



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET ~ SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Town of Simsbury Press Release Summary of Ordinance to Prohibit the Intentional Feeding of Wildlife

At their July 13, 2020 meeting the Town of Simsbury's Board of Selectmen adopted an Ordinance to Prohibit the Intentional Feeding of Wildlife. The adopted ordinance includes language to prohibit the intentional feeding of wildlife by giving, placing, exposing, feeding, depositing, distributing or scattering any edible material with the intention of feeding, attracting or enticing wildlife. The ordinance also prohibits the use of bird feeders from April 1st through November 30th unless the source of food is something similar to Nyjer or Thistle. This ordinance has been worked on for the past 10 months through a workgroup of the Public Safety Sub-Committee.

A copy of the Ordinance is available for public inspection online [here](#). The Town Clerk shall, upon request, mail a copy of the Ordinance to any person requesting a copy at no charge.

Deputy First Selectman Sean Askham chaired the work group that developed the ordinance. "The increase in interactions between humans and wildlife is concerning and the tools we have locally to address this issue are limited," Askham said. "Restricting bird feeders is not something we take lightly, but we know bird feeders are a major attractant for bears and it's a non-lethal way to address this problem."

Selectman Chris Peterson served on the work group that developed the ordinance. "This is an imperfect situation where we are trying to balance the interests of the birding community during the non-critical months and the attraction of nuisance animals. While some push the idea of trash securitization to prevent bear attraction, that could become a costly investment to all of our citizens which we are not ready to ask for." Peterson also said, "Wildlife policy is managed at the state level," Peterson said, "and that's why it's so important that the General Assembly ensure the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has the tools and resources to adequately assist towns like Simsbury."

DEEP has offered the following tips to keep bears away:

- Do not feed birds in the spring (starting in late March), summer, and early fall. Clean up spilled seed from the ground.
- Store garbage in secure, airtight containers inside a garage or storage area. Adding ammonia to cans and bags will reduce odors that attract bears. Periodically clean garbage cans with ammonia to reduce residual odor. Garbage for pickup should be put outside the morning of collection and not the night before.
- Do not store leftover bird seed or recyclables in a porch or screened sunroom as bears can smell these items and will rip screens to get at them.
- Supervise dogs at all times when outside. Keep dogs on a short leash when walking and hiking. A roaming dog might be perceived as a threat to a bear or its cubs.

- Do not leave pet food outdoors or feed pets outside.
- Use electric fencing to protect beehives, agricultural crops, berry bushes, chickens, and other livestock.
- Keep barbecue grills clean. Store grills inside a garage or shed.
- Avoid placing meat scraps or sweet foods, such as fruit and fruit peels, in compost piles

Please remember to report any bear sightings to DEEP at their website [here](#).