

TOWN OF PITTSFIELD



Obstructing Streets and Sidewalks Ordinance

The Authority for these by-laws is New Hampshire RSA 41:11, RSA 47:17

SECTION I

Obstructing Streets: No person shall obstruct, loiter, cause a nuisance or engage in any sport or exercise on any public street, sidewalk, bridge or public ground within the Town of Pittsfield in such a manner as to:

- (a) Prevent or obstruct the free passage of pedestrian or vehicular traffic thereon; or
- (b) Cause a nuisance by congregating and hindering the free passage of pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
- (c) The penalty for a violation of this section shall be not less than \$100.00 for a first offense and no more than \$250.00 for each subsequent violation.

SECTION II

Obstructing Sidewalk: No person shall block any sidewalk or bridge by obstructing the same so that it is impossible for a pedestrian to travel along the sidewalk without leaving the sidewalk and walking on adjacent property or on the street.

- (a) The penalty for a violation of this section shall be not less than \$100.00 for a first offense and no more than \$250.00 for each subsequent violation.

SECTION III

Definitions:

- (a) Loiter: To sit, stand, loaf, lounge, wander or stroll in an aimless manner or to stop, pause or remain in an area for no obvious reason.
- (b) Nuisance: Unnecessary conduct which may tend to annoy, intimidate, threaten or otherwise disturb another in or about any public street, sidewalk, bridge or public ground.
- (c) Obstruct: To interfere with unobstructed travel by any means, including but not limited to, standing on the part of the walk that is fit for travel, or placing any object or vehicle whatsoever on such sidewalk.
- (d) Sidewalk: Any sidewalk owned or maintained by the Town of Pittsfield. The term shall not include sidewalks or walkways on private property in shopping center, apartment complexes, office building sites or any other private property.

SECTION IV

Free Speech: This Section shall not be interpreted as prohibiting any person from stopping on any Sidewalk to talk or to make a speech, provided that such person shall not stand in such a location that it is impossible for any pedestrian to travel along the sidewalk without leaving the sidewalk and walking on adjacent property or on the street. If two (2) or more persons are engaged in talking while stopped on a sidewalk, they shall not stand in such locations as to completely prevent any pedestrian from passing them on the sidewalk.

SECTION V

Exceptions: The Select Board may allow exceptions whereas permission has been granted and or a permit has been issued.

This ordinance shall take effect on 1-13-09, having been adopted by a vote of the Board of Selectmen on 1-13-09.

Larry Konopka, Chairman Edward Vien Linda Small Denise Morin Frederick T Hast