



Town of Bristol
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TOWN OF BRISTOL, VERMONT WINTER OPERATIONS PLAN AND POLICY

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Bristol Winter Operations Plan and Policy is to clearly state priorities for the clearing, maintenance, and repair of Town-owned roads and sidewalks by the Town’s Department of Public Works to ensure the safe and efficient passage of vehicular and pedestrian travelers, goods, and services through the town during snow and/or ice events. Given that winter storm conditions are highly variable, the Town reserves the right to deviate from this policy as needed to adequately address each individual event.

II. Plowing of Roads

1. The Town of Bristol has five (5) employees to carry out winter maintenance on approximately 50 miles of Town highways. Each employee has a specific route, which takes approximately 3 hours to complete. These routes may vary for emergency situations or in the event of equipment failure.
2. First priority for plowing will be to open the major traffic and school bus routes first, as indicated in the truck route lists below in **bold**.

Truck 1

South Street
Lincoln Road
Briggs Road
 Mountain Terr
 Basin Street
 Park Street
 School Street
 Drake Smith Rd
 East Street Ext. (aka
 Gardiner Lane)
 Estes Road
 Choiniere Road
 Pump House Road

Truck 2

North Street
Main Street
West Street
East Street
Fitch Avenue
Mountain Street
 (and all other
 village streets)

Truck 3

Monkton Road
Hardscrabble Road
Burpee Road
Carlstrom Road
Cove Road
 Lower Hardscrabble
 Road
 Plank Road
 Harvey Road

Truck 4

Notch Road
Lower Notch Road
Upper Notch Road
Meehan Road
Upper Meehan Rd
Purinton Road
 Dan Sargent Road

3. After those major routes are cleared, the second priority for plowing will be the remainder of the roads at the discretion of the DPW Foreman.
4. The Town will enforce the No Parking restrictions, as outlined in the *Town of Bristol Ordinance For the Regulation of Parking*, including places where plow trucks or school buses turn around during all winter weather events when the plows are on the roads.
- ~~5. The Town does not plow private roads or private driveways except as provided below in Section VI.~~

III. Plowing of Sidewalks

1. The Town of Bristol endeavors to plow all public sidewalks in the village. Although the Town shall strive to maintain safe walking conditions on the sidewalks to the greatest extent possible within the limitations of its resources, the Town cannot guarantee sidewalks will always be free of ice and snow and present no hazard to the traveling public. Property owners and tenants should be prepared to clear their respective sections and are encouraged to coordinate such efforts to ensure a uniformly cleared sidewalk.
2. One employee is assigned to plow at least 10 miles of sidewalks. The length of sidewalk plowing time will increase as additional segments are constructed. The operation begins around 5:00am and is completed around 8:00am. It takes approximately 3 to 4 hours for one round, or longer with heavy snow, and an additional 3 to 4 hours if sand is required. Depending on the type and amount of snow, the operation could take 8 to 10 hours if snow blowing is needed. Priority is given to school routes.
3. Prince Lane. The bumpers of vehicles parked along Prince Lane overhang the sidewalk and prevent the plow from passing along sidewalk. The plow operator will make every effort to reach Prince Lane near the beginning of the route. If the plow operator is not able to reach Prince Lane before vehicles begin parking there, the Town makes no guarantee the area will be cleared during a particular snow or ice event. Property owners and tenants should be prepared to clear their respective sections and are encouraged to coordinate such efforts to ensure a uniformly cleared sidewalk. The Town will assume no responsibility for clearing the sidewalk after vehicles are parked there.
- ~~4. It shall be unlawful for the operator or owner of any motor vehicle to be parked on or within one foot of any sidewalk at any time, day or night, from November 1 through April 15. Garfield Street. Parked vehicles along Garfield Sany street that encroach on the sidewalk and prevent the plow from clearing the snow may be ticketed or towed. ~~The Town makes no guarantee the area will be cleared during a particular snow or ice event. The Town will assume no responsibility for clearing a sidewalk if it has been blocked by one or more parked vehicles.~~ Property owners and tenants should be prepared to clear their respective sections and are encouraged to coordinate such efforts to ensure a uniformly cleared sidewalk.~~

~~4. The Town will assume no responsibility for clearing the sidewalk after vehicles are parked there.~~

5. Main Street. Plowing of Main Street sidewalks typically begins around 6:00am and, depending on the storm, may be plowed again around 1:00pm. Business owners and tenants have communicated they would prefer no sand be used due to its impacts on maintenance of the interior spaces. A 50/50 mix of sand and salt is currently applied as conditions require. Property owners and tenants should be prepared to clear their respective sections and are encouraged to coordinate such efforts to ensure a uniformly cleared sidewalk.

6. The Town will accept responsibility for clearing the four corners of the main stoplight intersection and keep the pedestrian crossings clear to the extent possible in any given storm.

IV. Use of Salt and Sand

1. The Town of Bristol does not have a bare road or sidewalk policy. Travelers who use Town roads and sidewalks should exercise due care and reasonable caution during changing winter weather conditions.
2. Salt will be applied to most paved roads with a minimum amount of sand added as necessary. Salt is not effective when road temperatures are below 20 degrees.

3. Sand, not salt, will be applied to the gravel roads.

~~3.4.~~ The Town will coordinate with Bristol CORE to provide barrels with a 50/50 sand and salt mix on Main Street.

V. Accumulated Snow Removal

1. Main Street. A bucket loader is used ~~from midnight to 6:00am during the hours of the winter parking ban~~ to remove snow from sidewalk and curb ~~and is discharged over the Basin Street guardrail.~~
2. Stored snow on private properties located at intersections with public highways or sidewalks shall not result in obstructed sight distances or impede access. The property owner shall be responsible to ensuring all passageways are unobstructed. If conditions require removal by Town personnel and equipment, the actual cost for the specific equipment and manpower used to remove this snow may be charged to the private property owner, with a minimum charge of one hour per Public Works Department personnel and equipment.

~~3.~~—Lack of ~~accumulation removal~~. Accumulated snow removal operations are arranged when sufficient snow has accumulated to warrant it. Weather conditions may occur that result in modest accumulations of snow that are not removed until time and resources allow.

3.

VI. Private Property Damage

1. Title 19, Section 1111 “Prohibits Encroachments of the Towns Right-of-Way Without Approval.” Objects in the Town’s right-of-way are placed at the owners’ risk and the Town assumes no responsibility for any damage to objects placed in violation of the state statutes. Common items are trees, fences, flowers, stone walls etc.
2. Mailboxes. The Town cannot take responsibility for damage to mailboxes due to snow removal operations unless the damage is the clear result of operator negligence.
3. Windshields. With the use of sand in winter maintenance material, some particles may be as large as ¾” in size and may cause windshield damage. Travelers should use caution and avoid following other vehicles or Town trucks too closely. The Town will not pay for replacement or repair of windshields.
4. Potholes. The Town is not responsible for vehicular damage due to potholes. Potholes have been determined to be acts of nature that are beyond the Town’s control.

VII. Special Agreements

1. Winter Maintenance Agreement of 76 - 82 East Street as of June 23, 2015 remains in effect with a 30-day notice cancellation provision:
 - a. John and Lois Burbank of 80 East Street grant permission to the Town of Bristol to turn around in their driveway after plowing snow toward 82 East Street. They further agree to trim their hydrangea bush back 1' to 1 ½' each fall, to allow the Town's truck to pass without being scratched or damaged and to hold the Town harmless if any damage is done to their lawn/vegetation.
 - b. Ginnie Bukowski of 82 East Street grants permission to the Town of Bristol to push snow on the left hand side of her driveway, as is currently being done. She further grants permission to the Town of Bristol to push snow in front of her home, if needed, with the Town removing excessively high snowbanks via their loader at the Town's discretion. It is also noted that Ginnie has installed a perimeter drain near the southwest corner of her house that dumps out onto the bank between her house and 80 East Street. Ginnie accepts full responsibility to repair any resulting erosion attributed to its runoff. She plans to install vegetation to reinforce the bank by the end of the summer of 2016.

2. Bristol Commons Easement: A permanent easement, recorded in Book 150 pages 491-492 provides an easement and right of way as follows:

A permanent easement for the purpose of depositing snow removed from Mountain View Street, said street being adjacent to and abutting the land of the Grantor and a right of way for ingress and egress as necessary in connection with such snow deposit. The Snow Deposit Area is located adjacent to and northerly of the Bristol Commons Development entrance from Mountain View Street (the northerly end of the driveway servicing residences G, H, and I), the specific location and particular dimensions of which are shown and identified as "Snow Deposit Area" on a plan entitled "Final Site Plan, Bristol Village Cohousing, Bristol, Vermont" prepared by Grover Engineering, dated June, 2016 and last revised August 12, 2016 and recorded at Map Slide_ of the Town of Bristol Land Records. A reduced/select version is attached hereto as Exhibit B (the "Plan"). Also included herewith is an access easement for ingress and egress of municipal plow vehicles in connection with said snow deposit. This easement area is over a portion of the Grantor's driveway and is identified on the attached Plan as "Access Easement", extending from the intersection of Mountain View Street and Grantee's driveway northerly for a distance of approximately 34.4 feet to the Snow Deposit Area, and southerly for a distance of approximately 52.2 feet. The Snow Deposit and Access Easements shall be used on a non-exclusive basis for the sole purpose of depositing snow removed from Mountain View Street; provided however, that snow shall not be placed in a manner which would interfere with the use of the driveway serving the Residences adjacent the driveway, all as depicted on the Plan. Further, Grantee shall promptly repair, at its sole cost and expense, any damage caused by Grantee's use of the Snow Deposit and Access Easement Areas and such damage shall be promptly repaired in a reasonable manner.

3. School Street. The extension of School Street beyond Park Street is privately owned; however, by mutual agreement, the Town plows to the end and is permitted to deposit the resulting snow there.

~~4. Drake Smith Road. Drake Smith Road is a private road. The Town provided snow removal in conjunction with trash hauling services the Town once provided. The Town no longer provides trash hauling up services but has continued to plow the road.~~

VIII. General Provisions

1. The Town of Bristol will maintain Class 4 roads at the discretion of the Selectboard and in accordance with specific Class 4 Road Maintenance Policies in effect and as may be amended. The Selectboard may allow Class 4 maintenance agreements with private individuals or other private entities.

2. Snow removal on private properties located at intersections with public highways or sidewalks shall not result in obstructed sight distances or impede access. The property owner shall be responsible to ensuring all passageways are unobstructed.
3. Maintenance operations during winter storm events shall begin at approximately 4:00am and continue until routes are cleared. After 16 hours, Public Works Department personnel are required to stop operations and take a minimum of six (6) hours of rest.
4. In most cases, there will be no winter maintenance between the hours of 10:00pm and 4:00am.
5. State law prohibits plowing, blowing, or shoveling of snow across or onto a Town or State highway. Violators may be subject to a fine or penalty and may also be liable for damage to property, vehicles, and any undue cost to the Town for removal of this snow. In addition, the actual cost for the specific equipment and manpower used to remove this snow may be charged to the private property owner, with a minimum charge of one hour per Public Works Department personnel and equipment.

DATED at Bristol, Vermont, this _____ day of _____, 2020.

BRISTOL SELECTBOARD

Michelle Perlee, Chair

Ian Albinson

Joel Bouvier

John Heffernan

Darla Senecal