

**Town Orders for Woburn  
December 18, 1640**

The following is an excerpt from Volume One, Page Two of the Town Records of Woburn. Known commonly as the "Town Orders for Woburn" and agreed upon by the Commissioners at their First Meeting on December 18, 1640, the document could be considered as the first municipal code of Woburn. The following was taken from the original handwritten records in the custody of the City Clerk of the City of Woburn.

*"It is required that all persons admitted to be Inhabitation in the said Towne shall by voluntary Agreement subscribe to these orders following upon which condition, they are admitted*

*"first Order for Six pence an Acre. for the caring one Common Charges all such persons as shall bee thought meete to have land and admittance for Inhabitation shall paye for every Acre of land formerly layd out by Charlestowne but now in the limmits of Woburne six pence and for all hereafter layd out twelve pence.*

*"Second Order to returne their lotts if not improved in 15 monthes. Every person taking lott or land in the said Towne shall within fiveteen monthes after the laying out of the same bulde for dwelling thereone and improve the said land by planting ether in part of in whole or surrender the same upp to the towne again also they shall not make sale of it to any person but such as the Towne shall approve of*

*"Third Order about fencing i.e. confining. that all manner of persons shall fence their Catell of all sorts ether by fence or keeper only it is Required all garden plots and orchards shall bee well inclosed ether by pale or otherwayes*

*"ffourth Order about Inmats. that Noe maner of person shall entertayne Inmate ether married or other for longer time than three days with out the consent of fower of the Selectmen: Every person ofending in this perticqler shall paye to the use of the Towne for every day they offend herein six pence.*

*"fivft Order about timber. that noe person shall sell or cutt any younge Oake lyke to bee good timber under eaight inches square upon forfitur of five shillings for every such offence."*