

#22 – Soliciting/Canvassing in the Town of Rye
Adopted March 18, 1995 – Article 15

This Ordinance was adopted March 29, 1993 (by the Board of Selectmen) under the provisions of New Hampshire RSA 31:102-a which is made a part hereto.

1. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this ordinance is to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the community. The provisions hereof are adopted and established to:

Minimize undue disruption to individuals' rights to privacy.

Lessen traffic hazards and undue congestion in the streets.

Give reasonable notice to the Rye Police Department that soliciting/canvassing is taking place in the Town and allow the Department control over such events.

2. DEFINITIONS:

Solicitors and canvassers, except as hereinafter provided, shall mean and include any person, principal or agent who travels from town to town or from place to place in the same town soliciting or canvassing for any purpose, including but not limited to soliciting funds, products, services, agreements and positions and/or signatures pertaining to any matter.

3. PERMITS:

No solicitor or canvasser shall solicit or canvass within the Town of Rye unless such solicitor or canvasser holds a valid permit to do so as hereinafter provided.

A business enterprise soliciting within the Town of Rye must hold and show a valid New Hampshire Hawkers and Peddlers License before a permit is issued by the Town of Rye.

A non-profit organization soliciting within the Town of Rye will need to show proof of registration as a non-profit organization in the State of New Hampshire.

The Police Department of the Town of Rye shall grant a permit only to persons who file an application and show the required documentation at the Police Department specifying the dates which he will solicit or canvass. The application must be signed by the Police Chief before a permit shall be issued.

The Police Department shall keep records of all permits issued with a permit number assigned, names and references of the persons licensed and purpose for the soliciting/canvassing. All such records shall be open for public inspection.

4. FINES/COMPLAINTS/REVOCATION:

Soliciting or canvassing without a permit in the Town of Rye shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$100.00.

Complaints regarding solicitors will be recorded on a Police incident report along with the officer's findings and recommendations. Such reports shall be reviewed regularly by the Police Chief. The Police Chief, at his own discretion, may revoke a solicitor's permit should the complaints warrant.

Any permit granted hereunder shall be immediately revoked by the Police Chief of the Town of Rye if the licensee breaches any condition or provision herein.

4. LOCAL LIMITATIONS:

No one shall be allowed to solicit or canvass in the Town of Rye before the hours of 9:00 AM or after local sunset as published daily in the Portsmouth Herald.

Those not subject to the permit process include:

- Rye residents under 18 years of age acting on their own.
- Rye School organizations.
- Rye Scout groups, 4H groups and similar youth organizations.
- Rye non-profit clubs and organizations.

Any group not requiring a permit under this ordinance is encouraged to check in with the Police Department prior to solicitation.