

Noise Ordinances in New Hampshire

A Comparative Analysis

Prepared for: the Town of Madbury Planning Board

Prepared by: Jack Mettee, AICP, Planning Board consultant

May 2, 2017

At the request of Mark Avery, I have conducted a limited survey of Sound Ordinances/Regulations in New Hampshire and provided a brief opinion as to the value of these regulations to control noise within New Hampshire communities. This request was prompted by the desire to explore the value of applying an objective measure of noise coming from a particular source, rather than using a subjective standard. A recent land use application for an agritourism activity requesting the use of the property for social functions brought the noise issue into focus.

Noise regulations are usually put into place to deal with a point source, such as an industry or business or a mobile source such as motor vehicles in particular motorcycles or recreational vehicles. Madbury's Site Plan regulations currently address noise under Article VII-Standards:

Section 7. Nuisances

Light, glare, odors, noise and vibrations shall not be discernible off the premises, except for indirect lighting on permitted signs or security lighting approved by the Planning Board. Such lighting shall not shine directly on abutting properties or on public highways.

Under the Zoning Ordinance in Article V, General Residential and Agricultural District, agritourism is permitted as a Conditional Use subject to four (4) criteria. One of these addresses offsite nuisances in the following criteria under Section 2, Uses Permitted:

4. The scale, size, frequency of events, and operating hours shall not produce unreasonable impacts or nuisances to the surrounding neighborhood.

For this exercise, I have selected three (3) communities: the Town of Deerfield, the City of Concord and the town of Merrimack. The regulations for Deerfield and Concord are included as attachments. In Merrimack an ordinance was considered but then rejected. The key minutes of the public hearing on the proposed ordinance are included as well as as a letter from town counsel.

The Deerfield regulation is included in its Commercial/Industrial Flexible Overlay District and is documented in **Attachment A**. The noise standard uses a measure based on decibels through the use of a sound meter that complies with a national standard. It is very limited, does not deal with a single event or continual noise, etc. and has no procedure of exemptions. I spoke with the Building Inspector who has never implemented this regulation in part because the town has no sound meter. If there is a sound nuisance, he usually handles it based on the situation and tries to come up with a

common sense approach with the landowner that involves hours of operation of similar constraints.

By contrast, the City of Concord has a very comprehensive ordinance that involves any noise (mobile & stationary) that might disturb surrounding properties. It also requires properly trained personnel and equipment to implement. **See Attachment B.** Such a complex ordinance would not be advisable for a town like Madbury.

Finally, the Town of Merrimack. Several years ago a noise ordinance was proposed to the Town Council and it was rejected based in large part on a letter from Town Counsel that pointed out the difficulties in implementing and administering such an ordinance including the cost of measuring equipment and personnel training as well as all the variables that need to be considered when measuring noise. **See Attachment C.**

Conclusion

Based on this limited survey of New Hampshire community noise regulations, I would be hesitant to recommend such an ordinance for Madbury. In general noise has not been a nuisance issue in Madbury. The proposed agritourism activity may or may not bring about significant off-site noise. Rather than entering into a possibly expensive and potentially legal quagmire through regulation, I would suggest the town work closely with any landowner that may generate off-site noise to minimize any such nuisance through other means, such as limiting the times and season of events.

If the Board would like me to investigate this issue further, please let me know.

Attachment A

Town of Deerfield Zoning Ordinance

Section 212 Commercial/Industrial Flexible Overlay District

212.4 D Criteria

Absolute Criteria for ALL Proposals and Activity Criteria are listed on the following pages.

ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

AIR QUALITY

19. Will the project conform to applicable local, state and federal air quality standards, including, but not limited to: odor; dust; fumes or gases which are noxious, toxic or corrosive; suspended solid or liquid particles; or any air contaminant which may obscure an observer's vision? No offensive or harmful odors shall be produced perceptible beyond its lot lines measured wither at ground level or habitable level. Generation of dust, dirt, fly ash, fumes, vapors or gases which could damage human health, animals, vegetation, or property, or could soil or stain persons or property shall be prohibited beyond the project lot lines.

WATER

20. Will the project conform to applicable local, state and federal water quality standards, including, but not limited to: erosion and sedimentation; runoff control; solid wastes; and hazardous substances?

NOISE

21. Can the proposed land uses and activities be conducted so that noise generated shall not exceed the maximum noise dB level allowed and that excessive noise at unreasonable hours is avoided? If not, have detailed plans been approved for the elimination of objectionable noise levels? Sound pressure levels shall be measured on a sound level meter at all major lot lines of the site, at a height if at least 4 feet above the ground surface. Noise shall be measured with a sound level meter meeting the standards of the American National Standards Institute "American Standard Specification for General Purpose Sound Level Meters" and be set to the A-weighted response scale and slow response. Acceptable levels for primarily residential areas is 55 dB(A) from 7 a.m. – 10 p.m. and 45 dB(A) from 10 p.m. – 7 a.m. Areas that are primarily commercial with no residential uses should be 65 dB(A) from 7 a.m. – 10 p.m. and 55 dB(A) from 10 p.m. – 7 a.m. Industrial districts should be 75 dB (A) from 7 a.m. – 10 p.m. and 65 dB(A) from 10 p.m.– 7 a.m. In areas of mixed use, the limits governing the stricter zone shall apply to any noise entering the area.

GLARE HEAT

22. If the proposed activity produces intense glare or heat, whether direct or reflected, is the operation conducted within an enclosed building or with other effective screening in such a manner as to make such glare or heat completely imperceptible from any point along the property and street line? If not, have detailed plans been approved for the elimination of intense glare or heat?

VIBRATION

23. Will the project cause no inherent or recurring generated vibration perceptible without instruments at any point along the property line? Temporary construction is excluded from this criterion.

LIGHTING

24. Is the exterior lighting, except for overhead street lighting and warning **HAZARDS** emergency or traffic signals, installed in such a manner that the light source will be sufficiently obscured to prevent excessive glare on public streets and walkways or into any residential area? The installation or erection of any lighting which may be confused with warning signals, emergency signals or traffic signals shall not be permitted.

EFFLUENTS

25. Will all sewage and industrial wastes be treated and disposed of in such a manner as to comply with applicable federal, state, and local standards? Will sewage effluent leaching fields be located further than 100 feet of the high water mark of a year-round stream or pond and further than 75 feet from wetlands and aquifers? Detailed plans and permits must be submitted.

Attachment B

City of Concord New Hampshire Noise Ordinance

ARTICLE 13-6 - NOISE

13-6-1 - Noise Prohibited.

It shall be unlawful for any person to make, continue, or cause to be made or continued any excessive, unnecessary loud noise or any noise which either annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of others, within the limits of the City.

13-6-2 - Definitions.

For the purpose of this article, certain words and phrases used herein are defined as follows:

"A" Band Level. "A" band level is the total sound level of all noise as measured with a sound level meter using the "A" weighting network. The unit of measurement is the dB(A).

Acoustical Terminology. All technical definitions are in accordance with American Standard S1, 1-1960 entitled Acoustical Terminology.

Ambient Noise. Ambient noise is the all-encompassing noise associated with a given environment, being usually a composite of sounds, near and far.

"A" Use District. "A" Use Districts shall include RH, RD, RN, RS, RM, CVP, IS, and UT Zoning Districts as defined in the City of Concord's Zoning Ordinance.

Band Pressure Level. Band pressure level of sound for a specified frequency band is the sound pressure level for the sound contained within the restricted band. The reference must be specified.

Bel. Bel is a unit of level when the base of logarithm is ten (10). Use of Bel is restricted to levels of quantities proportional to power.

"B" Use District. "B" Use District shall include RO, CN, CG, CU, CBP, GWP, OCP, and OFP Zoning Districts as defined in the City of Concord's Zoning Ordinance.

"C" Use District. "C" Use District shall include the IN Zoning District as defined in the City of Concord's Zoning Ordinance.

Construction Activity. Any excavation, highway construction, land development or land clearing work, or the erection, demolition, alteration, repair, or relocation of any building or structure, which uses powered equipment such as backhoes, trucks, tractors, earth moving equipment, compressors, motorized, or power hand tools, manual tools, or equipment of a similar nature as well as two-way radios or other communication equipment.

Cycle. Cycle is the complete sequence of values of a periodic quantity that occur during a period.

Decibel. Decibel is one-tenth root of ten (10), and the quantities concerned are proportional to power.

Emergency Work. Emergency work is work made necessary to restore property to a safer condition following a public calamity to work required to protect persons or property from an imminent exposure to danger, or to provide electricity, water or other public utilities when public health or safety are involved.

Frequency. Frequency of a function periodic in time is the reciprocal of the primitive period. The unit is the cycle per unit time and must be specified.

Microbar. Microbar is a unit of pressure commonly used in acoustics and is equal to one dyne per square centimeter.

Period. Period of a periodic quantity is the smallest increment of time for which the function repeats itself.

Periodic Quantity. Periodic quantity is an oscillating quantity, the values of which recur for equal increments of time.

Sound Analyzer. Sound analyzer is a device for measuring the band pressure level or pressure spectrum level of a sound as a function of frequency.

Sound-Level Meter. Sound-level meter is an instrument including a microphone, an amplifier, and out-put meter, and frequency weighting networks for the measurement of noise and sound levels in a specified manner.

Sound Pressure Level. Sound pressure level in decibels, of sound is twenty (20) times the logarithm to the base ten (10) of the ratio of the pressure of this sound to the reference pressure which reference pressure must explicitly state.

Spectrum. Spectrum is a function of time and is a description of its resolution into components, each of different frequency and usually of different amplitude and phase and is also to signify continuous range of components each of different frequency and usually of different amplitude and phase and is also used to signify continuous range of components usually wide in extent which waves have some specified characteristics such as "audio-frequency spectrum" and is also applied to functions of variables other than time.

(Ord. No. 2604, §§ II—IV, 4-11-05)

13-6-3 - Noises Prohibited—Decibel Provisions.

- (a) *Use Districts.* It shall be unlawful to project a sound or noise, excluding noise emanating from cars, trucks or other vehicles from one property into another, within the boundary of a use district which exceeds either the limiting noise spectra set forth in Table I or exceeds the ambient noise level by more than three (3) decibels.
 - (1) Sound or noise projecting from one district, into another use district with a different noise level limit, shall not exceed the limits of the district into which the noise is projected.
- (b) *Motorized Vehicles.* It shall be unlawful to operate a motorized vehicle within the corporate boundaries of the City which creates a noise or sound which exceeds the noise level limits set out in Table III.
- (c) *Enclosed Places of Public Entertainment.*
 - (1) It shall be unlawful to sustain in any enclosed place of public entertainment including but not limited to a restaurant, bar, cafe, discotheque, dance hall, any amplitude equal to or in excess of ninety-five (95) dB(A), sustained for more than thirty (30) seconds.
 - (2) Measurement of Noise. Sound noise or noise is to be measured by a sound level meter that conforms to ANSI S1.4-1971 TYPE 1 and IEC 179, from any area to which the public is invited within any enclosed place of public entertainment.
- (d) *Exemptions.* The following uses and activities shall be exempt from noise level regulations:
 - (1) Noises of safety signals, warning devices, and emergency pressure relief values;
 - (2) Noises resulting from any authorized vehicle, when responding to an emergency call or acting in time of emergency;
 - (3) Noises resulting from emergency works as defined in Section 13-6-2;
 - (4) Any other noise resulting from activities of a temporary duration permitted by law and for which a license or permit therefore has been granted by the City in accordance with Section 13-6-6;
 - (5) The unamplified human voice;
 - (6) Public celebrations;

- (7) Bells, chimes or carillons while being used for religious purposes or in conjunction with religious services, and those bells, chimes or carillons that are presently installed and in use;
- (8) Airports, noise directly related to aircraft, flight operations, (i.e. taxiing, landing, takeoff and flight). This exemption does not apply to aircraft maintenance or other activities conducted at the airport which are not directly related to flight.

13-6-4 - Measurement of Noise.

- (a) The measurement of sound or noise shall be made with a sound level meter and octave band analyzer meeting the standards prescribed by ANSI S1.4-1971, TYPE 1 and IEC 179. The instruments shall be maintained in calibration and good working order. Octave band corrections may be employed in meeting the response specifications. A calibration check shall be made of the system at the time of any noise measurement. Measurements recorded shall be taken so as to provide a proper representation of the noise source. The microphone during measurement shall be positioned so as not to create any unnatural enhancement or diminution of the measured noise. A windscreen for the microphone shall be used when required. Traffic, aircraft and other transportation noise sources and other background noises shall not be considered in taking measurements except where such background noise interferes with the primary noise being measured.
- (b) The slow meter response of the sound level shall be used in order to best determine that the average amplitude has not exceeded the limiting noise spectra set forth in Table I.
- (c) The measurement shall be made at the property line of the property on which such noise is generated, or perceived, as appropriate, five (5) feet above ground.
- (d) In the case of an elevated or directional sound or noise source, compliance with the noise limits is to be maintained at any elevation at the boundary. The limits hereinabove referred to shall be in accordance with the Tables set forth in Section 13-6-5.

13-6-5 - Tables

TABLE I
LIMITING NOISE LEVEL FOR USE DISTRICTS

Octave Band Center Frequency	Maximum Permissible Sound Pressure (Levels In Decibels Re: 0.0002 Microbars)		
	USE DISTRICTS		
	"A"	"B"	"C"
63	66	80	81
125	61	75	76
250	56	67	71
500	56	60	65
1000	46	54	59
2000	46	48	54
4000	41	42	50

If the noise is not smooth and continuous, one or more of the corrections in Table II below shall be added to or subtracted from each of the decibel levels in Table I of this section.

TABLE II
TYPE OF OPERATION IN CHARACTER OF NOISE
CORRECTION IN DECIBELS

Noise source operated less than 20% of any one-hour period plus	5*
Noise source operated less than 5% of any one-hour period; plus	10*
Noise of impulsive character (hammering, etc.); minus	5
Noise source operated less than 1% of any one-hour period; plus	15*
Noise of periodic character (hum, screech, etc.); minus	5

*Apply one of these corrections only.

If the noise occurs between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on Monday through Saturday or at any time on Sunday or holidays, seven (7) shall be subtracted from each of the decibels levels given in Table I of this section.

TABLE III
LIMITING NOISE LEVELS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES

- (a) *Trucks and Buses (over 10,000 pounds):*
 87 dB(A) measured at 50 feet-maximum allowable limit;
 93 dB(A) measured at 25 feet-maximum allowable limit;

Trucks and Buses (under 10,000 pounds):
 80 dB(A) measured at 50 feet-maximum allowable limit;
 86 dB(A) measured at 25 feet-maximum allowable limit;
- (b) *Passenger Cars:*
 78 dB(A) measured at 50 feet-maximum allowable limit;
 84 dB(A) measured at 25 feet-maximum allowable limit;
- (c) *Other Vehicles (but excluding those covered by RSA 269-B):*
 87 dB(A) measured at 50 feet-maximum allowable limit;
 93 dB(A) measured at 25 feet-maximum allowable limit;
- (d) Snow traveling vehicle, motorbike, motorcycle, trail bike, all-terrain vehicles, including four-wheel-drive vehicles or other motorized two-wheeled or three-wheeled trail type vehicle and tract type vehicle. The limiting noise levels established for these vehicles by RSA 269-B:11 are hereby adopted, and made a part of this Ordinance.

13-6-6 - Application for Special Permit.

Application for a permit for relief from the noise level designated in this Ordinance on the basis of undue hardship may be made to the City Manager or his duly authorized representative. Any permit granted by the City Manager hereunder shall contain all conditions upon which such permit has been granted and shall specify a reasonable time that the permit shall be effective. The City Manager, or his duly authorized representative, may grant the relief as applied for if he finds:

- (a) That additional time is necessary for the applicant to alter or modify his activity or operation to comply with this Ordinance.
- (b) The activity, operation or noise source will be of a temporary duration and cannot be done in a manner that would comply with other subsections of this Article; and
- (c) That no other reasonable alternative is available to the applicant; and
- (d) The City Manager may prescribe any conditions or requirements he deems necessary to minimize adverse effects upon the community or the surrounding neighborhood.

13-6-7 - Manner of Enforcement.

Violations of this Ordinance shall be prosecuted in the same manner as other violations of the City's Code of Ordinances provided, however, that in the event of violations of Section 13-6-3(a) and (b) of this Chapter, a written notice of intention to prosecute will be given the alleged violator not less than five (5) calendar days prior to the issuance of a complaint. No complaint shall be issued in the event the cause of the violation is removed, the condition abated or fully corrected within such five-day period. In the event the alleged violator cannot be located in order to serve the notice of intention to prosecute, the notice as required herein shall be deemed to be given upon mailing such notice by registered or certified mail to the alleged violator at his last known address or at the place where the violation occurred, in which event the five-day period shall commence at the date of the day following the mailing of such notice.

13-6-8 - Disturbing Noises, Generally.

- (a) The operation or maintenance of any device, instrument, vehicle, or machinery in violation of any provisions of this Article, and which (a) causes discomfort or annoyance to reasonable persons of normal sensitivity, or (b) endangers the comfort, repose, health, or peace of residents in the area shall be deemed and declared to be public nuisances and are not allowed. As such the enforcement officer may order the immediate cessation of such operations or activities deemed and declared a public nuisance. If any person shall fail to immediately comply with the order the enforcing officer shall as soon as practicable file a complaint with a court of competent jurisdiction charging said person with violation of this Ordinance.
- (b) The following noise generating activities are specifically prohibited from operation during the times noted:
 - (1) Operation of lawn mowers or an internal combustion engine blower or power fan between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
 - (2) The loading or unloading of sanitation vehicles between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., except for within the Downtown Solid Waste Removal District as designated by Section 5-7-2.
- (c) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to persons operating vehicles, machinery, or equipment while engaged in snow clearance or snow removal operations, nor to agricultural or forestry operations as exempted under RSA 432:33.

(Ord. No. 2570, § I, 7-12-04; Ord. No. 2604, § V, 4-1105)

13-6-9 - Construction Noise.

- (a) *Construction Noise.* The generation of any noise from construction activity as defined in Section 13-6-2 or from a construction site that is clearly audible at a dwelling in any district is prohibited, except for noise generated:
 - (1) Between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on weekdays; or
 - (2) Between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays; or
 - (3) Between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Sundays, and on the following holidays: January 1, Memorial Day or on a date to coincide with the federal observance if it is held on a different day, July 4, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, or Christmas Day from work done by a resident at the resident's dwelling; or
 - (4) Between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on a holiday as defined by RSA 288:1 as the third Monday in January, known as Martin Luther King Jr. Civil Rights' Day; the third Monday in February, known as Washington's Birthday; the second Monday in October, known as Columbus Day; the day on which the biennial election is held; and November 11, known as Veterans' Day.
- (b) *Exceptions.*
 - (1) Sections 13-6-8 and 13-6-9 shall not apply to routine or emergency City work including solid waste collection, street sweeping, street and sidewalk plowing, snow removal, and

other periodic work necessary for the City to maintain its public streets and infrastructure.

- (2) Emergency work as defined in Section 13-6-2 is exempt from hours of operations' restrictions.

The Code Administrator may, in writing, grant exceptions to these provisions when the work, in the Code Administrator's sole discretion, is of an urgent or otherwise necessary for or in the interest of public or private safety and convenience.

(Ord. No. 2604, § V, 4-11-05)

13-6-10 - Abatement of Amplified Sounds.

- (a) A person shall not use or operate or cause to be used or operated any mechanical device, machine, apparatus, or instrument for the reproduction, intensification, or amplification of the human voice, music, or any sound or noise from any public or private place in such manner that the peace and good order of the neighborhood is disturbed or that persons owning, using, or occupying property in the neighborhood are disturbed or annoyed.
- (b) A person shall not operate any sound or public address system upon the streets, lanes, alleys, or sidewalks of the City without first securing a permit for the same from the Chief of Police. Such permit shall state the time, place, nature of the material to be broadcast, and such other details as the Chief of Police shall determine. The fee for such permit shall be as listed in Schedule I of Chapter 1.

(Ord. No. 2604, § V, 4-11-05)

13-6-11 - Noise Created by or Emanating From a Motor Vehicle.

- (a) A person operating in or in control of a parked or moving motor vehicle shall not operate or permit the operation of an electronically amplified sound system in or on the motor vehicle so as to produce sound that is clearly audible more than fifty (50) feet (fifteen (15) meters) from the motor vehicle except as otherwise authorized.
- (b) A person shall not operate a motor vehicle so as to make any loud, unusual, or unnecessary noise occasioned by any one or more of the following actions by the operator:
 - (1) Misuse of power, exceeding tire traction limits in acceleration, sometimes known as "laying down rubber" or "peeling rubber," or excessive acceleration where there is no emergency.
 - (2) Misuse of braking power exceeding tire traction limits in deceleration where there is no emergency.
 - (3) Rapid acceleration by means of quick upshifting of transmission gears with either a clutch or manual transmission or automatic transmission.
 - (4) Rapid deceleration by means of quick downshifting of transmission gears with either a clutch or manual transmission or an automatic transmission.
 - (5) Racing of engines by manipulation of the accelerator, gas pedal, carburetor, or gear selection whether the vehicle is either in motion or standing still.

(Ord. No. 2604, § V, 4-11-05)

Attachment C

Noise Ordinance Concept --Town of Merrimack Town Council Consideration January 2015

Submitted by Town Council Chairman Nancy Harrington

Request for consideration of a noise ordinance. Vice Chairman Mahon noted the Council had agreed to review the issue at the request of a resident.

Guidance was sought from legal counsel, which was provided and included in the agenda packet. In the legal opinion provided, Attorney Upton lists 12 reasons why it is very difficult to develop and enforce a useable noise ordinance.

MOTION made by Councilor Boyd and seconded by Councilor Dwyer that the Town Council not adopt a noise ordinance for the Town of Merrimack

ON THE QUESTION

Councilor Boyd stated his personal opinion the genesis is a neighbor dispute, and one he does not believe to be appropriate for the Council to address noting there are other remedies the individuals can avail themselves of.

Councilor Dwyer commented the Town's counsel has provided a list of reasons why adopting a noise ordinance may not be a good idea. He commented just because it may be very difficult to enforce or to implement is not sufficient reason not to do something. He remarked there is the need to ask a common sense question of why is it that out of the entire State of New Hampshire only one city has a noise ordinance in place. He stated his belief a lot of the reason relates to the live free or die mentality in New Hampshire. With a police force that has laws for disturbing the peace, police discretion is used when neighbors have disputes over a whole range of issues. When neighbors have issue with each other they should start at the police station and work their way to the Town Manager. He stated those to be the reasons he does not believe in a noise ordinance for Merrimack. However, he believes the Council owed it to the resident to have done what it has in taking the time to study the issue, hear the facts, and reach a conclusion.

Councilor Rothhaus stated his belief the Police Department is limited with what it can do, and that is what has been stated by the department. The citizen's level of frustration mounted and directed him to

the Council. He stated his suspicion there is civil recourse that can be taken.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

Legal Opinion on Noise Ordinance for Town of Merrimack

From: Matthew H. Upton [<mailto:MUpton@dwmlaw.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2014 10:53 AM
To: Eileen Cabanel
Subject: Noise Ordinances

Eileen:

My experience with noise ordinances has not been positive. Most of the problems stem from the difficulty to enforce. Here is a list of problems associated with them where they have been tried.

1. You can't regulate noise at the source or by type if on private property.
2. While some communities have tried regulating noise emanating from the property line, this requires delicate (read expensive) noise measurement equipment and lots of training.
3. Atmospheric conditions can impact resonance. This can result in inconsistent readings even if the readings are taken shortly after the suspected violation.
4. Some construction noise has to be tolerated (must restrict enforcement during hours of 10PM - 8:00AM).
5. Emergency vehicles have to be exempted.
6. Most noise is intermittent. A noise ordinance creates an expectation that the noise will be regulated. However, the Town cannot reasonably dedicate personnel for extended periods of time to monitor for borderline noise.
7. Ordinances often use words to describe noise in terms which render the ordinance unenforceable as they are void for vagueness or are over broad.
8. Particularly difficult to monitor or enforce noise which is mobile (boom boxes in cars and motorcycles).
9. The most offensive noises are in the lower frequencies. If you set the threshold based upon a single decibel reading it may not be appropriate for all frequencies.
10. In order for a law to be enforceable, a person making the noise must have a way to know what is permitted versus prohibited conduct.
11. While the use of the A-Scale on the decibel meter best matches the human ear, it does not measure lower frequencies as well.
12. The more complicated the ordinance, the more likely it will be challenged as not providing the average person with information necessary to avoid a violation.

For these reasons most communities have stayed away from specific noise ordinances or really do not enforce the laws they have on the books. Unless you have a pervasive problem, I would not encourage the adoption of an ordinance. Most complaint relate to dogs which the legislature has sought to regulate as creating a public nuisance. See RSA 466:31.