

TOWN OF OXFORD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN POLICY No. 1911
SNOW & ICE CONTROL FOR PRIVATE WAYS

PURPOSE

In order for the Town and its Department of Public Works (DPW) to provide safe and cost effective snow and ice control measures, this policy names and establishes the private ways that are eligible to receive Town provided snow and ice control and sets the minimum standards for which all eligible private ways shall be maintained by owners and/or abutters.

POLICY

In accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 6C, adopted by the voters of the Town of Oxford at an Annual Town Election on March 5, 1962 the Board of Selectmen hereby names and establishes the private ways that are eligible to receive snow and ice control and hereby establishes minimum maintenance standards by which all eligible private ways shall be maintained by owners and/or abutters.

Private ways not meeting minimum standards inhibit emergency response and can cause considerable damage to snow removal equipment. In some cases damaged Town equipment may need to be removed from the snow removal effort, causing delays that may affect snow and ice control throughout the Town.

APPLICABILITY

This policy is applicable to all named private ways in the Town of Oxford that have been designated as eligible by the Board of Selectmen through the adoption of this policy. Unnamed ways and/or ways that function as common driveways are not eligible for snow and ice control by the Town. Any private ways not specifically named in this policy are not eligible. Any private ways or common driveways coming into existence after the effective date of this policy are not eligible for snow and ice control by the Town. (See Appendix A for a list of eligible private ways as of the effective date of this policy)

PROCEDURE

1. This policy is in effect for private ways open to the public. Private ways restricted or closed to the public by signage or gates shall not be eligible for snow removal services from the Town in accordance with MGL C40, §6C. Examples of signs posted on private ways closed to the public include but are not limited to: "No Trespassing", "Private Residents Only", or "Keep Out", etc.
2. The minimum width for the travel surfaces of any private way shall be no less than 12-feet wide and shall be open to the public.
3. The height clearance shall be no less than 14-feet high from the road surface and no less than 22-feet wide. This requirement is necessary to ensure access to snow removal equipment and emergency vehicles.

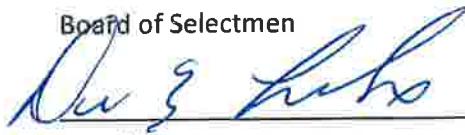
4. The roadside shoulder shall be free of any obstacles, on both sides of the way, including but not limited to: vegetation, fences, mailboxes, stonewalls, basketball hoops, rocks, shrubs, trees, or any other object that may interfere with snow removal equipment. The shoulders shall be maintained no less than 5-feet from the traveled surface on both sides of the way. Mailboxes must be set in conformance with the United States Post Office regulations.
5. Paved or unpaved private ways shall have no potholes or ruts exceeding 2-inches in depth.
6. Manhole covers, catch basins, stones, and roots shall be at or below grade.
7. The entire length including a turnaround area, shall meet the standards outlined in this policy.
8. The DPW shall not plow any private way if there are motor vehicles parked on the way or if any other obstruction is present. It is the responsibility of the owners and abutters of private ways to keep the way clear of vehicles and obstructions.
9. The DPW shall not provide snow and ice control on any sidewalk on any private way. Snow and ice control on sidewalks shall be performed by the owners and/or abutters of the way.
10. The DPW shall perform yearly inspections of all private ways named in this policy to determine if the ways are in conformance with the standards of this policy on or about September 1. The owners and/or abutters shall be required to make repairs by November 1 to be considered eligible for snow and ice control for the upcoming winter season.
11. The DPW, its employees, or its contractors shall not be held liable for any damage to private property while performing snow and ice control such as but not limited to: stone walls, fences, irrigation lines, pavement or gravel roadway surfaces, lawns, trees, water wells, and septic systems.
12. The DPW shall only be held partially liable for damages to Town equipment incurred in the performance of duties on a particular private way to the extent that 50% shall be borne by the property owners of the way (equally divided among the number of parcels abutting the way) and 50% shall be borne by the Town.
13. Snow and ice control on private ways shall be considered a secondary priority as compared to public ways throughout the Town.

EFFECTIVE DATE

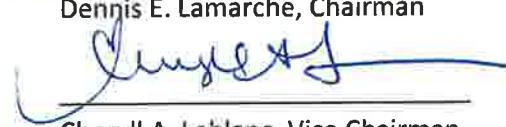
This policy shall take effect on the 23rd day of October, 2018 upon deposit in the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 325 Main Street, Oxford MA 01540 with approval by the Oxford Board of Selectmen on the 23rd day of October, 2018.

By Order of the Oxford Board of Selectmen

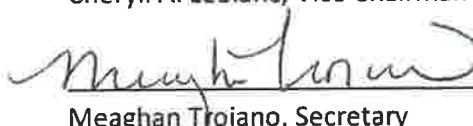
Town of Oxford, Massachusetts by its
Board of Selectmen



Dennis E. Lamarche, Chairman



Cheryll A. Leblanc, Vice Chairman



Meaghan Troiano, Secretary



Alan R. Berthiaume

John G. Saad



Jennifer M. Callahan, Town Manager

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APPENDIX A

ELIGIBLE PRIVATE WAYS

Bird Court
Birch Point Shores
Carlton Court
Chris Road
Douglas Drive
Jackson Court
Hope Avenue
Laurelwood Drive
Oak Drive
Pine Hill Road
Pinedale Drive
Pratt Avenue
Railroad Avenue
Rocky Hill Road Nos. 51-57
Saad Drive
Thayer Court
Wallace Court to No. 2
Walters Drive