

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK, VT
SPEED ORDINANCES FOR HIGHWAYS

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General Provisions and Enforcement

Be it ordained by the Select Board of the Town of Woodstock, Vermont that the existing town ordinance titled Town of Woodstock Speed Ordinances for Highways, adopted February 16, 2021 and effective April 17, 2021 is hereby revised in its entirety by deleting all existing language thereof and substituting the following language:

§ 1. Citation. This ordinance shall be known as the Woodstock Town Speed Ordinances and may be cited and abbreviated as the “WTSO.”

§ 2. Authority. This ordinance is an exercise of the police power of the Town of Woodstock, Vermont (hereinafter “Town”) and is adopted by the Select Board of the Town under the authority granted by 24 V.S.A. §2291(4), 24 V.S.A. Chapter 59, and 23 V.S.A. §1007.

§ 3. Purpose and Scope. The purpose of this ordinance is to promote public health and safety by establishing safe speed limits for motor vehicles on all public highways existing in the special district established by vote of the citizens of the Town on August 8, 2006. Accordingly, notwithstanding any other provision herein, the provisions of this ordinance shall apply only to public highways to the extent existing in the Town outside the boundaries of the Village of Woodstock, Vermont, which is the area constituting said special district. The provisions of this ordinance are intended to supersede and amend any inconsistent ordinance previously adopted by the Select Board of the Town.

§ 4. Definitions. All words and phrases used herein shall have the same meaning as provided in 23 V.S.A. §4 or its substitute(s) from time to time existing unless changed by the express terms of this ordinance. In addition, for the purposes of this ordinance, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning set forth herein unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

- (a) “Unpaved highway” means the town highways and portions of town highways which have a gravel surface. Unpaved highways are described or listed in Appendix A.
 - (A) Group 1- Unpaved roads, 25mph zone.
 - (B) Group 2- Unpaved Roads, 35mph zone.
- (b) “Paved Highway” means the town highways and portions of town highways which have an asphalt surface. Paved highways are described or listed in Appendix B.
 - (A) Group 3- Paved Roads, 25mph zone.
 - (B) Group 4- Paved Roads, 35mph zone.
 - (C) Group 5- Paved Roads, 45mph zone.

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- (c) "Certain State Highways" means the highways or portions of highways which are State Highways; US Route 4, Vermont Route 12, and Vermont Route 106. Certain State Highways are described or listed in Appendix C.
- (d) "Enforcement officials" shall include any Town constable and any officer in a police department contracted by the Town to serve the special district who are properly qualified law enforcement officers in the State of Vermont.

§ 5. Speed limits for unpaved highways. These limits have been established after considering the neighborhood character, abutting land uses, bicycle and pedestrian use, and physical characteristics of all unpaved highways.

- (a) The maximum speed limit for motor vehicles on all unpaved highways listed or described in Appendix A, Group 1 shall be 25 miles per hour.
- (b) The maximum speed limit for motor vehicles on all unpaved highways listed or described in Appendix A, Group 2 shall be 35 miles per hour.

§ 6. Speed limits for paved highways. These limits have been established after considering the neighborhood character, abutting land uses, bicycle and pedestrian use, and physical characteristics of all paved highways.

- (a) The maximum speed limit for motor vehicles on all paved highways listed or described in Appendix B, Group 3 shall be 25 miles per hour.
- (b) The maximum speed limit for motor vehicles on all paved highways listed or described in Appendix B, Group 4 shall be 35 miles per hour.
- (c) The maximum speed limit for motor vehicles on all paved highways listed or described in Appendix B, Group 5 shall be 45 miles per hour.

§ 7. Speed limits on certain state highways. The maximum speed limit for motor vehicles on U.S. Route 4, Vermont Route 12, and Vermont Route 106 shall be the same as those limits established and posted by the State of Vermont from time to time as set forth in Appendix C of this ordinance. This provision is intended to duplicate the speed limit established under 23 V.S.A. §1003.

§ 8. Special speed limits. Notwithstanding the specific speed limits established in this ordinance, the Select Board may from time to time make special regulations for the maximum speed for motor vehicles on any public highway in the Town or portions(s) thereof whenever it appears that traffic will be congested by reason of public occasion or when a highway is being reconstructed or maintained or where utilities are being installed, relocated or maintained.

§ 9. Neighborhood Electric Vehicles. Notwithstanding the specific speed limits established in § 5, 6, 7, and 8 of this ordinance, the maximum speed for a neighborhood electric vehicle shall be 25 miles per hour on all highways.

§ 10. Enforcement Officials. This ordinance may be enforced by the enforcement officials and by any other properly qualified law enforcement officers in the State of Vermont.

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§ 11. Placement of signs and traffic control devices. The chief of police and other enforcement officials shall have the duty and authority to post and maintain all signs and other traffic control devices as shall be required by law or as shall otherwise be deemed necessary for public notice of the regulations contained in this ordinance.

§ 12. Enforcement; penalties. This shall be a civil ordinance which shall be enforced in accordance with applicable provisions of 24 V. S. A. Chapter 59, including §§ 1974a and 1977 et. seqs. or any substituted provisions therefore, or through any Vermont court, bureau, or other tribunal having proper jurisdiction. The penalty for a violation of any maximum speed limit enforced under this ordinance shall be that set by the Schedule of Fines established by the State of Vermont.

§ 13. Severability. If any portion of this ordinance is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such finding shall not invalidate any other part of this ordinance.

§ 14. Effective date. This ordinance revision is hereby adopted by the Select Board of the Town of Woodstock, Vermont on this 19th day of July, 2022 and shall, unless a petition is filed as provided by state law, become effective sixty (60) days from this date. Repeal of existing ordinance will take effect when this revision goes into effect on September 17, 2022.

Signed this 19th day of July, 2022 by the Town of Woodstock Select Board

Joe Swanson, Chair

Ray Bourgeois, Vice-Chair

Mary Riley

Keri Cole

Susan Ford

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CITIZENS' RIGHT TO PETITION FOR VOTE

Title 24 V.S.A. § 1973 grants citizens the right to petition for a vote at a special or annual Town Meeting. To disapprove ordinances adopted by the Select Board. To exercise this right, citizens must present to the Select Board or the Town Clerk a petition for a vote on the question of disapproving the ordinance signed by not less than five percent (5%) of the Town's qualified voters. The petition must be presented within forty-four (44) days following the date of the adoption of the amendments. Unless a petition requesting a vote is filed pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1973, the Speed Ordinance shall become effective sixty (60) days from the date of said adoption.