



TOWN OF AMHERST

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TOWN COMMONS POLICY

Definitions

The Town Commons, as referenced in this policy, are defined as the Main Street Common (the large common on Main Street in the Village); the Pierce Common (bordering Main Street and Pierce Lane); the Spalding Common (bordering Main, Amherst and Knight Streets); and the School Street Park (bordering Main, School and Middle Streets).

General Usage

The Town Commons are public areas intended for use by the public. Their uses shall be free, as they are community areas and should be used by groups and members of the Town. Therefore, no individuals or organizations using the Commons shall prevent anyone from entering onto the Common spaces. Any event that requires admission will not preclude a resident from passing through on the Main Street Common's pathways.

Individuals and organizations using the Town Commons shall be responsible for any damage incurred by or as a result of their use. As well, individuals and organizations are responsible for ensuring that all refuse generated by their use is collected and disposed of properly. If Amherst's Department of Public Works is needed to restore any portion of the area to its condition prior to usage, the individuals or organizations responsible will be billed for these services.

Any permission granted by the Board of Selectmen or Town Administrator's Office for use of the Commons, shall in no way be construed as a license for any individuals or organizations to claim exclusive use of all the Town Commons, to expect special police protection or traffic control, to alter any of the Common areas, to block pedestrian or vehicle traffic, become disorderly, or in any other way violate the law.

- According to the Revised Town of Amherst Ordinance dated August 25, 1998, no persons shall possess an open container of any alcoholic beverage in or upon any common, park, playground, cemetery or public building in the Town.
- According to the Revised Town of Amherst Ordinance dated May 1, 1973, the driving, riding, walking or exercising of horses or ponies on all public commons, parks, playgrounds, cemeteries or sidewalks is prohibited.
- According to the revised Town of Amherst Ordinance dated May 1, 1973, the playing of baseball, football, volley ball and soccer is prohibited on all public parks and commons, except at diamonds or areas expressly designated for such purposes.

Activities Requiring Prior Approval

Approval from the Board of Selectmen is required to use the Commons for the following activities or events:

Activities or events which include the sale of goods and/or services, or any other commercial transactions. Activities or events sponsored by non-profit businesses/organizations, the Town may require an organization to present a copy of its non-profit status as approved by the Federal Government or the State prior to granting approval. Activities or events which involve 25 or more participants. Activities or events which are to be publicized or advertised prior to the activity or event.

To gain approval for such activities or events, individuals or organizations shall submit a request in writing to the Board of Selectmen. The Town reserves the right to not approve any activity that may deem inappropriate for the intended use and purpose of the Town Commons, or which may cause harm to the inhabitants of the Town of Amherst.

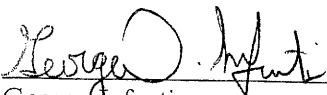
Reserving the Town Commons

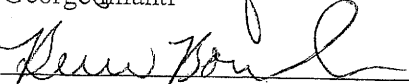
Individuals or organizations seeking to reserve part or all of the Commons shall submit a request in writing at least a month prior to the requested date of use and each request must specify the dates, time and duration of the reservation and the area to be reserved. Specific hours can be requested, but will be designated by the Board of Selectmen. Requests shall be honored on a "first-come, first-served" basis. Electric power shall be arranged for through the Department of Public Works by individuals or organizations.

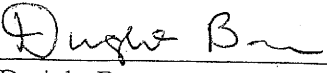
Requests to reserve part or all of the Town Commons for more than one date shall be received by the Board of Selectmen. While the reservation for the initial date shall be honored on a "first-come, first-served" basis, reservations for the subsequent dates may not be granted, if the Board deems that doing so unduly restricts the use of the Town Commons by other individuals or organizations.

No reservation shall be required for spontaneous gatherings.

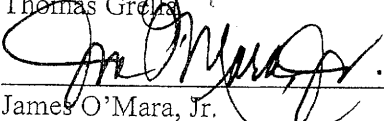
Individuals or organizations shall carry sufficient liability insurance and list the Town of Amherst as an additional insured. Insurance is needed if the event includes major physical activity and moderate/severe exposure to participants; expect attendance of over 100; large amounts of cash (\$1,000) or quantities of merchandise will be brought onto the Town Commons; and food will be served, sold and/or given to the general public.


George Infanti


Bruce Bowler


Dwight Brew


Thomas Grella


James O'Mara, Jr.

Dated: 10 May 2010