

Ordinance Banning Open Fires on Municipal and Private Property

WHEREAS, the First Selectman, pursuant to his powers under C.G.S. 28-8a(a) has declared a public emergency arising from the threat of outdoor fires due to unusually dry conditions in the State of Connecticut and Town of Somers, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen has the obligation to abate all public health and safety conditions occurring during a state of public emergency, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen has, pursuant to Section 4-4(e) of the Town Charter, the authority to adopt emergency ordinances to abate such conditions.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Section 4-4(e) of the Town Charter the Board of Selectmen adopts the following:

1. Notwithstanding any ordinance, rule or regulation to the contrary, no person shall have an open fire or conduct open burning on any private property, nor shall any person have an open fire or conduct open burning on any municipal property.
2. Prohibited open fires and open burning shall include, but are not limited to:
 - Burning of leaves and brush
 - Use of firepits, campfires, bonfires, chimineas or other similar devices
 - Charcoal/outdoor open flame grilling (propane and natural gas grills are exempt)
 - Fireworks
 - Fireplace ashes should be properly disposed in approved containers
3. These prohibitions shall continue until the First Selectman has declared the public emergency to be over or as otherwise provided by the Charter.

4. Any person violating this ordinance may be subject to a \$100 fine or penalties as provided by local law, ordinance, rule, or regulation or as may be provided under the Connecticut General Statutes 23-48 and 53a-114.

Adopted this 31st day of October, 2024.



Timothy Keeney



William Meier



Robert Schmidt