

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Policy for Maintenance of Paved Private Roads Eligible for Plowing by the Town

Original Date: November 13, 2012

Approved: December 11, 2012

2012-2

1. Purpose

- a. To provide standards for the maintenance of paved private roads that are eligible to be plowed by the Town to ensure safe and adequate access for Town vehicles. The following standards were compiled to address surface conditions, widths, clearances, and roadside obstacles that are identified as obstructions to safe, cost-effective snow removal operations. These obstructions can also inhibit or delay emergency response by EMS, fire and police personnel and can cause considerable damage to Town vehicles. Damaged vehicles or equipment may need to be removed from service, causing delays in the snow removal process throughout Town or delays in emergency response.

2. Minimum clearance and maintenance standards

- a. There must be at least one paved travel lane for a plow to work that is a minimum width of 10 feet.
- b. Roadside clearance of any obstacles, including vegetation, shall be maintained no less than 3 feet on either side. This includes, but is not limited to, fences, mailboxes, stonewalls, rocks, shrubs, trees or any other object that may be damaged by snow removal equipment. It also includes a raised shoulder that prevents snow removal.
- c. Height clearance shall be no less than 14 feet from the road surface. This is to ensure that branches or any other objects over hanging the roadway, when laden with snow, do not impede access of snowplows and emergency vehicles.
- d. Space at the end of the paved private road shall be of sufficient size for Town vehicles to be able to turn around in a safe manner.
- e. Paved private roads shall have no defects (potholes, ruts, etc.) exceeding 1 inch in depth. Manhole covers, catch basins, roots or other obstructions shall not protrude above the paved surface.
- f. All paved private roads covered by this policy shall have a visible street sign and be open to the public. Signs shall be of reflective material, blue in color, and measure 9 inches high with 6-inch letters. Owners shall contact the Wellfleet Dept. of Public Works for information on companies that supply these materials.
- g. These standards shall serve as basic requirements. Modest variations to these standards will be considered, upon written request, on a case-by-case basis. Certain sections of roads may require more stringent standards. These sections include, but are not limited to: intersections, sharp corners, cul-de-sacs and areas near water sources.

3. List of paved private roads covered by this policy

- a. The current list of paved private roads covered by this policy is incorporated by reference as Appendix A.

4. Inspections for maintenance to minimum standards

- a. The DPW, Fire Department and Police Department will perform inspections of all paved private roads on the list of roads eligible for plowing by the Town. These inspections will be completed by July 1. The Town will post a listing of roads with any deficiencies in Town Hall, on the Town web site, and in a local newspaper.

5. Failure to maintain minimum standards

- a. Roads that do not meet the standards will be removed from the list of paved private roads eligible for plowing by the Town. A three-year window will be observed prior to the enforcement of this policy in 2014-2015. The most deficient roads will be removed from the eligibility list in 2014-2015.
- b. Homeowners are advised that failure to maintain these standards may result in a delayed response by emergency personnel.

6. Opportunity for corrective action

- a. Property owners will be given the opportunity to take corrective action for roads that fail to meet the minimum standards. When repairs or other necessary measures are completed, the DPW, Fire Department and Police Department will, upon request, re-inspect a road to ensure that it complies with the standards. If the road is brought up to standards, it will be added back to the list of roads eligible to be plowed.

7. Plowing of paved private roads

- a. The DPW will not plow any paved private road that is not maintained to the standards of Section 2. However, the maintenance of a paved private road to the standards of Section 2 does not obligate the DPW to plow the road. The final decision whether to plow a private paved road will be made by the DPW in consultation with the Fire and Police Departments.

8. Implementation

- a. Upon implementation of this policy, residents who live on paved private roads should contact the DPW, Fire and Police Departments to inquire whether their road meets the standards set in Section 2.