

# What you should know about exterior lighting in Stow

*A brief overview of key Sections 3.8.1.5.1 – 3.8.1.5.7 of the Zoning Bylaws\**

## The reason behind the bylaw:

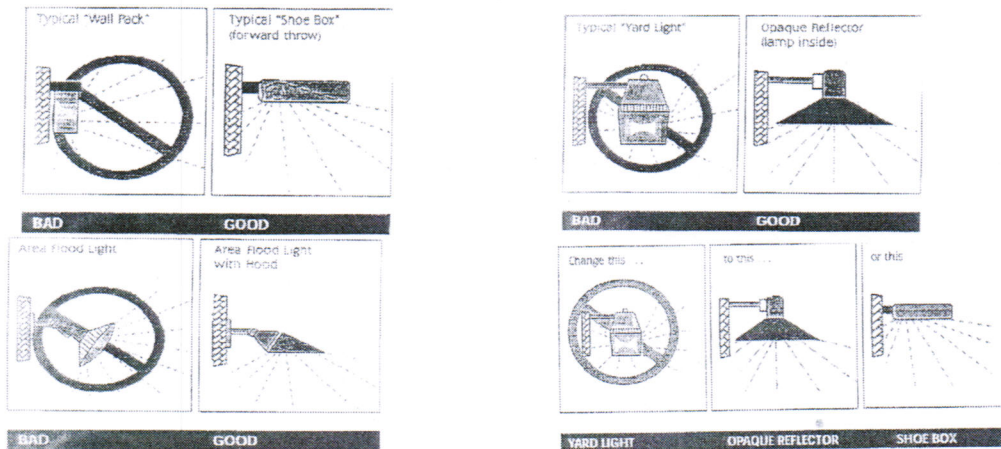
This bylaw was created to reduce light pollution in the Town of Stow and to improve nighttime visibility and safety by reducing glare. This bylaw is also intended to control light trespassing onto neighbors' properties.

## Below are summaries of key elements of this bylaw

- **No outdoor lighting** shall shine on an adjacent property or towards any street in such a manner that would create a nuisance or hazard.
- All outdoor lighting fixtures with a rated output of 2,000 lumens (you can find the total lumens on the light bulb package) or more shall be **full-cutoff** and shall be installed so as not to emit light above the horizontal. The largest fixture under 2000 lumens is a single 100W incandescent bulb or two 60W bulbs. Therefore dual 75W spotlights are not permitted.
- **All** exterior floodlights, spotlights or similar light fixtures that are less than the 2,000 lumens and not full cutoff shall be aimed at least 45 degrees below horizontal.
- Fixtures of more than 4000 lumens are further restricted. Parking lot lighting and large lighting installations may require Special Permits. See the bylaw for complete details or contact the Planning Board.

## Below are some examples of Full Cut-off & NON Full Cut-Off Fixtures

(Examples from Sky Publishing Corp.)



\*This is not a comprehensive overview of all sections of the lighting bylaw. If you are considering replacing or installing a new light fixture please visit the Planning Board website for a full copy of the Zoning Bylaws at: [http://www.stowma.gov/pages/StowMA\\_Planning/index](http://www.stowma.gov/pages/StowMA_Planning/index)