



**TOWN OF DENNIS  
SELECT BOARD  
FILM, VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY**

Select Board Approved	November 4, 2025
Select Board Revised	
#SB	Select Board Policy

**I. POLICY STATEMENT:**

Commercial Film, Video and Photography companies and productions may be permitted to use property under the control of the Town of Dennis for approved projects.

**II. PURPOSE:**

Dennis has long been a highly-sought after location for commercial film, video, and photography companies and the Town of Dennis supports these industries and encourages their use of the community. It is recognized that these industries can provide both direct and indirect economic benefit to the Town.

Due to the Town's size, location, historical significance, fragile natural resources, and seasonal tourist demands, such activity requires regulation to ensure that impacts on vehicle and pedestrian traffic, safety of bystanders and crew are protected and that the least possible disruption to the community occurs.

This policy applies to all Town properties including streets and all Beach, Harbor, Recreation and Conservation properties. The guidelines and regulations contained herein apply to all commercial filming activity. Additional conditions may be attached to individual permits based on impact.

**III. ADMINISTRATION:**

All commercial film, video, or photography requests must be approved by the Select Board. This policy is administered by Town Administration on behalf of the Select Board. The Town Administrator or his/her designee shall be the initial contact for all filming and photography projects and is responsible for managing requests. Required fees and ancillary permits associated with the production must be approved prior to filming.

**IV. RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

- 1) **PERMIT REQUIRED:** A Film Permit shall be required (but not limited to) the following

conditions:

- a. For Film, Video, or Photography production for commercial purposes on or from Town of Dennis property.
- b. For productions involving the use of, or impacting upon public property, traffic flow, pedestrian movement, public facilities, parks, sidewalks, street areas or the temporary use of private property in a manner that significantly varies from its current land use or creates a public disturbance (i.e. noise; parking; special effects).
- c. Student productions filming for non-commercial and educational purposes may be exempt from some fees but are still required to file an application.
- d. As determined by the Select Board in consideration of impact to the Community, Businesses, and Natural Resources.

PERMIT NOT REQUIRED: A Film Permit shall NOT be required as follows:

- a. Credentialed members of the media such as reporters, photographers or cameramen in the employ of a newspaper, news service, radio or television broadcasting station, or similar entity engaged in on-the-spot broadcasting, reporting or photographing of news of general public.
- b. Private social events such as weddings.
- c. Wedding and Family Portraits, etc.
- d. Amateur photographers; tourists, etc.
- e. EXCEPTION: If such exempted activities result in adverse impacts on adjacent properties from, but not limited to, such activities as the use of explosions, noise from firearms, bullhorns, pyrotechnics, car chases, sirens, lighting apparatus, after hour filming, parking, and obstruction of public access.

## 2) RESTRICTIONS

- a. Commercial Filming or Photography in Conservation areas is strictly regulated with minimal productions allowed from Memorial Day to Labor Day.
- b. All applications for filming during the Spring and Summer season must be received by May 1 for consideration by the Select Board.
- c. Night shooting between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. is restricted without the prior approval from the Select Board at a Public Hearing.

## 3) INSURANCE:

- a. All productions are required to submit an original, signed Certificate of Insurance, in an amount of \$1,000,000 minimum per instance of claim for general liability for the duration of the production, with the "Town of Dennis" listed as additional insured. The following name and address should appear on the certificate of insurance:  
Town of Dennis  
685 Route 134  
South Dennis, MA 02660
- b. Additional coverage may be required for productions with significant impact on public property and/or natural resources and those with extensive special effects.
- c. Student projects may be exempt from the insurance requirement. Student

applicants should provide an original signed letter on school letterhead from their instructor, department head or dean stating the student's name(s), title of the project, purpose of the project, and confirmation that the project is an official school assignment covered by the school's liability insurance policies.

## V. APPLICATION PROCESS

- 1) **TIMELINE:** Initial inquires for filming or photography on Town property must be submitted to the Licensing Office as follows:
  - a. No later than **Sixty (60) days** prior to the date of anticipated filming. Permission may be denied if the request cannot be accommodated within the available time frame.
  - b. May 1 for all filming requests to occur between Memorial Day and Labor Day.
  
- 2) **APPLICATION:** Applicants must be prepared to provide the following information:
  - a. The name, address and phone number of the person who will be in charge of the activity and responsible for its conduct.
  - b. The name and telephone number of the dedicated contact person and his/her backup who will be on-site during production.
  - c. A production schedule to include the proposed commencement and termination dates and times of scheduled filming or photography, including preparation, set-up and final clean-up.
  - d. General outline of the action(s), approximate number of production vehicles, cast and crew members, as well as any stunts or special effects;
  - e. Specific locations on Town property, including a map highlighting the areas, with specific details for requests to film or shoot in Conservation areas.
  
- 3) **REVIEW/APPROVAL:**
  - a. Once a Film, Video and Photography Application has been received, appropriate Town staff will be informed and a production/event meeting with the applicant will be required to review the request and to determine any concerns or special requirements. The availability of the requested Town properties will also be determined at this time, as well as the need for required insurance, fees and ancillary permits.
  - b. Town staff will assess the need for Police, Fire, and DPW support services for all proposed activity. Any such required services will be billed directly to the applicant. Any such permits required by the Town of Dennis Fire and Police Departments must be secured prior to appearing before the Select Board.
  - c. The applicant will be required to appear before the Select Board in order to obtain the necessary licenses / permit(s).
  - d. Affected residents and businesses as determined by the Board and/or staff must be notified in advance of any filming. To ensure minimal disruption, this notification letter must include the duration and location of the filming and any planned interference with pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
  - e. Once approved by the Select Board a Film, Videography and Photography Permit will be prepared by Town Administration and the Licensing Agent that will list

all insurance, fees and ancillary permits required.

- f. Once approved by the Select Board, a **Location Licensing Agreement** between the Town and the applicant will be required.
- g. The applicant shall obtain all other required permits as applicable including but not limited to the State of Massachusetts, Mass Wildlife, Department of Environmental Protection and the Dennis Water Department.