

## South Berwick Tobacco-Free Community Recreation Resolution

A resolution to promote the health and well being of the children of the town of South Berwick, by establishing areas where children congregate as tobacco-free zones.

**WHEREAS** the Town of South Berwick, Maine has set as a goal that South Berwick be a safe and healthy place to live and work; and

**WHEREAS** tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death and disease in the United States; and

**WHEREAS** secondhand smoke contains many harmful chemicals and cancer causing agents, and is a serious health risk to humans, especially infants, children, and pregnant women; and increase a non-smokers risk for asthma, heart disease and lung cancer; and

**WHEREAS** chewing tobacco contains many harmful chemicals and cancer-causing agents, and their use is associated with cancers of the mouth, gums, tongue, and throat; and

**WHEREAS** 3.4 million packs of cigarettes are bought or smoked by Maine children each year; and

**WHEREAS** about one in eleven Maine high school boys uses smokeless tobacco (8.9%); and

**WHEREAS** adults and older youth are some of the most influential people in a child's life and a tobacco-free resolution will create an environment where positive, healthy role-modeling for youth will take place.

**WHEREAS** second hand smoke levels in outdoor public places can reach levels as high as those found in indoor facilities where smoking is restricted; and

**WHEREAS** tobacco use in and around the Town of South Berwick Parks and Recreation facilities sends contradictory messages to young people in being encouraged to participate in activities beneficial to their health, while at the same time being exposed to the use of tobacco products and second hand smoke; and

**WHEREAS** the purpose of the Town of South Berwick Parks and Recreation Department is to provide quality recreation and leisure experiences that enhance the quality of life for the residents of South Berwick, including providing a safe environment for these experiences; and

**WHEREAS** tobacco use and exposure to second hand smoke are contrary to enhancing the quality of life and providing safe environments;

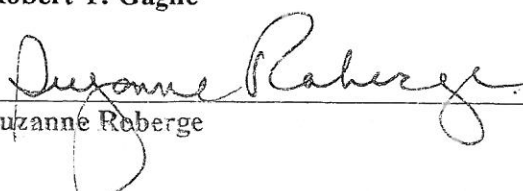
**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of South Berwick does hereby declare that areas where children congregate are tobacco-free zones including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, and chewing tobacco.

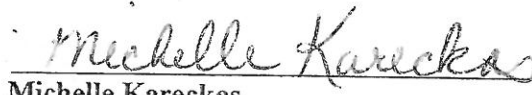
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town of South Berwick and the Department of Parks and Recreation is authorized to take reasonable steps such as signage and other communication tools to achieve voluntary compliance with the tobacco-free zone established hereunder.

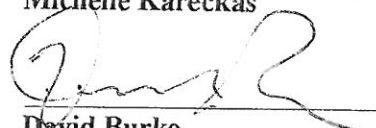
Dated on this the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year 2008.

  
Jean Demetracopoulos, Chairman

Robert T. Gagne

  
Suzanne Reberge

  
Michelle Kareckas

  
David Burke