

**PROPOSED  
TOWN OF THOMPSON  
POLICY  
REGARDING  
SNOW PLOWING OF PRIVATE ROADS  
LIMITED WINTER MAINTENANCE**

As a public safety matter and for the convenience of its citizens, the Town of Thompson Highway Department will provide minimal plowing necessary to open private roads after a snowstorm and after all official town aid roads are cleared under the following circumstances:

1. The Town has designated a private road as eligible for winter maintenance by recommendation of the Highway Foreman and formal vote of the Board of Selectmen in accordance with this policy.
2. The total snow fall is 4 inches or greater.
3. In order to be added as a new private road eligible for winter maintenance, the road must serve a minimum of 5 households per half mile of private road. For the determination of the number of households, only those households which are occupied on a substantially full time basis during winter months shall be counted in determining the eligible households.
4. The Town shall assume no liability nor provide any new services to any private road which was constructed by or is being currently maintained as part as a common interest community or condominium.
5. That the Town has not received any objection from either the record owner of the road, if any, or a majority of homeowners located on the road.
6. The Town shall plow no road in which either a majority of homeowners or the owner of the road has filed a formal objection with the Board of Selectmen.
7. A. The Board of Selectmen has made a determination based upon recommendation of the Highway Department that the road is of such condition that it can be safely plowed without substantial risk to either town employees or town equipment. Upon receipt of an application for the winter maintenance program the Town Highway Foreman shall make a physical inspection of the proposed private roadway or access road and make a written recommendation to the Board of Selectmen as to the eligibility of the private road from a public safety point of reference. The Highway Foreman in making such a recommendation shall consider all relevant factors including, but not limited to: 1. Width of the road, 2. General condition of the road, 3. Existence of sink holes, potholes and the like, 4. Grade of the road, 5. Availability of a safe cul-de-sac or other turnaround at the termination of the road, and 6. Condition of the shoulders of the road.  
B. The Highway Foreman shall inspect on a annual basis no later than July 31<sup>st</sup> of each year each road which has been designated as eligible for winter maintenance and if the opinion of the Highway Foreman there has been a structural deterioration or change in the road that creates a substantial safety issue, he shall recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the road be removed from the list of eligible private roads. A copy of such recommendation shall be provided to the designated representative for the specific private road.  
C. If and otherwise an eligible road fails to meet the safety requirements of this policy either based upon the initial recommendation of the Highway Foreman or based upon his annual review the owners of the properties located on said road, may at their option and at their sole cost make such improvements to the private road as shall satisfy the Highway Foreman's safety concerns. Any such improvements shall be completed within seventy five days of receipts of the Highway Foreman's recommendation together with a written request for re-inspection and recertification. Upon receipt of such request the Highway Foreman shall promptly review the improvements to the private road and

modify his recommendation to the Board of Selectmen if the Highway Foreman deems it proper based upon the road improvements.

8. The Selectmen's Office shall maintain a list of roads to be serviced under the winter maintenance/snowplowing policy. Winter maintenance shall be limited to plowing and sanding activities. Winter maintenance is not designed to create a road that is maintained at the same level as accepted town roads but to provide the minimum plowing and sanding necessary to render said road passable.
9. Any homeowner with a dwelling located on a private road may petition the Selectmen's Office for inclusion in the limited winter maintenance program. Any such petition shall, A. identify the road including the approximate location width and length, B. list the number of homeowners on the road, C. be signed by at least 80% of the homeowners located on the road and contain a certification that either the road owner, if known, consents to this limited winter maintenance or that there is no known owner of the roadway. For the purposes of this policy a resident shall refer only to those premises occupied by individuals or families on a year road basis. If a property has multiple owners the Town shall be entitled to assume that the signature of any record owner of the property is the appropriate signature for that property unless the Board of Selectmen has been formerly advised to the contrary in writing by the holders of at least 50% interest in the particular property.
10. The petitioner and any signer shall further acknowledge that the Town of Thompson limited winter maintenance program is a limited program which in no way changes the status of the road as a private road and each petitioner expressly acknowledges for himself/herself, their heirs, successors and assigns that to the greatest extent allowed by law, they discharge the Town of Thompson, its agents, servants, employees from any and all liability arising from this limited winter maintenance program and further acknowledge their understanding that the limited winter maintenance only takes place under the circumstances specified in this policy.
11. Any individual who objects to the inclusion of their street in the street or private road in the limited winter maintenance program may file a petition containing the same information as the petition for inclusion and signed by a majority of homeowners requesting that the road be removed from the limited winter maintenance program.
12. As part of the application for inclusion in the private road winter maintenance program each such application shall include a designation of a primary and secondary contact person for the road which shall include all relevant contact information including mailing address, email address and regular or cell telephone number. The Town shall be entitled to rely upon the accuracy of the designated representative and any notice sent by the Town to the designated representative shall be considered a notice to all the residents of the particular road in question unless and until the Board of Selectmen receive a formal writing signed by a majority of the year round property owners designating a new representative or alternate representative.
13. If there are obstructions in the travel portion of the private road or the shoulder of the private road, whether manmade or natural, specifically including the presence of motor vehicles parked on or adjacent to the road, that in the opinion of the Highway Foreman create a safety issue, the Highway Foreman shall notify the road representative of such fact and winter maintenance shall be suspended on said road until such situation is rectified to the satisfaction to the Highway Foreman.