

PRIVATE WAY SNOW REMOVAL POLICY

Minimum standards for private ways to be eligible for emergency winter maintenance, consisting of snow plowing and sanding only, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40 Section 6c; adopted by The Board of Selectmen, August 4, 2009.

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 more than one week per year shall not be eligible for snow removal services from the Town in accordance with Mass. G. L. c40, s6c. Examples of signs posted on private ways closed to the public include “No Trespassing”, “Private-Residents Only”, or “Keep Out”, etc.
2. The minimum width for the travel surface of any private way shall be no less than (10’) feet wide and open to the public.
3. The height clearance shall be no less than fourteen (14’) feet from the road surface. This is to ensure access to snow plows and emergency vehicles.
4. The roadside shoulder shall be free of any obstacles, on both side of the way, including vegetation, fences, mailboxes, stone walls, rocks, shrubs, trees or any other object that may interfere with snow removal equipment. This shoulder shall be maintained no less than two (2’) feet on both sides of the roadway.
5. There shall be an overall minimum of fourteen (14’) feet by fourteen (14’) feet corridor free from any vegetation and foreign objects. Shell and stone roadways will not be plowed.
6. There must be ample room for emergency vehicles to turn around if the road is a dead end. Space at the end of the road should be of sufficient size for emergency vehicles or town plows to be able to turn around in a safe manner.
7. Paved or unpaved private roads shall have no defects (potholes or ruts) exceeding two (2”) inches in depth. Defects in the road surface such as potholes or ruts must not deviate from grade more than two (2”) inches. Please contact the Department of Public Works (DPW) for possible remedy options (petition for grading, temporary repair, and acceptance of private way). When and if the Town appropriates funds, the Town may make emergency repairs to private roads that are integrated with the public road network at the discretion of staff in order to protect the Town’s investment in snow removal equipment.
8. Manhole covers, catch basins and roots shall be at or below grade.
9. The DPW will perform yearly inspections of all private roads and post a list of roads on the Town’s website and local newspaper by September 15th that do not meet the minimum requirements. The homeowners will be required to make repairs. When the repairs are completed the DPW will, upon request, re-inspect a roadway to ensure that it

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complies with standards and notify homeowners of their findings. If all minimum standards are met plowing and sanding services will be provided.

10. The Town of Dennis, its employees or sub contractors shall not be held liable for any damage to private property improvements while performing snow removal operations. Improvements such as, but not limited to, stone walls, fences, irrigation lines, cobblestones, mailboxes, lawns, shrubs or trees adjacent to the way and damaged as a result of snow removal operations will not be repaired or replaced by the Town or its agents.