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Hinesburg Town Forest, Firearm Discharge Ordinance

SECTION I - AUTHORITY

The Selectboard of the Town of Hinesburg, in the County of Chittenden, State of Vermont, acting under the authority of 24 V.S.A § 2291 (8) et seq. hereby adopt this ordinance regulating shooting in the Town of Hinesburg's Town Forest. A violation of this ordinance shall be a civil matter enforced in accordance with the provisions of 24VSA Chapter 59.

SECTION II – PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this ordinance to regulate the discharge of firearms within the Hinesburg Town Forest in order to promote the public safety, health, and welfare of the public in accordance with the intent of the Hinesburg Town Forest Management Plan.

SECTION III – DEFINITIONS

- A. “Discharge” – shall mean to shoot or fire a firearm or bow and arrow.
- B. “Firearm” – shall mean any weapon which will expel a projectile by action of an explosive, and includes any weapon commonly referred to as a pistol, revolver, rifle, gun, muzzle loader, or shotgun.
- C. “Bow and Arrow” – shall mean a weapon consisting of arrows and the bow to shoot them.
- D. “Hinesburg Town Forest” – The 837-acre located south of Hayden Hill Road in the Town of Hinesburg, Vermont.

SECTION IV – DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS

No person(s) shall discharge a firearm or bow and arrow within or into the Hinesburg Town Forest

SECTION V – EXEMPTIONS

- A. Law Enforcement Exemption – This ordinance shall not apply to the discharge of firearms by police officers, sheriffs, constables, game wardens and other statutorily designated law enforcement officers in the performance of their legal duties.

B. Self Defense Exemption – This ordinance shall not be construed to limit any rights or immunities to discharge firearms in the defense or protection of person or property provided by Vermont Statutes.

C. Hunting Exemption – This ordinance shall not apply to hunting during the following annual seasons as defined by the State of Vermont Fishing & Wildlife Department and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

1. Deer (Bow & Arrow)
2. Youth Deer Weekend
3. Deer (16 Day Regular Season)
4. Deer (Muzzleloader)
5. Black Bear (Late Season)
6. Youth Turkey Weekend
7. Turkey Spring Season
8. Turkey Fall Seasons

SECTION VI – ENFORCEMENT

Any person who discharges a firearm or bow and arrow in violation with this ordinance shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$400 for each discharge. Any law enforcement officer may act as an Issuing Municipal Officer and issue and pursue before the Traffic and Municipal Ordinance Bureau a municipal complain for violation of this ordinance.

SECTION V – SEVERABILITY

Any part or provision of the ordinance shall be considered severable, and the invalidity of any part or section will not be held to invalidate any other part or provision of this ordinance.

Adopted _____, 2013 by the Town of Hinesburg Selectboard

Jonathan S. Trefry, Chair

Andrea Morgante

Michael Bissonette

Phil Pouech

Tom Ayer