Bristol Town Administrator

From: Bristol Town Administrator
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 9:43 AM
To: Wadsworth, Christina
Cc: Eric Cota
Subject: RE: River Road hazard

Hello Christina,

We have received your claim. Unfortunately, our insurance provider and legal counsel have both advised in similar instances that the Town is not legally liable for damage done to vehicles due to pot holes. The fact that a road develops a pothole is not the fault of the Town. Potholes originate from natural occurrences and the Town has no control over natural occurrences. In this instance, the pot hole is located at the very edge where the pavement meets the shoulder and motorists hug that edge of the road as they round the bend. It is possible to avoid the hole by staying within the center of the travel lane. However, upon notice of the situation, the pot hole was promptly repaired.

We recognize this was a jarring, inconvenient, and costly experience for you. You are welcome to bring your request to the Selectboard for further consideration; however, I am not aware of any instances where they found that the Town was liable and issued payment for damage to a vehicle due to a pot hole.

Regards,

--Valerie

Valerie Capels, Town Administrator
Town of Bristol
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From: Wadsworth, Christina <cwadsworth@acsdvt.org>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 11:08 AM
To: Bristol Town Administrator <townadmin@bristolvt.org>
Subject: River Road hazard

On Thursday afternoon at 4 PM, I drove from an appointment in Bristol to Middlebury via River Road. Just up the road off Route 116, on the right before the horse barn, is a significant break in the asphalt on the edge of the road. I was traveling about 25 MPH, attending to the cars around me. I hit the break in the asphalt, and my two passenger side tires blew. I pulled off the road by the beige and brown trailer on the right and arranged for, and waited 2 hours for a tow.

I had to pay $281 for two new tires. The Town of Bristol did not post that break in the asphalt. The Town should reimburse me for my tire expense.

Below are pictures of the asphalt hole, my flat tires, and documentation of my towing (through AAA), and my County Tire bill.

If you have any questions, you can email me at wadsworthchristina61@gmail.com, or call me at 802-989-5532. I would appreciate an immediate response.

Thank you,
Christina Wadsworth