



MARBLEHEAD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief of Police Dennis King

MPD - 11 Gerry Street - Marblehead, Massachusetts 01945- www.marblehead.org



To the members of our community:

Town Meeting has approved a Gas-Powered Leaf Blower ban from Memorial Day to Labor Day. At the 2022 Town Meeting, voters passed the Gas-Powered Leaf Blower ban, which was later approved by the Attorney General's Office. But, an important part of implementing the ban was left out of the 2022 Town meeting Warrant Article, the method for enforcement and the **penalties** for violating it. At the 2023 Town Meeting the mechanism for enforcement and penalties for violations were passed: penalizing the property owner, not the landscaper. The penalties are progressive, a warning and cease operation for a first offense, followed by a \$100 fine for a second offense and \$200 fine for each ensuing offense. Under the bylaw, Marblehead Police and Health Departments' personnel are charged with enforcing the Bylaw and may do so and issue the citations, but only if they witness the infraction.

We are asking for your compliance. The penalties passed at the 2023 Town Meeting do not go in effect until the Attorney General reviews the bylaw and approves it. Based on previous years, that is most likely not going to happen until after Labor Day. However, when, and if, the bylaw passes earlier, Marblehead Police and Health Departments will respond to complaints and enforce the Bylaw as set forth therein.

Many will ask "should I report violators now to the Marblehead Police and Health Departments". Without the mechanism to enforce and penalize, the Town is asking that people comply with the will of the Town Meeting vote, without Town enforcement. *Our hope is that educating and informing residents and landscapers of the Bylaw through this notice is a call for compliance, rather than a call to the station.*

This ban is in effect for **Gas-Powered** Leaf Blowers only. You can use electric leaf blowers.

Be assured, that when the AG approval goes through, assuming it does, both the MPD and Health Departments will respond to calls of reported violations and follow the process and issue penalties outlined in the Bylaw. For now, it's really your civic obligation to follow the will of Town Meeting. Truth be told, we hope that voluntary compliance is all the policing needed.

Handwritten signature of Dennis King in blue ink.

Police Chief - Dennis King

Handwritten signature of Thatcher Kezer III in blue ink.

Town Administrator – Thatcher Kezer III

Handwritten signature of Andrew Petty in black ink.

Health Agent – Andrew Petty