

Roads and Sidewalks Policy Town of Fairfax, VT

1. PURPOSE. The Town of Fairfax strives to provide well maintained roads and sidewalks for the community. Levels of service must also be balanced with safety and cost. It is the intent of this policy to communicate reasonable expectations for the community and traveling public utilizing the Town's roads and sidewalks.

2. STANDARDS OF SERVICE. The Town of Fairfax does not maintain private roads, drives, or paths and sidewalks. Per Title 19 of Vermont State Statute Annotated, Chapter 11, work within the rights-of-ways may require permits and items placed within the Town's rights-of-way shall not hinder maintenance and safety. The Town is not responsible for incidental damage to turf, driveways, irrigation systems, or other landscaping improvements within Town rights-of-ways as a result of maintenance operations.

It is understood that some items such as mailboxes, driveway culverts, and other utilities may need to be placed within the Town's right-of-way. Property owners and utility companies shall safely maintain all appurtenances in the right-of-way. Mailboxes shall be placed and maintained according to current United States Postal Service standards.

Driveway culverts shall be maintained by property owners so as to be appropriately sized, safe, and allow the free flow of road drainage.

Trash, recycling, and compost bins may be placed within the right-of-way for the day of service but then must be removed and stored safely on non-pickup days. While Title 10 of Vermont State Statutes Annotated Section 494 provides some exemptions for signage, any sign impeding operations may be removed or relocated.

Any appurtenances not safely maintained may be removed by the Town at the expense of the owner.

3. WINTER MAINTENANCE. The Town of Fairfax strives to maintain safe driving conditions on its roadways to the greatest extent possible within the limitations of its resources. The Town can not keep roadways continuously free of ice and snow. Between 9PM and 4AM maintenance activities may cease or otherwise be reduced. Due care and reasonable caution should be exercised by the traveling public during winter weather.

Roads with the highest level of traffic will be given the highest level of plowing priority. The clearing of sidewalks will generally begin within 24 hours after the end of a storm and only after a minimum of two inches of snow has accumulated. Sand may be mixed with gravel to improve traction on gravel roads during winter months. The Town is not responsible for damage to car windshields or tires that may occur.

Plowing, blowing, or otherwise moving snow into or across Town and State roadways is illegal and unsafe and such incidents will be referred to appropriate law enforcement entities as necessary.

The Town will investigate any and all complaints received regarding snow and ice removal operations including damage to mailboxes. If an investigation concludes that a mailbox was damaged due to direct contact with a Town plow, the Town will replace it with a standard USPS approved receptacle if repair is not possible.

4. ROAD CLOSURE. It is recognized that construction, special events, and other work may require temporary closures of one or both lanes of travel of a town roadway or sidewalk. In accordance with Title 23 of Vermont State Statutes Annotated, Chapter 13, any requests for temporary road closures shall be made by filing a written request at least 30 days prior to the planned closure to the attention of the Town Manager with the following information:

- a. Reason for closure;
- b. Scope of closure;
- c. Date, time, and duration of closure;
- d. Traffic control plan;
- e. Certificate of Insurance

The request will be reviewed by the Fire Chief, Director of Public Works, and the Town’s police provider. The request will then be forwarded to the Selectboard for consideration and action. Town of Fairfax and Fairfax Utility work shall be exempt from these requirements. Coin drops and similar solicitation cause undue traffic concerns and are hereby prohibited in accordance with Title 23 of Vermont State Statutes Annotated, Section 1056

5. ADOPTION. The foregoing Policy is hereby adopted by the Selectboard of the Town of Fairfax, Vermont, this 16th day of October, 2023 and is effective as of this date until amended or repealed and replaces all previous winter operations plans, sidewalk winter maintenance policies, mailbox damage policies, coin drop policies, tree cutting policies, and road closure policies.










