

**Adopted by the Board of Trustees on February 17, 2022
Village of North Bennington, Vermont**

Article 13: Discharge of Firearms

Article 13-1 Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to protect the health and safety of the residents of the Village of North Bennington.

Article 13-2 Authorization

By authority of 24 VSA Chapter 61 Section 2291(8) municipalities are enabled to regulate the discharge of firearms.

Article 13-3 Definition

"Firearms" shall mean every pistol, revolver, shotgun, rifle or other device which by design uses an explosive charge or compressed gas to discharge a projectile.

Article 13-4 Prohibitions

No person whether hunting, target shooting or for any other purpose, shall discharge a firearm within 500 feet of a residential or other building which is occupied or designed to be occupied by human beings or any structure used or designed for use by domestic farm animals including but not limited to barns or stables, anywhere in the Village of North Bennington.

Article 13-5 Exclusion

Nothing contained herein shall be construed or interpreted to include lawful discharge of a firearm by law enforcement officers in the performance of their duty or to include the owner, members of their family or invites, or the owner's property provided that Section 13-4 is complied with regarding the property of others, nor to include persons lawfully butchering animals by firearm discharged at close range provided that the properties of others are not endangered.

Article 13-6 Enforcement

A violation of this ordinance shall be a civil matter enforced in accordance with the provisions of 24 VSA Section 1974a and 1977 et seq. A civil penalty of not more than \$125 may be imposed for violation of this civil ordinance and a waiver fee shall be set at \$100. Each day that the violation continues will constitute a separate violation of this ordinance.

Article 13-7 Severability

This ordinance and the various parts, sentences, sections, and clauses thereof, are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, section, or clause is adjudged invalid, it is hereby provided that the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected thereby

Article 13-8 Effective Date

This ORDINANCE shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval, recording, and publication as provided by law. This Ordinance is hereby adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of North Bennington, Vermont on this day of the 17th day of February, 2022. It shall be documented in the minutes of the Board of Trustees, posted in five (5) conspicuous places within the Village of North Bennington and a summary published in the Bennington Banner within fourteen (14) days of its adoption and shall become in full force and effect sixty (60) days after the date of adoption subject to the right of petition as provided by law.

Board of Trustees

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