



No:2001-2

Date: January 3, 2023

Policy: Snow Removal and Ice Control

Governing Laws: RSA 231:92-a, RSA 507-B:2-b,

Original Approval Date: February 15, 2001

Revised and Amended: January 3, 2023

Next Review Date: January 3, 2024

POLICY: It is the goal and intent of the Town of Washington Department of Public Works to provide timely, efficient and cost-effective winter maintenance, snow removal and ice control on the roadways of the municipality for the safety and benefit of the Town's residents and the general motoring public.

PROCEDURE: The objective stated above will be achieved by implementation and execution of the procedures and tasks outlined in the Town of Washington's Winter Operations Snow Removal and Ice Control Procedures. Due to the many variables that are inherent in New England weather, each storm and/or weather event may require slightly different effort and/or emphasis on any number of maintenance tasks, which together, determine the overall winter maintenance, snow removal or ice control strategy.

LEVEL OF SERVICE: It is not possible to maintain a black, snow and ice-free road during a storm. It is the intention of the Town to provide practical, safe access to homes, businesses and municipal facilities during winter storms.

It is our policy to start to conduct snow removal operations upon a planned accumulation of three to four inches but not more than six inches of snowfall. The Public Works Director may, at his discretion based upon weather information reports, elect to not remove snow until greater or lesser accumulations.

Pre-treatment and ice control may be addressed prior to the actual storm beginning, during the actual storm as seen effective, and after the storm. It should be noted that salt has a much slower effect on melting snow and ice at temperatures below 15 degrees, and may not be applied until it is warmer.

COMMAND: Direction of all winter maintenance activities for the Town of Washington is vested with the Public Works Director or their designee.

EXECUTION: The policy outlined above is intended to serve as the normal operating guideline for winter maintenance, snow removal and/or ice control for the Town of Washington. One or more of the following, which may delay or prevent the implementation of this policy, may affect all or any part of this Policy:

Equipment Breakdown
Snow Accumulation in Excess of 1" Per Hour
Freezing Rain or Other Icing Conditions
Traffic Congestion
Emergencies
Personnel illness, staffing issues

ADOPTION:

The Town of Washington has adopted the Winter Operations Snow Removal and Ice Control Policy effective February 15, 2001. This policy was reviewed amended and accepted by the Board of Selectmen on November 22, 2007, January 12, 2009, January 12, 2012 and October 19, 2014, January 30, 2019, January 5, 2023 after a legally posted public hearing. All residents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the content as it describes the condition that one might expect to encounter before, during and following a winter storm event.

WASHINGTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Don Revane; Chairman

Alan Dube; Selectmen

Tom Marshall; Selectmen

WINTER OPERATIONS
SNOW REMOVAL AND ICE CONTROL PROCEDURES
(Includes Highways, Sidewalks, Parking Areas)

EQUIPMENT: The Public Works Department utilizes all the assets of the department as needed to address snow emergencies. A list of the current rolling stock assets is included in the appendix.

ROUTES: Currently, the Town is divided into five major plow and/or treatment routes. Each of the routes encompasses the Town's major artery and collector roads and is assigned to one each of the Town's plow trucks. Additionally, there are two small 1 ton trucks with power angle plows and sanders used to maintain emergency service facilities, municipal parking areas, and to assist in support of trucks assigned specific routes.

The Town uses one road grader, outfitted with plow equipment, in addition to the plow trucks as needed to help with snow removal operations for larger snow storms. The Public Works Department does not maintain sidewalks or the entrances to Town buildings or the Elementary School. The Town custodian or hired contractors perform this operation.

MANPOWER: The Town of Washington has five full-time personnel assigned to its winter maintenance operations. In addition, a labor pool of approximately two part-time wingmen and drivers called operators may be called into service depending on the severity of the storm.

MATERIALS: The Department uses approximately four hundred tons of rock salt and three thousand cubic yards of sand each season. The sand is used as an abrasive and is applied to the road to improve the public's motor vehicles traction. The Department employs salt as a de-icing and anti-icing agent. The entire supply of sand is purchased each year and stockpiled beside the Highway garage. Rock salt is purchased from a supplier as needed. A limited quantity of approximately one hundred fifty tons is stockpiled by the Highway Department at the salt shed at the public works facility. Unless weather conditions require a different approach, winter maintenance routes for paved surfaces are treated with rock salt. The salt is applied to the center of the roadway where traffic can work the brine traveling either way. The salt, in conjunction with traffic action, creates a watery brine melting snow and/or ice, and resisting snow and ice packing on the roadway. The road crown further assists with the spreading of the salt brine. The salt is only effective to approximately 15 degrees Fahrenheit. Other deicing agents are effective to lower temperatures, but cost and need for specialized equipment have forestalled their use to this time. Salt is purchased when needed throughout the winter months as the Town stock supply is depleted. Should salt become unavailable because of shortages, delivery complications or other unforeseen factors, sand will be used in its place.

COMMUNICATIONS: The majority of the Public Works rolling stock is equipped with two-way mobile radios capable of transmitting and receiving on a frequency of 155.760 MHz. Each plow truck and equipment operator is assigned a unique call number. A list of all call numbers is displayed in each piece of equipment or truck. A copy of the current call numbers is included as an appendix to this policy. Radios are also maintained at the Public Works Garage, allowing operator's the ability to communicate with the Hillsboro Dispatch Center and the Town police and fire departments.

SCHOOLS: The Board of Selectmen charged the Public Works Department in July of 2003, at the request of the Washington School Board, to plow the parking lot at the Washington Elementary School. On days

when school is in session, winter maintenance efforts will be timed to coincide with bus routing and delivery to the best of our ability. While cars are parked in the parking lot all reasonable efforts will be made to keep the parking lot clear. Salt or sand will be applied as necessary to provide traction for the school buses and vehicle traffic. The Public Works Department will not be responsible for removal of snow or placement of traction materials at any of the walkways, utility accesses or other buildings.

The school superintendent or designated official representative shall contact the Public Works Department when necessary to determine the condition of the municipality's roads in order to determine the safety of students using school buses. The school representative(s) shall make the decision to cancel or postpone school for that day.

PARKING: The Town has enacted a winter parking ban ordinance (ordinance # 2001-1), effective from November 1st to April 1st of each year. This ban prohibits parking in or on the Town's roads or rights of way (ROW) between the hours of 10:00 PM and 7:00 am. The Town has the right to tow or ticket violators. The purpose of this winter parking ban is to allow winter maintenance crews unobstructed snow removal and ice control routes, as much as possible, to maintain the maximum effectiveness of their efforts.

PLOW ROUTE PRIORITIES: With a total of 46 miles of roads from which to remove snow and control ice and seven pieces of equipment to handle this responsibility, the Public Works Department has to assign priorities for winter maintenance route activity in order to maximize the effectiveness of their efforts for the motoring public.

School bus routes will be given the first priority during school days. Each plow route will ensure that the best possible snow clearance will be completed for the bus route schedule.

Public parking areas at the rear of the Town Hall, Library, Wayside Park, Camp Morgan Lodge, East Washington Baptist Church and the two Fire Stations will be maintained by plowing during the winter storm. The application of slip resistant materials will be applied after the storm or as determined by the Road Agent.

Transfer Station/Recycle Center: Transfer station personnel may be required to assist with the Town's general winter maintenance operations. If the facility is open during the snow or ice storm, personnel will plow this area prior to opening for public use. Public areas shall be kept as clear as possible to provide as safe access as reasonably possible. Sand and other slip resistant materials shall be used in public areas. It often will not be possible to maintain clear ground, but a reasonable effort will be made during storms.

Fire Hydrants: The Town does not have a pressurized fire hydrant system. Dry hydrants and in ground cisterns that are operational and within the Town's right of way will be plowed out after a snowstorm or sooner should an emergency arise. The Town does not maintain or plow hydrants or cisterns on Private roads or in private developments.

ROADS AND SIDEWALKS NOT RECEIVING WINTER MAINTENANCE: The Town of Washington does not maintain a number of roadways and sidewalks as part of its ongoing winter maintenance activities. The areas not maintained by the town during the winter include:

- a. Town roads classified as Class VI roads
- b. Private roads or driveways unless requested by the Fire Department for Emergency purposes
- c. At annual Town Meeting in March 2020 the Town voted pursuant to RSA 231:79-81 to extend the maintenance exemption period on Class V roads to Summer Cottages. Roads described below

are class V roads to summer cottages and receive no winter maintenance between November 15th and April 30th pursuant to RSA 231:79: After April 30th, efforts will be made to remove what snow is possible from these roads and opened to minimal traffic. Pursuant to RSA 47:17 VII and RSA 41:11 a Town Ordinance was passed authorizing Roads to summer cottages to be posted with a 2,000lb weight limit until after mud season.

1. King Street: King Street is summer maintenance only to the class VI section marked
 2. Ayers Pond Rd: Beyond 484 Ayers Pond Road is Summer maintenance only to the class VI section marked
 3. Lovell Mountain Road From the intersection of Sandy Knowles road to class VI Marked
- section
- d. Camp Morgan Beach and Parking area: Summer Maintenance only.
 - e. Town Maintained Boat launches: summer maintenance only with the exception where Access is needed for fire protection.
 - f. State Highway Rt. 31: An exception to this would be if emergency vehicles were not able To travel the State Highway.

SALT FREE AREAS:

- a. Gravel roads will not be treated with salt at any time. (This is to prevent the frozen gravel from melting)

Sand Free Areas:

- a. At the request of property owners, the town will not apply slip resistant materials on Purling Beck Road unless an ice storm occurs or extremely slippery conditions are encountered. The Selectmen approved this request on January 6, 2005 at their regular meeting.

Private Plowing of any public property including but not limited to class VI roads, Class V seasonal maintenance roads and parking lots may be permissible with written consent from the Board of Selectmen or their designee. Pursuant to RSA 236:10 and 236:11, a property owner or private contractor may be required to post a Bond with the Town prior to plowing or maintaining a road for any use.

Washington Wayside Park: Washington constructed a new library parking area at the Washington Wayside Park in the summer of 2006. The parking lot for the park will be maintained in the winter by the Public Works Department. All other walkways or areas leading from the parking lot will be the responsibility of the Library Trustees or their designee.

DAMAGE TO PRIVATE PROPERTY: It should be noted that the municipality is not held responsible for damage to private property that is located within the public right of way, (RSA 231:92 and 231:92a). The right of way (ROW) can be up to 50' wide, and is often confused by property owners as their own property. In most cases, the ROW often extends 10 to 20 feet of either side of the paved or gravel road. Homeowners often cultivate extensions of their lawns, place mailboxes, erect fences or stonewalls in these areas, which improves the appearance of the street greatly, but is obstructive to good maintenance from being conducted on the roadway.

In the event of personal property damage, the Town of Washington will only be responsible to repair or replace damaged property having been in actual contact with the snow removal equipment that is on private property and not within the public right-of-way.

At no time will snow be shoveled or plowed into or across the Town right of way from private driveways or road intersections and left there to create a hazard for the motoring public.

POST STORM OPERATIONS: As determined by the Public Works Director, the snow banks resulting from the previous accumulations shall be pushed back, or shelved, using the plow and wing of the grader or other suitable equipment to make space for future snow storms.

APPENDIX A PLOW ROUTES

Route #1
Truck #1
Radio Call #: 904
Operator: Dave Defosse
1. Half Moon Pond Rd.
2. Millen Pond Rd.
3. Farnsworth Hill Rd

Route #2
Truck #2
Radio Call #: 903
Operator: Brian Moser
1. East Washington Rd.
2. Washington Drive
3. Faxon Hill Rd
4. Lempster Mt. Rd.
5. Bradford Springs Rd

Route #3
Truck #3
Radio Call #: 902
Operator: Larry Gaskell
1. Valley Rd.
2. Old Marlow Rd.
3. Beaver Brook Rd

Route #4
Truck #4
Radio Call #: 904
Operator: Randy Fitzgerald
1. Dole Rd.
2. Smith Pond Rd.
3. Highland Haven Rd.
4. Point Rd.
6. Bailey Rd.

Route #5
Truck#5
Radio Call # 901
Operator: Ed Thayer
1. Purling Beck Rd.
2. Old Hillsboro Rd.
3. Ayer's pond Rd.
4. Bear Hill RD.
5. Lovell Mtn. Rd
6. Sandy Knowles Rd.

Appendix B
Radio Call Numbers
Washington Highway Department

Call # 901: Edward Thayer, Public Works Director

Call # 902: Larry Gaskell, Public Works Foreman

Call # 903: Brian Moser, Public Works Truck Driver- Equipment Operator

Call # 904: Dave Defosse, - Mechanic, Truck Driver

Call # 908: Randy Fitzgerald, Transfer station, Truck Driver

Call #910: Kevin Spalding (Part Time)

Call#912: Al Dube (Part Time)

Appendix C

Town of Washington Plow Removal Equipment

Truck #1: 2010 Freightliner all wheel drive Dump truck with Plow Wing and Sander

Truck #2: 2010 Freightliner all wheel drive Dump Truck with Plow, Wing and Sander

Truck #3: 1987 Osh Kosh all wheel drive truck with Plow Wing and Sander

Truck #4: 2010 Freightliner all wheel drive Dump Truck with Plow, Wing and Sander

Truck #5: 2018 Ford F-550 pickup with power angle plow and 3yd sander

Other Equipment:

1-1992 Ford F-700 all wheel drive truck with power angle Plow and Sander

2 - One Ton Trucks outfitted with power angle plows

1 - John Deere 772D All wheel drive grader outfitted with 14' wing

1- John Deere 644 EH Bucket Loader

1- John Deere 410 L Backhoe Loader

