Template Content for Community Newsletters

Adapt this content to inform your residents on newsletters like Front Porch Forum.

**For Bylaw Updates In Process**

Title: Drafting New Bylaws for Our Hazard Areas

The [Town Name] Planning Commission is considering new rules about building in our flood and erosion hazard areas.

These rules:

* **protect our neighbors, buildings, and roads;**
* **reduce the risk of a tax increase to repair damage; and,**
* **allow residents to purchase flood insurance.**

[Consider a statement about how the new bylaws further the community vision and align with things people care about.]

We hope you will join us in this process by attending a public hearing and sharing your questions and ideas. The next hearing is at [details]. You can read more about the process and details informing the update at [add link to a web page with documents they can read to learn more].

View flood hazard areas and river corridors on the State’s Flood Atlas: [bit.ly/flood-atlas](https://bit.ly/flood-atlas). Zoom to your property on the map and then use the blue “Flood Ready Tools” button in the upper left to turn on Flood Data and River Corridors. Small streams include a protected area within 50 feet of the top of the bank [if this is included in your bylaw]. [In some counties you may need to add:] In our area the current flood hazard areas can only be viewed at the FEMA site: [www.msc.fema.gov](http://www.msc.fema.gov)

If you have questions, please contact: [contact person info]

**For Bylaw Updates That Are Newly Adopted**

Title: New Bylaws for Our Hazard Areas

The [Town Name] Select Board has adopted new rules for building in our flood and erosion hazard areas.

These rules:

* **protect our neighbors, buildings, and roads;**
* **reduce the risk of a tax increase to repair damage; and,**
* **allow residents to purchase flood insurance.**

[Consider a statement about how the new bylaws further the community vision and align with things people care about.]

To learn more, read the new bylaw: [add link]. To see if this impacts your property, view flood hazard areas and river corridors on the State’s Flood Atlas: [bit.ly/flood-atlas](https://bit.ly/flood-atlas). Zoom to your property on the map and then use the blue “Flood Ready Tools” button in the upper left to turn on Flood Data and River Corridors. Small streams include a protected area within 50 feet of the top of the bank [if this is included in your bylaw].

If you have questions, please contact: [contact person info]