

# TOWN OF THORNTON CAMPGROUND REGULATIONS

*Adopted by the Planning Board at a Public Hearing held on August 17, 2000  
Amended by the Planning Board at a Public Hearing first commenced May 2014  
and concluded November 19, 2015*

## **I. General**

**Definition:** A campground is a specific area approved by the Planning Board for use by the General Public on a controlled, commercial basis utilizing as shelters; tents, pop-up trailers, motor homes, house trailers and fifth wheelers, however, camping cabins are not permitted. The Campground Season shall be defined as beginning on May 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on Oct 31<sup>st</sup>.

- A. Zones where Campgrounds are permitted – Campgrounds are permitted in all zones.
- B. Compliance with New Hampshire RSA's (Revised Statutes Annotated) and New Hampshire's Code of Administrative Rules applicable to Recreational Campgrounds is required.

## **II. Site Specific Details:** – The Planning Board shall review all applications for campgrounds.

- A. Site Plan Review shall address the following items:
  - 1. Permanent structures such as care-taker's house, office, storage buildings, public showers and/or toilets, free standing bulletin boards, directional signs, swimming pools and playgrounds are permitted but must be identified during the Site Plan review process.
  - 2. Features such as access to campsites, allowed campfire sites, potable water sources and areas requiring clearing or grading shall also be identified.
- B. Set Backs & Natural Screening: Set Backs for structures and permanent driveways shall conform to those described in subdivision regulations. Individual campsites, especially those on the perimeter of the site, shall be provided with natural screening wherever possible to provide reasonable privacy both to the campsites and to abutters.
- C. Details of the campground plan may be reviewed under the terms of Innovative Land Use as defined in RSA 674:21 when regulations for its use are adopted by the Planning Board.

## **III. Special Conditions:**

- A. The campground must be managed in concert with accepted practices involving public safety and welfare.
- B. Playgrounds shall not include any motorized or powered playground equipment.
- C. Off season storage of vehicles, trailers or personal property is not allowed in the campground.
- D. Campsites are for temporary occupancy only and are not to be utilized as the basis of claiming permanent year round residency.
- E. RV's, tents, trailers, or any occupancy of a campsite by a vehicle or camping apparatus has a maximum stay of the Camping Season.
- F. A Campground that has campsites located in the Flood Plain shall provide a detailed Hazard Mitigation Plan.

## **IV. Waiver of Regulation Request Process:**

The planning board may only grant a waiver if the board finds, by majority vote, that:

- (1) Strict conformity would pose an unnecessary hardship to the applicant and waiver would not be contrary to the spirit and intent of the regulations; or
- (2) Specific circumstances relative to the proposed campground, or conditions of the land of the proposed campground, indicate that the waiver will properly carry out the spirit and intent of the regulations.

**V. Enforcement:**

- A. Modifications to the approved site plan without further Planning Board approval and violations of Section III are not permitted.
- B. It shall be the duty of the Selectmen and they are hereby empowered to administer and enforce the provisions of this regulation.

**VI. Penalty:**

The Selectmen may impose a penalty of up to \$50.00 per day for each minor violation of the regulation and up to and including campground closure for major violations.

Approved, as amended:

  
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Planning Board Chairman

11-19-2015  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Planning Board Vice Chairman

11-19-2015  
Date

  
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Received by Town Clerk

11-23-15  
Date