

ORANGE TOWNSHIP
COLUMBIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

ORDINANCE NO. 1-2021

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING RECREATIONAL VEHICLES
IN IDENTIFIED FLOODPLAIN AREAS OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Orange Township, Columbia County, Pennsylvania makes the following findings:

1. Numerous Recreational Vehicles located in Orange Township are situate in close proximity to Fishing Creek and are situate in the identified Floodplain area, as set forth on the Orange Township Flood Hazard Boundary Map or the Flood Insurance Rate Map; and,
2. In previous years, when flooding has occurred, Recreational Vehicles have been swept downstream by flood waters, thereby impeding the flow of flood waters, contributing to the back up of flood waters, and damaging downstream properties; and,
3. In order to prevent Recreational Vehicles that are located on properties in close proximity to Fishing Creek from being swept downstream by flood waters, an Ordinance is necessary to require the removal of Recreational Vehicles from the identified Floodplain under various circumstances.

NOW, THEREFORE, in view of the above findings:

BE IT ENACTED, AND IT IS HEREBY ENACTED, by the Board of Supervisors of Orange Township:

1.0 DEFINITIONS.

FLOODPLAIN AREA - the area set forth on the Orange Township Flood Hazard

Boundary Map or the Flood Insurance Rate Map.

PROPERTY OWNER - the owner of any property in the Floodplain Area where a Recreational Vehicle is located.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES - vehicles which are built on a single chassis, not more than 400 square feet when measured at the largest horizontal projections, and designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck, and not designed as a permanent dwelling, but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE OWNER - a person who owns or has control of a Recreational Vehicle.

2.0 PERMITS.

2.01 All Property Owners upon whose property a Recreational Vehicle is located as of the date of enactment of this Ordinance shall submit an Application to Orange Township no later than April 1, 2021, along with the applicable fee, to obtain a permit issued by the Orange Township Code Enforcement Officer permitting the placement of a Recreational Vehicle on the Property Owner's property. The permit shall be renewed annually and the applicable fees shall be paid by the Property Owner. All Property Owners upon whose property a Recreational Vehicle is placed after the date of enactment of this Ordinance shall be required to obtain a permit in accordance with this Section within twenty (20) days of the placement of the Recreational Vehicle.

2.02 At the time of Application, the Property Owner shall also pay the applicable fee for the inspection of each Recreational Vehicle situate on the property. The Orange Township Code Enforcement Officer shall inspect each Recreational Vehicle to determine if it is

in compliance with this Ordinance.

2.03 The applicable fees set forth in this Ordinance shall be set by Resolution of the Orange Township Board of Supervisors from time to time.

2.04 In addition, at the time of Application, the Property Owner shall provide a plot plan to Orange Township showing the location of any and all Recreational Vehicles situate on the Property Owner's property, along with a listing of the name, address, phone number, and email address of the owner/s of any Recreational Vehicles.

2.05 If a Recreational Vehicle is removed from the Property Owner's property and replaced by another Recreational Vehicle, within twenty (20) days of the placement of the new Recreational Vehicle, the Property Owner shall notify the Orange Township Code Enforcement Officer and provide the name, address, phone number, and email address of the owner/s of the Recreational Vehicle, along with the applicable inspection fee. The Orange Township Code Enforcement Officer shall inspect the Recreational Vehicle to determine if it is in compliance with this Ordinance.

3.0 USE OF RECREATIONAL VEHICLES.

3.01 Recreational Vehicles shall be maintained in a road-worthy condition capable of being operated or towed on public roadways.

3.02 Recreational Vehicles may not be used as a permanent dwelling and may not be left unoccupied for more than twenty (20) consecutive days.

3.03 If a Recreational Vehicle is unoccupied for more than twenty (20) consecutive days, or if the Recreational Vehicle remains in a non-road-worthy condition, the Property Owner shall notify the owner of the Recreational Vehicle to remove the Recreational Vehicle and any

accessory items, such as picnic tables, kayaks, canoes, canopies, grills, and similar items associated with the use of a Recreational Vehicle, from the property within twenty (20) days from the date of notice. If the owner of the Recreational Vehicle fails to remove the Recreational Vehicle and any accessory items from the property within twenty (20) days from the date of notice, the Property Owner shall remove the Recreational Vehicle and any accessory items from the identified Floodplain area.

3.04 Recreational Vehicles may be placed in an identified Floodplain area on the Property Owner's property between April 1 and October 31 of each year. Before April 1 and after October 31 of any year, Recreational Vehicles are permitted on the property for temporary periods of time and must be occupied. When a Recreational Vehicle is no longer occupied, the Recreational Vehicle and accessory items, such as picnic tables, kayaks, canoes, canopies, grills, and similar items associated with the use of a Recreational Vehicle, shall be removed by the owner of the Recreational Vehicle. If the Recreational Vehicle Owner fails to act, the Property Owner of the property upon which the Recreational Vehicle is located shall remove the Recreational Vehicle and any accessory items.

3.05 Upon receipt of a Notice from any authorized agency to remove a Recreational Vehicle from a property due to flooding or the possibility of flooding, the owner of the Recreational Vehicle shall immediately remove the Recreational Vehicle from the identified Floodplain area. If the owner of the Recreational Vehicle does not comply with the Notice, the Property Owner shall immediately remove the Recreational Vehicle from the identified Floodplain area.

4.0 INSPECTIONS.

After notice to the Property Owner, the Orange Township Code Enforcement Officer, or other person authorized by the Orange Township Board of Supervisors, may inspect the property upon which a Recreational Vehicle is located and the Recreational Vehicle itself. In the event of an emergency, prior notice of the inspection need not be given by Orange Township.

5.0 VIOLATIONS.

Any person violating this Ordinance shall, upon conviction in a summary proceeding, be sentenced to pay a fine not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000), together with costs of prosecution, to be paid to the use of Orange Township, or to be imprisoned for not more than ten (10) days, or both, with each day of violation constituting a separate offense.

This Ordinance is effective upon enactment.

ENACTED this 4th day of January, 2021

ORANGE TOWNSHIP:

BY: 
CHAIR

ATTEST:



ERIKA BURKHART, SECRETARY

(SEAL)