

SHORT-TERM RENTAL COMMITTEE (A. Santoro 1/16/24)  
OUTLINE CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF EXISTING NOISE AND PARKING ORDINANCES

CHAPTER 90: NOISE CONTROL

1. Ordinance adopted by East Lyme pursuant to Chapter 442, Noise Pollution Control, of Connecticut State Statutes (C.G.S.). Department of Energy and Environmental Protection regulates.
2. Noise levels established in 2 zones—residential and nonresidential and for day/night hours
3. Performance standard using a sound level meter required
4. Exclusions and exemptions
5. East Lyme Police Department is responsible for investigating, measuring, and documenting violations
6. Fine of \$90/violation
7. Chief Finkelstein: ordinance is unenforceable as written due to sound level meter/performance standard; recommends a “reasonableness” standard
8. Ordinance “shall be at least as stringent as any state noise control plan...or any [EPA] standards [adopted] pursuant to the Noise Control Act of 1972.” C.G.S. 22a-73c. Could a “reasonableness” or “plainly audible” standard be applied and/or should the existing ordinance be amended to reflect this?
9. The 3 beach communities with own zoning regulations (Black Point, Crescent, Giants Neck) briefly address noise control, i.e., construction noise limited to 8 a.m-6 p.m.

CHAPTER 72: PARKING

1. Ordinance establishes general parking restrictions and parking restrictions for commercial vehicles in residential zones
2. Applies to “highways” and “municipal lots”. A “highway” “includes any state or public highway, road, avenue, street, alley, driveway, parkway or thoroughfare under the jurisdiction of the town”. “Municipal lot” is “any area under the jurisdiction of the town that is dedicated and posted for the parking of motor vehicles”.
3. Penalties for violation include fines, doubling of fines, and towing
4. Chief Finkelstein: Violations have occurred mostly on Main Street and by Oswegatchie Hills parking area. Most individuals pay their fines or contact the Police Department. There is no collection of unpaid fines—there aren’t enough fines issued to pay for collection services.
5. The East Lyme Police Commission is authorized under state law to regulate traffic, including determining parking signage, within Town. East Lyme Police cannot enforce parking signage unless it is approved by the Police Commission and restricts parking on “highways” or “municipal lots” as defined above.
6. The 3 beach communities with their own zoning regulations (noted above) all have detailed parking restrictions.

