

**STEWARTSTOWN BOROUGH
YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-01

**AN ORDINANCE OF STEWARTSTOWN BOROUGH, YORK COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA ESTABLISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE
DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS, BOWS, CROSSBOWS AND ATLATLS**

WHEREAS, Stewartstown Borough (the "Borough") respects the individual rights of Borough residents to possess, transfer, and discharge a firearm in a manner consistent with existing state and federal law; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has determined that it is in the best interests of the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Borough, and that it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Borough to safeguard its residents by regulating the discharge of a firearm, bow, crossbow and atlats in areas near residences and other occupied structures in order to promote the safety of Borough residents.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of Stewartstown Borough as follows:

SECTION 1: Definitions.

FIREARM - A weapon from which a dangerous projectile may be expelled by an explosive, gas, or air. Whether or not the weapon is dangerous enough to be encompassed by this chapter is left to the discretion of the law enforcement officer. Examples include but are not necessarily limited to the following: shotgun, muzzle-loading long guns, rifles and pistols of any caliber.

ATLATL - A fifteen-inch-to-thirty-inch board or rod-like device with a handle at the aft end and a projection (as a hook or thong to hold a dart in place until released) at the fore end, used for propelling a dart by increasing the mechanical advantage of the user's forward arm motion. This device derives its propulsive energy solely from the forward motion of the user's arm and the bending and recovery of the dart. The energy used to propel the dart may not be derived from any other source.

BOW - A device for launching an arrow, which derives its propulsive energy solely from the bending and recovery of two limbs. The energy used to propel the arrow may not be derived from another source.

CROSSBOW - A device consisting of a bow fixed transversely on a stock, the string of which is released by a trigger mechanism, has a mechanical safety and propels an arrow.

DART - A flexible projectile propelled by an atlatl with an overall length between five and eight feet, fletching at the aft end (designed only for guidance) and a broadhead mounted at the fore end. No electronic device may be part of or attached to the dart. No device, material or system capable of causing damage or injury to the animal in excess of that inflicted by the cutting edges of the broadhead may be part of or attached to any dart.

SECTION 2: Discharge of Firearms Restricted.

- A. It is unlawful for any person in the Borough whatsoever to shoot or discharge any Firearm within 150 yards of any occupied dwelling house, residence or other building or camp occupied by human beings or any barn, stable or other building used in connection therewith, unless permission has previously been obtained, and continues to be in effect, from the owner(s) of the structure(s) referred to in Subsection B.
- B. It is unlawful for unauthorized persons to discharge a Firearm in the Borough. Only the following enumerated persons are authorized and may lawfully discharge Firearms in the Borough, so long as any discharge occurs farther than 150 yards from any occupied dwelling house, residence or other building or camp occupied by human beings or any barn, stable or other building used in connection therewith, unless permission has previously been obtained, and continues to be in effect, from the owner(s) of the structure(s) referred to in this Subsection B:
 - (1) A landowner upon his or her own land;
 - (2) A tenant of land upon land occupied by such tenant;
 - (3) An employee of the landowner or tenant upon such land of the landowner or tenant who has obtained advance consent;
 - (4) Any adult member of a family of such landowner or tenant upon the land of such owner or tenant;
 - (5) Any other person who, prior thereto, obtains the permission from the owner or tenant of the land upon which the firing, discharge or shooting is to be done.
- C. It is unlawful for any person to shoot a Firearm in a manner that allows the projectile to leave the property on which it is being shot, unless permission has previously been obtained, and continues to be in effect from the neighboring property owner where the projectile might land.
- D. It is unlawful to use a Firearm in such a way as to expose to harm or damage any individual, dwelling house, residence or other building for human occupancy or any barn, stable or other building used in connection therewith or any animal, except as provided in the Game and Wildlife Code of Pennsylvania.
- E. Target practice. It is unlawful to discharge any Firearm at any target which shall have insufficient backstop to prevent the projectile from leaving the property

upon which it is being expelled. The person shooting the Firearm at any target shall be responsible for assuring that the backstop is sufficient to prevent any projectile from leaving the property upon which it is being shot. All targets shall be located a minimum of 150 yards from any occupied dwelling house, residence or other building for human occupancy or any barn, stable or other building used in connection therewith, unless permission has been obtained, and continues to be in effect, from the owner(s) of the structure(s) referred to in this Subsection E.

SECTION 3: Use of Bows, Crossbows and Atlatls.

- A. It is unlawful for any person to shoot a Bow, Crossbow, or Atlatl in a manner that allows the projectile to leave the property on which it is being shot, unless permission has been obtained, and continues to be in effect, from the owner(s) of the neighboring property where the projectile could possibly land. The person shooting the Bow, Crossbow or Atlatl at any target shall be responsible for assuring that the backstop is sufficient to prevent the projectile from leaving the property upon which it is being shot.
- B. Target practice. It is unlawful to discharge any Bow, Crossbow or Atlatl at any target which shall have insufficient backstop to prevent the projectile from leaving the property upon which it is being expelled. The person shooting the Bow, Crossbow or Atlatl at any target shall be responsible for assuring that the backstop is sufficient to prevent any projectile from leaving the property upon which it is being shot. All targets shall be located a minimum of 150 yards from any occupied dwelling house, residence or other building for human occupancy or any barn, stable or other building used in connection therewith, unless permission has previously been obtained, and continues to be in effect, from the owner(s) of the structure(s) referred to in this Subsection B.
- C. It is unlawful to use a Bow, Crossbow or Atlatl in such a way as to expose to harm or damage any individual, dwelling house, residence or other building for human occupancy or any barn, stable or other building used in connection therewith or any animal, except as provided in the Game and Wildlife Code of Pennsylvania.

SECTION 4: Enforcement.

- A. The enforcing officer or the duly authorized police officer shall, if he determines it appropriate in his sole discretion, issue a "first warning" to violators of this Ordinance in lieu of prosecution, and shall provide to the violator a copy of this Ordinance to make the violator aware of the requirements of this Ordinance.
- B. Any use of Firearms while under the influence of alcohol shall require the enforcing officer or duly authorized police officer to forego the "first warning"

option and to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance against the offending violator.

- C. It shall be a violation of this Ordinance for any person to violate any state and/or federal firearm law.

SECTION 5: Exceptions.

- A. The provisions of this Ordinance shall not prohibit any police officer or law enforcement official from use of his Firearm at any time.
- B. Minors are permitted to discharge Firearms to the extent that they would be permitted to discharge the Firearms under any state or federal Firearm law, so long as the minor is also discharging the Firearm in conformity with the Borough Ordinances.

SECTION 6: Violations.

Any person who shall violate any provision of this Ordinance, upon conviction in the manner provided for in the enforcement of summary offenses under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) plus costs and, in default of payment of said fines and costs, to a term of imprisonment not to exceed ten (10) days. Each day that a violation of this Ordinance continues or each Section of this Ordinance which shall be found to have been violated shall constitute a separate offense.

SECTION 7: Repealer. Any other ordinances or parts of ordinances that are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 8: Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable, and if any section, clause, sentence, part or provision thereof shall be held illegal, invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of any of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 9: Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective five days after the date of its enactment as provided by law.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED this 5th day of January, 2026.

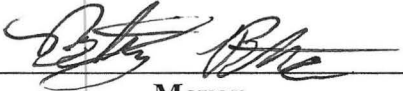
ATTEST:


Secretary

**BOROUGH OF STEWARTSTOWN
YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

By: 
President of Council

APPROVED this 5th day of January, 2026.



Mayor