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**TOWN OF LINCOLN**  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY MASSACHUSETTS

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BUILDING DEPARTMENT  
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**Mark Robidoux, CBO**  
**Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer**

**Victoria Benalfew**  
**Administrative Assistant**

December 27, 2023

**Leaf blower Bylaw**

Greetings.

I recently received a complaint from a concerned resident and was asked to issue a gentle reminder that the leaf blower bylaw was enacted in 2019 and is available for your review on the Building Department webpage please see:

<http://www.lincolntown.org/242/Building-Engineering>

The following is a summary of the bylaw's key provisions:

1. Electric and battery powered blowers may be used all year, subject to time-of-day limitations. M-F 9am-6pm all users. Saturdays 9am-5pm all users. Sundays and holidays 9am-5pm residents only
2. Gas powered blowers may be used only from:  
**October 1<sup>st</sup>-December 20<sup>th</sup>**, and from  
**March 20<sup>th</sup>-May 31<sup>st</sup>**  
Again, subject to time restrictions above
3. The bylaw carves out an exemption for public safety and emergency situations.
4. The Building Inspector has some limited discretion to grant one day exemptions, subject to a written application.
5. In terms of enforcement, I am hopeful that by making our landscape professionals (a letter was sent out to all major local landscape companies) and residents aware of this bylaw that the need for enforcement will be limited. Complaints will be investigated in a timely manner; please contact the Building Commissioner during normal business hours and the police during non-business hours. When enforcement is required, warnings will be issued for a first violation, with a fine of \$100. for each subsequent violation.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the leaf blower bylaw.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Mark Robidoux, CBO  
Building Commissioner / Zoning Enforcement Officer

**MOTION under ARTICLE 33 Conservation Commission Moved: That the Town vote to amend its General Bylaw, by adding a new Section (Article XI, Section 19) titled "Leaf Blowers," for the purpose of limiting the use of leaf blowers to certain seasons and certain hours of the day as follows:**

**A. Definition**

"Leaf blower" means any motorized device whose primary function is to use blowing air to move leaves, dirt, dust, sand, grass clippings, or any other type of litter or debris.

**B. Usage Based on Time of Year** 1. Electric and battery-powered leaf blowers may be used all year, subject to the Time of Day limitations specified in section C. 2. Gas-powered leaf blowers may be used only from October 1 through December 20 and from March 20 through May 31, subject to the Time of Day limitations specified in section C.

**C. Usage Based on Time of Day; Allowed Users**

During the times of year when leaf blowers may be used, as specified in Section B, leaf blowers may be used only during these hours:

1. Mondays through Fridays from 7AM to 6PM; all users
2. Saturdays from 9AM to 5PM; all users
3. Sundays and legal holidays from 9AM to 5PM; only residents of the property on which the leaf blower is used.

**D. Exclusions**

1. Gas-powered leaf blowers may be used in any season for public safety and emergency situations.
2. The Building Inspector may grant one-day exemptions from this By-law for the use of gas-powered leaf blowers for special situations, but not for ongoing routine maintenance. Applications for these exemptions must be applied for in writing to the Building Inspector.

**E. Enforcement and Fines**

For any violation of this By-law after October 1, 2019, the Lincoln Police or the Lincoln Building Inspector shall have the authority, after a complaint from an identified person or upon the officer's or inspector's own observation, to issue a warning upon the first violation, and a fine of \$100 for each subsequent violation. Warnings and fines shall be issued to the property owner. Each day on which there is a violation will constitute a separate violation.

**F. Effective Date**

The provisions of this By-law shall be effective starting on the date it is approved by the Attorney General or on May 15, 2019, whichever is later.