

**TOWN OF YORK**  
**BEACH ORDINANCE**

Adopted May 20, 2006

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Ordinance is to regulate and control activities on all Beaches within the limits of the Town of York, including but not limited to Cape Neddick, Short Sands, Long Sands and Harbor Beach.

Statement of Fact: This Ordinance is the consolidation of the York Harbor Village Corporation Ordinance (Ordinance relating to the Bathing Beaches), the York Beach Village Corporation Ordinances (Ordinances relating to the Bathing Beach Area and Surfing) and the Town's Cape Neddick River Beach Ordinance. This Ordinance supersedes all existing ordinances as a whole or any part thereof relating to the same subjects.

**Section 1. Dressing**

Dressing, undressing and the changing of clothes are not permitted within the limits of the beach, except in bathhouses or other structures suitable for this purpose. This does not apply to children under 10 years of age.

**Section 2. Fires**

No person shall build or kindle any outdoor fire on any public beach unless such fire is contained in a suitable grill, which is screened, without prior written permission of the Town of York Fire Warden.

**Section 3. Alcoholic Beverages**

No person shall have in their possession any container of alcoholic beverage, on the public beaches. (Adopted March 18, 1975)

**Section 4. Sleeping on Public Beaches**

The use of the public beach for sleeping or camping is prohibited between the hours of 12 midnight and sunrise.

**Section 5. Surfing**

Surfing is prohibited within York Beach from June 14th to and including Labor Day between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm EDT except:

In the area on Long Beach one hundred twenty (120) yards wide, from the road to the sea, commencing at a point eighteen (18) yards to the northeast of the extension of an imaginary line extending from the line of telephone poles on Beacon Street to the Beach, and thence southwesterly one hundred twenty (120) yards to a point, for the purpose of restricting said area to the use of surfboards only (the “Surfing Area”);

The Surfing Area may be expanded in width from its southwesterly boundary to the northeasterly boundary of land now or formerly of Raymond Ramsey (York County Registry of Deeds Book 2506, Page 100) at the discretion of the Director of Parks & Recreation (the “Director”) or the Director’s designee when wave conditions are well suited to surfing and the increased number of surfers warrants such expansion.

The Director shall implement a system of providing the public with reasonable notice that surfing has been temporarily opened to areas outside the limits of the Surfing Area, for example, through the use of colored flags posted at guard stands or on the ends of the expanded areas for surfing.

#### **Section 6. Playing Games**

The playing of hard or soft baseball, football, soccer, lacrosse, golf, iron horseshoes or any other games which endanger other persons are prohibited on the beaches from May 1 through October 15 of each calendar year, except by written permission by the Town of York.

#### **Section 7. Removal of Sand, Rocks, and Plant Life**

The removal of any sand, rocks, or plant life is not allowed, except that seaweed may be removed by special permission of the Town of York.

#### **Section 8. Motor Vehicles, Aircraft, Etc.**

Motor vehicles, aircraft, bicycles and motor scooters are prohibited from being on the public beach areas, except that Town maintenance and emergency vehicles are allowed on all beaches for any emergencies and/or maintenance reasons.

Also, the Town may grant special permission for individuals to drive on the beach for the purpose of removing seaweed, lobster traps or for other reasons as determined.

#### **Section 9. Littering**

The disposal of diapers, bottles, cans, cigarette butts, garbage or rubbish of any kind is prohibited on all beaches, except in receptacles placed on the beaches, for that purpose.

**Section 10. Animals**

REF: See Animal Control Ordinance; Section 10. Public Beach - Restrictions.

**Section 11. Penalty**

Any person who shall knowingly violate any of the provisions of this ordinance, and any person who aids, abets, or assists therein shall, upon conviction thereof, be subject to a fine of not less than \$100.00 per day per violation, for use of said Town.

**Section 12. Effective Date**

This ordinance shall take effect and be in force immediately upon enactment and once established shall cancel and/or supersede any conflicting existing Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof relating to the same subjects. The adopting of this ordinances replaces and repeals the York

**Section 13. Repeal of Existing Ordinances**

This ordinance is intended to replace and repeal the Cape Neddick River Beach Ordinance, the York Beach Village Corporation Ordinances, Chapter XIII and Chapter XXI and the York Harbor Village Corporation Ordinances, Chapter 4.

Amended May 19, 2007