

Exhibit A
BY-LAWS
OF
WATER'S EDGE AT MT. HOLLY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Article I Name, Principal Office, and Definitions

1.1. Name.

The name of the corporation is Water's Edge at Mt. Holly Homeowners Association, Inc. (the "**Association**").

1.2. Principal Office.

The principal office of the Association shall be located in Gaston County, North Carolina. The Association may have such other offices, either within or outside North Carolina, as the Board of Directors may determine or as the affairs of the Association may require.

1.3. Definitions.

Unless otherwise specified, the words used in these By-Laws shall be given their normal, commonly understood definitions. Capitalized terms shall have the same meaning as set forth in that certain Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions for Water's Edge, recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Gaston County, North Carolina, as it may be amended (the "**Declaration**"), unless the context indicates otherwise. The term "**majority**," as used in these By-Laws, means those votes, Owners, or other group, as the context may indicate, totaling more than 50% of the total eligible number.

Article II Membership: Meetings, Quorum, Voting, Proxies

2.1. Membership.

The Association initially shall have two classes of membership, Class "A" and Class "B," as more fully set forth in the Declaration. The provisions of the Declaration pertaining to membership are incorporated by this reference.

2.2. Place of Meetings.

Meetings of the Association shall be held at the principal office of the Association or at such other suitable place convenient to the Members as the Board may designate.

2.3. Annual Meetings.

The first meeting of the Association, whether a regular or special meeting, shall be held within one year after the date of incorporation of the Association. The Board shall schedule subsequent regular annual meetings to occur during the third quarter of the Association's fiscal year, on such date and at such time and place as the Board shall determine.

2.4. Special Meetings.

The President may call special meetings. In addition, it shall be the duty of the President to call a special meeting if so directed by resolution of the Board or upon a petition signed by Members representing at least 10% of the total Class "A" votes in the Association.

2.5. Notice of Meetings.

The President, the Secretary, or the officers or other persons calling a meeting of the Members shall deliver or cause to be delivered to each Member entitled to vote at such meeting a written notice stating the place, day, and hour of the meeting. In the case of a special meeting or when otherwise required by statute, the Declaration, or these By-Laws, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called shall also be stated in the notice. No business shall be transacted at a special meeting except as stated in the notice.

Such notice shall be delivered by such means as permitted under Section 9.5, not less than 10 nor more than 50 days before the date of such meeting.

2.6. Waiver of Notice.

Waiver of notice of a meeting of the Members shall be deemed the equivalent of proper notice. Any Member may waive, in writing, notice of any meeting of the Members, either before or after such meeting. Attendance at a meeting by a Member shall be deemed waiver by such Member of notice of the time, date, and place thereof, unless such Member specifically objects to lack of proper notice at the time the meeting is called to order. Attendance at a special meeting also shall be deemed waiver of notice of all business transacted at such meeting unless an objection on the basis of lack of proper notice is raised before the business is put to a vote.

2.7. Adjournment of Meetings.

If any meeting of the Members cannot be held because a quorum (see Section 2.10) is not present, a majority of the Members who are present at such meeting may adjourn the meeting to a time not less than 5 nor more than 30 days from the time the original meeting was called. At the reconvened meeting, if a quorum is present, any business may be transacted which might have been transacted at the meeting originally called. If a time and place for reconvening the meeting is not fixed by those in attendance at the meeting when originally called, or if for any reason a new date is fixed for reconvening the meeting after adjournment, notice of the time and place for reconvening the meeting shall be given to Members in the manner prescribed for regular meetings.

Members present at a duly called or held meeting at which a quorum is present may continue to do business until adjournment, notwithstanding the departure of Members leaving less than a quorum, provided that any action taken is approved by at least a majority of the votes required to constitute a quorum.

2.8. Voting.

The voting rights of the Members set forth in the Declaration are specifically incorporated by this reference.

2.9. Proxies.

Members may vote in person or by proxy, subject to the limitations of North Carolina law and subject to any specific provision to the contrary in the Declaration or these By-Laws. Every proxy shall be in writing, shall identify the Unit for which it is given, and shall be signed by the Member or his duly authorized attorney-in-fact, dated, and filed with the Secretary of the Association prior to the meeting for which it is to be effective. Unless otherwise specifically provided in the proxy, a proxy shall be presumed to cover all votes which the Member giving such proxy is entitled to cast, and in the event of any conflict between two or more proxies purporting to cover the same voting rights, the later dated proxy shall prevail, or if dated as of the same date, both shall be deemed invalid.

Every proxy shall be revocable and shall automatically cease upon: (a) transfer of title to any Unit for which it was given; (b) receipt by the Secretary of written notice of revocation of the proxy or of the death or judicially declared incompetence of a Member who is a natural person; or (c) 11 months from the date of the proxy, unless a shorter period is specified in the proxy.

2.10. Quorum.

Except as otherwise provided in these By-Laws or in the Declaration, the presence of Members representing thirty-three percent (33%) of the total Class "A" votes in the Association shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the Association membership. If any meeting cannot be held because a quorum is not present, the quorum requirement for any subsequent attempt to convene such meeting shall be one-half of the previous quorum requirement.

2.11. Conduct of Meetings.

The President shall preside over all meetings of the Association. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings and record in a minute book all resolutions adopted and all other transactions occurring at such meetings.

2.12. Action Without a Meeting.

Any action required to be taken at a meeting of the Members may be taken without a meeting, without prior notice and without a vote, if written consent specifically authorizing the proposed action is signed by all Members entitled to vote on such matter. Such consents shall be signed within 60 days after receipt of the earliest dated consent, dated and delivered to the Association. Such consents shall be filed with the minutes of the Association and shall have the same force and effect as a vote of the Members at a meeting.

Article III Board of Directors: Selection, Meetings, Powers

A. Composition and Selection.

3.1. Governing Body; Qualifications.

The affairs of the Association shall be governed by a Board of Directors, each of whom shall have one vote. Except with respect to directors appointed by the Class "B" Member, directors shall be Owners or residents. A "**resident**" shall be any natural person 18 years of age or older whose principal residence is a Unit within Water's Edge. No more than one eligible person from any Unit may serve on the Board at any time. If a Member is not a natural person, any officer, director, or partner, or any other representative designated in writing by the Member, shall be eligible to serve as a director unless the Member otherwise specifies by written notice to the Association; provided, no Member may have more than one such representative serving on the Board at a time, except in the case of directors appointed by the Class "B" Member.

3.2. Number of Directors.

The Board shall consist of three to seven directors, as provided in Section 3.3.

3.3. Selection of Directors; Term of Office.

(a) **Initial Board.** The initial Board shall consist of the three directors identified in the Articles of Incorporation, who shall serve until their successors are appointed or elected as provided in this Section 3.3.

(b) **Directors During Class "B" Control Period.** Except as otherwise provided in this Section 3.3(b), the Class "B" Member shall be entitled to appoint, remove and replace the members of the Board in its sole discretion until termination of the Class "B" Control Period. During such period, the Class "A" Members shall be entitled to elect a minority of the total number of directors according to the following schedule:

(i) Within 30 days after the time that Class "A" Members other than Builders own 25% of the Units permitted by the Master Plan for the property described in Exhibits "A" and "B" of the Declaration, or whenever the Class "B" Member earlier determines, the Board shall be increased to five directors and the President shall call for an election by which the Class "A" Members shall be entitled to elect one of the five directors, who shall be elected at large. The remaining four directors shall be appointees of the Class "B" Member. The director elected by the Class "A" Members shall not be subject to removal by the Class "B" Member and shall be elected for a term of two years or until the happening of the event described in subsection (b)(ii) below, whichever is shorter. If such directors term expires prior to the happening of the event described in subsection (b)(ii), a successor shall be elected for a like term.

(ii) Within 30 days after the time that Class "A" Members other than Builders own 50% of the Units permitted by the Master Plan for the property described in Exhibits "A" and "B" of the Declaration, or whenever the Class "B" Member earlier determines, the President shall call for an election by which the Class "A" Members shall be entitled to elect two of the five directors. The remaining three directors shall be appointees of the Class "B" Member.

Directors elected by the Class "A" Members shall not be subject to removal by the Class "B" Member and shall be elected for a term of two years or until the happening of the event described in subsection (c)(i) below, whichever is shorter. If such directors' terms expire prior to the happening of the event described in subsection (c)(i) below, successors shall be elected for a like term.

(c) Directors After the Class "B" Control Period.

(i) Not later than 90 days after termination of the Class "B" Membership, the Board shall be increased to seven directors. The President shall call for an election by which the Class "A" Members shall be entitled to elect all seven directors. Four directors shall serve a term expiring at the second annual meeting following the six-month anniversary of their election and three directors shall serve a term expiring at the first annual meeting following the six-month anniversary of their election, as such directors determine among themselves.

(ii) Upon expiration of the term of office of each director elected by the Class "A" Members, Class "A" Members shall be entitled to elect a successor to serve a term of two years, Directors elected by the Class "A" Members shall hold office until their respective successors have been elected. Directors may be elected to serve any number of consecutive terms.

Diagram 3.1 illustrates the concept of transition of control of the Board of Directors during and after the Class "B" Control Period.

TRANSITION OF CONTROL OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS			
<u>Initial Board</u>	<u>25% of Permitted Units Conveyed</u>	<u>50% of Permitted Units Conveyed</u>	<u>90 Days After Termination of Class "B" Membership</u>
Class B	Class A	Class A	Class A
Class B	Class B	Class A	Class A
Class B	Class B	Class B	Class A
	Class B	Class B	Class A
	Class B	Class B	Class A
			Class A
			Class A

Diagram 3.1 Transition of Control of Board

3.4. Nomination and Election Procedures.

(a) Nomination of Candidates. At least 30 days prior to any election of directors by the Class "A" Members, the Board shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of a chairman, who shall be a member of the Board of Directors, and three or more Class "A" Members or representatives of Class "A" Members. The Nominating Committee shall serve a term of one year or until their successors are appointed. The names of the members of the Nominating Committee shall be announced in the notice of each election.

In preparation for each election, the Nominating Committee shall meet and make as many nominations for election to the Board as it shall in its discretion determine, but in no event less than the number of positions to be filled by the Class "A" Members at such election. In making its nominations, the Nominating Committee shall use reasonable efforts to nominate candidates representing the diversity that exists within the pool of potential candidates. Nominations shall also be permitted from the floor at any meeting at which an election is held, or by write-in on any ballot. All candidates shall have a reasonable opportunity to communicate their qualifications to the Members and to solicit votes.

(b) Election Procedures. At each election, voting shall be by written ballot. Each Class "A" Member may cast all vote(s) assigned to its Unit(s) for each position to be filled by Class "A" votes. Cumulative voting shall be permitted. That number of candidates equal to the number of positions to be filled by Class "A" votes receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected.

3.5. Removal of Directors and Vacancies.

Any director elected by Class "A" votes may be removed, with or without cause, by the vote of Members holding a majority of the Class "A" votes. Any director whose removal is sought shall be given notice prior to any meeting called for that purpose. Upon removal of a director by the Class "A" Members, a successor shall be elected by the Class "A" Members to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term of such director.

Any director elected by Class "A" votes who has three consecutive unexcused absences from Board meetings, or who is more than 30 days delinquent (or is the representative of a Member who is so delinquent) in the payment of any assessment or other charge due the Association, may be removed by a majority of the directors present at a regular or special meeting at which a quorum is present, and the Board may appoint a successor to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

Except as provided below, in the event of the death, disability, or resignation of a director elected by Class "A" votes, the Board may declare a vacancy and appoint a successor to fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting, at which time the Class "A" Members may elect a successor for the remainder of the term.

This Section shall not apply to directors appointed by the Class "B" Member, nor to any director serving as Declarant's representative. The Class "B" Member or Declarant shall be entitled to appoint a successor to fill any vacancy on the Board resulting from the death, disability or resignation of a director appointed by or elected as a representative of the Class "B" Member or Declarant.

B. Meetings.

3.6. Organizational Meetings.

The first meeting of the Board shall be held immediately following each annual meeting of the membership.

3.7. Regular Meetings.

Regular meetings of the Board may be held at such time and place as a majority of the directors shall determine, but at least two such meetings shall be held during each fiscal year with at least one every other quarter.

3.8. Special Meetings.

Special meetings of the Board shall be held when called by written notice signed by the President or Vice President or by any two directors.

3.9. Notice; Waiver of Notice.

(a) Notices of Board meetings shall specify the time and place of the meeting and, in the case of a special meeting, the nature of any special business to be considered. The notice shall be given to each director by: (i) personal delivery; (ii) first class mail, postage prepaid; (iii) telephone communication, either directly to the director or to a person at the director's office or home who would reasonably be expected to communicate such notice promptly to the director; or (iv) facsimile, computer, or other electronic mail, messaging or communication device, with printed confirmation of successful transmission. All such notices shall be given at or sent to the director's telephone number, fax number, electronic mail address, or mailing or physical address as shown on the records of the Association. Notices sent by first class mail shall be deposited into a United States mailbox at least five business days before the time set for the meeting. Notices given by personal delivery, telephone, or other device shall be delivered or transmitted at least 72 hours before the time set for the meeting.

(b) Transactions of any Board meeting, however called and noticed or wherever held, shall be as valid as though taken at a meeting duly held after regular call and notice if (i) a quorum is present, and (ii) either before or after the meeting each director not present signs a written waiver of notice, a consent to holding the meeting, or an approval of the minutes. The waiver of notice or consent need not specify the purpose of the meeting. Notice of a meeting also shall be deemed given to any director who attends the meeting without protesting before or at its commencement about the lack of adequate notice.

3.10. Telephonic Participation in Meetings.

Members of the Board or any committee that the Board appoints may participate in a meeting of the Board or committee by conference telephone, video conference, or similar communications equipment, provided all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other Simultaneously. Participation in a meeting pursuant to this section shall constitute presence in person at such meeting.

3.11. Quorum of Board.

At all Board meetings, a majority of the directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and the votes of a majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall constitute the decision of the Board, unless otherwise specifically provided in these By-Laws or the Declaration. A meeting at which a quorum is initially present

may continue to transact business, notwithstanding the departure of some directors, if any action taken is approved by at least a majority of the required quorum for that meeting. If any Board meeting cannot be held because a quorum is not present, a majority of the directors present at such meeting may adjourn the meeting to a time not less than 5 nor more than 30 days from the date of the original meeting. At the reconvened meeting, if a quorum is present, any business that might have been transacted at the meeting originally called may be transacted without further notice.

3.12. Conduct of Meetings.

The President shall preside over all meetings of the Board and the Secretary shall keep a minute book of Board meetings, recording all Board resolutions and all transactions and proceedings occurring at such meetings.

3.13. Action Without a Formal Meeting.

Any action to be taken at a meeting of the directors or any action that may be taken at a meeting of the directors may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, is signed by all of the directors, and such consent shall have the same force and effect as a unanimous vote.

C. Powers and Duties.

3.14. Powers.

The Board shall have all of the powers and duties necessary for the administration of the Association's affairs and for performing all responsibilities and exercising all rights of the Association as set forth in the Governing Documents, and as provided by law. The Board may do or cause to be done on behalf of the Association all acts and things except those which the Governing Documents or North Carolina law require to be done and exercised exclusively by the membership. Board determinations as to the meaning, scope, and application of Governing Document provisions shall be upheld and enforced so long as such determinations are reasonable.

3.15. Duties.

Duties of the Board shall include, without limitation:

- (a) preparing and adopting, in accordance with the Declaration, an annual budget establishing each Owner's share of the Common Expenses and any Service Area Expenses; and
- (b) levying and collecting such assessments from the Owners; and
- (c) providing for the operation, care, upkeep, and maintenance of the Area of Common Responsibility consistent with the Community-Wide Standard; and
- (d) designating, hiring, and dismissing personnel necessary to carry out the Association's rights and responsibilities and where appropriate, providing for compensation of

such personnel and for the purchase of equipment, supplies, and materials to be used by such personnel in the performance of their duties; and

(e) depositing all funds received on behalf of the Association in a bank depository which it shall approve, and using such funds to operate the Association; provided, any reserve funds may be deposited, in the Board's best judgment, in depositories other than banks; and

(f) making and amending Restrictions and Rules in accordance with the Declaration; and

(g) opening bank accounts on behalf of the Association and designating the signatories required; and

(h) making or contracting for the making of repairs, additions, and improvements to or alterations of the Common Area in accordance with the Declaration and these By-Laws; and

(i) enforcing by legal means the provisions of the Governing Documents and bringing any proceedings which may be instituted on behalf of or against the Owners concerning the Association; provided, the Association's obligation in this regard shall be conditioned in the manner provided in the Declaration; and

(j) obtaining and carrying property and liability insurance and fidelity bonds, as provided in the Declaration, paying the cost thereof, and filing and adjusting claims, as appropriate; and

(k) paying the cost of all services rendered to the Association; and

(l) keeping books with detailed accounts of the Association's receipts and expenditures; and

(m) making available to any prospective purchaser of a Unit, any Owner, and the holders, insurers, and guarantors of any Mortgage on any Unit, current copies of the Governing Documents and all other books, records, and financial statements of the Association as provided in Section 9.4; and

(n) permitting utility suppliers to use portions of the Common Area reasonably necessary to the ongoing development or operation of the Units and Common Area; and

(o) indemnifying a director, officer or committee member, or former director, officer or committee member of the Association to the extent such indemnity is required by North Carolina law, the Articles and these By-Laws; and

(p) assisting in the resolution of disputes between owners and others without litigation, as set forth in the Declaration.

Article IV Officers

4.1. Officers.

Officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The President and Secretary shall be elected from among the Board members; other officers may, but need not be Board members. The Board may appoint such other officers, including one or more Assistant Secretaries and one or more Assistant Treasurers, as it shall deem desirable, such officers to have such authority and perform such duties as the Board prescribes. One person may hold two or more offices, except that the offices of President and Secretary shall be held by different persons.

4.2. Election and Term of Office.

The Board shall elect the Association's officers at the first Board meeting following each annual meeting of the Members, to serve until their successors are elected.

4.3. Resignation. Removal and Filling of Vacancies.

(a) Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board, the President, or the Secretary. Such resignation shall take effect on the date of the receipt of such notice or at any later time specified therein, and unless otherwise specified therein, acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

(b) The Board may remove any officer whenever in its judgment the best interests of the Association will be served.

(c) The Board may fill any vacancy in any office arising because of death, resignation, removal, or otherwise, for the unexpired portion of the term.

4.4. Powers and Duties.

The Association's officers shall each have such powers and duties as generally pertain to their respective offices, as well as such powers and duties as the Board may specifically confer or impose. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association. The Treasurer shall have primary responsibility for preparation of the budget as provided for in the Declaration and may delegate all or part of the preparation and notification duties to a finance committee, management agent, or both.

Article V Committees

5.1. General.

The Board may appoint such committees as it deems appropriate to perform such tasks and to serve for such periods as the Board may designate by resolution. Each committee shall operate in accordance with the terms of such resolution.

5.2. Covenants Committee.

In addition to any other committees that the Board may establish pursuant to Section 5.1, the Board may appoint a Covenants Committee consisting of at least three and no more than seven Members. Acting in accordance with the provisions of the Declaration, these By-Laws, and resolutions the Board may adopt, the Covenants Committee, if established, shall be the hearing tribunal of the Association and shall conduct all hearings held pursuant to Article VIII of these By-Laws.

5.3. Service Area Committees.

In addition to any other committees appointed as provided above, each Service Area which has no formal organizational structure or association may elect a Service Area Committee to determine the nature and extent of services, if any, to be provided to the Service Area by the Association in addition to those dictated by any Supplemental Declaration and those provided to all Members of the Association in accordance with the Declaration. A Service Area Committee may advise the Board on any other issue but shall not have the authority to bind the Board. Any Service Area Committee shall consist of three Members; provided, if approved by the vote of at least 51% of the Owners of Units within the Service Area, the number may be increased to five.

The members of any Service Area Committee shall be elected for a term of one year or until their successors are elected. Any director elected to the Board from a Service Area shall be an *ex officio* member of the Service Area Committee. The members of the committee shall elect a chairperson from among themselves, who shall preside at its meetings and shall be responsible for transmitting any and all communications to the Board.

In the conduct of its duties and responsibilities, each Service Area Committee shall abide by the notice and quorum requirements applicable to the Board under Sections 3.9, 3.10, and 3.11. Meetings of a Service Area Committee shall be open to all Owners of Units in the Service Area and their representatives. Members of a Service Area Committee may act by unanimous written consent in lieu of a meeting.

Article VI Standards of Conduct; Liability and Indemnification

6.1. Standards for Directors and Officers.

The Board shall exercise its powers in a reasonable, fair, nondiscriminatory manner and shall adhere to the procedures established in the Governing Documents.

In performing their duties, directors and officers shall act as fiduciaries and shall be insulated from liability as provided for directors of corporations under state law and as otherwise provided by the Governing Documents. Directors and officers shall discharge their duties as directors or officers, and as members of any committee to which they are appointed, in a manner that the director or officer believes in good faith to be in the best interest of the corporation and with the care that an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances. A director is entitled to rely on information, opinions, reports, or statements, including financial statements and other financial data, prepared or presented by others to the extent authorized under the North Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act.

6.2. Liability.

(a) A director shall not be personally liable to the Association, any Member, or any other Person for any action taken or not taken as a director if the director has acted in accordance with Section 6.1.

(b) Pursuant to the business judgment rule, a director also shall not be personally liable for any action taken or not taken as a director if the director:

(i) acts within the expressed or implied scope of the Governing Documents and his or her actions are not *ultra vires*;

(ii) affirmatively undertakes to make decisions which are necessary for the Association's continued and successful operation and, when decisions are made, makes them on an informed basis;

(iii) acts on a disinterested basis, promptly disclosing any real or potential conflict of interests (pecuniary or other), and avoiding participation in decisions and actions on matters as to which he has a conflict of interest (beyond that which all directors have by virtue of their ownership or occupancy of a Unit); and

(iv) acts in a non-fraudulent manner and without reckless indifference to the Association's affairs.

(c) The officers, directors, and committee members of the Association shall not be liable for any mistake of judgment, negligence, or otherwise, except for their own individual willful misfeasance, malfeasance, misconduct, or bad faith. The officers and directors shall have no personal liability with respect to any contract or other commitment made or action taken in good faith on behalf of the Association (except to the extent that such officers or directors may also be Members of the Association).

6.3. Indemnification.

Subject to the limitations of North Carolina law, the Association shall indemnify every officer, director, and committee member against all damages and expenses, including counsel fees and expenses, reasonably incurred in connection with any action, suit, or other proceeding (including settlement of any suit or proceeding, if approved by the then Board of Directors) to which he or she may be a party by reason of being or having been an officer, director, or committee member, except that the Association shall have no obligation to indemnify any individual against liability or expenses incurred in connection with a proceeding:

(a) brought by or in the right of the Association, although it may reimburse the individual for reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the proceeding if it is determined, by the court or in the manner provided above, that the individual met the relevant standard of conduct under the North Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act; or

(b) to the extent that the individual is adjudged liable for conduct that constitutes:

- (i) appropriation, in violation of his or her duties, of any business opportunity of the Association; or
- (ii) intentional misconduct or knowing violation of the law; or
- (iii) an unlawful distribution to members, directors or officers; or
- (iv) receipt of an improper personal benefit.

This right to indemnification shall not be exclusive of any other rights to which any present or former officer, director, or committee member may be entitled. The Association shall, as a Common Expense, maintain adequate general liability and officers' and directors' liability insurance to fund this obligation, if such insurance is reasonably available.

6.4. Advancement of Expenses.

In accordance with the procedures and subject to the conditions and limitations set forth in the North Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act, the Board may authorize the Association to advance funds to pay for or reimburse the reasonable expenses incurred by a present or former officer, director or committee member in any proceeding to which he or she may be a party by reason of being or having been an officer, director, or committee member of the Association.

6.5. Board and Officer Training.

The Board may conduct or provide for seminars and continuing educational opportunities designed to educate and inform its officers and directors of their responsibilities as officers and directors. Such programs may include instruction on applicable North Carolina corporate and fiduciary law principles, other issues relating to administering community affairs, and upholding and enforcing the Governing Documents. The Board may retain industry professionals, which may include property managers, attorneys, and accountants, as appropriate or necessary for such purpose. Each newly elected officer and director shall be encouraged to complete a training seminar within the first six months of assuming such position.

Article VII Management and Accounting

7.1. Compensation of Directors and Officers.

Directors and officers shall not receive any compensation from the Association for acting as such unless approved by Members representing a majority of the total Class "A" votes in the Association at a regular or special meeting of the Association. Any director or officer may be reimbursed for expenses incurred on behalf of the Association upon approval of a majority of the other directors. Nothing herein shall prohibit the Association from compensating a director or officer, or any entity with which a director or officer is affiliated, for services or supplies furnished to the Association in a capacity other than as a director or officer pursuant to a contract or agreement with the Association, provided that such director's or officer's interest was made known to the Board prior to entering into such contract and such contract was approved by a majority of the Board, excluding any interested director.

7.2. Right of Class "B" Member to Disapprove Actions.

So long as the Class "B" membership exists, the Class "B" Member shall have a right to disapprove any action, policy, or program of the Association, the Board and any committee which, in the sole judgment of the Class "B" Member, would tend to impair rights of Declarant or Builders under the Declaration or these By-Laws, or interfere with development or construction of any portion of Water's Edge, or diminish the level of services being provided by the Association.

(a) Notice. The Class "B" Member shall be given written notice of all meetings and proposed actions approved at meetings (or by written consent in lieu of a meeting) of the Association, the Board or any committee. Such notice shall be given by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by personal delivery at the address it has registered with the Secretary of the Association, which notice complies as to Board meetings with Section 3.9, and which notice shall, except in the case of the regular meetings held pursuant to the By-Laws, set forth with reasonable particularity the agenda to be followed at such meeting.

(b) Opportunity to be Heard. The Class "B" Member shall be given the opportunity at any such meeting to join in or to have its representatives or agents join in discussion from the floor of any prospective action, policy, or program which would be subject to the right of disapproval set forth herein.

No action, policy, or program subject to the right of disapproval set forth herein shall become effective or be implemented until and unless the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) above have been met.

The Class "B" Member, its representatives or agents shall make its concerns, thoughts, and suggestions known to the Board and/or the members of the subject committee. The Class "B" Member, acting through any officer or director, agent or authorized representative, may exercise its right to disapprove at any time within 10 days following the meeting at which such action was proposed or, in the case of any action taken by written consent in lieu of a meeting, at any time within 10 days following receipt of written notice of the proposed action. This right to disapprove may be used to block proposed actions but shall not include a right to require any action or counteraction on behalf of any committee, the Board, or the Association. The Class "B" Member shall not use its right to disapprove to reduce the level of services which the Association is obligated to provide or to prevent capital repairs or any expenditure required to comply with applicable laws and regulations.

7.3. Managing Agent.

The Board may employ for the Association a professional management agent or agents at such compensation as the Board may establish, to perform such duties and services as the Board shall authorize. The Board may delegate such powers as are necessary to perform the manager's assigned duties, but shall not delegate policy-making authority or ultimate responsibility for those duties set forth in Section 3.16. Declarant or its affiliate may be employed as managing agent or manager.

The Board may delegate to one of its members the authority to act on the Board's behalf on all matters relating to the duties of the managing agent or manager, if any, which might arise between Board meetings.

The Association shall not be bound, either directly or indirectly, by any management contract executed during the Class "B" Control Period unless such contract contains a right of termination which may be exercised by the Association, with or without cause and without penalty, at any time after termination of the Class "B" Control Period upon not more than 90 days' written notice.

No remuneration shall be accepted by the managing agent from vendors, independent contractors, or others providing goods or services to the Association, whether in the form of commissions, finder's fees, service fees, prizes, gifts, or otherwise; any thing of value received shall benefit the Association. Any financial or other interest that the managing agent may have in any firm providing goods or services to the Association shall be disclosed promptly to the Board.

7.4. Accounts and Reports

(a) The following accounting standards shall be followed unless the Board by resolution specifically determines otherwise:

(i) cash or accrual accounting, as defined by generally accepted accounting principles, shall be employed; and

(ii) accounting and controls should conform to generally accepted accounting principles; and

(iii) cash accounts of the Association shall not be commingled with any other accounts.

(b) Commencing at the end of the quarter in which the first Unit is sold and closed, financial reports shall be prepared for the Association at least quarterly containing:

(i) an income statement reflecting all income and expense activity for the preceding period on an accrual basis; and

(ii) a statement reflecting all cash receipts and disbursements for the preceding period; and

(iii) a variance report reflecting the status of all accounts in an "actual" versus "approved" budget format; and

(iv) a balance sheet as of the last day of the preceding period; and

(v) a delinquency report listing all Owners who are delinquent in paying any assessments at the time of the report and describing the status of any action to collect such assessments which remain delinquent (any assessment or installment thereof shall be considered

to be delinquent on the 15th day following the due date unless otherwise specified by Board resolution).

(c) Upon Members' request, an annual report consisting of at least the following shall be made available to all Members to copy at Members' own expense within 120 days after the close of the fiscal year: (i) a balance sheet; (ii) an operating (income) statement; and (iii) a statement of changes in financial position for the fiscal year. Such annual report shall be prepared on an audited, reviewed, or compiled basis, as the Board determines.

7.5. Borrowing.

The Association shall have the power to borrow money for any legal purpose; provided, the Board shall obtain Member approval in the same manner provided in the Declaration for Special Assessments if the proposed borrowing is for the purpose of making discretionary capital improvements and the total amount of such borrowing, together with all other debt incurred within the previous 12-month period, exceeds or would exceed 20% of the Association's budgeted gross expenses for that fiscal year. During the Class "B" Control Period, no Mortgage lien shall be placed on any portion of the Common Area without the affirmative vote or written consent, or any combination thereof, of Members representing at least 51% of the total Class "A" votes, in addition to such approval as may be required under Article XVII of the Declaration.

7.6. Right to Contract.

The Association shall have the right to contract with any Person for the performance of various duties and functions. This right shall include, without limitation, the right to enter into common management, operational, or other agreements with trusts, condominiums, cooperatives, or other owners or residents associations, within and outside Water's Edge. Any common management agreement shall require the consent of a majority of the total number of directors on the Board.

7.7. Agreements, Contracts, Deeds, Leases, Checks, Etc.

All agreements, contracts, deeds, leases, checks, and other instruments of the Association shall be executed by at least two officers or by such other person or persons as the Board may designate by resolution.

Article VIII Enforcement Procedures

The Association shall have the power, as provided in the Declaration, to impose sanctions for any violation of the Governing Documents. To the extent specifically required by the Declaration, the Board shall comply with the following procedures prior to imposition of sanctions:

8.1. Notice and Response.

The Board or its delegate shall serve the alleged violator with written notice describing (a) the nature of the alleged violation, (b) the proposed sanction to be imposed, (c) a period of not less than 10 days within which the alleged violator may present a written request for a

hearing to the Board or the Covenants Committee, if one has been appointed pursuant to Article V; and (d) a statement that the proposed sanction maybe imposed as contained in the notice unless a hearing is requested within 10 days of the notice.

The alleged violator shall respond to the notice of the alleged violation in writing within such 10 day period, regardless of whether the alleged violator is challenging the imposition of the proposed sanction. If the alleged violator cures the alleged violation and notifies the Board in writing within such 10 day period the Board may, but shall not be obligated to, waive the sanction.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the violation pertains to the failure to maintain one's Unit in accordance with Community-Wide Standard as set forth in Section 5.1 including, without limitation, keeping the grass at a reasonable length consistent with the Community-Wide Standard, the violator must request a hearing within five (5) days of receipt of notice of such violation.

Prior to the effectiveness of sanctions imposed pursuant to this Article VIII, proof of proper notice shall be placed in the minutes of the Board or Covenants Committee, as applicable. Such proof shall be deemed adequate if a copy of the notice, together with a statement of the date and manner of delivery, is entered by the officer, director, or agent who delivered such notice. The notice requirement shall be deemed satisfied if the alleged violator or its representative requests and appears at the hearing.

8.2. Hearing.

If a hearing is requested within the allotted 10-day period, the hearing shall be held before the Covenants Committee, or if one has not been appointed, then before the Board in executive session. The alleged violator shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard. The minutes of the meetings of the Board or Covenants Committee, as applicable, shall contain a written statement of the results of the hearing (i.e., the decision of the Board or Committee) and the sanction, if any, to be imposed.

If a timely request for a hearing is not made, the sanction stated in the notice shall be imposed; provided the Board or Covenants Committee may, but shall not be obligated to, suspend any proposed sanction if the violation is cured within the 10-day period. Such suspension shall not constitute a waiver of the right to sanction future violations of the same or other provisions and rules by any Person.

8.3. Appeal.

Following a hearing before the Covenants Committee, the violator shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Board. To exercise this right, a written notice of appeal must be received by the Association's manager, President, or Secretary within 10 days after the hearing date.

Article IX Miscellaneous

9.1. Fiscal Year.

The Association's fiscal year shall be the calendar year unless the Board establishes a different fiscal year by resolution.

9.2. Parliamentary Rules.

Except as may be modified by Board resolution, *Robert's Rules of Order* (current edition) shall govern the conduct of Association proceedings when not in conflict with North Carolina law or the Governing Documents.

9.3. Conflicts.

If there are conflicts among the provisions of North Carolina law, the Articles of Incorporation, the Declaration, and these By-Laws, the provisions of North Carolina law, the Declaration, the Articles of Incorporation, and the By-Laws (in that order) shall prevail.

9.4. Books and Records.

(a) Inspection by Members and Mortgagees. The Board shall make available for inspection and copying by any holder, insurer or guarantor of a first Mortgage on a Unit, any Member, or the duly appointed representative of any of the foregoing at any reasonable time and for a purpose reasonably related to his or her interest in a Unit: the Governing Documents, the membership register, books of account, and the minutes of meetings of the Members, the Board, and committees. The Board shall provide for such inspection to take place at the Association's office or at such other place within Water's Edge as the Board shall designate.

(b) Rules for Inspection. The Board shall establish rules with respect to:

- (i) notice to be given to the custodian of the records; and
- (ii) hours and days of the week when such an inspection may be made; and
- (iii) payment of the cost of reproducing documents requested.

(c) Inspection by Directors. Every director shall have the absolute right at any reasonable time to inspect all books, records, and documents of the Association and the physical properties owned or controlled by the Association. The right of inspection by a director includes the right to make a copy of relevant documents at the Association's expense.

9.5. Notices.

(a) Form of Notice and Method of Delivery. Except as otherwise provided in the Declaration or these By-Laws or by law, all notices, demands, bills, statements, or other communications under the Declaration or these By-Laws shall be in writing and may be delivered in person, by United States mail, by private carrier, or if the intended recipient has

given its prior written authorization to use such method of delivery, by telephone facsimile or electronic mail with written confirmation of transmission.

(b) Delivery Address. Notices shall be delivered or sent to the intended recipient as follows:

(i) if to a Member, at the address, telephone facsimile number, or e-mail address which the Member has designated in writing and filed with the Secretary or, if no such address has been designated, at the address of the Unit of such Member;

(ii) if to the Association, the Board, or a committee of either, at the address, telephone facsimile number, or e-mail address of the principal office of the Association or its managing agent, or at such other address as the Association shall designate by notice in writing to the Members pursuant to this Section; or

(iii) if to the Declarant, at the principal address of the Declarant as it appears on the Secretary of State's records, or at such other address as the Declarant shall designate by notice in writing to the Association pursuant to this Section.

(c) Effective Date. Notice sent in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) shall be deemed to have been duly given and effective:

(i) if sent by United States mail, when deposited with the U.S. Postal Service, correctly addressed, with first class or higher priority postage prepaid;

(ii) if delivered personally or by private carrier, when actually delivered to the address of the intended recipient, as evidenced by the signature of the person at such address who accepts such delivery;

(iii) if sent by telephone facsimile or electronic mail, upon transmission, as evidenced by a printed confirmation of transmission.

9.6. Amendment.

(a) By Class "B" Member. Prior to termination of the Class "B" Membership, the Class "B" Member may unilaterally amend these By-Laws, subject to the veto power set forth in subsection (c) below, if applicable.

(b) By Members Generally. Except as provided above, these By-Laws may be amended only by the affirmative vote or written consent, or any combination thereof, of Members representing 67% of the total Class "A" votes in the Association, and the consent of the Class "B" Member, if such exists. Any such amendment shall be subject to the veto right set forth in subsection (c), if applicable. Notwithstanding the above, the percentage of votes necessary to amend a specific clause shall not be less than the prescribed percentage of affirmative votes required for action to be taken under that clause.

(c) Validity and Effective Date of Amendments. Amendments to these By-Laws shall become effective upon recordation unless a later effective date is specified therein;

however, if the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is insuring or guaranteeing any Mortgage on a Unit, and if it provides written notice to the Board that it requests the same, it shall be given notice of and shall have an opportunity to veto any such amendment adopted during the Class "B" Control Period prior to such amendment being recorded. Any procedural challenge to an amendment must be made within six months of its recordation, or such amendment shall be presumed to have been validly adopted. In no event shall a change of conditions or circumstances operate to amend any provisions of these By-Laws.

No amendment may remove, revoke, or modify any right or privilege of Declarant or the Class "B" Member without the written consent of Declarant, the Class "B" Member, or the assignee of such right or privilege.