

## CHAPTER 6

### TREES AND VEGETATION

The Town of Bethel repeals the previous ordinance with the same chapter entitled "Solicitors" adopted March 1, 1988 and replaces it with this Chapter 6 entitled "Trees and Vegetation".

The Town of Bethel does hereby ordain:

Sec. 6-1. Supervision of trees.

All trees on the public streets, squares, lanes, and alleys of the Town shall be under the charge, supervision, and control of the Council. The Council shall regulate such trees in all respects.

Sec. 6-2. Enforcement of Chapter.

The Council or the Alderman, if any, shall enforce the provisions of this Chapter in accordance with their terms.

Sec. 6-3. Injury to trees or shrubs prohibited.

No person shall break, injure, destroy, cut, or remove any fruit or ornamental tree, shrub, or plant, planted by authority or maintained with the consent of the Town in any of the public streets, squares, lanes, and alleys of the Town.

Sec. 6-4. Pruning and trimming of trees permitted.

Nothing contained in this Chapter shall be construed to prohibit or prevent the authorized employees or agents of the Council from duly and properly trimming and pruning any trees, plants, or shrubs in the public streets, squares, lanes and alleys of the Town.

Sec. 6-5. Weeds and vegetation; nuisance.

The unregulated growth of weeds, grass, vines, or other vegetation maintained on any property within the Town limits shall be deemed a nuisance for purposes of Section 5-1 of these Ordinances, but such unregulated growth shall be investigated, determined, and remedied in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.

Sec. 6-6. Weeds on vacant lots; nuisance.

- (a) No owner or tenant of any vacant lot within the Town limits shall allow weeds to grow over 12 inches in height, or allow rubbish to collect on such lot.
- (b) No such owner or tenant shall fail or refuse to remove such weeds or rubbish after five (5) days notice from the Council to remove such weeds or rubbish, as provided in Section 6-8.
- (c) Any such growth of weeds or accumulation of rubbish shall be deemed a nuisance for purposes of Section 5-1 of these Ordinances, but

same shall be investigated, determined, and remedied in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.

Sec. 6-7. Investigation of unregulated growth of weeds or grass.

Upon written complaint filed with the Town Clerk at the Town office by one (1) or more residents of the Town, or upon a resolution passed by the Council, the Council shall investigate and determine whether there is unregulated growth, over 12 inches in height, of grass, weeds, or other vegetation on any property located within the Town limits.

Sec. 6-8. Weeds and vegetation; notice to remove or remedy.

If, following its investigation, the Council shall determine that there is an unregulated growth of grass, weeds, or other vegetation over 12 inches in height on any property located within the Town limits, the Council shall notify the property owner or tenant, as the case may be, at his or her last known address in writing by First Class mail (with a certificate of mailing prepared by the Council) and by certified mail, return receipt requested, to have such unregulated growth cut or otherwise remedied within five (5) days of the date of delivery of such written notice.

Sec. 6-9. Failure to remove or remedy; bill for Town costs.

Upon failure of the property owner or tenant to have the unregulated growth of grass, weeds, or other vegetation cut or otherwise remedied within the time specified in Section 6-8, the Council may proceed to cause such unregulated growth to be cut or otherwise remedied. Upon completion, a bill for the costs incurred by or in the name of the Town shall be delivered to the owner of the property in person or by mail.

Sec. 6-10. Recovery of costs; procedure.

If the bill so presented by the Council is not paid by the property owner or tenant within 30 days of delivery, the Council may institute an action in the name of the Town in a court of competent jurisdiction in the State for the collection of the debt and to collect the same in the manner provided for collection of judgments in the State.

Sec. 6-11. Obstruction of vision at street intersections.

At all street intersections within the Town limits, no trees or plants exceeding 2.5 feet in height shall be planted or maintained on any lot. This restriction shall apply to existing as well as proposed street intersections.