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Town of Hinesburg  
Firearm Discharge Ordinance

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~~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. 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 ~~on all Town of Hinesburg owned property~~ in and around the Town Forest and Geprags Park in order to promote the ~~public~~ safety, health, and welfare of the public.

### 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. “Town Owned Property Town Forest” – Any land under the ownership of the Town of Hinesburg, Vermont.~~ – shall mean the 837-acre (+/-) Town owned property on Hayden Hill Road, which includes land on both north and south sides of the road

~~D.E. Geprags Park~~ – shall mean the 86-acre (+/-) Town owned property on the north side of Shelburne Falls Road, the access drive for which is approximately 3,000 feet from the Route 116, Shelburne Falls Road intersection.

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SECTION IV – DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS

No person(s) shall discharge a firearm or bow and arrow within or into ~~Town-owned property~~the Town Forest or Geprags Park.

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. Town Forest 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~~

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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

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Jonathan S. Trefry, Chair

Andrea Morgante

Michael Bissonette

Phil Pouech

Tom Ayer

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