



Town of Plympton  
By-law Review Committee  
*Newsletter*

Number 14  
November 1st, 2018

The By-law Review continues to delve into the Schedule of Uses – Section 4.2 of the current By-law document. We are attempting to ascertain what needs to be clarified, updated for better compliance with state law, added as a brand new allowed use, or deleted as a use that is no longer pertinent to Plympton’s zoning regulations. Given the size and scope of this task, we divided ourselves into three subcommittees, as follows:

**Residential** – Alan Wheelock, Amy Cronin, Jean Cohen

**Commercial** – Ann Sobolewski, Ted Taranto, Kim Russo

**Industrial** – Ken Thompson, Dave Alberti

A vital aspect of updating the Schedule of Uses is to build out what are called **Definitions**. These are associated with many of the uses stipulated in the Schedule of Uses. You will find the **Definitions** section in the current By-law document under Section 11. As it stands today, Plympton has attempted to provide definitions for 30 potential land use activities. However, the Schedule of Uses table contains 89 potential land use activities – thus a great many potential uses do not have precise, unambiguous definitions in the zoning law document. Our committee believes that lack of clear, concise definitions is detrimental to the goal of having fair, effective zoning by-laws.

As we build out the revised Schedule of Uses, we are carefully constructing definitions for each and every use. As an example of the clarification work that is needed to strengthen **Definitions**, consider this one from our current Zoning By-law:

**Bowling Alley, Commercial Place of Amusement, Museum, Theatre:** All business is to be conducted within the structure.

In reading this, some obvious questions come to mind:

- What is a Commercial Place of Amusement?
- What types of Museums are permitted?

- What is meant by Theatre – a movie cinema, a facility where plays are staged? Both?
- What is the precise definition of a Bowling Alley?

And so on.

Our Committee will be reaching out to many other boards, committees, and town employees for help with crafting clear and easy to understand **Definitions**.

The By-law Review Committee meets on the first and third Thursday of each month at the Town House – starting at 6:30 PM – residents are welcome to attend!

Thank you.

Alan Wheelock - Chairman Plympton By-law Review Committee