

Temporary Event Permit (Short Term)

The Selectboard can issue event permits now, as long as the use is listed in the Zoning Bylaws. This proposal makes more events eligible, but also restricts the number of times they can occur at a given property. Private parties which are usual and customary to a residential property would not require an Event Permit.

There is currently no way to consider public events that are temporary in nature such as a concert, theater festival, motocross race, or parade, because these uses are not listed in our Zoning Bylaws. The proposed amendment would allow these uses on a temporary basis. The Selectboard could issue permits for a property to have no more than 3 events in a year, with a maximum total of 8 days.

Even temporary events can stress town resources, such as first responders, and be disruptive to abutters. This permit process is meant to fairly uphold the rights of the event holders, their neighbors and the Town.

Over the course of drafting this proposal and during the public hearing, the Planning Board has received input regarding issues to be considered such as:

- Traffic, parking, public safety, noise, lighting, bathroom facilities, environmental impacts, and insurance
- Abutter notification and input from fire, public safety, board of health and the conservation commission
- A clear process for approval, denial, appeal and enforcement
- A tiered application reflecting the scale of the event

The Planning Board understands that these issues are being addressed by the Selectboard as they draft their Event Permit application, which will include public input.

The proposed amendment to our Protective Zoning By-Law is as follows:

Section 4.3 (Permitted in All Districts)

Insert Section 4.3(C):

- C. Temporary Events: Use of property for events such as fairs, entertainment, outdoor recreational events or carnivals which are not usual and customary under the primary use of the property shall require an Event Permit from the Selectboard. Such events shall be limited to a maximum of eight (8) days in a calendar year, and the total number of such events shall be limited to a maximum of three (3). The Selectboard may elect to reduce the number of days or number of events.