

Water Resources Commission

Article 24. General Bylaw Amendment – Water Conservation 30660

EXPLANATION PRESENTATION

What is the purpose of this bylaw change?

- 01 INCREASE AWARENESS**
Consolidate all elements of the current outdoor water use restrictions in one place.
- 02 ENFORCEMENT**
Last summer, 1 residence received 28 separate fines. The current fine structure is not working.
- 03 COMMITMENT**
Strengthen the restrictions and acknowledge the Town's commitment to protecting our drinking water resources.



Current vs Proposed Bylaw

The current bylaw simply authorizes the Select Board to implement water use restrictions and states the fines for violation. All other aspects of the Town's water use restrictions reside in either the Town's Water Management Act permits or the Water Department's proposals that are made to the Select Board throughout the season.

The proposed bylaw consolidates all of that information in one place.



What changes are we proposing?

Tiers

Addition of Tiers (ie. Tier 1, Tier 2...) to the current 4 levels of water restrictions – Section 6

Fines

Increase fines for those who violate the bylaw – Section 6

Inground Irrigation Systems

No new irrigation systems can hookup to town water and all inground irrigation systems must be registered with the Town – Section 10



Frequently Asked Questions

Why do we need this?

To clarify and organize the many elements of our outdoor water use restrictions. This should help residents get a better handle on what the regulations are without having to search different departments. It also clarifies current regulations into a more coherent bylaw.

Does this bylaw increase fines?

Yes, but only for repeat offenders. This bylaw does increase the fines for residents who violate the water ban regulations multiple times.

Does this regulate private wells?

No.

Does this change my ability to get an irrigation system for my lawn?

No, because you are not currently allowed to obtain a permit for inground irrigation systems that pull from municipal water sources. This is just codifying this mandate into the bylaws.

The background is a solid teal color. On the left side, there are several white, overlapping, organic shapes that resemble liquid droplets or soft-edged circles. One of these shapes is a large, light teal circle that overlaps the top and left edges. Another is a smaller, darker teal circle located in the center-right area. The overall design is clean and modern.

QUESTIONS?

Email WRC@scituatema.gov