



**TOWN OF BELMONT**  
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
455 CONCORD AVENUE  
BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS 02478

[Selectmen@belmont-ma.gov](mailto:Selectmen@belmont-ma.gov)

455 CONCORD AVENUE  
BELMONT, MA 02478-2573  
PHONE (617) 993-2610  
FAX (617) 993-2611

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
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**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**  
DAVID J. KALE

**ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**  
PHYLLIS L. MARSHALL

April 13, 2015

Dear Town Meeting Members:

The Stormwater Management and Erosion Control Bylaw was adopted at the Annual Town Meeting in 2013. The Bylaw directs the Board of Selectmen to “adopt ... rules and regulations relating to the requirements, procedures, administration and enforcement” of the Bylaw.

In the course of adopting these regulations, the Board of Selectmen and Office of Community Development were urged to require the use of up-to-date precipitation data in the design of stormwater management systems in order to help mitigate flooding in extreme weather events. The state’s Stormwater Management Standards specify the use of National Weather Service data that was published in 1961; several jurisdictions are now moving toward the use of the more contemporary rainfall data compiled by the Northeast Regional Climate Center (NRCC), reflecting a recent trend of larger and more frequent major precipitation events in eastern Massachusetts. The Board agrees that adoption of these standards is desirable to help minimize property damage from major storms.

The Board has been advised that amendments to the Bylaw are necessary to ensure that the standards based on more current rainfall data are applied fairly and uniformly to all the projects large enough to be covered by the Bylaw, including those projects that require Conservation Commission approval (and which under the current bylaw do not need a permit from OCD). The amendments would (1) explicitly authorize the Selectmen to require the use of more contemporary rainfall data in designing stormwater management systems, and (2) authorize the Conservation Commission to apply the same standards in its review and approval of projects that fall under its jurisdiction. The amendments also seek to clarify that projects approved by the Conservation Commission are exempt from the permit requirements of the Bylaw only if approval of the stormwater management systems are included in the Commission’s review. These changes will ensure that all projects are governed by the same set of rules.

Sincerely,

David J. Kale  
Town Administrator