

PREFACE

The Town of Simsbury has, over the years, passed through a process of legislative change common to many American communities. While only a few simple laws were necessary when the Town was first named in 1670, subsequent growth of the community, together with the complexity of modern life, has created the need for new and more detailed legislation for the proper function and government of the Town. This process began with the approval of the first Town Charter, which took effect January 1, 1974. The recording of local law is an aspect of municipal history, and as the community develops and changes, review and revision of old laws and consideration of new laws, in the light of current trends, must keep pace. The orderly collection of these records is an important step in this ever-continuing process. Legislation must be more than mere chronological enactments reposing in the pages of old records. It must be available and logically arranged for convenient use and must be kept up-to-date. It was with thoughts such as these in mind that the Board of Selectmen ordered the following codification of the Town legislation.

Contents of Code

The various chapters of the Code contain all currently effective legislation (ordinances and certain resolutions) of a general and permanent nature enacted by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Simsbury, including revisions or amendments to existing legislation deemed necessary by the Board of Selectmen in the course of the codification. The Charter of the Town of Simsbury is also included at the beginning of the Code.

Division of Code

The Code is divided into parts. Part I, Administrative Legislation, contains all Town legislation of an administrative nature, namely, that dealing with the administration of government, that establishing or regulating municipal departments and that affecting officers and employees of the municipal government and its departments. Part II, General Legislation, contains all other Town legislation of a regulatory nature. Items of legislation in this part generally impose penalties for violation of their provisions, whereas those in Part I do not.

Grouping of Ordinances and Arrangement of Chapters

The various items of legislation are organized into chapters, their order being an alphabetical progression from one subject to another. Wherever there are two or more items of legislation dealing with the same subject, they are combined into a single chapter. Thus, for example, all

legislation pertaining to the regulation of streets and sidewalks may be found in Part II, in the chapter entitled "Streets and Sidewalks." In such chapters, use of Article or Part designations has preserved the identity of the individual items of legislation.

Table of Contents

The Table of Contents details the alphabetical arrangement of material by chapter as a means of identifying specific areas of legislation. Wherever two or more items of legislation have been combined by the editor into a single chapter, titles of the several Articles or Parts are listed beneath the chapter title in order to facilitate location of the individual item of legislation.

Reserved Chapters

Unassigned chapter numbers do not appear in the Table of Contents but are available for assignment to new enactments. In this manner, new subject matter can be included alphabetically.

Pagination

A unique page-numbering system has been used in which each chapter forms an autonomous unit. The first page of each chapter is the number of that chapter followed by a colon and the numeral "1." Thus, Chapter 6 would begin on page 6:1. By the use of this system, it is possible to add or to change pages in any chapter, or add new chapters, without affecting the sequence of subsequent pages.

Numbering of Sections

A chapter-related section-numbering system is employed in which each section of every item of legislation is assigned a number which indicates both the number of the chapter in which the legislation is located and the location of the section within that chapter. Thus, the first section of Chapter 6 would be § 6-1, while the fourth section of Chapter 53 would be § 53-4.

Scheme

The Scheme is the list of section titles which precedes the text of each chapter. These titles are carefully written so that, taken together, they may be considered as a summary of the content of the chapter. Taken separately, each describes the content of a particular section. For ease and precision of reference, the Scheme titles are repeated as section headings in the text.

Histories

At the end of the Scheme in each chapter is located the legislative history for that chapter. This History indicates the specific legislative source from which the chapter was derived, including

the enactment number (e.g., ordinance number, local law number, bylaw number, resolution number, etc.), if pertinent, and the date of adoption. In the mw of chapters containing Parts or Articles derived from more than one item of legislation, the source of each Part or Article is indicated in the History. Amendments to individual sections or subsections are indicated by histories where appropriate in the text.

General References; Editor's Notes

In each chapter containing material related to other chapters in the Code, a table of General References is included to direct the reader's attention to such related chapters. Editor's Notes are used in the text to provide supplementary information and cross-references to related provisions in other chapters.

Appendix

Certain forms of local legislation are not of a nature suitable for inclusion in the main body of the Code but are of such significance that their application is community-wide or their provisions are germane to the conduct of municipal government. The Appendix of this Code is reserved for such legislation and for any other material that the community may wish to include.

Index

The Index is a guide to information. Since it is likely that this Code will be used by persons without formal legal training, the Index has been formulated to enable such persons to locate a particular section quickly. Each section of each chapter has been indexed. The Index will be supplemented and revised from time to time as new legislation is added to the Code.

Instructions for Amending the Code

All changes to the Code, whether they are amendments, deletions or complete new additions, should be adopted as amending the Code. In doing so, existing material that is not being substantively altered should not be renumbered. Where new sections are to be added to a chapter, they can be added at the end of the existing material (continuing the numbering sequence) or inserted between existing sections as decimal numbers (e.g., a new section between §§ 45-5 and 45-6 should be designated § 45-5.1). New chapters should be added in the proper alphabetical sequence in the appropriate division or part (e.g., Part I, Administrative Legislation, or Part II, General Legislation), utilizing the reserved chapter numbers. New chapter titles should begin with the key word for the alphabetical listing (e.g., new legislation on abandoned vehicles should be titled "Vehicles, Abandoned" under "V" in the Table of Contents, and a new enactment on coin-operated amusement devices should be "Amusement Devices" or "Amusement Devices, Coin-Operated" under "A" in the Table of Contents). Where a reserved number is not available, an "A" chapter should be used (e.g., a new chapter to be included between Chapters 45 and 46

should be designated Chapter 45A). New Articles may be inserted between existing Articles in a chapter (e.g., adding a new district to the Zoning Regulations) by the use of "A" Articles (e.g., a new Article to be included between Articles XVI and XVII should be designated Article XVIA). The section numbers would be as indicated above (e.g., if the new Article XVIA contains six sections and existing Article XVI ends with § 45-30 and Article XVII begins with § 45-31, Article XVIA should contain §§ 45-30.1 through 45-30.6).

Supplementation

Supplementation of the Code will follow the adoption of new legislation. New legislation or amendments to existing legislation will be included and repeals will be indicated as soon as possible after passage. Supplemental pages should be inserted as soon as they are received and old pages removed, in accordance with the Instruction Page which accompanies each supplement.

Acknowledgment

The publication of the Code of the Town of Simsbury would not have been possible without the assistance and dedication of numerous Town officials. In particular, the editor wishes to acknowledge the Town Clerk, John W. Case, Sr.; the Town Attorney, Ralph G. Elliot; the Director of Human Services, Alan Mason; and the entire Board of Selectmen.

The codification of the legislation of the Town of Simsbury reflects an appreciation of the needs of a progressive and expanding community. As in many other municipalities, officials are faced with fundamental changes involving nearly every facet of community life. Problems increase in number and complexity and range in importance from everyday details to crucial areas of civic planning. It is the profound conviction of General Code that this Code will contribute significantly to the efficient administration of local government. As Samuel Johnson observed, "The law is the last result of human wisdom acting upon human experience for the benefit of the public."