

BROOKLINE PLANNING BOARD
Section 800

~~Proposed deleted items~~ **Proposed changes**

Amendment No. 4

800.00 *NONCONFORMING USES, ~~STRUCTURES AND LOTS~~, AND STRUCTURES*

The purpose of this section is to allow for the lawful continuance of nonconforming uses, structures and lots, in accordance with the criteria outlined below and to allow for a reasonable level of alteration, expansion or change to occur by special exception when it can be demonstrated that the proposed alteration, expansion or change will not change the nature of the use, unduly impact the neighborhood or provide inadequate subsurface disposal of waste.

800.01 *Nonconforming Uses*

- a. Any nonconforming use may continue in its present use, however, it shall not be changed to another nonconforming use.
- b. Whenever a nonconforming use has been intentionally discontinued or abandoned for a period of one year the use shall not be reestablished.
- c. ~~Except for proposal "B" (see diagram in section 800.03),~~ Any alteration, expansion or change of a nonconforming use ~~or structure~~ shall ~~only~~ be permitted by special exception by the Zoning Board of Adjustment if it finds that:
 1. The proposed alteration, expansion or change will not change the nature and purpose of the ~~original present~~ use; and
 2. The proposed alteration, expansion or change would involve no substantially different effect on the neighborhood; ~~and~~
 3. ~~Any increase in heated living space which, in the judgment of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, is capable of increasing the number of bedrooms for a nonconforming dwelling or lot, may require that the septic system be approved by the NH Division of Water Supply and Pollution Control and the Town of Brookline in accordance with the provisions of RSA 485-A:38 and the Town's regulations for the number of bedrooms currently in the home or proposed for the home.~~

800.02 *Nonconforming Lots*

- a. A nonconforming lot that has been developed with a structure may continue in its present use; however, any alteration or expansion, shall comply with Sections 800.01 **and 800.03**.
- ~~b.~~ A nonconforming lot which is recorded and taxed as a lot of record at the time of passage of this Ordinance may be used for any **use** permitted ~~use~~ in the district in which it is located. ~~Every attempt shall be made to conform to the lot size/setback requirements of the zone~~
- c. **The fact that an existing lot does not conform to the dimensional requirements of the district in which it is located does not preclude its being developed, however, on nonconforming lots, new structures which cannot conform to the setback requirements of the zone shall require a variance from the Zoning Board of Adjustment.**
- ~~d.~~ ~~Where two (2) or more nonconforming, undersized, lots abut and are under common ownership, prior to the issuance of a building permit the parcels shall be merged into one lot and shall comply with the zoning requirements to the best of their ability. Every attempt shall be made to conform to the lot size/setback requirements of the zone.~~
- d. Any changes to existing septic systems on nonconforming lots must comply with all local and state requirements for septic systems to the maximum extent possible. **New structures shall require a septic system which complies NH Division of Water Supply and Pollution Control and**

the Town of Brookline in accordance with the provisions of RSA 485-A:38 and the Town of Brookline's Zoning Ordinance Section 303.02

800.03 *Nonconforming Structures*

- a. Any lawful nonconforming structure existing at the time of adoption of this Ordinance, may be occupied, operated and maintained.
- b. **Any alteration, expansion, or change of a structure which already extends into the front, side, or rear setbacks required for the zone shall be permitted by special exception by the Zoning Board of Adjustment if it finds that:**
 - 1. The proposed alteration, expansion, or change will not change the nature and purpose of the original use; and
 - 2. The proposed alteration, expansion, or change would involve no substantially different effect on the neighborhood; and
 - 3. The proposed alteration, expansion, or change would extend no farther into the setback than that portion of the structure which already resides in that setback.
- c. Any development which would create a new extension into a setback shall require a variance from the Zoning Board of Adjustment.
- d. Accessory structures which can meet the setback requirements do not require a special exception or variance.
- e. Any increase in the number of bedrooms shall require that a septic system that complies NH Division of Water Supply and Pollution Control and the Town of Brookline in accordance with the provisions of RSA 485-A:38 and the Town of Brookline's Zoning Ordinance Section 303.02.

Remove the graphic at the end of the section, use words to describe the nonconforming structures and lots in different situations. Update cross references for expansion of uses that require septic system upgrades. In addition, remove some of the ambiguity regarding setbacks.

The graphic at the end of this section can be misleading. Removing the graphic and using words will make the intent clearer.