

Proposed Scope of a Nuisance Ordinance

For Discussion 8/10/21

Since a number of nuisance behaviors are addressed in separate sections of the Town of Ulysses local code, a single nuisance ordinance is recommended. Possible sections may include:

NOISE- With limits for amplified music, outdoor movies, persistent barking or equipment operation noises, _____, _____, _____

- Focus more on hours allowed rather than decibels
- Include practical enforcement strategies that are both reasonable and consistent
- Distinguish between private gatherings and fee-charging events
- Consider whether to condition or revise the current exemption for events at the Fairgrounds and/or those allowed with Special Permits.
 - Before making any changes to regulations affecting the fairgrounds, meet directly with the Fairboard to learn more about their plans and guidelines for events and to open a two-way dialogue on interests, concerns and possible solutions that allow large events while considering the impact on town and village residents.
- Include language that requires those producing loud noise, as defined by the ordinance, to notify neighbors within a prescribed distance of planned instances of loud noise.
- Include language to encourage those objecting to the noise to contact those responsible for emitting the noise directly before lodging a complaint with the Town.
- Consider the complaint procedure and practicality of enforcement of a complaint related to noise outside of normal business hours.
- Consider jurisdictional issues for noise that carries outside of Town limits (Consider approaching the Village for collaboration on this section since many noise complaints come from Village residents reacting to events at the Fairgrounds)
- Clarify penalties for individual and repeatedly violations.

FIREWORKS- the Town doesn't not currently have any regulations to govern approval of fireworks displays, the frequency, duration, or decibels of approved fireworks displays.

- Create definitions for smaller, privately hosted ground displays and larger public displays
- Consider banning "celebration" pyrotechnics that emit a loud bang with flashes
- Consider safety criteria related to drought conditions
- Encourage alternate soundless displays using laser lights or drones or other minimally disruptive technology.

LIGHT POLLUTION- spotlights are currently prohibited but bright lights that intrude on neighbors may warrant definitions and limits

SMOKE- NYS regulates smoking indoors. The City of Ithaca and Tompkins County have local regulations on smoking in public places that could be reviewed. The practicality of enforcement needs to be considered and this is an area that may warrant recommendations but not requirements for using smoke capturing devices for personal outdoor use as consideration for neighbors.