ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Sec. 17-27. Archery, urban archery, discharge of bows; exemptions; penalty.

A. Any person who shall willfully discharge or cause to be discharged any bow or similar implement within the corporate limits of the Town or in a manner to cause any arrow, crossbow quarrel, bolt, or similar object to travel through the corporate limits of the Town by discharge of a bow shall be guilty of a class 3 misdemeanor, punishable as provided in Section 1-6; provided, that this provision shall not apply to the following:

1. Discharge of a bow by any law enforcement officer in the performance of official duties

2. Discharge of a bow by any person whose such willful act is otherwise justifiable or excusable at law in the protection of life or property

3. Discharge of a bow in association with the commercial operation of an indoor or outdoor shooting range provided the indoor or outdoor shooting range complies with Chapter 30 "Zoning" in terms of commercial use as an indoor or outdoor shooting range. Reasonable care shall be given to ensure any arrow, quarrel, bolt, or other discharge from bows do not cross property lines in regards to deer hunting on parcels of five acres or more with permission of the property owner in the Agricultural Zoning District.

4. Deer hunting on parcels of ~~five acres~~ **one acre** or more with permission of the property owner ~~in the Agricultural Zoning District~~. Reasonable care shall be given to ensure arrows, quarrel, bolt, or other discharge from bows do not cross property lines in regards to deer hunting on parcels of ~~five acres~~ **one acre** or more with permission of the property owner ~~in the Agricultural Zoning District~~.

5. Discharge of a bow on or within private property with permission of the property owner or legal possessor.

6. Any discharge of a bow that is otherwise specifically authorized by law.

B. For the purpose of this Section, "bow" means any implement designed as a weapon that will expel an arrow, quarrel, bolt, or similar object by action of elastic energy or tension pressure.

C. Subject to the provisions of this Section, discharging an arrow from a bow is lawful for the purposes of deer hunting within the Town of Christiansburg limits during Urban Archery Season, the Early Archery Season, the General Firearms Deer season or during the Late Archery Season, as designated in regulations set forth by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, under the following conditions:

1. Except for target shooting, discharge of archery equipment is restricted to land consisting of ~~five (5) acres~~ **one acre** or more ~~that is approved by the Town Manager and the Chief of Police~~.

2. Hunters must register with the Town Manager to hunt on Town owned property.

3. Hunters must carry written permission from individual property owners to hunt.

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4. Agreement must be made between the participant and landowner in reference to field dress.

5. ~~No person shall discharge a bow within 100 yards of any dwelling, building, street, sidewalk, alley, roadway, public land or public place within Town limits.~~

6. No person shall discharge a bow from, over or across any street, sidewalk, alley, roadway, or public land or public place within Town limits or toward any building or dwelling in such a manner that an arrow may strike it.

7. Except for target shooting **or by a property owner on their own personal property**, archery equipment can only be discharged from an elevated stand with a minimum height of 12 (twelve) feet.

8. Hunters must dispose of deer carcasses appropriately. Carcasses should be double bagged and taken to the local landfills.

9. No person shall hunt deer within the Town by use of dog or dogs.

10. Urban Archery Season is restricted to hunting antlerless deer only.

11. Hunters must abide by all applicable sections of the Virginia State Code and Virginia Hunting Regulations (including bag limits and tagging/checking requirements).

D. Discharge of a bow in conjunction with deer hunting or an indoor or outdoor shooting range must be conducted with reasonable care to prevent a projectile from crossing the bounds of the property. "Reasonable care" in terms of deer hunting or an outdoor shooting range means that the bow is being discharged so that the projectile will be contained on the property by a backstop, earthen embankment, or fence. "Reasonable care" in terms of the operation of an indoor shooting range means that the bow is being discharged so that the projectile(s) will be contained in the building housing the indoor shooting range. The discharge of a bow causing projectile(s) to cross over the bounds of the property for deer hunting or an outdoor shooting range or the discharge of a firearm causing the projectile(s) to exit outside of the building for an indoor shooting range shall create the rebuttable presumption that the use of the firearm was not conducted with reasonable care.

E. Minors may use such implements only under the following conditions:

1. Minors under the age of 16 must be supervised by a parent, guardian, or other adult supervisor approved by a parent or guardian and shall be responsible for obeying all laws, regulations, and restrictions governing the use thereof.

2. Minors 16-18 years of age must have the written or verbal consent of a parent or guardian and shall be responsible for obeying all laws, regulations and restrictions governing the use thereof.

(Ord. 2011-7 of 12-20-11)

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