

GARAGE & YARD SALES POLICY

74-01

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish consistent procedures regarding Garage and Yard Sales.

II. POLICY

- A. The Board of Selectmen will allow private citizens and civic groups to conduct "private sales," such as garage, yard, flea markets and similar, provided they are carried out in a manner which does not create violations of Town by-laws or cause neighborhood nuisances.
- B. Groton citizens are advised that the following restrictions apply which are in addition to the state regulations governing the conduct of such sales, such as the Sunday Law and the Sales and Use Tax regulations.
- C. Since such sales must first qualify as exemptions to the Sales and Use Tax regulations of the state, citizens are reminded that anything other than a casual sales will require the imposition of a sales tax under those regulations and at the same render the transaction a commercial one requiring additional permits and licenses as specified in Paragraph 2 of these restrictions.
- D. Under state regulations, no vendor may hold more than two garage or yard sales of not more than one day's duration each unless they register with the state tax authorities prior to such sales, collects the sales tax and files monthly returns.
- E. Nor may any vendor purchase or obtain articles for sale from outside sources for resale at a garage or yard sales without incurring taxable transfers.
- F. Any signs involved must be in compliance with applicable by-laws. All signs must be removed upon completion of each sale. No sign will be permitted on public property without the permission of the Board of Selectmen.
- G. Conduct of such sales on a frequent and/or continuing basis cannot be permitted, since it may take the activity out of the private sale category and produce a requirement for a transient vendor and/or junk dealers license or zoning variance. Willingness of neighboring residents to tolerate these sales cheerfully can only be expected if they take place infrequently.
- H. Care must be taken to avoid creating traffic congestion and/or area parking, conditions that would cause serious neighborhood problems. All applicable traffic laws must be observed.
- I. Those responsible for conducting such sales must limit the hours and control the conduct so as to avoid unreasonable noise or cause a neighborhood nuisance.
- J. Continuation of these rules will be contingent upon favorable experience.