

ORDINANCE 2015-07

AN ORDINANCE RESTRICTING TARGET SHOOTING IN THE MUSQUASH

First Reading: 08/17/15
Public Hearing: 09/14/15
Adopted: 09/14/15

WHEREAS On January 5, 2015, in response to citizen complaints regarding shooting in the Musquash Recreational area, the Londonderry Town Council established the Task Force to study Target Shooting in the Musquash and other Town owned Conservation Land.

WHEREAS The Council, in its Resolution (2014-06B), observed that for many years recreational shooters and other users have co-existed in the Musquash without incident, but that recently and at a public meeting held in October 2014 complaints regarding target shooting were made to the Council and/or Town Manager. The Council established the Task Force to study the situation and make recommendations regarding what, if any, changes should be made to Town Ordinances governing target shooting.

WHEREAS The Task Force met seven times and held a public session to solicit input from citizens. The meetings were televised, agendas were made public prior to the meetings and minutes were available following approval by the Task Force. On June 15, 2015, the Task Force delivered a report and recommendations to the Council.

WHEREAS Based on its review of the Task Force's report, the Town Council has determined that the number of citizens who shared their opinions and otherwise participated in the Task Force's work warrants interim action in the form of immediate restrictions on target shooting in the Musquash and placing the issue before the Town's voters on the next ballot to decide whether permanent restrictions are desired.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Londonderry Town Council that, effective September 14, 2015, the Town of Londonderry ordains:

1. Target shooting shall be allowed in the Musquash only during turkey and deer hunting seasons by muzzle loader or firearm as limited and established by New Hampshire Fish and Game (<http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/>) and only by those who have a valid New Hampshire Fish and Game license and have followed a check in procedure with the Londonderry Police Department. The Londonderry Police Department shall establish a check-in procedure before the next turkey or deer hunting season.

2. There shall be caliber restrictions on all weapons used for target shooting equivalent to those allowed by New Hampshire Statute (Title XVIII) and NH Fish & Game Department Rule (Chapter Fis 300) for hunting deer and turkey in Londonderry, New Hampshire, there shall be an additional allowance for rim fire twenty-two and twenty-two long rifles.
3. The protective shooting radius stated in RSA 207:3-a (“It is unlawful for a person to discharge a firearm . . . within 300 feet of a permanently occupied dwelling without permission of the owner or the occupant of the dwelling or from the owner of the land on which the person discharging the firearm is situated.”) shall be extended from 300 feet to twice that distance at 600 feet.
4. Signs shall be posted around the Musquash that target shooting is allowed only as described in this Ordinance 2015-07.
5. Anyone violating a provision of this Ordinance 2015-07 shall be guilty of a violation. A person’s first violation of this Ordinance 2015-07 shall be punishable by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00). A second violation shall be punishable by a fine of not less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00). A third violation shall be punishable by a fine of not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00).
6. The Town Manager is directed to draft or cause to be drafted a warrant article in advance of the Town’s next deliberative session to place the issue of target shooting in the Musquash before the voters.

John Farrell, Chairman
Town Council

(TOWN SEAL)

Sherry Farrell
Town Clerk

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:
09/14/15