

Plowing of private roads

The purpose of this policy is to keep open for emergency vehicles and public access certain private roads in the Town of Shutesbury. The Town of Shutesbury public roads currently have snow removal performed by the Town crews. Many private roads and shared driveways have deed covenants and private agreements to provide for snow removal and sanding. This policy seeks to assist in snow removal for certain roads open to the public and not covered by the previous two situations. This policy does not allow for snow removal of shared driveways as they are not considered roads. This policy also seeks to encourage, support and uphold provisions of the Town's subdivision bylaws requiring private agreements for snow removal and maintenance of private roads so that the Town does not become unduly burdened with snow plowing of private roads created after the adoption of this policy or private roads that have such covenants or agreements. Authority to adopt this policy is granted to the Selectboard by a Town Meeting vote pursuant to M.G.L. c.40, section 6C.

In order for the Town to plow, or pay for plowing of any private road, the road must meet all of the following criteria:

1. They must be a private way in existence as of September 25, 2001.
2. The road may not be a shared driveway.
3. The road must be open to the public
4. The road must not be the subject of deed covenants or other private agreements for snow removal and sanding prior to September 25, 2001. Private roads which are the subject of deed covenants or other private agreements which lapse after September 25, 2001 shall not be plowed under this policy. Private roads created after September 25, 2001 shall not be plowed under this policy.
5. The road must be capable of being plowed, without causing damage to equipment, by the Town or any private contractor hired to do the work without the need for additional maintenance as determined by the Highway Superintendent.
6. A list of eligible roads should be submitted to the Selectboard by the Highway Superintendent by September 1st of each year. Approved roads must be adequately maintained throughout the year by the homeowners abutting the road.

The town will print a copy of this policy and a list of roads to be plowed pursuant to the policy in a legal advertisement each fall to inform the residents of the actions the Selectboard is taking.