

Woolwich Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance

Sec. 1 Title

This ordinance shall be known and recorded as the “Woolwich Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance”.

Sec. 2 Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is as follows:

- 1) To increase the food security of our neighbors and community by increasing access to locally produced and processed food.
- 2) To help preserve small family farms and homesteads by allowing them to market surplus product without the burden of state licensing and inspection.
- 3) To increase economic opportunities and encourage local agriculture within the community.

Sec. 3 Definitions

- 1) **MFSA**- Maine Food Sovereignty Act, 7 M.R.S. chapter 8-F.
- 2) **Point of Production**- The property, farm, or homestead, on which the marketed food/food product is produced.
- 3) **Food/Food Product**- Products/items intended for human consumption including, but not limited to; milk, milk products (cheese, yogurt, ice cream, etc.), maple syrup, juice/cider, baked goods (bread, pies etc.), produce, canned fruit/vegetables (jams, pickles, etc.).
- 4) **Producer**- The personal entity or entities producing the marketed food/food product.

Sec. 4 Authority

The basis for this ordinance is founded upon the following authority:

- 1) **Maine Food Sovereignty Act**- 7 M.R.S. chapter 8-F
- 2) **Maine State Constitution**- Article VIII, Part Second, Section 1

Sec. 5 Effect

In accordance with the MFSA this ordinance shall exempt producers of food/food products from state licensing and inspection for products sold at the point of production.

Sec. 6 Limitations and severability clause

- 1) All food products sold at farmers markets, or any other venue, shall still be subject to all relevant state regulation.
- 2) In accordance with the MFSA, this ordinance is not applicable to meat and/or poultry sales.
- 3) Should a court, having proper jurisdiction in such matters, declare any provision of this ordinance invalid, that provision shall be removed. However, the remaining provisions of the ordinance shall remain.

Sec. 7 Liability protection and municipal immunity

- 1) Producers shall be able to enter into private agreements with consumers in order to waive liability concerning the consumption of local food.
- 2) The Town of Woolwich and all its personal entities shall be immune from claim and liability from any personal losses or damage resulting from this ordinance, in accordance with the Maine Tort Claims Act (Maine Statutes, Title 14, Sec. 8103)

Sec. 8 Effective date

This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the town.

Adopted May 26, 2021

Attested: Kimberly Dalton
Deputy Town Clerk