



Town of Plaistow, New Hampshire

Board of Selectmen

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NOTICE

OUTDOOR WATER BAN

PLAISTOW, NH (September 21st 2016): Plaistow's Board of Selectmen voted to implement an outdoor water restriction as the Town and the State of New Hampshire deals with ongoing water resource challenges caused by the extreme drought conditions.

The Plaistow Board of Selectman supported water restrictions as outlined in RSA 41:11-D, a state law authorizing NH municipalities to implement water conservation. Plaistow Board of Selectmen accepted the recommendation from State leaders and Plaistow's Emergency Management officials to implement the restrictions. "It is critically important that residential and commercial property owners take steps to conserve water in Plaistow. While the BOS has limited outdoor lawn watering, we are asking all property owners to implement water conservation efforts to help protect all of Plaistow's ground water wells." Said Steve Ranlett, Chairman of Plaistow's Board of Selectmen.

This water restriction is being implemented due to a combination of a below average snowpack in the spring, little precipitation to recharge the groundwater, a dry summer, and the inability of New Hampshire watersheds to store large volumes of water due to their geology. During a recent emergency meeting of State officials, the New Hampshire Drought Management Team (DMT), State Climatologist, Mary Stampone, indicated that relief was not in the near future and drought conditions will likely persist into the winter. As a result of the current conditions and the long-term forecast, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) is urging New Hampshire residents to conserve water as long as drought conditions persist.

To protect water supplies, over one hundred public water systems in New Hampshire have implemented outdoor water use restrictions or bans in their service areas. If you reside in an area of severe drought, which currently includes the following counties: Belknap, Cheshire, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, Strafford and Sullivan, and your water supplier has not issued a restriction or if you are a private homeowner on your own well, NHDES urges you to refrain from using water outdoors except for hand watering of vegetable gardens until precipitation mitigates drought conditions. Saving water for essential uses, such as drinking, cooking and cleaning of clothes and dishes and limiting non-essential uses such as watering of lawns is the most effective way to sustain water supplies until enough rain is received to replenish water sources.

"Lessons have been learned from past droughts and tools have been put in place to help avoid water shortage emergencies, but we really are at the mercy of the weather" states Stacey Herbold, NHDES Water Conservation Program. "The fact is there is nothing we can do to replenish our water supplies. There is no rainmaker. For now, the best we can do is limit our use to essentials and let the lawn go dormant until rainier days come."

For More information please see: <http://www.plaistow.com/health-department/pages/2016-drought-conditions-and-important-updates>.

TITLE III

TOWNS, CITIES, VILLAGE DISTRICTS, AND UNINCORPORATED PLACES

CHAPTER 41

CHOICE AND DUTIES OF TOWN OFFICERS

Selectmen

Section 41:11-d

41:11-d Restricting the Watering of Lawns. –

I. The local governing body may establish regulations restricting the use of water from private wells or public water systems for residential outdoor lawn watering when administrative agencies of the state or federal government have designated the region as being under a declared state or condition of drought.

II. The local governing body shall give notice prior to the implementation of the regulations in paragraph I. Notice shall be given at least 3 calendar days before the regulations are implemented. The notice required under this section shall not include the day notice is posted. Notice of the regulations shall be published in a paper of general circulation in the municipality and shall be posted in at least 2 public places.

III. The full text of the proposed regulations need not be included in the notice if an adequate statement describing the proposal and designating the place where the proposal is on file for public inspection is stated in the notice.

Source. 2007, 218:1, eff. Aug. 24, 2007.

CODE OF THE TOWN OF PLAISTOW

CHAPTER 213

REGULATION FOR LAWN WATERING RESTRICTIONS

ARTICLE 1: LAWN WATERING RESTRICTIONS

§213-I. PURPOSE

To protect public health and safety by restricting the use of water from private wells or public water systems for residential outdoor lawn watering during a state or federally declared drought.

§213-II. AUTHORITY

The provisions of this regulation are adopted pursuant to RSA 41:11-d, Choice and Duties of Town Officers.

§213-III. APPLICABILITY

The requirements of this section shall apply immediately after the public notice period described in Section VI to all residential outdoor lawn watering within Plaistow when administrative agencies of the state or federal government have designated the region as being under a declared state or condition of drought.

§213-IV. DEFINITIONS

A. Drought: A sustained and regionally extensive occurrence of appreciably below average natural water availability in the form of precipitation, stream flow or groundwater. The following resources are used by Plaistow to determine the declaration of a drought condition.

- The New Hampshire Drought Management Team as designated by the New Hampshire Drought Management Plan
- ii. State of Emergency declaration by the Governor's Office
- iii. United States Drought Monitor

B. Residential Lawn Watering: The application of water to decorative grass at a property that's primary use is to provide living accommodations for people.

§213-V. REQUIREMENTS UNDER DROUGHT CONDITIONS

The following limits to residential lawn watering will apply under drought conditions. The specified levels (Level 1 through 3) will be determined by the Plaistow Board of Selectmen and will be included in the public notice required under Section VII of this regulation.

A. If Plaistow issues a Level 1 restriction, then

- Residential lawn watering by odd numbered addresses is allowed on odd numbered days.
- Residential lawn watering by even numbered addresses is allowed on even numbered days.
- Residential lawn watering shall not occur between the hours of 8AM and 7PM.

B. If Plaistow issues a Level 2 restriction, then

- Residential lawn watering by odd numbered addresses is allowed on Mondays and Thursdays.
- Residential lawn watering by even numbered addresses is allowed on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- Residential lawn watering shall not occur between the hours of 8AM and 7PM.

C. If Plaistow issues a Level 3 restriction, then

- Residential lawn watering is prohibited.

§213-VI. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF WATER USE RESTRICTION

Notification of any intention to restrict water use and the requirements associated with Section V shall be given at least three calendar days before implementation. Notice of the regulations shall be posted in a paper of general circulation and shall be posted in at least two public places. Residents are specifically requested to take notice of the town website, Facebook page and sign board on the Town Hall Green.

§213-VII. TERMINATION OF WATER USE RESTRICTION

Public notification and termination of water use restriction shall be given in accordance with Section VI.

§213-VIII. ENFORCEMENT

Any sworn officer of the Plaistow Police Department is hereby granted the authority to initiate any enforcement action against any violation of the provisions of this Regulation.

§213-IX. PENALTIES

Any person failing to comply with the restrictions imposed pursuant to this Regulation shall be deemed a violation and subject to penalties pursuant to RSA 651:2.

First violation: Warning

Second violation: \$100 fine

Additional violations: \$500 fine