

4.13 Town Center Zone

4.13.1 Purpose and Intent

The purpose of the Town Center Zone is to provide a uniform set of regulations for Glastonbury's Town Center that allows for compatible mix of uses at a density and scale supportive of development and redevelopment that will enhance and strengthen this area as a vital center for the Town. The primary objective of this zone is to implement recommendations of the 2007-2017 Plan of Conservation and Development and the Glastonbury Center 2020 Shared Vision Plan. Key recommendations include new mixed use projects, enhanced streetscapes, improved vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle circulation and new residential opportunities.

4.13.2 Permitted Uses

Land areas shall be used and buildings or structures shall be erected, altered, enlarged or used only for the uses or use categories listed below and indicated in Section 5: Table of Permitted Uses of these Regulations, subject to such standards as may be referred to herein.

Permitted Uses and Use Categories

Unless otherwise indicated, all uses and use categories require a Section 12 Special Permit with Design Review from the Town Plan and Zoning Commission.

(0) Numbers in parenthesis indicate the subsection of Section 2 defining the use or use category.

Prmt Uses and use categories permitted as of right subject to the requirements of the Town Center Zone and any other applicable provisions of these regulations.

Dwelling, single family, if existing on or before [adoption date of zone]

Dwelling, two-family, if existing on or before [adoption date of zone]

Assisted living, convalescent or nursing home, if existing on or before [adoption date of zone]

Sp Uses and use categories permitted following approval of Special Permit with Design Review by the Town Plan and Zoning Commission in accordance with the provisions of Section 12 of these Regulations.

Any Special Permit use existing within the TC Zone on or before [date of adoption of the TC Zone] is deemed to have been granted a Special Permit for such use.

Assisted Living, Convalescent or Nursing Facility (expansion of existing facilities only)

Bed and Breakfasts/Inn

Business services, except for warehousing and motor vehicle rental services

Day Care Center
Dwelling, multifamily
Fitness club
Government services
Historic and monument sites (9)
Library
Mixed use development – unified residential and commercial uses*
Museum
Office, general or professional
Office, medical
Personal Service
Places of worship
Recreation uses
Retail, including sale of alcohol for off-site consumption
Restaurant, including sale of alcohol for on-site consumption
Theater, legitimate and/or motion picture
Utility- electric, gas and water

*For any building for which both residential and commercial uses are proposed, first floor and basement uses shall be limited to commercial uses only. In mixed use structures where first floor or basement residential uses are existing on or before [adoption date of zone], said residential uses shall be permitted. For existing developments where a residential use is added, the area (square footage) containing existing commercial uses shall not be reduced. This shall also apply to the area of commercial space on a site where any and all buildings are demolished and the site is redeveloped.

4.13.3 Permitted Accessory Uses

Customary accessory uses are permitted in accordance with the list below and as indicated in Section 5: Table of Permitted Uses of these Regulations, subject to such standards as may be referred to in Section 5 and herein.

Permitted Accessory Uses and Use Categories

(0) Numbers in parenthesis indicate the subsection of Section 2 defining the use or use category.

Acc Uses and use categories permitted as an accessory use.

4.13.4 Development Plan

No existing building, structure or use, other than existing single and two-family dwellings, shall be enlarged or altered until a Development Plan has been approved by the Town Plan and Zoning Commission in accordance with Section 12 of the Building Zone Regulations.

4.13.5 Change of Use

Within the TC Zone, any non-residential change of use that does not involve exterior building modifications or require the construction of additional parking shall be permitted as of right. Any change of use that does require the construction of parking or proposed exterior building modifications or additions shall require submission of a Special Permit Application to the Office of Community Development. Determination of whether a change in an approved Development Plan shall be deemed a Section 12.9 minor change, a Section 12.10 insignificant change or a Special Permit with Design Review in accordance with Section 12 of these Regulations shall be made by the Office of Community Development.

4.13.6 Development Requirements

Uses in effect prior to the enactment of the Town Center Zone on [date, 2013] that do not meet the Development Requirements outlined herein shall be considered grandfathered uses¹ provided that they met the Development Requirements of the previously existing zone. Any new additions or buildings on such sites shall not increase non-compliance within the new Town Center Zone. Any change of use that is not considered a minor change or insignificant change in accordance with Section 12 of these Regulations shall be subject to the Development Standards outlined herein and will require Development Plan approval from the Town Plan and Zoning Commission in accordance with all requirements set forth in Section 12 of these Regulations

a) Lot Area

Minimum lot area shall be 40,000 square feet, except that smaller legal lots of record under separate ownership may be developed and used for a permitted use provided that the Town Plan and Zoning Commission finds that the proposed Development Plan for such lots complies with the criteria set forth in Section 12 of these Regulations.

b) Building Coverage

Maximum floor area ratio (FAR)² shall be 0.5 for all commercial, multifamily residential and mixed use buildings. FAR shall not apply to single family and two-family dwellings.

¹ To be added to Section 2: Definitions- Grandfathered Use: For purposes of Section 4.13. 6 of these regulations, a use existing prior to the enactment of current zoning that does not conform to current zoning, but which is permitted as a legal pre-existing use due to its conformance with the development requirements of the zone existing prior to the enactment of these Town Center regulations.

² To be added to Section 2: Definitions- Floor Area Ratio: The ratio of total building floor area to area of the lot, excluding unfinished basements, utility rooms, open porches and ground level carports and/or garages.

c) Lot Frontage

Every lot shall have a minimum lot frontage of not less than 100 feet, except that the provisions set forth in 4.13.6(a) above for smaller lots shall also apply to lot frontage.

d) Setbacks

1. Front Yard

There shall be a minimum front yard of 25 feet for every principal building. Placement of parking to the rear or side of the building is encouraged.

2. Side Yards

There shall be no minimum side yard required between attached adjacent buildings. For semi-attached buildings with one side yard, a minimum side yard setback of 20 feet shall be required. For free-standing buildings two side yards must be provided. The combined width of the two side yards shall be at least 20 feet with a minimum setback of 8 feet on one side.

3. Rear Yard

There shall be a minimum rear yard of 20 feet for every principal building.

e) Maximum Height Limit

No building shall exceed a height of 3 stories or 38 feet.

f) Required Open Space

Open space for commercial, multifamily dwellings and mixed use buildings shall be equal to 20 percent of lot area.

g) Design Standards

As part of Development Plan approval the applicant shall demonstrate to the Plan and Zoning Commission how the design standards outlined in the Glastonbury Center 2020 Shared Vision Plan have been incorporated into the Development Plan. These standards shall include use of distinctive paving materials; incorporation of trees, shrubs and seasonal plantings; placement of street furniture; and use and placement of appropriate lighting fixtures.

Where parking areas are contiguous with adjacent parking areas, whether within the same or different ownership, no fencing, screening, shrubbery or other barrier shall be used to prevent the movement of vehicles from one parking area to another.

h) Signage shall be in accordance with Section 10 of these regulations.

i) Parking

1) Parking Requirements

The following parking requirements shall apply to uses within the Town Center Zone:

a) Residential

Dwelling, single family: 2 spaces per unit

Dwelling, two-family: 2 spaces per unit

Dwelling, multifamily

Studio: 1 space per unit

One-bedroom: 1.5 spaces per unit

Two bedrooms or more: 2 spaces per unit

b) Commercial

Shall be in accordance with Section 9 of these regulations

2) Shared Parking

Joint use of off-street parking spaces may be permitted by the Town Plan and Zoning Commission. This provision shall apply to all uses within the Town Center Zone.

Any application for shared parking must include:

- a) An analysis of parking demand for each use by time period, demonstrating compatibility of shared parking between uses; and
- b) A written permanent easement between the use parties, which clearly stipulates the terms of the joint use of the parking spaces and ensures that such spaces are committed and available to the respective users on a non-conflicting basis. Said easement to be filed on the land records.