

## GATHERING PERMIT ORDINANCE

EFFECTIVE August 1, 2013

At the July 18, 2013 Meeting, the Selectmen approved the following ordinance in order to provide adequate police, fire, sanitary, and parking facilities for gatherings within the town of Bridgewater:

1. Purpose: In order to insure that any public/private gatherings within the town of Bridgewater are conducted so as not to damage the welfare of the town, the Selectmen of the town of Bridgewater are hereby empowered to regulate and grant permits for any proposed public gatherings of more than 50 people within the Town of Bridgewater.
2. Permit required: Any individual, corporation, or group of individuals seeking to hold any gathering, whether admission is charged or not, shall first apply for a permit so to do. Such permit shall be granted by the Selectmen of the Town of Bridgewater when, in their discretion, they believe that police, fire, sanitary, and parking facilities have been provided by the applicant so as to cause neither unnecessary public disorder nor pollution to water within the town of Bridgewater.
3. Prior Approval: Any person, corporation, or group of individuals seeking to hold such gatherings, shall make application to the Selectmen of the Town of Bridgewater for such permit at least 14 days prior to the proposed date of such gathering. The Selectmen shall grant or deny such request within 7 days of the date of application.
4. Exceptions: The following organizations are exempt from the permit requirements set out above: The State of New Hampshire, the Town of Bridgewater, and any political subdivision of either; any church, charitable organization, camp or school owning land within the Town of Bridgewater, provided that such gathering is held in conjunction with the normal activities of such organization.
5. Prohibition: It shall be unlawful for any person, corporation, or group of individuals to hold, sponsor, or organize any gathering which requires the permit as set out above, without first obtaining such permit.
6. Bond: When, in their discretion, the Selectmen find that the gathering for which a permit is applied entails sufficient risk of damage or disturbance to the Town of Bridgewater, they may require such bond or sureties as they think are proper and adequate to insure that the conditions of the permit are complied with.
7. Penalty. Any person, corporation, or group of individuals violating the provisions of this ordinance shall be fined not more than \$200 for the first violation, and not more than \$500 for each subsequent violation.
8. Severability: If any section, clause, provision or phrase of this ordinance shall be held to be invalid, or unconstitutional, by any court or competent authority, such holding shall not affect, impair or invalidate any other section, clause, provision, portion or phrase of this ordinance.