

7 By-Laws and Policy Summaries

Following are brief summaries of several By-Laws and policies of interest to all islanders. Bustins Island Villagers Corporation (BIVC) By-Laws are approved by the voters at the Annual Meeting. Policies are adopted by the BIVC Board of Overseers. Refer to the BIVC website (www.bivc.net) for complete By-Laws and Policy descriptions, and also for the forms required for building, cutting, bringing motor vehicles onto the island, and registering private moorings.

Dogs

Property owners are responsible for the behavior of their own dogs, as well as their guests' and renters' dogs. Owners must be in control of their dogs at all times. This means that a dog must either be on a leash or in the immediate presence of a responsible person who can manage the dog's conduct.

Dogs must be on a leash while on the *Lilly B.* and on public docks, floats, and runways. Owners are expected to pick up and dispose of feces left by their dogs on public property and on private property other than their own. Dogs that disturb the peace and safety of the island must be restrained. Any dog that bites a person will be immediately removed from the island.

Firearms and Loud Noises

Using firearms or making loud or unusual noises that disturb the public peace is not allowed. BB guns and paint guns are considered firearms. Exceptions may occur only with the permission of the Superintendent or the Board of Overseers.

Vehicles

No heavy equipment or motor-driven vehicles, such as automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, and scooters, are permitted on the island without prior approval of the Board of Overseers. Vehicle permission forms are available on the BIVC website (bivc.net) and must be submitted to the Board of Overseers. One-day vehicle permissions can be coordinated through the Superintendent.

Personal Transport Vehicles

The Board of Overseers may grant approval for specific personal transport vehicles for use only by individuals who the Overseers determine have a need based on medical necessity, disability, or infirmity. The policy of the BOO is to first consider the need of the individual, and then the specific personal transport vehicle that is being requested, including its size, noise, speed, safety, and impact on roads.

Trees and Cutting

Tree and vegetative cutting within 250 feet of the shore is regulated by the BIVC Zoning Ordinance and other Maine state laws. If you wish to cut within 250 feet of the shore, it is strongly recommended that you consult with the Code Enforcement Officer to be sure the intended cutting complies with these regulations. The penalties for violation can be severe. Cutting on private land more than 250 feet from the shore is unrestricted. For cutting on BIVC-owned land, no matter where located, you must have the approval of the Landscape Committee.

Disposing of brush and logs is the property owner's responsibility. They must be hauled off island or chipped at the owner's expense.

Signage

The Board of Overseers can order or cause the removal of any objectionable signs, advertisements, or other unsightly objects from public land. Examples include slanderous notices, political advertisements, house for sale signs, and so on.

Fire Pits and Open Burning

Open fires, including fire pits and the burning of brush and leaves, are not permitted.

Public Drinking and Smoking

No drinking or open alcoholic containers are allowed on Bustins public roads or paths and, for safety reasons, there should be no smoking on public ways or in wooded areas of the island. Use of alcohol may be permitted in public buildings (for example, a wedding held at the Community House) with the permission of the Board of Overseers.

Bicycle Courtesy

Bicycles have long been a common form of transportation for islanders of all ages. Bicycle riders must maintain safe speeds; yield to walkers and to island vehicles on the road ways; and stay off the Public Dock, ramp and runway, Steamer Dock, public building porches, and island paths. It is courteous to let walkers know, with either a bell or a shout, when they are being approached from behind.

Voting and the Annual Meeting

The BIVC Annual Meeting is held once a year on the first Saturday in August. At the Annual Meeting, voters hear reports from officials and committees, approve the budget for the coming year, vote on any changes to the By-Laws, and act on any other business in the Warrant.

Only property owners are eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting or at any special meeting. Voters do not have to be Freeport or Maine residents. The Board of Overseers determines who are the legal voters at any meeting and prepares a list of those voters at least 24 hours before each meeting. The list of voters is posted at the Store prior to the Annual Meeting.

Contact the Clerk for any questions you might have about voter eligibility and to ensure that you appear correctly on the voter list.

Building on Bustins

As in all towns, building on Bustins is regulated by the Zoning Ordinance and controlled through the issuance of building permits by the Code Enforcement Officer. For construction within 250 feet of the shore, a Conditional Use Permit is also required from the Planning Board. Before beginning any construction project, contact the Code Enforcement Officer for assistance or questions.

Private Moorings

Boat owners are required to register their moorings with the Bustins Island Harbormaster.