



Town of Hinesburg
Sidewalk Winter Maintenance Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline an orderly, consistent and fiscally responsible process to be used by the Selectboard in determining during the winter months the standards under which the sidewalks will be maintained.

2. Policy Statement

The Town presently has over 5 miles of sidewalks. During the winter months, sidewalks and paths often become impassible because of the build-up of snow. The Town recognizes the need to clear sidewalks to provide for safe pedestrian access to essential services and schools. Reasonable efforts will be used to maintain municipal sidewalks.

3. Definitions:

- 3.1 Sidewalk – The term, sidewalk as used in this policy shall mean a walk or path used for public convenience and situated within the limits of a public right-of-way or easement owned by the Town of Hinesburg.
- 3.2 Winter maintenance – Shall mean the clearing of snow from the sidewalk or path.

4. Service Standards

Specific service standards are adopted as part of this policy. This will allow the Town to evaluate the effectiveness of the policy and undertake modifications as needed.

- 4.1 Road clearing takes precedence over sidewalk clearing.
- 4.2 Sidewalk and path snow removal may be performed when snow is expected to accumulate during a snowfall event and remain afterward. Accumulations resulting from drifting and/or depositions resulting from public street snow removal operations will be removed as determined necessary by the Town. The Town will attempt to initiate all snow removal operations within 24 hours after the end of the storm, depending on the event and weather predictions.

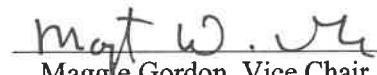
- 4.3 The level of service will be limited to what can be provided by mechanical equipment. Due to the limitations of mechanical equipment and sidewalk irregularities, sidewalks may not be cleared or maintained to a dry pavement standard. No handwork will be performed by Town or contractual personnel. Sand and salt may be used to the degree needed by the Town or contractor.
- 4.4 Due to the limited service by mechanical equipment, the community is encouraged to assist with clearing snow from hydrants proximate to their home or community.
- 4.5 It is to be expected that snow can be plowed, blown, swept or dumped on public right-of-way and easements on either side of the sidewalk/trail as needed for the best efficiency of operation.
- 4.6 Reasonable attempt will be made not to deposit excessive snow in driveways and/or private sidewalks if it is operationally or mechanically controllable. However, the removal of any snow deposits that may result will be the responsibility of the adjacent property owner and/or occupant.
- 4.7 The Town will not be responsible for incidental damage to turf, driveways, irrigation systems, or any landscaping improvements located within public rights-of-way or easements. Any related repair will be the responsibility of the adjacent property owners and/or occupant.
- 4.8 If there are sidewalk obstructions, including but not limited to gas or oil fill caps, irregular sidewalks, and fences the town encourages community engagement in staking out the sensitive areas.
- 4.9 In order for the Town to perform snow removal operations, pathways must remain free of obstructions (i.e., vehicles, refuse containers, play equipment, implements, etc.) until the pathway snow clearing operation has been completed. If obstructions are encountered, the Town's operation may skip the affected property frontage and the subsequent removal will be the responsibility of the adjacent property owner and/ or occupant.

5. **Procedures for Selecting Sidewalks**

- 5.1 The Town presently provides winter maintenance to the entire 5 miles of system of sidewalks and paths. Additional segments of sidewalk will be added within the next year. The Town will evaluate the need and benefit to maintaining those segments with the same level of service standards.
- 5.2 The Selectboard may decide to limit the sections of the sidewalk system to be maintained each year.

Adopted this 15th day of September, 2021


Merrily Lovell, Chair


Maggie Gordon, Vice Chair


Mike Loncr


Dennis Place


Phil Pouech