

Town Meeting to Vote on Proposed Noise Ordinance

Would replace old, unenforceable ordinance

Board of Selectmen

The following Noise Ordinance will appear on the Town Meeting warrant and will be discussed and voted on at Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 8, in the AE/MS gym. The Andover Police Department and the Andover Board of Selectmen agree on the need for a clearer noise ordinance than the "Unnecessary Noise Ordinance" that is currently in place in Andover and is basically unenforceable.

Ordinances are what authorize the police to take action. A great example is the need for speed limit postings. Speed limits are set for safety. Not only are they posted to warn drivers, but they are backed by ordinances that authorize the police to take action when drivers violate the postings. Depending on their history and some other factors, drivers may be given a warning or cited for violations.

The proposed noise ordinance is no different. It was drafted by our Town attorney at the request of the Board of Selectmen, using other small towns' noise ordinances as models. It will allow the police to investigate complaints and, depending on the circumstances, take different levels of action. It is not meant to restrict law abiding residents.

Noise Regulation Ordinance #15-01

In accordance with RSA 31:39, I (n), the Town of Andover hereby adopts the following Ordinance to regulate noise and to provide for the promotion of public health, comfort, convenience, safety, welfare, prosperity and the peace and quiet of the Town and its citizens.

Section 1: Purpose and Intent

Because the creation and/or maintenance of loud, unnecessary or unusual noises, within the Town of Andover, which are prolonged, unusual and unnatural in their time, place and use, detrimentally affect public health, comfort, convenience, safety, welfare and prosperity of Town citizens, the Town ordains it necessary and appropriate to enact the following provisions

and prohibitions.

Section 2: Definitions

For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following words and phrases when used herein shall be construed as follows:

A) Town - The Town of Andover, New Hampshire.

B) Board - Board of Selectmen of the Town of Andover.

C) Construction - Any site preparation, assembly, erection, substantial repair, alteration or similar action, but excluding demolition.

D) Continuous Sound - Any sound that exists, essentially without interruption, for a period of 10 minutes or more.

E) Demolition - Dismantling or intentional removal of structures, utilities, public or private right of way surfaces or similar property.

F) Firearms - means (A) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (B) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (C) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (D) any destructive device, as defined in 18 U.S.C. Section 921.

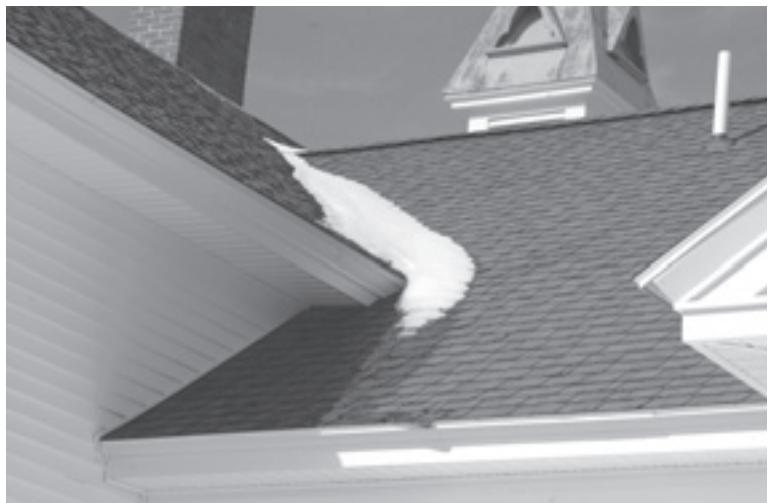
G) Fireworks - Any composition or device designed to produce a visible or an audible effect by combustion, deflagration, or detonation, as defined in 27 C.F.R. section 555.11 or as otherwise defined by RSA 160-C:1

H) Impulse Noise - Any noise of short duration, usually less than one second, and of high intensity, with an abrupt onset and rapid decay.

I) Noise Disturbance - Any sound, whether a continuous sound or an impulse noise which is loud or unreasonable and which disturbs a reasonable person with normal sensitivities.

J) Person - Any individual, partnership, company, corporation, association, firm, organization, governmental agency, administration or department,

See Noise on page 10



The shingles on the Town Hall roof are showing clear signs of premature failure. Warrant Article 6 at Town Meeting will ask the voters to authorize replacement.

Photo: Charlie Darling

Town Meeting to Vote on New Roof for Town Hall

Defective shingles lead to warrant article

Vicky Mishcon, Board of Selectmen

While fixing a leak on the roof where the Town Office and library buildings join, it was discovered that the roof shingles were cracked in many places.

The shingles are 15 years old and were put on both parts of the building when the Town Office addition was added. Unfortunately, IKO, the manufacturer, produced a poor quality shingle, and the Town is in the process of finding out if a refund for faulty material is available. Other people in town who have installed the same shingles are experiencing the same problem.

Fortunately for the Town, there is only one layer of shingle throughout, so we would not be required to have them removed in order to put a new roof on.

We are getting estimates for new 35-year shingles as well as for metal roofing. A warrant article at this year's Town Meeting will ask to raise and appropriate \$25,000 to replace the roof in 2016.

If the town decided to install solar panels at some point, it wouldn't make a difference what the roofing material is. Solar panels have been successfully installed on asphalt shingles and metal roofing throughout the town this past year, during the Solarize Kearsarge Project.

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