



**Planning & Development**  
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**Memo**

Date: January 8, 2019

To: Board of Selectmen

From: Planning & Code Enforcement Offices

Re: Ordinance Change Proposal – Noise Ordinance Changes

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Proposal: Revise the Noise Ordinance to address daytime hours

Reasons:

The current ordinance language is confusing regarding “daytime hours” and lacking in defining when noise restrictions take effect. “Daytime hours” is defined in §145-10, but only referenced in §145-45D.Exemptions. The following changes are proposed to clarify restrictions during night time and daytime hours.

Proposed Ordinance Changes:

§145-45. Noise.

C. Maximum noise level. The maximum permissible noise level produced by any activity (existing or future) on a lot shall not exceed the following limits during daytime hours:

(1) Music, amplified or acoustic, not otherwise exempt, that is plainly audible and excessive, unnecessary or unreasonable at a point, not on the property where the music originates, but at the location where the complaint is made.

(2) Other noise levels, not otherwise exempt, plainly audible and excessive, unnecessary or unreasonable at the location where the complaint is made.

(3) Noise levels are limited to a level normally produced by the allowed use on the property.

D. Exemptions. The following shall be exempt from the standards of § 145-45C:

(1) Natural phenomena.

(2) Church bells rung as part of any official church ceremony or service, and tower clock bells ringing the hour during daytime hours, provided that at no time shall such duration exceed 15 minutes.

(3) Any siren, whistle, or bell lawfully used by emergency vehicles or any other alarm systems used in any emergency situation; provided, however, that burglar alarms not terminating within 15 minutes after being activated shall be unlawful.

(4) Warning devices required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration or other state or federal governmental safety regulations.

(5) Farming equipment or farming activity.

(6) Timber harvesting and milling during daytime hours.

(7) .....