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Town of Peru

Ordinance to Regulate Automobile Graveyards, Junkyards, and Automobile Recycling Business

§3751. Purpose

Junkyards and so-called "auto graveyards" have been steadily expanding and frequently encroach upon highways. These junkyards and graveyards have become a nuisance and a menace to safe travel on public ways, often distracting the attention of drivers of motor vehicles because it appears cars are parked on the highway or that an accident has occurred. It is declared that such junkyards and automobile graveyards are a nuisance and are properly subject to regulation and control.

It is recognized that recycling of automobiles is a business enterprise that, when conducted in accordance with certain standards, differs from the enterprise of an automobile graveyard and that adoption of uniform state standards for this type of business enterprise would assist in development and regulation of that business.

Junkyards, automobile graveyards and automobile recycling businesses pose potential risks to the environment, particularly to groundwater and surface water quality if gasoline, oil or other fluids are not managed and disposed of properly. Proper location and operation of these facilities are critical to ensure protection of groundwater and surface water quality, other natural resources and the health and welfare of Maine citizens. These facilities may create nuisance conditions potentially affecting abutting landowners and others if not located and operated properly. For these reasons, it is declared that these facilities are appropriately subject to certain environmental and operational standards and to appropriate municipal and state regulation.

§3752. Definitions

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. **1. Automobile graveyard.** "Automobile graveyard" means a yard, field or other outdoor area used to store 3 or more unregistered or uninspected motor vehicles, as defined in Title 29-A, section 101, subsection 42, or parts of the vehicles. "Automobile graveyard" includes an area used for automobile dismantling, salvage and recycling operations.

A. "Automobile graveyard" does not include:

(1) An area used for temporary storage of vehicles or vehicle parts by an establishment or place of business that is primarily engaged in doing vehicle repair work to make repairs to render a motor vehicle serviceable. In order for a vehicle's storage to be considered temporary, it must be removed from the site within 180 calendar days of its receipt;

(2) An area used by an automobile hobbyist to store, organize, restore or display antique autos, antique motorcycles, classic vehicles, horseless carriages, reconstructed vehicles, street rods or parts of these vehicles as these vehicles are defined in Title 29-A, section 101 as long as the hobbyist's activities comply with all applicable federal and state statutes and rules and municipal ordinances, other than ordinances that are more restrictive than this subsection regarding the storage of vehicles or vehicle parts that are collected by a hobbyist, except that a municipal ordinance may require areas used by an automobile hobbyist to comply with the screening requirements in section 3754-A, subsection 1, paragraph A and the standards in section 3754-A, subsection 5, paragraph A, paragraph B, subparagraph (1) and paragraph C. For the purposes of this subparagraph, an automobile hobbyist is a person who is not primarily engaged in the business of selling any of those vehicles or parts from those vehicles;

(3) An area used for the parking or storage of vehicles, vehicle parts or equipment intended for use by a municipality, quasi-municipal entity or state or federal agency;

- (4) An area used for the storage of operational farm tractors and related farm equipment, log skidders, logging tractors or other vehicles exempted from registration under Title 29-A, chapter 5;
- (5) An area used for the parking or storage of vehicles or equipment being offered for sale by a dealer, equipment dealer, trailer dealer or vehicle auction business as defined in Title 29-A, section 851;
- (6) An area used for the storage of vehicles by an establishment or place of business that is primarily engaged in business as a new vehicle dealer as defined in Title 29-A, section 851;
- (7) An area used for temporary storage of vehicles by an establishment or place of business that is primarily engaged in business as an insurance salvage pool. In order for a vehicle's storage to be considered temporary under this subparagraph, the vehicle must be removed from the site within 180 days of receipt of title by the business; or
- (8) An area used for the parking or storage of operational commercial motor vehicles, special equipment or special mobile equipment as defined in Title 29-A, section 101 that is temporarily out of service but is expected to be used by the vehicle or equipment owner or by an operator designated by the owner. This subsection does not exempt an area used for the parking or storage of equipment or vehicles that are not operational while stored or parked in the area

1-A. Automobile Recycling Business. "Automobile recycling business" means the business premises of a dealer or a recycler licensed under Title 29-A, sections 851 to 1112 who purchases or acquires salvage vehicles for the purpose of reselling the vehicles or component parts of the vehicles or rebuilding or repairing salvage vehicles for the purpose of resale or for selling the basic materials in the salvage vehicles, as long as 80% of the business premises specified in the site plan in section 3755-A, subsection 1, paragraph C is used for automobile recycling operations.

A. "Automobile recycling business" does not include:

- (1) Financial institutions as defined in Title 9-B, section 131, subsections 17 and 17-A;

(2) Insurance companies licensed to do business in the State;

(3) New vehicle dealers, as defined in Title 29-A, section 851, licensed to do business in the State; or

(4) That portion of the business premises that is used for temporary storage of vehicles by an establishment or place of business that is primarily engaged in business as an insurance salvage pool. In order for a vehicle's storage to be considered temporary under this subparagraph, the vehicle must be removed from the site within 180 days of receipt of title by the business.

2. Highway. "Highway" means any public way.

3. Interstate System. "Interstate System" means those portions of the Maine Turnpike and the state highway system incorporated in the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, as officially designated by the Department of Transportation.

4. Junkyard. "Junkyard" means a yard, field or other outside area used to store, dismantle or otherwise handle:

A. Discarded, worn-out or junked plumbing, heating supplies, electronic or industrial equipment, household appliances or furniture;

B. Discarded, scrap and junked lumber; and

C. Old or scrap copper, brass, rope, rags, batteries, paper trash, rubber debris, waste and all scrap iron, steel and other scrap ferrous or nonferrous material.

D. [2003, c. 312, §5 (RP).]

5. Primary System. "Primary System" means that portion of the state highway system which the Department of Transportation has by official designation incorporated into the Federal-Aid Primary System.

6. Recycling or recycling operations.

§3753. Permit required

A person may not establish, operate or maintain an automobile graveyard, automobile recycling business or junkyard without first obtaining a nontransferable permit from the municipal officers of the municipality in which the automobile graveyard, automobile recycling business or junkyard is to be located, or from the county commissioners of the county of any unorganized territory in which the automobile graveyard, automobile recycling business or junkyard is to be located. Permits issued to an automobile graveyard or junkyard under this section are valid until the first day of the following year; except that, beginning in calendar year 2004, permits issued to an automobile graveyard or junkyard under this section are valid until the first day of October of the following year. Permits issued to an automobile recycling business under this section are valid for 5 years from the date of issuance and are renewable provided that the permit holder furnishes a sworn statement, annually, on the anniversary date of the granting of the permit, that the facility complies with the standards of operation applicable at the time of issuance of the permit. A person operating a business that involves the recycling of automobiles may operate under a permit for an automobile graveyard or a permit for an automobile recycling business.

A. Any abutting landowner with a well less than 500 feet from perimeter of Automobile Graveyard or Junkyard, may request to have their water tested at the time of permit renewal for existing Automobile Graveyard or Junkyard. Cost to be paid by owner of Automobile Graveyard or Junkyard.

B. The Town of Peru shall have no more than 3 Junkyard Permits and 2 Automobile Graveyard Permits at any time.

C. To reduce noise, all dismantling of motor vehicles shall be done after 7:00a.m. and before 6:00p.m. Mondays through Friday. Saturday after 7:00am. and before 12:00 p.m. No dismantling of motor vehicles shall be allowed on Sundays.

§3754. Hearings

Municipal officers or county commissioners, as provided for in section 3753, shall hold a public hearing before granting a permit to establish a new automobile

graveyard, automobile recycling business or junkyard and may hold public hearings annually regarding the relicensing of these facilities. Municipal officers or county commissioners shall require an applicant to provide proof of mailing the notice of the application to all abutting property owners. Municipal officers or county commissioners shall also post a notice of the hearing at least 7 and not more than 14 days before the hearing in at least 2 public places in the municipality or unorganized territory and publish a notice in one newspaper having general circulation in the municipality or unorganized territory in which the automobile graveyard, automobile recycling business or junkyard is to be located. The municipal officers or county commissioners shall give written or electronic notice of the application to establish a new automobile graveyard or automobile recycling business to the automobile dealer licensing section of the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles by mailing a copy of the application at least 7 and not more than 30 days before the hearing. The municipal officers or county commissioners shall give written notice of the application to the public water supplier if the application is for an automobile graveyard, automobile recycling business or junkyard located within the supplier's source water supply area. The notice may be given by mailing a copy of the application at least 7 and not more than 14 days before the hearing.

§3754-A. Limitations on Graveyard, Automobile Recycling business and Junkyard permits

1. Highways; Interstate System and Primary System. A permit may not be granted for an automobile graveyard or junkyard within 1,000 feet of the right-of-way of any highway incorporated in both the Interstate System and Primary System or within 600 feet of the right-of-way of any other highway, except for:

A. Those automobile graveyards or junkyards that are kept entirely screened from ordinary view from the highway at all times by natural objects, plantings or fences. Screening required by this paragraph must be:

(1) At a height, density and depth sufficient to accomplish complete screening from ordinary view;

(2) Well constructed and properly maintained at a minimum height of 6 feet;

(3) Placed outside of the highway right-of-way; and

(4) Acceptable to the municipal officers or county commissioners; and

B. Those automobile graveyards or junkyards located within areas that have been zoned for industrial use and located more than 600 feet but less than 1,000 feet from the right-of-way of any highway incorporated in both the Interstate System and Primary System.

2. Limitation on new permits. A permit may not be granted for an automobile graveyard or junkyard established after October 3, 1973 and located within 100 feet of any highway.

3. Public facilities. A new permit may not be granted for an automobile graveyard or junkyard that is:

A. Located within 300 feet of a public building, public park, public playground, public bathing beach, school, church or cemetery; and

B. Within ordinary view from a facility under paragraph A.

4. Public and private water supplies. A permit may not be granted for an automobile graveyard, junkyard or automobile recycling business that handles junk, scrap metal, vehicles or other solid waste within 300 feet of a well that serves as a public or private water supply. This prohibition does not include a private well that serves only the automobile graveyard, junkyard, automobile recycling business or the owner's or operator's abutting residence. This prohibition does not apply to wells installed after an automobile graveyard, junkyard or automobile recycling business has already received a permit under section 3753.

Automobile graveyards, junkyards and automobile recycling businesses operating under the terms of permits issued prior to the effective date of this subsection and handling junk, scrap metal, vehicles or other solid waste within 300 feet of wells that serve as public or private water supplies may continue to operate in those locations under the terms of those permits. Municipal officers or county commissioners may renew a permit allowing the continued handling of junk, scrap metal, vehicles or other solid waste within 300 feet of a well serving as a public or private water supply as long as no further encroachment toward the well occurs.

The municipal officers or county commissioners may not renew a permit if there is substantial, credible evidence that the permitted activities have caused contamination of the well.

5. Operating standards. All automobile graveyards and junkyards permitted pursuant to section 3753 are required to comply with the following standards:

A. All fluids, including, but not limited to, engine lubricant, transmission fluid, brake fluid, power steering fluid, hydraulic fluid, engine coolant, gasoline, diesel fuel and oil, must be properly handled in such a manner that they do not leak, flow or discharge into or onto the ground or into a body of water

B. A vehicle containing fluids may not be stored or dismantled:

(1) Within 100 feet of any body of water or freshwater wetland, as defined by Title 38, section 436-A, subsection 5;

(2) Within the 100-year floodplain; or

(3) Over a mapped sand and gravel aquifer;

C. Junk, scrap metal, vehicles or other solid wastes may not be placed or deposited, directly or indirectly, into the inland waters or tidal waters of the State or on the ice of inland waters or tidal waters or on the banks of inland waters or tidal waters in such a manner that they may fall or be washed into these waters;

D. Junkyard and automobile graveyard owners must demonstrate at the time of licensing that the facility or facilities for which they seek permits are, or are part of, a viable business entity and the facility or facilities are actively engaged in the business of salvaging, recycling, dismantling, processing, repairing or rebuilding junk or vehicles for the purpose of sale or trade;

E. A log must be maintained of all motor vehicles handled that includes the date each vehicle was acquired, a copy of the vehicle's title or bill of sale and the date or dates upon which all fluids, refrigerant, batteries and mercury switches were removed;

F. All fluids, refrigerant, batteries and mercury switches must be removed from motor vehicles that lack engines or other parts that render the vehicles incapable of being driven under their own motor power or that are otherwise incapable of being driven under their own motor power, appliances and other items within 180 days of acquisition. Motor vehicles, appliances and other items acquired by and on the premises of a junkyard or automobile graveyard prior to October 1, 2005 must have all fluids, refrigerant, batteries and mercury switches removed by January 1, 2007. Fluids required to be removed under this paragraph must be removed to the greatest extent practicable;

G. Storage, recycling or disposal of all fluids, refrigerant, batteries and mercury switches must comply with all applicable federal and state laws, rules and regulations; and

H. All fluids, refrigerant, batteries and mercury switches must be removed from motor vehicles, appliances and other items before crushing or shredding. Fluids required to be removed under this paragraph must be removed to the greatest extent practicable.

6. Rules. A permit, other than a limited-term permit as described in this section, may not be granted for an automobile graveyard or automobile recycling business that is not in compliance with all applicable provisions of the automobile dealer or recycler licensing provisions of Title 29-A, chapter 9. Municipal officers or county commissioners may award a limited-term permit conditioned upon an automobile graveyard's or automobile recycling business's demonstrating compliance with the provisions of Title 29-A, chapter 9 within 90 calendar days of the issuance of the municipal or county limited-term permit.

6-A. Relationship to state storm water requirements. After October 30, 2005, municipal officers or county commissioners may reject an application for an automobile graveyard or automobile recycling business if the applicant has not demonstrated that:

A. A notice of intent has been filed with the Department of Environmental Protection to comply with the general permit provisions for storm water discharges; or

B. The Department of Environmental Protection has determined that a storm water discharge permit is not required.

7. Local ordinances. This subchapter may not be construed to limit a municipality's home rule authority to enact ordinances with respect to automobile graveyards, automobile recycling businesses and junkyards that the municipality determines reasonable, including, but not limited to, ordinances concerning:

- A.** Compliance with state and federal solid waste and hazardous waste regulations;
- B.** Fire and traffic safety;
- C.** Levels of noise that can be heard outside the premises;
- D.** Distance from existing residential or institutional uses;
- E.** The effect on groundwater and surface water, as long as municipal ordinances on groundwater are no less stringent than or inconsistent with rules adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection; and
- F.** Best management practices for automobile graveyards, junkyards and automobile recycling businesses developed by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Municipal officers or county commissioners shall consider compliance with these local ordinances in deciding whether to grant or deny a permit for any automobile graveyard, automobile recycling business or junkyard and in attaching conditions of approval to a permit.

8. Applicability. Municipalities may apply local ordinances adopted previously under subsection 7 pertaining to automobile graveyards and junkyards to an automobile recycling business without amending those ordinances to include automobile recycling businesses. A municipality must provide notice of its intent to apply these ordinances at the time an application for an automobile recycling business permit is filed.

9. Right of entry. Municipal officers or their designees may, to carry out the provisions of this subchapter or to determine compliance with any laws, ordinances, license or permit approvals, decisions or conditions:

A. Enter any automobile graveyard, junkyard or automobile recycling business property and inspect all outside areas, equipment and activities at reasonable hours for compliance with the laws or ordinances set forth in accordance with this subchapter; and

B. Enter any building on the property with the consent of the owner, occupant or agent to inspect the building and activities within the building for compliance with the laws or ordinances set forth in accordance with this subchapter. A municipal officer's or designee's entry onto property under this subsection is not a trespass.

10. Standard for permit. The municipal officers or county commissioners may issue a permit to an automobile graveyard or junkyard if that automobile graveyard or junkyard meets the operating standards set forth in subsection 5.

For purposes of revocation or suspension of a permit pursuant to section 3758-A, subsection 5, each of the standards set forth in this section is a condition of a permit.

§3755-A. Automobile recycling business permits; operation standards

1. Application. An application for an automobile recycling business permit must include the following information:

A. The name and address of the property owner;

B. The name and address of the person or entity who will operate the site; and

C. A site plan, including:

(1) Property boundary lines;

(2) A description of the soils on the property;

(3) The location of any sand and gravel aquifer recharge areas;

(4) The location of any residence or school within 500 feet of where the cars will be stored;

(5) The location of any body of water on the property or within 200 feet of the property lines;

(6) The boundaries of the 100-year flood plain;

(7) The location of all roads within 1,000 feet of the site;

(8) A plan for containment of fluids, containment and disposal of batteries and storage or disposal of tires; and

(9) The location within the property boundary lines where vehicles are drained, dismantled or stored.

2. Standards for permit. The municipality may issue a permit to an automobile recycling business if the business demonstrates that the business meets the operation standards set forth in subsection 3.

3. Operation standards. An automobile recycling business licensed under this section must meet the following standards.

A. Site of the yard must be enclosed by a visual screen that complies with the screening requirements of section 3754-A.

B. A vehicle containing fluids may not be stored within 100 feet of any body of water or freshwater wetland, as defined by Title 38, section 436-A, subsection 5.

C. A vehicle may not be dismantled or stored within 500 feet of a school, church, cemetery or public playground or park that existed on the date the permit was issued.

D. A vehicle may not be dismantled or stored over a sand and gravel aquifer or aquifer recharge area.

E. A vehicle containing fluids may not be dismantled or stored within the 100-year flood plain.

F. Except as provided in subsection 3754-A, subsection 4, a vehicle may not be dismantled or stored within 300 feet of a well that serves as a public or private water supply, excluding a private well that serves only the automobile recycling business or the owner or operator's abutting residence

G. A vehicle may not be located or dismantled closer than 20 feet from any lot line, unless the operator has notarized written permission from the abutting property owner.

H. Dismantling of a vehicle must be performed in accordance with the following standards.

(1) Batteries must be removed.

(2) All fluids, including but not limited to engine lubricant, transmission fluid, brake fluid, power steering fluid, hydraulic fluid, engine coolant, gasoline, diesel fuel and oil, must be drained into watertight, covered containers and must be recycled or disposed of in accordance with applicable federal and state laws, rules and regulations.

(3) Fluids from a vehicle may not be permitted to flow or be discharged into or onto the ground.

(4) Storage, recycling or disposal of all fluids, refrigerant, batteries and mercury switches must comply with all applicable federal and state laws, rules and regulations.

(5) A log must be maintained of all motor vehicles handled that includes the date each vehicle was acquired, a copy of the vehicle's title or bill of sale and the date or dates upon which all fluids, refrigerant, batteries and mercury switches were removed.

(6) All fluids, refrigerant, batteries and mercury switches must be removed from motor vehicles that lack engines or other parts that render the vehicles incapable of being driven under their own motor power or that are otherwise incapable of being driven under their own motor power within 180 days of acquisition. Motor vehicles acquired by and on the premises of an automobile recycling business prior to October 1, 2005 must have all fluids, refrigerant, batteries and mercury switches removed by January 1, 2007. Fluids required to be removed under this subparagraph must be removed to the greatest extent practicable.

(7) All fluids, refrigerant, batteries and mercury switches must be removed from vehicles before crushing or shredding. Fluids required to be removed under this subparagraph must be removed to the greatest extent practicable

4. Revocation or suspension of permit. For purposes of section 3758-A, subsection 5, each of the standards set forth in this section are conditions of a permit.

5. Relationship to automobile graveyard permit. A person who recycles automobiles but does not qualify for, or loses, an automobile recycling business permit may apply for an automobile graveyard permit.

§3756. Permit fees

The municipal officers or county commissioners shall collect, in advance from the applicant for a permit, a fee in accordance with the following schedule:

[1. Graveyard or junkyard. Fifty dollars for each application for an automobile graveyard or junkyard plus the cost of posting and publishing the notice under section 3754;

2. Graveyard or junkyard within 100 feet from highway.

3. Recycling business. Two hundred fifty dollars for a 5-year permit for an automobile recycling business plus the cost of posting and publishing the notice under section 3754; or

4. Fee. A fee as otherwise established by municipal ordinance or rule.

§3757. Provisions regarding nuisances unaffected

This subchapter shall not be construed as in any way repealing, invalidating or abrogating Title 17, section 2802, or limiting the right of prosecutions under that section. Violation of this subchapter in the establishment, maintenance or operation of any automobile graveyard or junkyard constitutes prima facie evidence that the yard is a nuisance as defined in Title 17, section 2802.

§3758-A. Violations

1. Enforcement. All state, county and local law enforcement officers shall enforce the provisions of this subchapter.

2. Municipal authority. Municipal officers or their designees may enforce the provisions of this subchapter pursuant to:

A. The enforcement of land use laws and ordinances under section 4452;

B. The litter control provisions of Title 17, chapter 80; or

C. The abatement of nuisance provisions of Title 17, chapter 91.

3. Penalties. Violations of this subchapter are subject to the penalty provisions of section 4452; Title 17, sections 2264-A and 2264-B; or Title 17, chapter 91. Each day that the violation continues constitutes a separate offense.

4. Abatement. If the municipality is the prevailing party in an action taken pursuant to the provisions of this Title or Title 17 as outlined in subsection 2 and the violator does not complete any ordered correction or abatement in accordance with the ordered schedule, the municipal officers or designated agent may enter the property and may act to abate the site in compliance with the order. To recover any actual and direct expenses incurred by the municipality in the abatement of the nuisance, the municipality may:

A. File a civil action against the owner to recover the cost of abatement, including the expense of court costs and reasonable attorney's fees necessary to file and conduct the action;

B. File a lien on real estate where the junkyard, automobile graveyard or automobile recycling business is located; or

C. Assess a special tax on real estate where the junkyard, automobile graveyard or automobile recycling business is located. This amount must be included in the next annual warrant to the tax collector of the municipality, for collection in the same manner as other state, county and municipal taxes are collected. Interest as determined by the municipality pursuant to Title 36, section 505 in the year in which the special tax is assessed accrues on all unpaid balances of the special tax beginning on the 60th day after the day of commitment of the special tax to the collector. The interest must be added to and becomes a part of the tax.

5. Revocation or suspension of permit. Violation of any condition, restriction or limitation inserted in a permit by the municipal officers or county commissioners is cause for revocation or suspension of the permit by the same authority that issued the permit. A permit may not be revoked or suspended without a hearing and notice to the owner or the operator of the automobile graveyard, automobile recycling business or junkyard. Notice of hearing must be sent to the owner or operator by registered mail at least 7 but not more than 14 days before the hearing. The notice must state the time and the place of hearing and contain a statement describing the alleged violation of any conditions, restrictions or limitations inserted in the permit.

The municipal officers or county commissioners shall provide written or electronic notice of the hearing to the automobile dealer licensing section of the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles at least 7 days before the hearing.

6. Removal of all materials after permit denial or revocation. The owner or operator of a junkyard, automobile graveyard or automobile recycling business for which a permit has been denied or revoked shall, not later than 90 days after all appeals have been denied, begin the removal of all vehicles, vehicle parts and materials associated with the operation of that junkyard, automobile graveyard or automobile recycling business. The property must be free of all scrapped or junked vehicles and materials not later than 180 days after denial of all appeals. An alternative schedule for removal of junk or vehicles may be employed if specifically approved by the municipal officers or county commissioners.

§3760. Relocation, removal, disposal, compensation and condemnation

1. Acquisition of land. If the Department of Transportation determines that the topography of the land adjacent to any portion of a highway incorporated in the Interstate or Primary Systems does not permit adequate screening under section 3754-A, subsection 1 or that adequate screening is not economically feasible, it may acquire by gift, purchase or condemnation any interests in property that are necessary to secure the relocation, removal or disposal of the automobile graveyards or junkyards.

2. Compensation. In the case of such acquisition, just compensation shall be paid to the owner for the relocation, removal or disposal of the following automobile graveyards and junkyards:

A. Those which were operating and in existence on May 11, 1966 and located in areas adjacent to any portion of a highway incorporated in the Interstate or Primary Systems, which exceed federal restrictions and for which federal funds are available to defray the costs;

B. Those in operation along any highway made a part of the Interstate or Primary Systems on or after May 11, 1966; and

C. Those in operation and established on or after May 11, 1966.

3. Procedures. The purchase, condemnation, negotiation, assessment of damage and appeal procedures shall be in accordance with this section and Title 23, sections 153-A to 159.

4. Use of federal funds. This section does not prevent the department from participating with the owner when federal funds are available to defray costs of screening junkyards whenever it is determined to be more feasible to screen rather than to be involved in the cost or impact of acquisition and relocation.

§2802. Miscellaneous nuisances

The erection, continuance or use of any building or place for the exercise of a trade, employment or manufacture that, by noxious exhalations, offensive smells or other annoyances, becomes injurious and dangerous to the health, comfort or property of individuals or of the public; causing or permitting abandoned wells or tin mining shafts to remain unfilled or uncovered to the injury or prejudice of others; causing or suffering any offal, filth or noisome substance to collect or to remain in any place to the prejudice of others; obstructing or impeding, without legal authority, the passage of any navigable river, harbor or collection of water; corrupting or rendering unwholesome or impure the water of a river, stream, pond or aquifer; imprudent operation of a watercraft as defined in Title 12, section 13068-A, subsection 8; unlawfully diverting the water of a river, stream, pond or aquifer from its natural course or state to the injury or prejudice of others; and the obstructing or encumbering by fences, buildings or otherwise of highways, private

ways, streets, alleys, commons, common landing places or burying grounds are nuisances within the limitations and exceptions mentioned. Any places where one or more old, discarded, worn-out or junked motor vehicles as defined in Title 29-A, section 101, subsection 42, or parts thereof, are gathered together, kept, deposited or allowed to accumulate, in such manner or in such location or situation either within or without the limits of any highway, as to be unsightly, detracting from the natural scenery or injurious to the comfort and happiness of individuals and the public, and injurious to property rights, are public nuisances.

§4452. Enforcement of land use laws and ordinances

1. Enforcement. A municipal official, such as a municipal code enforcement officer, local plumbing inspector or building official, who is designated by ordinance or law with the responsibility to enforce a particular law or ordinance set forth in subsection 5, 6 or 7, may:

A. Enter any property at reasonable hours or enter any building with the consent of the owner, occupant or agent to inspect the property or building for compliance with the laws or ordinances set forth in subsection 5. A municipal official's entry onto property under this paragraph is not a trespass;

B. Issue a summons to any person who violates a law or ordinance, which the official is authorized to enforce; and

C. When specifically authorized by the municipal officers, represent the municipality in District Court in the prosecution of alleged violations of ordinances or laws, which the official is authorized to enforce.

2. Liability for violations. Any person, including, but not limited to, a landowner, the landowner's agent or a contractor, who violates any of the laws or ordinances set forth in subsection 5 or 6 is liable for the penalties set forth in subsection 3.

3. Civil penalties. The following provisions apply to violations of the laws and ordinances set forth in subsection 5. Except for paragraph H, monetary penalties may be assessed on a per-day basis and are civil penalties.

A. The minimum penalty for starting construction or undertaking a land use activity without a required permit is \$100, and the maximum penalty is \$2,500.

B. The minimum penalty for a specific violation is \$100, and the maximum penalty is \$2,500.

B-1. Notwithstanding paragraph B, the maximum penalty is \$5,000 for any violation of a law or an ordinance set forth in subsection 5, paragraph Q, if the violation occurs within an area zoned for resource protection.

C. The violator may be ordered to correct or abate the violations. When the court finds that the violation was willful, the violator shall be ordered to correct or abate the violation unless the abatement or correction results in:

- (1) A threat or hazard to public health or safety;
- (2) Substantial environmental damage; or
- (3) A substantial injustice.

C-1. [2007, c. 92, §1 (RP).]

C-2. Notwithstanding paragraph C, for violations of the laws and ordinances set forth in subsection 5, paragraph Q, the provisions of this paragraph apply. The court must order the violator to correct or mitigate the violation unless the correction or mitigation would result in a threat or hazard to public health or safety, substantial environmental damage or a substantial injustice.

(1) Except for timber harvesting, correction or mitigation of a violation that involves the cutting of a tree or trees must include, but is not limited to, replacement of each tree cut with a tree or trees of varying size and species such that the visual impact from the cutting will be remediated, the tree canopy that was cut will be restored within a reasonable time period and a total basal area equal to at least 50% of the basal area cut will be replanted.

(2) Except for timber harvesting, correction or mitigation of a violation that involves the cutting of understory vegetation must include, but is not limited to, replacement of the understory vegetation with understory vegetation of substantially similar size and species to the extent reasonably available and feasible.

(3) For violations requiring correction or mitigation pursuant to subparagraph (1) or (2), the violator shall submit to the municipality a reforestation plan and 5-year management plan developed with and signed by a forester licensed pursuant to Title 32, chapter 76 or other qualified professional. The reforestation plan must include consideration of specified site conditions and address habitat and other riparian restoration, visual screening, understory vegetation and erosion and sedimentation control. The management plan must address how the replacement trees must be maintained to enable the trees to grow to a healthy, mature height.

For purposes of this paragraph, "timber harvesting" has the same meaning as in Title 38, section 438-B, subsection 1, paragraph C.

For purposes of this paragraph, "understory vegetation" means all saplings that measure less than 2 inches in diameter at 4.5 feet above ground level and all shrubs.

D. If the municipality is the prevailing party, the municipality must be awarded reasonable attorney fees, expert witness fees and costs, unless the court finds that special circumstances make the award of these fees and costs unjust. If the defendant is the prevailing party, the defendant may be awarded reasonable attorney fees, expert witness fees and costs as provided by court rule.

E. In setting a penalty, the court shall consider, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) Prior violations by the same party;

(2) The degree of environmental damage that cannot be abated or corrected;

(3) The extent to which the violation continued following a municipal order to stop; and

(4) The extent to which the municipality contributed to the violation by providing the violator with incorrect information or by failing to take timely action.

F. The maximum penalty may exceed \$2,500, but may not exceed \$25,000, when it is shown that there has been a previous conviction of the same party within the past 2 years for a violation of the same law or ordinance.

G. The penalties for violations of a septage land disposal or storage site permit issued by the Department of Environmental Protection under Title 38, chapter 13, subchapter 1, are as prescribed in Title 38, section 349.

H. If the economic benefit resulting from the violation exceeds the applicable penalties under this subsection, the maximum civil penalties may be increased. The maximum civil penalty may not exceed an amount equal to twice the economic benefit resulting from the violation. Economic benefit includes, but is not limited to, the costs avoided or enhanced value accrued at the time of the violation as a result of the violator's noncompliance with the applicable legal requirements.

4. Proceedings brought for benefit of municipality. All proceedings arising under locally administered laws and ordinances shall be brought in the name of the municipality. All fines resulting from those proceedings shall be paid to the municipality.

5. Application. This section applies to the enforcement of land use laws and ordinances or rules that are administered and enforced primarily at the local level, including:

A. The plumbing and subsurface waste water disposal rules adopted by the Department of Health and Human Services under Title 22, section 42, including the land area of the State that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Maine Land Use Planning Commission;

B. Laws pertaining to public water supplies, Title 22, sections 2642, 2647 and 2648;

C. Local ordinances adopted pursuant to Title 22, section 2642;

D. Laws administered by local health officers pursuant to Title 22, chapters 153 and 263; [

E. Laws pertaining to fire prevention and protection, which require enforcement by local officers pursuant to Title 25, chapter 313;

F. Laws pertaining to the construction of public buildings for the physically disabled pursuant to Title 5, sections 4582-B, 4582-C and 4594-F;

- G.** Local land use ordinances adopted pursuant to section 3001;
- H.** [2007, c. 699, §18 (RP).]
- I.** [2007, c. 699, §18 (RP).]
- J.** Laws pertaining to junkyards, automobile graveyards and automobile recycling businesses and local ordinances regarding junkyards, automobile graveyards and automobile recycling businesses, pursuant to chapter 183, subchapter 1 and Title 38, section 1665-A, subsection 3;
- K.** Local ordinances regarding electrical installations pursuant to chapter 185, subchapter 2;
- L.** Local ordinances regarding regulation and inspection of plumbing pursuant to chapter 185, subchapter 3;
- M.** Local ordinances regarding malfunctioning subsurface waste water disposal systems pursuant to section 3428 and laws regarding malfunctioning subsurface waste water disposal systems pursuant to Title 38, section 424-A;
- N.** The subdivision law and local subdivision ordinances adopted pursuant to section 3001 and subdivision regulations adopted pursuant to section 4403;
- O.** Local zoning ordinances adopted pursuant to section 3001 and in accordance with section 4352;
- P.** Wastewater discharge licenses issued pursuant to Title 38, section 353-B;
- Q.** Shoreland zoning ordinances adopted pursuant to Title 38, sections 435 to 447, including those that were state-imposed;
- R.** The laws pertaining to harbors in Title 38, chapter 1, subchapter 1, local harbor ordinances adopted in accordance with Title 38, section 7 and regulations adopted by municipal officers pursuant to Title 38, section 2;
- S.** Local ordinances and ordinance provisions regarding storm water, including, but not limited to, ordinances and ordinance provisions regulating nonstorm water discharges, construction site runoff and postconstruction storm water management,

enacted as required by the federal Clean Water Act and federal regulations and by state permits and rules;

T. Laws pertaining to limitations on construction and excavation near burial sites and established cemeteries in Title 13, section 1371-A and local ordinances and regulations adopted by municipalities in accordance with this section and section 3001 regarding those limitations;

U. Standards under a wind energy development certification issued by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to Title 35-A, section 3456 if the municipality chooses to enforce those standards ; and

(Paragraph U as enacted by PL 2007, c. 699, §18 is REALLOCATED TO TITLE 30-A, SECTION 4452, SUBSECTION 5, PARAGRAPH V)

V. (REALLOCATED FROM T. 30-A, §4452, sub-§5, ¶U) The Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, adopted pursuant to Title 10, chapter 1103.

6. Septage and sludge permits issued by the Department of Environmental Protection. A municipality, after notifying the Department of Environmental Protection, may enforce the terms and conditions of a septage land disposal or storage site permit or a sludge land application or storage site permit issued by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to Title 38, chapter 13, subchapter 1.

7. Natural resources protection laws. A code enforcement officer, authorized by a municipality to represent that municipality in District Court and certified by the former State Planning Office or the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Community Development under section 4453 as familiar with court procedures, may enforce the provisions of Title 38, section 420-C, Title 38, chapter 3, subchapter 1, article 5-A and Title 38, chapter 13-D by instituting injunctive proceedings or by seeking civil penalties in accordance with Title 38, section 349, subsection 2.

Conflicts and Severability

Whenever a provision of this Ordinance conflicts with or is inconsistent with another provision of the Ordinance or of any other Town Ordinance, or Federal or State of Maine rule, regulation or statute, the more restrictive provision shall apply.

The Town of Peru Ordinance for Automobile Graveyards, Junkyards, and Automobile Recycling Business will remain consistent with applicable law.

This Ordinance was adopted on: June 13th, 2017

A true copy attest: Vera Parent Vera Parent, Town Clerk Date: 6-13-17

Raquel Welch 7-17-17
Raquel Welch, Chair (Select Person) Date

Carol Roach, Vice Chair (Select Person) Date

Kevin Taylor 7-17-17
Kevin Taylor, (Select Person) Date

Larry Snowman 7-17-17
Larry Snowman, (Select Person) Date

John Witherell 7/17/17
John Witherell, (Select Person) Date