



## TOWN OF DENNIS RULES & REGULATIONS FOR BEACH VEHICLES

The Town of Dennis is blessed with beautiful, long, clean and sandy beaches on our north shore, notably at Chapin Beach and Crowes Pasture. It is felt by the Dennis Conservation Commission that these areas can be traversed by beach vehicles if used judiciously with due concern to environmental and human values.

The following Regulations are established for the use of vehicles on Chapin Beach and Crowes Pasture ONLY.

### GENERAL REGULATIONS

- A. ALL beach vehicles shall visibly display a current Off Road Vehicle Permit permanently affixed on the front bumper, driver's side (stickers affixed by magnets or tape are not allowed). All vehicles using these Conservation and Beach areas shall be duly registered and bear current motor vehicle inspection stickers. The Town of Dennis will not assume responsibility for personal injury or damage to private property.
- B. Crowes Pasture and Chapin Beach are closed at 9:00 PM, except for those who are ACTIVELY fishing. Fishing gear shall be shown upon request. Sleeping in the open or in regular vehicles overnight is prohibited.
- C. Motorcycles, trail bikes, powered tricycles, quad bikes, snowmobiles and hovercraft are not considered beach vehicles and are prohibited on the beaches.
- D. Only licensed drivers shall drive on the beach.
- E. Riding on tailgates, fenders and roofs or by other hazardous means is ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED. Both the driver and the passenger involved may be considered in violation of this regulation.
- F. Bathers and pedestrians shall grant right-of-way to vehicles in trail areas.
- G. The vehicle access corridor shall remain free of vehicles to ensure a safe and open passage.
- H. No person is allowed in any posted area. All persons and beach related equipment shall stay off all vegetation, dune faces, steeply sloped dunes, fore dunes, primary dunes, marked plover habitat and washover areas.
- I. Vehicles shall not be driven across public beaches at any time.
- J. Tents and camping trailers are not permitted on the beaches.
- K. Fishing lines shall be no further than 10 feet landward from the waters' edge.
- L. NO OPEN FIRES ARE PERMITTED. All wood or charcoal fires shall be in a self contained metal container. DO NOT BURY OR DUMP ANY ASH OR CHARCOAL IN THE WATER OR ON THE BEACH. All remnants of fire shall be removed and taken out of Crowes Pasture & Chapin Beach when leaving the beach.
- M. Fireworks are prohibited at Chapin Beach and Crowes Pasture as they are illegal in Massachusetts.
- N. No glass bottles or containers allowed.
- O. No alcoholic beverages are allowed.

- P. All debris created in freeing a stuck vehicle shall be removed and the holes filled.
- Q. The use of so called "Personal Watercraft" is prohibited at Crowes Pasture and Chapin Beach, and these "vessels" may not be transported or brought into the area by trailer or any other means. Personal Watercraft means a small vessel which uses an inboard motor powering a water jet pump as its primary source of motive power and which is designated to be operated by persons sitting, standing or kneeling on the vessel. The term includes, but is not limited to, a jet ski, wet bike, or surf jet, so-called.
- R. Voluntary inspection of sanitary facilities and equipment shall be granted to the enforcement officer upon request.
- S. Emptying of holding tanks and disposal of human waste on the beach and its adjoining waters is positively prohibited. Each visitor of the beach shall remove from the beach all rubbish, trash or refuse for which he has been responsible.
- T. PETS SHALL BE LEASHED AT ALL TIMES FROM APRIL 1 THROUGH LABOR DAY at Chapin Beach and Crowes Pasture. Once a plover nest is found, dogs are prohibited. All pet owners shall pick up solid waste from pets.
- U. Vehicles shall air down at the cemetery staging area to 15 psi BEFORE entering Crowes Pasture or notify the Officer on duty that they are not entering the ORV area and will be parking in the upland parking lots.

#### REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- A. All vehicles operating on the beach shall maintain a maximum tire pressure of 15 pounds.
- B. All vehicles operating on the beach shall be equipped with the following:
  - i. Jack
  - ii. Jack Plank ( 12 x 12x 5/8" )
  - iii. Shovel
  - iv. Heavy Duty Towline or Chain
  - v. Low Pressure Gauge
  - vi. Town of Dennis Regulations for Beach Vehicles and Tide Chart
- C. ORVs are subject to inspection before accessing the beach and at any time thereafter. Vehicles not possessing the required equipment shall not access the beach.

#### VEHICLE OPERATION

- A. The vehicle access corridor shall remain free of parked ORVs at all times to ensure a safe and open passage.
- B. Permit holders are responsible for the operation of their vehicle in compliance with these regulations by all operators and passengers. Violations of these regulations may lead to a fine, suspension or revocation of the ORV permit.
- C. All speeds shall be reasonable, and are NOT TO EXCEED 15 MPH.
- D. The maximum number of beach vehicles allowed on Chapin Beach or Crowes Pasture beach at any one time is 125.

- E. Natural Resource Officers have the authority to impose temporary access restrictions at any time. Chapin Beach and Crowes Pasture are subject to complete closure to all beach vehicles To protect the environment and public safety.
- F. ORV users refusing to exit the beach when directed to do so by a Natural Resource Officer or Law Enforcement Officer shall have their ORV permit revoked.
- G. Driving on or over any partially or fully covered vegetated areas and/or across the dunes of any other closed areas, except as designated by specific routes, is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. Driving through beach erosion control barriers or on restricted areas is prohibited.
- H. At Chapin Beach and Crowes Pasture, beach vehicles are prohibited from driving or parking landward of the vehicle access corridor, 10-15 feet seaward of dune vegetation as delineated by posts and rope. At Chapin Beach, the entire low intertidal area behind the dunes and easterly of the parking area at the point is closed to all vehicles. Closed areas will be marked with posts and rope and/or signs whenever possible.
- I. Chapin Beach-
  - 1. Travel in the intertidal zone is limited to the high bars and unproductive shellfish areas.
  - 2. All vehicles must enter and exit from the entrance ramp at the end of Chapin Beach Road. No vehicle will travel east of the entrance ramp at any time.
- J. Crowes Pasture-
  - 1. The area designated as the aquaculture zone is closed to vehicular traffic, access and parking with the exception of aquaculture licensees. Aquaculture licensees shall comply with all Regulations for Beach Vehicles.
  - 2. ORV operation on adjacent private beaches and outside the visibly marked boundaries is prohibited.
  - 3. Parking in upland areas is allowed in designated areas only
  - 4. All vehicles entering onto and existing the tidal flats at Little Beach must remain on the east side of the orange buoy markers which delineate the Town of Dennis boundary line and private property boundary.

**PIPING PLOVER ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS**

- A. Chapin Beach and Crowes Pasture are subject to complete closure to all beach vehicles in order to protect Piping Plover Chicks.
- B. Dogs are prohibited from beaches when active piping plover nests are present.
- C. Refuge areas 50 yards or more around nests and above the high tide line are delineated with warning signs and symbolic fencing. Only authorized persons may enter these areas
- D. All vehicular access into or through delineated protected bird nesting habitat is prohibited. However, prior to hatching, vehicles may pass by such areas along designated vehicle corridors established along the outside edge of protected bird nesting habitat. Vehicles may also park outside delineated protected bird nesting habitat, if beach width and configuration and tidal conditions allow. VEHICLE CORRIDORS OR PARKING AREAS WILL BE MOVED, CONSTRICTED, OR TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO PROTECT NESTING BIRDS.

**ENFORCEMENT**

- A. In addition to the Town of Dennis Regulations for Beach Vehicles, all applicable Town of Dennis By-Laws and Regulations and Massachusetts General Laws apply at Chapin Beach and Crowes Pasture and shall be enforced.

- B. The Natural Resource Officers or Law Enforcement Officer shall enforce the provisions of the Town of Dennis Regulations for Beach Vehicles. Interference with a Natural Resource Officer or Law Enforcement Officer in performance of their duties shall result in ORV permit revocation.
- C. Any person receiving more than one citation in one calendar year may have their Town of Dennis ORV permit revoked permanently or suspended for the remainder of the permit period.


VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

- A. The provisions of the regulations may be enforced utilizing the procedures contained in Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40 Section 21D as a noncriminal alternative approved at the Dennis Annual Town Meeting revised May 2009.
- B. A violation of these regulations may be punishable by a fine which shall not exceed three hundred dollars (\$300) for each violation. The minimum fines listed below may be imposed for violations of the Town of Dennis Regulations for Beach Vehicles.


1. Failure to display valid Town of Dennis ORV sticker while on the beach	\$100.00
2. Driving ORV on the beach without the required equipment	\$100.00
3. Driving motorcycles, trail bikes, powered tricycles, quad bikes, snowmobiles, and hovercraft on the beach.	\$200.00
4. Riding on tailgates, fenders and roofs or by other hazardous means.	\$100.00
5. Driving on restricted and/or prohibited areas, including but not limited to private property, dune faces, steeply sloped dunes, fore dunes, primary dunes, marked plover habitat and washover areas	Revocation
6. Driving a vehicle across public beaches at any time.	\$100.00
7. Sleeping in the open or in vehicles overnight.	\$50.00
8. Having an open fire on the beach or dumping fire remains onto the beach	\$100.00
9. Having glass bottles or containers, or an open container of alcohol.	\$50.00
10. Use of so called Personal Watercraft at Chapin Beach and/or Crowe's Pasture.	\$100.00
11. Emptying of holding tanks and disposal of human waste on the beach and its adjoining waters	Revocation
12. Dog off leash.	\$50.00
13. Driving on the beach with greater than 15 psi tire pressure	\$100.00
14. Exceeding 15 mph	\$100.00
15. Refusing to exit the beach when directed by a Natural Resource Officer or Law Enforcement Officer	Revocation
16. Driving on adjacent private beaches and operating an ORV outside the marked boundaries. Driving on flats located west of the Town of Dennis Crowes Pasture buoy markers.	\$100.00
17. Parking on vegetated upland areas.	\$50.00
18. Dog on the beach during piping plover nest closure period.	\$100.00
19. Unauthorized pedestrian entry in piping plover refuge areas designated with signage	\$200.00
20. Vehicle access into or through delineated piping plover nesting habitat	Revocation

This is to certify that the above Regulations for beach vehicles were adopted by the Dennis Conservation Commission on June 10, 1975 and revised on March 2, 1989, March 31, 1999 and May 15, 2008, and April 19, 2011 and supersedes all previously adopted regulations.

A True Copy Attest:

  
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 Donald L. Waldo, Chairman  
 Dennis Conservation Commission

  
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 Theresa T. Bunce, Town Clerk

  
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 Paul McCormick, Chairman  
 Dennis Board of Selectmen