

Consentino's comment.

"I think it's absurd," said Robin Costello. For Halloween, she has a pumpkin costume, and her daughter Tiffany, 5, will dress up as Minnie Mouse. New Hampshire officials don't seem to mind when people cross the border to shop, Costello said, so why should Halloween be different.

"They don't want derelicts coming to their quiet town? It's a free country," she said.

After fielding phone calls from residents and news media for two days, Consentino made it clear that he didn't like the publicity his Halloween policy has provoked.

"This is so stupid," Consentino told a pair of television reporters in the police station lobby as he refused to go on camera. "It's going to get out of hand and make Atkinson look like the big, bad town."

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