Currently the State of Connecticut does not have open burning provisions for campfires/bonfires other than the burning of non-processed wood. After reviewing the town’s ordinances, it appears we do not have good provisions to legally enforce open burning. I am proposing these amendments so there is no confusion as to what the fire department has been citing our citizens with.

Chapter 38 Environment
Article III. Open Burning
Sec. 38-74. - Exceptions and applications.

Amend section (2) to read: A responsible adult shall always tend to the open burning.

(2) Bonfires, cooking fires or other fires for recreational or ceremonial purposes, including burning appliances, (i.e. chimineas, outdoor fireplaces, fire pits etc.) provided that the size of such fires do not exceed five feet in any dimension. Suitable fire extinguishing equipment must be in close proximity and available at the time of burning. A responsible adult shall always tend to the fire.
   a. Bonfires, cooking fires or other fires for recreational or ceremonial purposes, including burning appliances, (i.e. chimineas, outdoor fireplaces, fire pits etc.) shall not be kindled within 20 feet of adjacent property lines or within 20 feet of a combustible materials (i.e. brush, leaves, paper products, etc.) and structures. (i.e. outbuildings, fencing, trees, etc.)
   b. Bonfires, cooking fires or other fires for recreational or ceremonial purposes, including burning appliances, (i.e. chimineas, outdoor fireplaces, fire pits etc.) shall not create a fire hazard or a public nuisance. (i.e.: excessive smoke)
   c. Bonfires, cooking fires or other fires for recreational or ceremonial purposes, including burning appliances, (i.e. chimineas, outdoor fireplaces, fire pits etc.) shall be extinguished when not in use making sure no incomplete combustion occurs.
   d. Bonfires, cooking fires or other fires for recreational or ceremonial purposes, including burning appliances, (i.e. chimineas, outdoor fireplaces, fire pits etc.) are strictly prohibited when the Air Quality Index (AQI) is predicted to be 75 or higher anywhere in the State as indicated in the Table entitled “Predicted Daily AQI Maximums for Month/Day/Year” as found at www.ct.gov/deep/air, when the Forest Fire Danger Level is high, very high, or extreme, as found at www.ct.gov/deep/forestfiredanger and/or when there is an advisory from the State of Connecticut’s Department of Energy and Environmental Protection of any air pollution episode.
   e. Bonfires, cooking fires or other fires for recreational or ceremonial purposes, including burning appliances, (i.e. chimineas, outdoor fireplaces, fire pits etc.) are strictly prohibited from the burning of any garbage, paper, glass, metal, plastics, leaves, rubber, painted surfaces, demolition wastes, animal or vegetable waste, automotive parts, waste oils, processed wood including pressure treated woods. Burning of any material that emits large quantities of smoke (i.e. green wood) is strictly prohibited.
   f. Bonfires, cooking fires or other fires for recreational or ceremonial purposes, including burning appliances, (i.e. chimineas, outdoor fireplaces, fire pits etc.) must cease if so directed by any member of the Town Fire Marshal's Office, Burning Official, any Officer of the Fire Department or Police Department or any Official of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection or Department of Public Health.
g. Anyone who does not comply with above said conditions are subjected to Sec. 38-77. - Penalties for offenses and/or Section 23-48 of the Connecticut general Statutes of a fine not to exceed two hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than six months or both.

Sec. 38-77. - Penalties for offenses.

Amended section (a) to read:

(a) Any person who fails to comply with or violates any provision of this article shall be subject to the following penalties and fines:
   i. Issuance of a written warning for a first offense.
   ii. Subsequent violations shall be punishable by a fine of $50 for a second offense and of $90 for each subsequent offense thereafter, which fines may be adjusted without further municipal action to be in conformity with the State of Connecticut Superior Court Mail in Violations and Infraction Schedule.
   iii. Burning permits will not be issued to any individual in whose name unpaid fines are outstanding.