TRAFFIC AND PARKING ORDINANCE

1 AUTHORITY
1.1 This ordinance is adopted pursuant to 30-A M.R.S.A. §3009, 29-A M.R.S.A. §2395 and §2388.

2 PURPOSE
2.1 This ordinance is designed to protect public health, welfare and infrastructure by regulating the parking and operation of motor vehicles on certain public ways. Unrestricted parking on public ways creates traffic hazards and is dangerous to pedestrians and motorists.
2.2 Restricting vehicle weight extends life expectancy on town ways and bridges, thus reducing expense for maintenance and repair.
2.3 Reduces safety hazards and the risk of injury to the traveling public.

3 DEFINITIONS
3.1 The definitions contained in Title 29-A M.R.S.A. shall govern the construction of words contained in this Ordinance.
3.2 Any words not defined therein shall be given their common and ordinary meaning.

4 SIGNAGE AND MEDIA
4.1 It shall be the duty of the Town Manager or his/her designee to erect appropriate signs giving notice of any parking time limit imposed or parking prohibition and no such regulations shall be effective unless said signs are erected and in place at the time of the alleged offense.
4.2 The winter parking ban is a notice and does not require street signage. It will be posted in the local newspaper the first 2 weeks of November and on the Town website. See Attachment A.

5 REGULATED AREAS - PARKING
5.1 When signs are erected giving notice thereof, no person shall park any motor vehicle at any time on the following public ways or specified portions thereof:

5.1.1 Both sides of Route 117 from Maple Ridge Road to the Bridgton Town line
5.1.2 Both sides of Route 35 (Front Street) from the intersection of Route 117 (Main Street) to the School Street intersection
5.1.3 Both sides of Route 35 (Waterford Road) from the intersection of Route 117 to the Bridgton Town line
5.1.4 Both sides of the following in-town streets: High Street, Lincoln Street, Smith Street, School Street, Winslow Street, Tolman Road, Mill Street and the intersection of Route 117 and Main Street to the intersection of Deertrees Road and Dawes Hill Road
5.1.5 All municipal parking lots
6 EXCEPTIONS - PARKING

6.1 This ordinance does not apply to motor vehicles parked in prohibited areas for the following reason:

6.1.1 Mechanical problems or breakdown
6.1.2 Emergency situations
6.1.3 Maintenance, construction, repair or installation of utilities or the public way by any State or municipal agency or utility company

7 TOWING - PARKING

7.1 Any motor vehicle parked upon a public street or municipal parking lot of the Town of Harrison in a place, manner or for a length of time prohibited by this Ordinance, or during any parking ban declared by the Municipal Officers/Town Manager/Road Commissioner or their Authorized Designee(s) is hereby declared to be an obstruction in the public way and a menace to the safety of the traveling public.

7.2 Any motor vehicle parked which constitutes an obstruction under this section of this Ordinance may, at the request and under the direction of the Municipal Officers/Town Manager/Road Commissioner or their Authorized Designee(s) be towed to a suitable garage or storage space and impounded thereon until all towing, storage fees, and fines are paid. Towing will be at the expense of the owner of said vehicle and without the Town being liable for any damage that may be caused by such removal.

8 DAMAGE

8.1 Damage to obstructions or objects placed in the road right-of-way is at the owner’s expense.
8.2 Claims from plowing and/or sanding of public roads must be filed through the Town Office.

9 RESTRICTIONS AND NOTICES – POSTED ROADS

9.2 The town manager or designee may, either permanently or seasonally, impose such restrictions on the gross registered weight of vehicles as may, in their judgment, be necessary to protect the traveling public and prevent abuse of the highways, and designate the town ways and bridges to which the restrictions shall apply.

9.3 Whenever notice has been posted as provided herein, no person may thereafter operate any vehicle with a gross registered weight in excess of 23,000 pounds during any applicable time period on any way or bridge so posted unless otherwise exempt as provided herein.

9.4 Pursuant to 29-A M.R.S.A. § 2395, the notice shall contain, at a minimum, the following information:

9.4.1 the name of the way or bridge
9.4.2 the gross registered weight limit
9.4.3 the time period during which the restriction applies
9.4.4 the date on which the notice was posted
9.4.5 the signature of the Road Commissioner or designee
9.4.6 The notice shall be conspicuously posted at each end of the restricted portion of the way or bridge in a location clearly visible from the traveled way

9.5 Whenever a restriction expires or is lifted, the notices shall be removed wherever posted.

9.6 Whenever a restriction is revised or extended, existing notices shall be removed and replaced with new notices.

9.7 No person may remove, obscure or otherwise tamper with any notice so posted except as provided herein.

10 EXEMPTIONS – POSTED ROADS

The following vehicles are exempt under State law:

10.1 Any vehicle delivering home heating fuel and operating in accordance with a permit issued by the MDOT under 29-A M.R.S.A. § 2395 (4) and, when necessary during a period of drought emergency declared by the governor, any vehicle transporting well-drilling equipment for the purpose of drilling a replacement well or for improving an existing well on property where that well is no longer supplying sufficient water for residential or agricultural purpose and operating in accordance with a permit issued by the MDOT under 29-A M.R.S.A. § 2395 (4-A).

10.2 The following vehicles are also exempt under the specific provisions of this ordinance:

10.2.1 Any vehicle or combination of vehicles registered for a gross weight of 23,000 pounds or less.

10.2.2 Any vehicle or combination of vehicles registered for a gross weight in excess of 23,000 pounds and traveling without a load other than tools or equipment necessary for the proper operation of the vehicle.

10.2.2.1 This exemption does not apply to special mobile equipment.

10.2.2.2 It shall be a defense to a violation of this sub-section if the combined weight of any vehicle or combination of vehicles registered for a gross weight in excess of 23,000 pounds and its load is in fact less than 23,000 pounds.

10.2.3 MaineDOT vehicles or other vehicles authorized by MaineDOT or a municipality or county to maintain the roads under their authority.

10.2.4 Authorized emergency vehicles as defined in 29-A M.R.S.A. § 2054, school buses, a wrecker towing a disabled vehicle of legal weight from a posted roadway, and vehicles with three axles or less under the
direction of a public utility and engaged in utility infrastructure maintenance or repair.

10.2.5 Any two axle vehicles registered for a gross weight in excess of 23,000 pounds and less than or equal to 34,000 pounds that are carrying any of the Special Commodities may operate without a permit. Special Commodities includes any of the following:

10.2.5.1 Home delivered heating fuel (oil, gas, coal, stove size wood that is less than 36” in length, propane and wood pellets);
10.2.5.2 Petroleum products;
10.2.5.3 Groceries;
10.2.5.4 Bulk milk;
10.2.5.5 Waste;
10.2.5.6 Animal bedding;
10.2.5.7 Returnable beverage containers;
10.2.5.8 Sewage from private septic tanks or porta-potties; or
10.2.5.9 Medical gases;
10.2.5.10 Animal feed.

11 PERMITS – POSTED ROADS

11.1 The owner or operator of any vehicle not otherwise exempt as provided herein may apply in writing to the town manager or designee for a permit to operate on a posted way or bridge notwithstanding the restriction. The town manager or designee may issue a permit only upon all of the following findings:

11.1.1 No other route is reasonably available to the applicant;
11.1.2 It is a matter of economic necessity and not mere convenience that the applicant uses the way or bridge; and
11.1.3 The applicant has tendered cash, a bond or other suitable security running to the municipality in an amount sufficient, in their judgment, to repair any damage to the way or bridge which may reasonably result from the applicant’s use of same.

11.2 Even if the town manager or designee make the foregoing findings, they need not issue a permit if they determine the applicant’s use of the way or bridge could reasonably be expected to create or aggravate a safety hazard or cause substantial damage to a way or bridge maintained by the municipality. They may also limit the number of permits issued or outstanding as may, in their judgment, be necessary to preserve and protect the highways and bridges.

11.3 In determining whether to issue a permit, the town manager or designee shall consider the following factors:

11.3.1 the gross registered weight of the vehicle;
11.3.2 the current and anticipated condition of the way or bridge;
11.3.3 the number and frequency of vehicle trips proposed;
11.3.4 the cost and availability of materials and equipment for repairs;
11.3.5 the extent of use by other exempt vehicles; and
11.3.6 such other circumstances as may, in their judgment, be relevant.

11.4 The town manager or designee may issue permits subject to reasonable conditions, including but not limited to restrictions on the actual load weight and the number or frequency of vehicle trips, which shall be clearly noted on the permit.

12 ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT

This Ordinance shall be administered and may be enforced by the town manager or a duly authorized designee such as a law enforcement officer.

13 PENALTIES

13.1 PARKING
   13.1.1 Each violation shall be deemed a separate offense
   13.1.2 Parking violations are subject to the Town’s Fee Schedule set by the Municipal Officers
   13.1.3 Payment is required within 30 days.
   13.1.4 Failure to pay a violation within 30 days may result in court action
   13.1.5 Any such waiver and payment of fee shall be processed through the Clerk’s office.

13.2 OVER WEIGHT
   13.2.1 Each violation shall be deemed a separate offense
   13.2.2 Any violation of this Ordinance for over-weight on posted roads shall be a civil infraction - Class E crime and handled as a traffic violation. See Town Fee Schedule.

13.3 In addition to any fine, the Town of Harrison may seek restitution for the cost of repairs to any damaged town property, damaged way or bridge and reasonable attorney fees and costs.

13.4 Prosecution shall be in the name of the municipality and shall be brought in the Maine District Court.

14 SEVERABILITY

14.1 In the event that any portion of this Ordinance is declared invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining portions shall continue in full force and effect.

15 EFFECTIVE DATE
This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon enactment by the municipal officers at any properly noticed meeting.