

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER

OPERATION OF OFF-HIGHWAY RECREATIONAL VEHICLES AND SNOWMOBILES

I. Purpose

The Town of Bridgewater, NH is a tourism community that welcomes and promotes OFF-HIGHWAY RECREATIONAL VEHICLES AND SNOWMOBILES. This ordinance is intended to identify lawful operation, permitted access and travel routes in our community.

II. Authority

NHRSA 41:11 Regulation of Use of Highways
NHRSA 215-A.15 Regulations of Political Subdivisions

III. Operation of snowmobiles.

No person shall operate a snow traveling vehicle, which shall mean any vehicle propelled by mechanical power that is designed to travel over ice or snow supported in whole or in part by skis, belts, cleats, or low pressure tires, in or on any street, lane, bridge, alley, sidewalk or other public place in the Town except as provided below:

The following exceptions shall be

Trails maintained by the Bridgewater Mountain Snowmobile Club

The speed limit on these 'exception' snowmobile trails is 45 mph. Complaints regarding snowmobile use of these trails shall be received by the BOS, which may recommend changes. The BOS shall have the power to change the times of such snowmobile use by vote without amendment to this ordinance

IV. Operation of OHRVs

No person shall operate an OHRV, as defined by NH RSA 215-A:1, which for purposes of this ordinance, includes Golf Cars, in or on any street, lane, bridge, alley, sidewalk or other public place in the Town except as provided below:

1.. The following are authorized municipal public OHRV trails within the Town:

a) All streets and roads on Whittemore Point westerly from Mayhew Turnpike.

b) The Town roadways will be open to OHRV riders for purposes of accessing the Whittemore Improvement Association beach (via the shortest possible route).

c) OHRV operators shall not leave those designated roadways within the Town except as may be specifically otherwise provided herein. A specific exception shall be that an OHRV operator may leave and return in the shortest possible route to the designated roadways to travel no more than ½ mile to the nearest fueling or other service facilities

d) Any person who violates the provisions of this article shall be guilty of a violation, punishable by a fine as follows: All violations are subject to a loss of OHRV operating privileges on Town streets.

First offense, \$25.00 fine.

Second offense, \$50.00 fine.

Third offense, \$100.00 fine.

2. OHRV users in the Town must abide by all State and Town laws when on designated Town roadways and must abide by all motor vehicle traffic laws. However, underage State certified OHRV operators may ride on Town roadways, if and only if, accompanied closely by a properly motor vehicle licensed adult.

b) OHRV operators, when operating on the designated Town roadways, shall ride single file, shall keep to the extreme right, and shall yield to all conventional vehicles motor traffic.

c) The speed limit for OHRV operators when operating on the designated roadways is 15 mph.

d) OHRV's must yield to pedestrians at all times.

e) There will be no OHRV riders on Town roadways between the hours of 10:00 p.m. through 7:00 a.m. unless authorized by the BOS during special events.

f) There will be no OHRV riders on Town roadways between November 15 and May 15, unless authorized by the BOS during special events.

g) All OHRV's operating on designated Town roadways between dusk and the 10:00pm limit must have working head and tail lights.

h) All OHRV's operating on designated Town roadways must carry a 4ft (min) whip with flag or pennant..

i) Dirt bikes which are not "street legal" are not permitted on Class V Town roadways.

3. Complaints regarding OHRV use of these roadways shall be received by the BOS who may recommend changes.

4. Anything above to the contrary notwithstanding, the BOS may, at any time open up some or all roadways in the Town to OHRV use for named special events not to exceed two consecutive days in length; or in the event of temporary OHRV trail obstructions or other matters determined by the BOS to require temporary OHRV street use for a length of time determined appropriate by the BOS and when such approval is given, Town street use by OHRV's shall still be subject to all of the requirements listed above for OHRV use of the authorized trail

Adopted Nov. 13, 2014