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TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD NEW HAMPSHIRE
SNOWMOBILES ON TOWN ROADS AND LANDS

Town Ordinance #
November , 2014

This ordinance is effective December __, 2014 and remains in effect until revised or cancelled. Violation of this ordinance can lead to warning or penalty of up to \$___ per occurrence.

Snowmobiling has been a popular wintertime sport in Springfield for many years because of our rural and attractive natural environment. The Town encourages property owners to open their lands to the sport. This follows the spirit and intent of New Hampshire RSAs 212:34 and 508:14 which were enacted for that reason.

AUTHORITY

This Ordinance is enacted pursuant to RSA 215-C:31 which authorizes the Board of Selectmen to regulate the operation of snowmobiles within Town limits. In the event of conflict between this Ordinance and State statute or case law, the State mandates shall apply. Operators of snowmobiles are required to be aware of, understand and conform to all provisions of this Ordinance and State law, including but not limited to RSA 215-C.

APPLICABILITY

With the exception of law enforcement, this Ordinance applies to all snowmobile operators regardless of place of residency/domicile or club affiliation. It applies to all roads, lands, bridges and water bodies owned by the Town of Springfield or portions thereof.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Limitation of Liability
Within the provisions of this Ordinance, the Town of Springfield authorizes use of its roads and lands free of charge for the recreational purpose of snowmobiling by operators and spectators. Pursuant to RSA 508:14, the Town accepts no liability for personal injury or property damage resulting from the use of snowmobiles on its roads, lands, bridges, water bodies or any portions thereof.
- Non-Recreational Use
Non-recreational use of snowmobiles (e.g., hauling building materials to areas accessible only during winter) on Town roads, lands, bridges, water bodies or any portion thereof is not authorized except on an ad hoc basis by permission of the Board of Selectmen and recorded in meeting minutes.
- Responsibilities and Rights
Snowmobilers shall operate their machines in a courteous, respectful and responsible manner. They are encouraged to positively promote snowmobiling for their own best interests and for accord in the community at large. Best practice noise abatement procedures shall be followed, although modification to snowmobiles is not required by this Ordinance. Along with this responsibility, the Town recognizes the right of snowmobilers to take advantage of Town resources for their outdoor enjoyment.
- Safety
Operation of vehicles on Town roads is governed by basic rules laid out in RSA 265:60. Within the provisions of this Ordinance, the Town authorizes the use of its roads, lands and water bodies for snowmobiling on the premise that safety is first and foremost the responsibility of individual operators. In the absence of a hazard that could not be discovered while traveling in a reasonable,

prudent and lawful manner, there is no such thing as an “unsafe” road. In the event that a road is deemed insufficient, it shall be closed immediately to all vehicular traffic by the Road Agent, Police Chief or the Board of Selectmen.

- Maintenance and Signage

Except on Class V roads, the Town of Springfield accepts no responsibility for maintenance of snowmobile trails, including but not limited to grooming or clearing of vegetation. The Town will not install or maintain snowmobile traffic signage. The Town reserves the right to remove signage on its lands, roads, bridges and water bodies or portions thereof which it deems inappropriate or does not apply to safety of snowmobile operation.

SNOWMOBILE USE ON CLASS V ROADS

Except when crossing a Class V road (RSA 215-C:8X), use of snowmobiles on Class V roads is not authorized without a signed application which in turn is approved and co-signed by the Board of Selectmen. “Blanket” application will not be authorized. Instead, written application and approval shall be made for specific and clearly defined segments of Class V road. When a segment of a Class V road is to be considered for snowmobile use, the public will be notified in accordance with RSA 91-A:2 II. Snowmobile speed on Class V roads shall not exceed ten (10) miles per hour. Authorizations to use segments of Class V roads shall be for indefinite periods and shall be reviewed every three (3) years. On a case by case basis, the Board of Selectmen may impose additional restrictions including but not limited to during snow clearing, during school bus operation and during certain hours of the day.

SNOWMOBILE USE ON CLASS VI ROADS

Snowmobile travel on Class VI roads is authorized subject to applicable State law. No application is required for access by individual segments. Class VI roads will not be maintained without authorization and permit by the Board of Selectmen pursuant to RSA 231:21-a II and RSA 236:9 and recorded in Selectboard minutes. Approved road maintenance permits shall be for an indefinite period and will be reviewed every three years.

SNOWMOBILE USE ON TOWN LANDS

Pursuant to RSA 215-C:49, the use of snowmobiles on Town lands is authorized but only on designated trails with approval by the Board of Selectmen and recorded in meeting minutes. Such approval shall be for an indefinite period and will be reviewed on an as-needed basis. Before clearing or grading begins for new trails on Town lands, approval must be obtained and recorded in Selectboard meeting minutes.

REVOCATION AND MODIFICATION

The Board of Selectmen reserves the right to revoke or modify previously authorized snowmobile operations on any of the Town’s lands, roads, bridges and water bodies or portions thereof without notice and for any reason it deems appropriate.

Selectman

Date

Selectman

Date

Selectman

Date