

Amplified Sound

To see whether the Town will vote to amend Chapter 10 of the General Bylaws, known as the Zoning Bylaws, by adding the following Paragraph 11 to Section III.A:

II. Amplified Music. There shall be no use of amplified music at a volume in excess of a level reasonably necessary for the user's purpose for amplification of the music. The purpose shall be zoning compliant. The volume shall be consistent with the rights of nearby residents to quiet enjoyment of their property. A test of the appropriateness of the loudness of amplified music shall be whether a conversation at normal conversational levels can be conducted by two persons with good hearing standing together on the lot of an abutter to the user during the use of amplified music. When the amplified music causes difficulty in conducting such a conversation, the use of amplified music shall be presumed to be in excess of a reasonable level. In the event that amplified music is used on a site, including use in conjunction with a sports event or sports practice, the user shall take reasonable and appropriate steps, such as placement of speakers, to confine and direct the sound of the amplified music to the site of its use. In the event amplified music is presumed to be in excess of a reasonable level, the user may rebut the presumption by showing that the volume was reasonably necessary and did not exceed more than 10 decibels above ambient levels at lot lines. In the event that a non-regular user of amplified music has a reasonable need of amplified music which might be presumed to be in excess of a reasonable level, the town administrator or designee may issue a license for use of amplified music at a specified time, place and date upon reasonable terms and conditions, including a limitation on decibels above ambient levels.

Submitted by the Planning Board