

PARKING AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

ORDINANCE RE: TRAFFIC AND REGULATING THE USE OF PUBLIC STREETS AND MUNICIPALLY OWNED PARKING LOTS IN THE TOWN OF STONINGTON.

An ordinance relating to traffic and regulating the use of public streets, right of ways and municipally owned parking lots in the Town of Stonington, prescribing regulations relative to the parking of vehicles upon such streets, right of ways and lots for the purpose of enhancing the free flow of traffic by providing regulations regarding the parking of vehicles on public streets, town right of ways and municipally controlled lots. To encourage the utilization of commuter parking lots by restricting their usage to that of commuters and to keep the town right of ways clear of obstructions. Furthermore, to authorize the use of electronic aided paid parking; to authorize the Town of Stonington to receive funds from said paid parking and to establish regulations relating to electronic aided paid parking. To authorize the Town of Stonington to direct a portion of the parking fees to be placed into an account for the sole purpose to support bicycle and pedestrian safety enhancement projects. As the local traffic authority, future changes to traffic, parking or related project will still require approval by the Board of Police Commissioners.

Section 1. Definitions.

Whenever, in this ordinance, the following terms are used, they shall have the meaning respectively ascribed to them in this section:

- (a) **VEHICLE:** Any device suitable for the conveyance, drawing or other transportation of persons or property, whether operated on wheels, runners, cushion of air between it and the surface or by any other means, except those propelled or drawn by human power or those used exclusively upon tracks.
- (b) **PARKED VEHICLE:** Any vehicle in a stationary position within the limits of a public highway or a municipally owned parking lot.
- (c) **HIGHWAY:** Includes any state or public highway, road, street, avenue, alley, driveway, parkway or place, under the control of the state or town, dedicated, appropriated or open to public travel or other use.
- (d) **MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT:** An area under the control of the Town of Stonington which is dedicated to and posted for the parking of motor vehicles.
- (e) **TOWN RIGHT OF WAY:** The Town right-of-way is the area of property between opposing street lines that is owned and maintained by the Town, and also includes right-of-way as shown on a map of an approved subdivision, whether the streets within such subdivision have yet been accepted by the Town.

Section 2. Liability of Owner.

Whenever there occurs a violation of this ordinance, proof of registration number of any motor vehicle involved shall be prima facie evidence, in any criminal action or in any action based on an infraction or parking ticket, that the owner was the operator of said motor vehicle except, in the case of a leased or rented motor vehicle, such proof shall be prima facie evidence that the lessee was the operator thereof.

Section 3. General Parking Restrictions.

A. No vehicle shall be parking in the following manner on a highway or a municipal parking lot in the Town of Stonington:

1. Upon a Highway:

- a. Within ten feet (10') of any fire hydrant.
- b. Parallel and adjacent to a vehicle already parked in a particular area.
- c. Upon any public sidewalk except when in the process of crossing said sidewalk or when necessary to perform sidewalk construction, maintenance or snow removal or when other emergency circumstances require.
- d. In such manner as to obstruct or interfere with the ingress or egress from a private driveway or alleyway, except with the permission of the owner of such private driveway or alleyway.
- e. Upon the traveled portion of any highway except upon the right-hand side of such highway in the direction in which such vehicle is headed.
- f. With the right-hand wheels further than twelve inches (12") from the curb or edge of the highway.
- g. Within twenty-five feet (25') of any intersection marked crosswalk or stop sign.
- h. At a bus stop, taxi-stand, loading and unloading zones except vehicles performing the intended purpose in those designated areas.
- i. In such manner as to obstruct the flow of traffic.
- j. In violation of any sign posted by the Legal Traffic Authority of the Town of Stonington, the Borough of Stonington or the State of Connecticut which prohibits, limits or regulates the parking of vehicles within the Town of Stonington.
- k. Parking on a Town of Stonington right-of-way does not fall within this provision unless the area is marked as outlined in subsection j.

2. In a Municipal Parking Lot:

- a. In violation of any restrictions posted by order of the Board of Selectmen or the Legal Traffic Authority of the Town of Stonington.
- b. In such manner as to obstruct or interfere with the ingress or egress from the lot.
- c. In such a manner as to obstruct or prevent the movement of other parked vehicles within the lot.

Section 4. Paid Parking

Whenever because of traffic conditions or otherwise the parking of vehicles on any public street or part thereof cannot in the opinion of the Board of Police Commissioners as the traffic authority of the Town of Stonington be adequately and efficiently regulated and controlled, the Commission may authorize the installation of electronic aided paid parking, fix the parking fee and the legal parking time in such zone, and also fix the hours during which the use of electronic aided paid parking shall be required, and in accordance therewith cause lines or markers to be placed upon the curb or pavement, or both, of the street in such zone designating the paid parking space for which said electronic or computer aided paid parking is to be used. The Town of Stonington shall be authorized to receive funds from the collection of revenues and fines from the electronic aided paid parking in order to maintain and replace electronic aided paid parking and to support bicycle and pedestrian safety enhancement projects and for any other purpose allowable by law. The Board of Police Commissioners shall be further authorized to establish additional regulations regarding paid parking as it deems necessary.

When any vehicle remains parked in any such paid parking space beyond the parking time limit fixed for such paid parking space it shall be deemed a violation of this article and subject to the remedies outlined in Section 5.

Section 5. Enforcement & Penalties.

A. Enforcement - Any patrol officer, or other designated representative of the Chief of Police may attach to any vehicle found in violation of any of the regulations outlined in the foregoing sections, a notice to the owner or operator that such vehicle has been parked in violation of law, which such notice shall indicate the nature of the violation and instruct such owner or operator to pay the penalty for such violation, by appearing in person at Stonington Police Headquarters or by mailing such notice, with the amount of the penalty, to the Stonington Department of Police Services.

B. Penalties - The penalty for any violation of Section 3 or 4 shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00).

Section 6. Collection & Disbursement of Funds Received as Penalties.

The Chief of Police is authorized and empowered to accept payment of the penalties provided in this ordinance from any person found to be in violation of this ordinance. The Chief of Police is empowered to take such action as is required to cause such payment and shall keep a record of all such penalties paid to him for such violations and the registration information of all such vehicles found to be in violation and present the same to the Board of Selectmen at the first meeting of said

Board in each month thereafter. Such report shall be kept for record in the Town Hall in Stonington.

Section 7. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper having a circulation in the Town of Stonington.

Adopted December 17, 1984

Effective January 10, 1985

Amended Section 4 May 20, 1985

Effective June 10, 1985

Amended Section 4 November 28, 1994