

# **Town of Chatham**

## **Regulations for Town Landings, Landing Places, and other Town-owned Water Dependent Properties**

The following regulations for Town Landings, Landing Places, and all other Town-owned water dependent properties have been adopted by the Board of Selectmen under the authority granted by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 88, Section 19. These rules and regulations are not applicable to the Chatham Municipal Fish Pier.

“Town Landing”, “Landing Place”, and Town-owned Water Dependent Properties are used interchangeably and refer to Town-owned or leased property and/or facilities which provide for public use and access to Commonwealth Tidelands and surrounding waters.

1. Town Landings are to be used for the customary marine purposes of picking up and/or discharging passengers and cargo associated with, but not limited to, recreational boating or commercial fishing, and as a means of public access to Commonwealth Tidelands.
2. Except for the transfer of commercial fishing catch, no one may transact business or engage in a commercial venture at Town Landings except as may be specifically allowed in these regulations. Expressly forbidden are the placement of advertising, or advertising the location of a business as being at a Town Landing; the offering of goods or services, and the exchange of goods or money in a business transaction, with the exception of a commercial fishing catch, at a Town Landing.
3. Commercial enterprises such as charter fishing, boats for charter, boat ferry or livery services, tour boats, or other activities which require the use of Town Landings and the associated Town-owned, or leased, ramps, docks and floats to launch or rent their vessels, or to pick up and/or discharge passengers for hire, must first obtain the appropriate Town Landing Special Use permit approved by the Board of Selectmen, or their designated agent. In order to ensure public safety and avoid excessive congestion and overuse of Town Landings, these permits will be limited in number and subject to specific conditions, and some or all commercial activities may be excluded at particular Town Landings.
4. The use of Town Landings by commercial concessions for renting, or launching either individually or in a group, rental kayaks, canoes, sailboards, or similar watercraft for rent including, but not limited to, personal watercraft is prohibited.

5. Dogs, cats, horses and other livestock or pets at Town Landings must be restrained in compliance with existing Town leash laws, where applicable. Animal waste must immediately be removed by the owner or custodian of the animal.
6. All marked roadways, lanes, boat ramps, emergency vehicle lanes, and other primary access ways to the water shall be kept open and free of parked vehicles, trailers and vessels at all times. Any blocking vehicle, trailer, or vessel may be towed at the owner's expense, or subject to fine, or both.
7. No parking spaces at a Town Landing shall be reserved or assigned except as they may be so marked by the Town. All parking spaces shall be available on a first come/first served basis, and are for the sole use of motor vehicles parking in conjunction with the intended use of the facility. Commercial activities requiring a Special Use permit must provide offsite parking for their clientele. Parking at the Old Mill Boat Yard is reserved for Chatham residents and non-resident taxpayers only.
8. Use of the boat launching ramp at the Old Mill Boat Yard is reserved for Chatham residents and non-resident taxpayers only, between June 1 and September 15. Non-residents may also utilize the ramp during this period for the private launching of their vessel if it has a valid Chatham boat mooring permit affixed to the vessel. Off-season use of the ramp is unrestricted.
9. Boat storage, maintenance, and repairs is prohibited on the parking areas of any Town landing without the permission of the Harbormaster or Assistant Harbormaster.
10. No vehicles are permitted to either travel off, or remain off, the established ways or parking areas of Town Landings, with the exception of emergency vehicles and/or vehicles used for the active launching or retrieval of vessels.
11. No bus, or other passenger conveyance vehicle with a seating capacity greater than 25 may either park, load or unload passengers within the established ways or parking areas as may be located at a Town Landing. This provision shall not apply to buses necessary to transport students.
12. No person shall dump any rubbish, trash, refuse, or litter at any Town Landing other than by depositing same in a receptacle as may be provided by the Town for that purpose. Home generated rubbish and refuse shall not be deposited in any Town Landing receptacle. Waste oil generated as a result of marine maintenance must be removed from the premises and properly disposed at an appropriate offsite location.

13. The removal of sand, bushes or other growth at a Town Landing is prohibited except by the expressed permission of the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission.
14. The use of all Town Landings is forbidden during the hours from 10:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m., however, Town Landings will be open at all times to commercial or sports fishermen, and other mariners for the parking of their vehicles in connection with their marine operations.

Penalties

A violation of these regulations may result in ejection from the premises and/or a non-criminal fine of \$20 for each violation. Parking violations are subject to a non-criminal fine of \$25 and/or possible towing at owners expense.

Certain of these regulations may be suspended from time to time by vote of the Board of Selectmen.

The invalidity of any section or provision of these regulations shall not invalidate any other section or provision thereof.

Adopted by the Chatham Board of Selectmen on April 27, 2000.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF CHATHAM