

PUBLIC LANDS AND FACILITIES USE POLICY

- I. **APPLICABILITY:** Adopted by vote of the Board of Selectmen, Town of East Bridgewater, on November 19, 2001, revised April 2002; this policy is applicable to all persons using public lands of the Town of East Bridgewater that fall under the purview and responsibility of the Office of the Board of Selectmen and department subject to the Selectmen's appointing authority.

II.

III. **PROPERTIES SUBJECT TO THIS POLICY:**

Leland Farm – Between North Central Street and Belmont Street

~~Sachem Rock Farm – Plymouth Street~~

John L. Silva Jr. Athletic Complex – Church Street

Town Common – Central Street, Plymouth Street, and Morse Avenue

Town Forest – Bridge Street

IV. **HOURS OF USE, PERMITTED AND PROHIBITED USES:**

V.

- A. Hours of use: Properties shall generally be open to the public from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. daily, Sunday through Saturday, including holidays. The Silva Athletic Complex may be used until 10p.m. to accommodate completion of scheduled games. Overnight camping is permitted, with prior approval of the Selectmen's Office, at Sachem Rock Farm only.
- B. Permitted uses:
- Passive recreation is permitted at all sites. This includes walking, light hiking, bird watching, dog walking and similar activities. In addition, the following are permitted.
 - Organized athletic events are permitted at the Silva Athletic Complex.
 - Overnight camping, by organized groups, is permitted at the Sachem Rock Farm with prior approval and permit by the Selectmen's Office
 - Social and cultural events are permitted at Sachem Rock Farm and the Town Common with prior approval and permit by the Selectmen's Office.
 - During appropriate seasons and subject to the restrictions in section IV below, hunting of birds and small game is permitted in the Town Forest and Leland Farm; and archery hunting of deer is permitted in the Town Forest and Leland Farm.
 - Canoeing and kayaking are permitted from sites having access to rivers and streams.
 - Wheel chairs, motorized wheel chairs, scooters, golf carts and similar devices, for assistance to handicapped persons are permitted for use.
- C. Prohibited uses:
- Open fires are prohibited at any site except Sachem Rock Farm as allowed by the Board of Selectmen or its designee and subject to permitting by the East Bridgewater Fire Department.
 - Automobiles, trucks, snowmobiles, off-road vehicles, and four wheelers are prohibited on playing fields and open areas.
 - Hunting is prohibited on all lands except the Leland Farm and the Town Forest.
 - Athletic play shall be prohibited from any site when standing water is on the field.
 - Except when the Board of Selectmen has granted written permission for such use, the consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited. Sponsor individuals, groups or organizations that desire to serve alcohol at an event will make written application for permission to the Selectmen. If an admission charge, or other fee is to be charges to event attendees, the sponsor will be required to obtain liquor liability insurance for the date(s) of the event.
 - The consumption of controlled substances is prohibited.

VI.

VII. **USE OF FACILITIES:**

A. Club/Organization

- Application and Indemnification forms will be filed in the Selectmen's Office. A copy of Certificate of Insurance will be required.
- No fee will be charged for non-profit use.
- When the application is for use of the Town Common, the Selectmen's Office will contact the EB High School Principal's Office to determine whether a conflicting event is scheduled at the High School during the same date and time.
- The Board may place conditions on use of the facility.
- The Board may require hiring of police officer(s) and/or firefighter(s) if in the opinion of the Board, Police or Fire Chief it is deemed to be appropriate for the protection of public safety. Payment for said details shall be the responsibility of the clubs/organizations and be made pursuant to regulations promulgated by the police and/or fire department.
- The Board of Selectmen will act on facilities use applications at a regularly scheduled meeting as needed.

B. RESIDENTS/NON-RESIDENT

- a. Application and Indemnification forms will be filed in the Selectmen's Office. No insurance is required.
- b. No fee is charged for a non-profit use.
- c. Board will act on application at a scheduled meeting
- d. The Board may place conditions on use of the facility.
- e. The Board may require hiring of police officer(s) and/or firefighter(s) is in the opinion of the Board, Police or Fire Chief it is deemed to be appropriate for the protection of public safety. Payment for said details shall be the responsibility of the applicant and be made pursuant to regulations promulgated by the police and/or fire department.

C. GENERAL

- a. Police Chief, Fire Chief and Tree Warden will be notified monthly of all approved Land and Facility Uses for that month.
- b. An up-to-date list of all approved Land and Facility uses will be available in the Selectmen's Office.

D. USE AND CARE – Persons or organizations using Town facilities shall be responsible for their proper use and care.

- a. Care will be taken to avoid damage to facilities.
- b. Portable toilets, if permitted, will be placed as directed by the Tree Warden.
- c. Tents, awnings, or portable structures may be erected if allowed by the Tree Warden and subject to permitting and inspection by the Building and Fire Departments as may be applicable.
- d. All portable structures, tents, awnings, and portable toilets must be removed upon conclusion of the permitted event.
- e. There shall be no open fires on Town property, unless approved by the Board and permitted by the Fire Department.
- f. All rubbish, refuse or garbage must be collected and removed from the site upon conclusion of the event.
- g. The site shall be returned, as closely as possible, to its original condition upon conclusion of the event.

E. RESTRICTIONS ON HUNTING

- a. The Tree Warden shall designate and post areas within Leland Farm and the Town Forest where hunting is permitted with safety zone signs. The Tree Warden shall establish and maintain information centers in parking areas. The Police Chief shall enforce local hunting restrictions.
- b. Hunting shall be restricted to the months of October through February. The types of game permitted, seasons prescribed and restrictions shall be as determined by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.
- c. Hunting is permitted between the hours of sunrise until sunset daily, Monday through Saturday. Hunting on Sunday is prohibited.
- d. Firearms – Conventional Shotguns in gauge 12, 16, 20, 28, or .410 are permitted. Shotgun ammunition with shot sizes BB through 9 are permitted. Shotgun ammunition in 00 Buck Shot and/or Rifled Slugs are prohibited. Rifles, handguns, and black powder weapons are prohibited.
- e. Target practice is prohibited.
- f. Archery hunting of deer during seasons prescribed by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife is permitted in the Town forest and Leland Farm.

VIII. SEVERABILITY. Should any provision of this policy be found to be contrary to law, such provision shall be deemed to be invalid and unenforceable. All other portions of the policy shall remain in full force and effect.

Adopted: November 28, 2002