



**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SELECTBOARD**

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Winter and Inclement Weather Policy and Priorities

Pursuant to RSA 231:92-a, the Brookline Selectboard hereby establishes the following policy and procedure for winter and inclement weather road maintenance.

Part A

Objective - The Town of Brookline seeks to provide timely, efficient and cost-effective winter maintenance, snow removal and ice control on the Town's public roads, bridges and sidewalks for the safety and benefit of the Town's residents and general motoring and pedestrian public.

Procedure – The above objective may best be achieved by implementation and execution of the procedures outlined in Part B of this policy. Due to the many variables inherent in New England weather, each storm or weather event may require different effort or emphasis on any number of maintenance tasks.

Level of Service – It is not reasonably possible to maintain snow- and ice-free roads during the winter. The Town intends to utilize its best efforts, within the means available, to provide practical, safe access to homes, businesses and municipal facilities during and after winter storms.

- 1.) As a general policy, the Town begins snow removal operations upon accumulation of two inches of snow on the roads. The Road agent may, at his discretion, based on the weather reports or prevailing conditions, elect to not remove snow until greater or lesser amounts have accumulated.
- 2.) Notwithstanding any other provision of this policy, snow removal or road treatment operations may be suspended at any time when continuing operations would pose a hazard to persons or property.
- 3.) Pre-treatment and ice control may be implemented prior to, during, or after a storm, as determined to be most effective, noting that salt has a significantly reduced effect on melting snow and ice at temperatures below 20 degrees Fahrenheit, and thus may not be applied.

Direction – The Brookline Road Agent, or the Road Agent's designee, shall direct all winter maintenance activities for the Town.

Implementation – This policy, including the standard operating procedures set forth in Part B, is intended to serve as the normal procedure for winter maintenance, snow removal and ice control for the Town of Brookline. One or more of the following events or circumstances, which may delay or prevent the implementation of the policy, may affect all or any part of normal operating procedures:

- 1.) Equipment breakdown
- 2.) Snow accumulation in excess of one-inch per hour
- 3.) Freezing rain or other icing conditions
- 4.) Traffic congestion
- 5.) Emergencies
- 6.) Personnel illness
- 7.) Other events beyond the reasonable control of the Town

Notice – This policy may be posted in appropriate places as determined by the Selectboard to advise residents. All residents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the contents hereof as it describes the conditions one might expect to encounter before, during or after a winter storm event.

Adoption – This policy and accompanying Part B, encompassing standard operating procedures, have been adopted by the Brookline Selectboard on April 11, 2016.

*Originally Approved on April 11, 2016
Amended on April 24, 2017*

John Carr

Brendan Denehy

Tom Humphreys

Valerie Ogden

Eddie Arnold

Part B

Town of Brookline Winter Operations Standard Snow Removal and Ice Control Procedures

Equipment and Personnel – The assets available for snow removal and ice control are under the direction of the Road Agent. In formulating the budget for snow removal and ice control, the Town seeks to allocate sufficient funds for this purpose, but variable weather conditions may make budget projections inaccurate. A five-year history of expenses for snow removal and ice control is used as a budgetary guide. The Town of Brookline does not have any Town employees employed for snow removal or ice control; contractors and sub-contractors are used for this purpose. Generally, sufficient equipment will be used to allow for all town roads to be plowed in approximately four hours and all town roads to be sanded/salted in 3-5 hours.

Routes – With approximately 50 miles of Town roads (both paved and dirt), the Town is divided into plowing and/or treatment routes. Available equipment is assigned to a route as determined by the Road Agent. Crews generally begin at the center of town and move outward along their assigned routes.

Plow routes may be altered from time to time for more efficient snow removal or cost efficiencies at the discretion of the Road Agent.

If snowing during business hours, town facilities (town hall, library, police station, safety complex and, if open, the transfer station) will be cleared during the storm, otherwise snow clearing will wait until the end of the storm.

Materials – The Town bases its annual budget for snow removal materials in part of past usage. Sand is used as an abrasive and is applied to the road to improve traction for motor vehicles. Salt is used as a de-icing and anti-icing agent. Road salt is used on an as needed basis, at the discretion of the road agent. Any use of road salt is done in a manner that minimizes the amount used while having the desired impact of improving driving conditions. The salt, in conjunction with traffic, creates and spreads a solution intended to assist in melting snow and ice and resisting snow and ice pack on the roadway. The effectiveness of salt is limited at temperatures under about 20 degrees and therefore may not be used at times. The sand is stored at the Road Agent's place of business and the road salt is stored at the Town transfer station.

Post Storm Clean-up - Sidewalks are cleared once the snow stops and may be salted and/or sanded as conditions, available personnel and weather forecasts warrant. Fire holes are generally cleared the day after the storm.

Emergency Calls - A text message is sent from dispatch to the Road Agent for any calls for emergency services during a storm. To the extent possible, the Road Agent may direct a snowplow or sander to aid in the response of emergency vehicles.

Damage to Private Property – The Town of Brookline assumes no responsibility for damage to private property that is located within the public right-of-way as such property is deemed an encumbrance that is not permitted to be located in the right-of-way. The right-of-way for our town roads is generally 32-, 48- or 50-feet wide.

Homeowners sometimes may extend lawns, plant trees or shrubbery, place mailboxes, or erect fences or other features in these areas, which may be intended to improve appearance, but which may obstruct or interfere with maintenance being conducted on the roadway, including during the winter.

Placement of Snow in Right-of-Way – No snow is to be shoveled, blown, plowed or placed, by any means, onto Town streets or sidewalks or across roadways to the opposite side snow banks.

Roadway Obstructions – If any vehicle, either moving or parked, interferes with snow removal operations, personnel will seek the cooperation of the driver or owner of such vehicle to remove it immediately. If the owner cannot be readily located or refuses to cooperate, the individual or Road Agent will contact the Brookline Police Department for assistance. The Town shall not be responsible for damage to vehicles arising out of winter maintenance operations or as a result of towing.