

A LOCAL LAW of the Code of the Town of Putnam Valley
entitled "CHAPTER 157-STONE WALL AND CHAMBER
PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION"

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Putnam Valley
as follows:

Section 1: Statement of Authority.

This local law is authorized under the New York State Constitution, the provisions of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law, the provisions of the Statute of Local Governments, the relevant provisions of the Town Law of the State of New York, the laws of the Town of Putnam Valley and the general police power vested with the Town of Putnam Valley to promote the health, safety and welfare of all residents and property owners in the Town.

Section II. A new chapter to the Code of the Town of Putnam Valley shall be added entitled "Chapter 157-Stone Wall and Chamber Preservation and Protection". This chapter is enacted pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law and any and all applicable laws, rules and regulations of the State of New York; nothing contained herein shall be deemed to conflict with any such laws, rules or regulations.

§ 157-1 Purpose.

The intent of this chapter is to protect the historic stone walls and chambers located in Putnam Valley as they are a cultural resource and help preserve the rural character of the Town. This chapter will establish guidelines for the identification of historic stone walls and chambers and provide for the protection and preservation of the Town's historic stone walls and chambers. The protection and preservation of the Town's historic stone walls and chambers is in furtherance of the public health, safety and welfare.

§ 157-2 Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, an "historic stone wall" is a vertical structure of aligned natural stone built before 1900, normally constructed to designate a property boundary or to separate agricultural activities within a farmstead. Further classification of historic stone walls will follow the guidelines set forth in Exploring Stone Walls by R.M. Thornton (Walker & Co., New York 2005), as the same may be revised from time to time. For the purposes of this chapter, an "historic chamber" is a dome shaped structure of aligned natural stone built before 1900 which normally has an opening to the interior of the chamber,

§157-3 General provisions.

A.

The alteration, relocation or demolition of an historic stone wall or chamber or any portion thereof which is located in Putnam Valley shall require prior written permit of the Building Inspector, obtained by submission of a specific plan containing details of the location, project,

and reconstruction plan. The plan must show due regard for the historic value of the stone wall or chamber and repair methods compliant with these guidelines. A contingency repair bond may be required by the Building Inspector.

B.

The alteration, relocation or demolition of an historic stone wall or chamber as part of any site plan or subdivision project must also be approved by the Planning Board.

C.

The replacement of an historic stone wall or chamber at its original location shall be with the same materials and the same construction method as the original wall or chamber, using as many original stones as possible.

D.

Cuts for driveways, roads, utility easements or fire lanes shall be of the minimum necessary length, and ends of the walls and impacted chambers must be restored.

E.

Historic stone walls or chambers in disrepair or neglected condition shall not be removed from their present location, but must be repaired or left as is. Any in situ reconstruction shall match that of the original wall or chamber.

§ 157-4 Violations and penalties.

Any person violating any provision of this chapter shall be subject to a fine of \$500. Each day any violation of this chapter shall continue shall constitute a separate offense.

§ 157-5 Severability.

If any one or more sections of this chapter shall for any reason be adjudged unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remaining provisions.

§ 157-6: Relationship to other ordinances.

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to restrict, amend, repeal, or otherwise limit the application or enforcement of the Town of Putnam Valley Town Code.