

PUBLISHING TOWN BYLAWS ON WEBSITE

TOWN	ON WEBSITE?	COMMENTS
Andover	Yes	On web and net - uses General Code
Ashland	Yes	Uses General Code - well worth the money
Auburn	Yes	General and Zoning bylaws, maps no. People still buy copies.
Barnstable	Yes	All laws codified, General Code updates. Saves time and effort, people happier.
Bellingham	Yes	
Belmont	Yes	Loses about \$800/yr by not selling zoning, understands about cuts in budget.
Braintree	No	Same reasons as Wrentham, would lose source of revenue, additional expense to have vendor update.
Burlington	Yes	Need Adobe Acrobat to save as pdf. Printing costs, interruptions etc. cost more than revenue. Also maps.
Concord	Yes	General, zoning, sub. R&R, other documents. Still sell good number. Only certify office copies.
Dalton	Soon	In process of codifying all bylaws through General Code. Cut to 4 days, Clerk responsible for updating.
Danvers	Yes	Happy with result. Only print in office on request, .20/pg. Convenient and cost effective.
Deerfield	Yes	Posted on web and General Code. Still sell some copies.
Eastham		Uses General Code.
Foxborough	No	Same concerns. Town seal up for grabs when documents published on web. Techies can get around read only format and print and sell bylaws at profit.
Franklin	Yes	Convenience for public.
Halifax	No	
Harvard	Yes	Contract with General Code, has to be online. Sell fewer copies, but print less thereby cutting costs.
Holliston	Yes	General and zoning. Still sell a few.
Hopkington	Yes	Time involved in updating after town meeting, builders still buy books
Ipswich	Yes	All bylaws. Still purchased in office, also to have them certified.
Lenox	Yes	
Manchester	Yes	General and zoning, still sell copies
Medfield	Yes	
Middleton	Yes	Happy to have online.
Monterey	No	Very concerned with updating of website.
Norfolk	Yes	General and zoning. Not planning board R&R or map. Clerk did not want to sell online because of losing revenue. Sell occasional hard copy.
Northborough	Yes	Still sell some in office and certify. Burden is making sure version online is up to date, getting updates from everyone involved.
Orange	Yes	General bylaws on General Code website, not zoning - eventually. Good point about loss of revenue. If town is looking for revenue, foolish to have them for free.
Orleans	Yes	Useful for people. Attorneys, architects, etc. still purchase books.

Plymouth	Yes	Convenience for public.
Reading	Yes	
Rockport	Yes	Do lose money. Zoning was about \$300/yr.
Scituate	Yes	Everything published online, webmaster sets up. Not a major decrease in income. Many need zoning bylaws in hard copy.
Sharon	Yes	
Shrewsbury	Yes	Everything published online. Hard copies available for purchase. Works well, saves time and printing costs.
Southbridge	Yes	Still have people purchase in office, but not as frequent. Has web director.
Stoneham	Yes	Still have activity over the counter. Used Visual Town Hall.
Stow	Yes	Uses disclaimer. Certified copies only available in office. Convenience vs. lost revenue about equals out.
		Still sell some hard copies for developers and attorneys.
Sudbury	Yes	Saves money in that it saves town workers a great deal of time.
Walpole	Yes	General and zoning, not street list.
Wellesley	Yes	Cuts down on revenue, but print fewer copies. Developers/builders still want hard copy of zoning.
West Boylston	Yes	General and personnel only, not zoning or subdivision
West Bridgewater	No	In agreement about taking income away from town.
West Springfield	Yes/No	City form of government, only certify from records. When town form of government, not on website.
Westford	Yes	General and zoning. Developers still want hard copies.
Weston	Yes	Publishes many town documents on website.
Williamsburg	Yes	Not always up to date. Service to residents, not a big money maker. Concern is not updating/maintenance.
Woburn	Yes	Many town documents online. Used to buy copies of code from budget and money would go to general fund.
		Huge benefit to public when working on project at night or wknd and can go online for info. Recently received recognition from Common Cause for amount of info. online.
Wrentham	Not yet	Gathering this info, will make decision.

General observations:

Can easily do a read-only file by pdf; many use General Code; convenience to public; frees up Clerk's and staff time; do not need as many printed copies on hand (I only print a few at a time, does not take a great deal of time); good comments from Woburn about developers working nights and wknds; concerns about public getting around restrictions and changing info, town shouldn't give this type of info. for free when cutting budgets and looking for revenue, firms could end up in court if using out of date info because website isn't updated in a timely fashion.