

CHAPTER 314

FIREARMS ORDINANCE

Town of Yarmouth, Maine
Recodified-Adopted 1/15/98
Amended: 5/16/19

FIREARMS ORDINANCE

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FIREARMS ORDINANCE

ARTICLE I

A. TITLE

This Ordinance shall be known as the Firearms Ordinance of the Town of Yarmouth, Maine.

B. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Ordinance is to provide for the public health and safety by regulating the discharge of firearms within the town.

ARTICLE II

A. PREFACE

The discharge of firearms in the Town of Yarmouth shall be restricted as follows:

1. The discharge of firearms shall be limited to shotguns only, except that .22 caliber handguns may be discharged for night hunting of raccoons as authorized by M.R.S.A. Title 12, 11901.
2. The discharge of firearms shall be prohibited within three hundred (300) feet of any residential dwelling, or commercial, industrial or institutional building.
3. No discharge of firearms shall be permitted at the following municipal properties: municipal landfill, Royal River Park, Town Landing or docking facility, from Sandy Point Beach on Cousins Island, Camp Soci on Cousins Island, the Tinker property on Cousins Island, or Riverfront Woods Preserve.
4. No discharge of firearms shall be permitted on any school property or within 500 feet of any school property.
5. Possession of firearms on any school property, except in supervised educational programs or by law enforcement officials, is prohibited.
6. Except as provided under Article III of this Chapter, no discharge of firearms shall be permitted on Cousins Island or Littlejohn Island.

ARTICLE III

A. EXCEPTIONS

1. This ordinance shall not be construed to prohibit the discharge of firearms when justified for the protection of human life or property.

2. This ordinance shall not be construed to prohibit the discharge of firearms by duly authorized officers in the proper exercise of their governmental duties.
3. Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed as relieving any person or group from their responsibility for the safe and courteous use of firearms.
4. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 2.A.6 of this Chapter, nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to prohibit the discharge of steel shot or bird shot from shotguns on Cousins Island or Littlejohn Island during waterfowl hunting seasons as established by State and Federal regulation.
5. Notwithstanding the provision of Section 2.A.2 and 2.A.6 of this Chapter, nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to prohibit the discharge of shotguns by any person to destroy rodents, disease animals or other pests that threaten property, livestock, gardens, crops or human health and comfort on land owned or controlled by that person, or with the permission of the land owner.

ARTICLE IV

A. REGULATIONS NOT REPEALED

Nothing herein shall be deemed to repeal, modify, abridge, amend, or supersede any more stringent ordinance, rule, regulation or law, nor shall this ordinance in any way limit, restrict, or affect the rights of property owners to establish more stringent regulations regarding the use, possession, or discharge of firearms on their property.

ARTICLE V

A. EXEMPT FACILITIES

The provisions of this Chapter shall not apply to shooting ranges, galleries, and firearms training facilities, provide such facilities are duly licensed or permitted in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Yarmouth Town Code.

ARTICLE VI

A. PENALTIES

Any person violating any provision of this ordinance shall commit a civil violation, punishable by a fine of not more than \$500 for the first offense and \$500 for each separate offense thereafter. Each violation of this ordinance is a separate offense.