; provided, however, that the recording of a condominium master deed and the conveyance of condominium units within the area covered by said deed shall be allowed.
  - (m) No unit in an RCO-D/T community shall have more than three bedrooms.
  - (n) If an RCO/DT community is proposed which contains at least 30 acres of land, the following provisions shall supersede those found elsewhere in § 650-22:
    - [1] The lot or lots on which an RCO/DT community is located shall contain at least 5,000 square feet per unit in the RCO/DT community;
    - [2] Maximum lot coverage in the RCO/DT community shall not exceed 50% of the total lot size, excluding from the lot size any land which, prior to development of the site as a RCO/DT community, would be defined as a "resource area," as that term is defined in MGL c. 131, § 40.
    - [3] Each lot or contiguous set of lots upon which a RCO/DT community is located shall have total frontage on an existing public way, or on a private way laid out by the City Council pursuant to MGL c. 82, § 21, of at least 250 feet; provided, however, that said frontage need not be continuous.
- (2) Retirement Community - Multifamily (RCO-MF).
- (a) The total area of the tract of contiguous parcels to be developed as an RCO-MF shall not be less than 10 acres. The underlying zoning district for all said land shall be either Industrial or Limited Industrial and be located: (i) within the area that lies within the perimeter of the following roadways: commencing at the Fitchburg Street intersection at the Route 85/290 Connector Road; then west along the Route 85/290 Connector Road to the intersection of Route 495; then south along Route 495 to where it passes over the intersection with Berlin Road; then southeasterly along Berlin Road to the intersection with West Hill Road; then easterly along West Hill Road to the intersection with Pleasant Street; then north along Pleasant Street to the intersection with Fitchburg Street; then north along Fitchburg Street to the intersection with the Route 85/290 Connector Road, all of said land being in reasonable proximity to the UMass Memorial Marlborough Hospital and the interstate highway intersection of Route 495 and Route 290; or (ii) within an area designated by the City Council through an amendment to the Zoning Map.
  - (b) An RCO-MF may contain one- and two-bedroom units and studio units for independent living persons, and may include services and amenities for its residents, including but not limited to, dining facilities, in-unit kitchens, common rooms, activity rooms, exercise rooms, theater, chapel, library, pharmacy/gift shop/convenience store, beauty salon, barbershop, personal banking services, offices and accessory uses or structures, concierge and valet services, third-party vendor services, and recreation facilities.
  - (c) No building in an RCO-MF shall be more than ~~three~~ **four** stories in height. Subsurface parking levels shall not be considered a story, and there shall be no limitation on building height beyond the maximum of four stories.
  - (d) The total number of **multifamily** dwelling units in an RCO-MF shall be limited to 12 units per acre, which may be located in multiple multifamily buildings within an RCO-MF and on a single parcel.



- (e) No part of any principal building in an RCO-MF shall be less than 50 feet from any exterior lot line or less than 100 feet from any **municipal** public way.
- (f) Maximum combined lot coverage in an RCO-MF, including any permitted accessory structures, shall not exceed 40% of the tract or contiguous parcels.
- (g) The tract or contiguous parcels upon which an RCO-MF is located shall have a minimum total frontage on an existing public or private way of at least 200 feet.
- (h) The City Council may, as a permit condition, require that all proposed condominium bylaws or similar binding RCO-MF regulations which may be relevant to the issuance of the permit, including but not limited to bylaw provisions prohibiting the presence of children residing in a retirement community and limiting or prohibiting the presence in a retirement community of boats, boat trailers, or recreational vehicles, be made a part of the special permit and that any change to or failure to enforce said provisions shall be a violation of said special permit.
- (i) The City Council may, as a permit condition, require that a proposed RCO-MF be constructed entirely on one tract and that, from and after the date of the issuance of the building permit for said community no subdivision of said tract shall be allowed without the express approval of the City Council; provided, however, that the recording of a condominium master deed and the conveyance of condominium units within the area covered by said deed shall be allowed.
- (j) A minimum of 1.0 parking space per dwelling unit shall be provided in an RCO-MF. Attached and detached garages shall count toward this parking requirement.
- (k) No dwelling unit in **a multifamily building with three or more stories in** an RCO-MF shall contain less than 500 square feet of living area or more than ~~1,300~~ **1,600** square feet of living area.
- (l) No building in an RCO-MF need be located or placed further from the exterior line of any street or public way than the average distance from such street or way line of the dwellings or other principal buildings located on the lots adjacent thereto on either side. In determining such average, a vacant side lot having a frontage of 50 feet or more shall be considered as though occupied by a building having the required setback, and a lot separated from the lot in question only by a vacant lot having a frontage of less than 50 feet shall be deemed an adjacent lot. The point of measurement of the average distance shall be from the closest point of the principal building to the street or public way regardless of parcel ownership.
- (m) In an RCO-MF, there shall be provided with each multifamily building a landscaped area equal to the greatest single floor area of the building, provided that such landscaped area may include undisturbed natural areas, such as
- (n) vegetated areas, woodlands, wetlands and floodplain areas.

**(3) Retirement Community – Combined RCO-D/T and RCO-MF.**

- (a) **The City Council may, by special permit, authorize a retirement community development with combined RCO-D/T and RCO-MF components on a single parcel or more than one contiguous parcel.**
- (b) **The City Council may, by special permit, elect to vary the dimensional, parking, design, open space, and landscaping requirements applicable to a combined RCO-D/T and RCO-MF retirement community development upon finding that such change shall result in an improved design and will not nullify or substantially derogate from the intent or purpose of this section (§650-22 et seq.). This authority continues subsequent to occupancy.**

***Per Order of the City Council***  
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