



Small Town, Big Opportunities

A GUIDE to OPENING A BUSINESS IN WILTON

With 3,700 friendly residents, thriving small businesses, busy state highways, great schools and services, and outstanding cultural and educational amenities – all located within easy driving distance of major metropolitan areas – Wilton, New Hampshire is a great place to live and run a business. This guide was designed by the Wilton Planning Board to help you get started.

We look forward to meeting you!



Opening a business in Wilton: *Where to Begin*

1

What do I know about my property?

Contact the Planning Board Secretary to determine the following: map and lot number; zoning district; is there an approved site plan on file; the most recent use of the parcel. For official zoning please reference the Town of Wilton Zoning Ordinance.

Resources:

Planning Board Secretary
sdowning@wiltonnh.org

Current Zoning Map

[Live Maps](#)

[Assessing Database](#)

2

Do I need a permit?

Yes if you plan to make any internal changes to the building space. You may also need additional electrical, plumbing or fuel permits depending upon the extent of the renovations.

Resources:

Building Inspector
(603) 654-3960

[Building Permit Guidelines](#)

[Occupancy Checklist](#)

3

What about signage?

If you are adding or changing a sign you must complete a sign application, available on-line, and submit to the Building Inspector with a fee. The application is then sent to the Planning Board and upon approval a sign permit is issued from the Building Inspector.

Resources:

[Sign Application](#)

On a state highway you must contact NH DOT.

(603) 352-2302
District4@dot.state.nh.us

4

Is my business permitted in the Zoning District?

Refer to the official Zoning Map at Town Hall to determine which zone the proposed business is located in, then refer to the Wilton Zoning Ordinance to determine if the business is permitted in that zone. You will need to go to the Zoning Board of Adjustment if the proposed use is not permitted in the current zone, to request a variance.

Resources:

[Zoning Ordinance](#)

[Zoning Board of Adjustment](#)

5

Do I need to go to the Planning Board?

If you are only changing the business ownership and keeping the same use you do not need to come to the planning board. You must schedule an appointment at the Planning Board if you are changing uses or making exterior changes to the building, such as to awnings or facades. These applicants must complete a site plan application and provide a site plan with a formal submittal.

Resources:

[Site Plan Application](#)

6

Still unsure about what to do?

The Planning Board strongly encourages all potential business owners to come before the board for an informal preliminary discussion to provide assistance with the process. An informal discussion does not require an official application. Simply schedule a time with the Planning Board Secretary and provide a written description of the proposed business, a marked up site plan and any relevant photos or images. A hand drawn sketch can be used in lieu of an official site plan.

Understanding Zoning in the Town of Wilton

The Town of Wilton is divided into the following five primary Zoning Districts: Residential District, General Residence and Agricultural District, Commercial District, Industrial District and Office Park District. Each parcel of land falls within one of these five districts. In addition there are a number of additional overlay districts. Land in the Town of Wilton may be located entirely outside or within one or more overlay districts. Please refer to the Town of Wilton Zoning Ordinance for additional information about each zone.

wiltonzba.org/ordinance/

Resources

Planning Staff Hours

1st and 3rd Mondays of the month from 10 am – 2 pm at Town Hall.

Town of Wilton - wiltonnh.gov/

Planning Board - wiltonnh.gov/planning-board

Land Use Laws and Regulations -

wiltonnh.gov/planning-board/pages/land-use-laws-and-regulations

Applications - wiltonnh.gov/planning-board/pages/forms

Zoning Board of Adjustment - wilton.nh.us/zoning-board-of-adjustment

Zoning Ordinance - wiltonzba.org/ordinance/

Zoning Map - http://www.wiltonnh.gov/sites/wiltonnh/files/u326/03_currentzoning_0.pdf

