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## TOWN of GOSHEN PRIVATE WAYS ICE & SNOW REMOVAL POLICY FY2021

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It is the policy of the Town of Goshen **not** to plow or sand private ways. In recognition that various private ways have been historically plowed and sanded by the Town, the following roads will be inspected annually subject to compliance with all the terms and conditions enumerated below.

### **Birch Road**

**Cherry Road** – This road failed inspection in FY2019 & FY2020 & FY2021. Therefore it is permanently removed from the eligibility list.

### **Hammond Circle**

**Lake Drive** – A portion of this road failed inspection for FY2019 & FY2020 & FY2021. Therefore, the portion past the corner where snow is plowed onto the golf course area, going down to the dam, is permanently removed from the eligibility list. ***NOTE: Constructive conversations with some members of the Hammond Acres Board have resulted in a temporary suspension of the removal of this portion of Lake Drive as a temporary turn around solution is to be implemented in the summer of 2021. Additionally there have been preliminary discussions about a possible long term solution involving work on the dam.***

### **Maple Road**

**Pine Road** – This road failed inspection in FY2019 & FY2020 & FY2021. Therefore it is permanently removed from the eligibility list. ***NOTE: Constructive conversations with some members of the Hammond Acres Board have resulted in a temporary suspension of the removal of Pine Road pending further monitoring and discussions.***

**Washington Road** - If vehicles are parked on the road this street will not be plowed. The town is aware that the residents at the location in question intend to move their vehicles BEFORE the snow is on the road. If the vehicles haven't been moved before the plows go by, the road won't be plowed.

**Washington Road South** – This road failed inspection in FY2019 & FY2020 & FY2021. Therefore it is permanently removed from the eligibility list.

1. The entire road width shall be greater than or equal to (15') feet wide.
2. Roadside clearance of any obstacles, including vegetation, shall be no less than two (2') feet on either side. This includes, but is not limited to, fences, mailboxes, vehicles, stonewalls, rocks, shrubs, trees or any other object that may be damaged by snow removal equipment, or damage snow removal equipment. The road shoulder shall allow for the movement of snow from the road to the shoulder during plowing.
3. Vehicles must **NOT** be parked on the road so that the plows can open the roads as much as possible. Failure to remove vehicles from the roadways will result in those roads not being plowed during a storm. This inspection is performed on a "per storm" basis at the beginning of the storm. This means that the road will, or will not, be plowed based on whether vehicles are parked on the road during the storm. This may result in a road being plowed during one storm but not during another storm. The determination is made at the time of the first pass of the plow during the storm. The Highway department is not responsible to re-inspect during the storm to determine if roads are clear of vehicles.
4. Height clearance shall be a minimum of eighteen (18') feet from the road surface. This is to ensure that branches or any other objects over hanging the roadway, when laden with snow, will not limit access or damage private or municipal property.
5. There must be ample room for snowplow vehicles to turn around if the road is a dead end. Space at the end of the road should be of sufficient size for town plows to be able to turn around in a safe manner. Turn around areas are required to be a minimum of twenty (20') feet wide and thirty (30') feet long.
6. Paved or unpaved private ways shall have no defects (potholes or ruts) exceeding two (2") inches in depth or height. This includes, but is not limited to, potholes, ruts, protruding rocks, catch basins and roots. It is the responsibility of the homeowners, or homeowners association to repair or correct any defects and to bear all costs for such repairs to bring the roads into compliance with these policies.

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7. All private ways shall have a visible street sign, which must be an acceptable Municipal Uniform Traffic Control Device. The sign is to be mounted on a round or square metal post with appropriate mounting cap. Current standards, adopted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, require new signs (when replacing old signs) to be nine (9") inches high with six (6") inch letters beginning January 2012.
8. The Highway department will perform yearly inspections of the above private ways. The Homeowners association will be notified as to the repairs required to bring their roads into compliance by a preliminary inspection report at least 30 days before the final inspection. This will be followed with a final inspection report provided after October 31 to verify if the required corrections have been made. Should a road not meet minimum requirements, the President of the homeowners association will be notified via e-mail. It is up to the homeowners association to notify people on the affected roads. If the road meets the requirements, plowing and sanding services will be provided for the current winter season subject to all the conditions enumerated in this policy document.
9. The Town is not liable for the condition of any private road. The Town is not liable for any damage as a result of plowing or sanding. Snow may be pushed in front of driveways and it is the resident's responsibility to clear this snow.
10. The Town is not liable for any contamination of water or land due to the use of salt, sand or other minerals or chemicals used in the removal of snow or ice on private ways.
11. Owners of private ways must pay for any repairs to town equipment, damaged during plowing or sanding due to inadequate road maintenance or conditions, by the end of the fiscal year in which the bill for the repair and notification by the Select Board was provided. Failure to pay within the allotted time will result in immediate suspension of Town plowing and sanding.
12. The Town will not plow or sand over any bridge or culvert that is not rated to support the full outfitted weight, including sand, of the vehicle.
13. All private ways that are designated in compliance with these policies and accepted by the Select Board for plowing of snow must be "open to public use" and have no signs indicating otherwise. In accordance with MGL chapter 40, section 6c.
14. If, due to staffing shortfalls as a result of staff departures, there are not enough people to safely plow the private ways in addition to public roads, plowing of private ways will be stopped until a safe level of staffing is again obtained. The Town is not responsible for the cost of any contract work to do plowing and sanding that the homeowners association engages during these periods.
15. If at any point there is not enough equipment to safely plow private ways in addition to public roads, plowing of private ways will become the lowest priority or be stopped until enough equipment is available to again plow private ways. The Town is not responsible for the cost of any contract work to do plowing and sanding that the homeowners association engages during these periods.
16. Only roads with homes occupied all year will be eligible to be plowed. The homeowners association must provide a list with the names and addresses of homes occupied year round on each street listed at the beginning of this document in an e-mail to [selectboard@goshen.ma.us](mailto:selectboard@goshen.ma.us) by September 30, 2020.
17. If a designated private way fails to comply with all of the terms and conditions above for three continuous years they will be permanently removed from future municipal snow removal and sanding eligibility.
18. The Homeowner's association is the responsible party for all communication regarding these requirements with occupants on eligible roads. Occupants on eligible roads should communicate directly with their board as to why a road was not plowed. Complaints should **NOT** be made to the Highway department as they are responsible for following the policy. The Select Board is the entity that determines the contents of this policy.

# GOSHEN PRIVATE ROADS ICE and SNOW REMOVAL FINAL INSPECTION REPORT FY2021

Descriptor	Birch Road	Cherry Road	Hammond Circle	Lake Drive	Maple Road	Pine Road	Washington Road	Washington Road South
Road width greater than or equal to 15'	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS
Roadside clearance of obstacles at least 2' on both sides	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS
Height clearance of 18 feet	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS
Vehicles must NOT be parked on the road	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	FAIL	CONDITIONAL FAILURE	CONDITIONAL FAILURE
Minimum Turn around area for Plows of 20' wide for 30' long	N/A	N/A	N/A	FAIL	N/A	N/A	N/A	FAIL
No defects exceeding 2" in either depth or height	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS
Visible Street Sign	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS
No Signs indicating the road is NOT open to public use	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS
Road has listed homes occupied year round	PASS	FAIL	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS
<b>RESULTS of INSPECTION</b>	PASS	FAIL	PASS	CONDITIONAL FAILURE	PASS	FAIL	CONDITIONAL FAILURE	FAIL
<b>CONDITIONS THAT NEED TO BE MET FOR ROADS LISTED BELOW TO BE PLOWED</b>								
Cherry Road	As there are no full time residents on this road it will only be plowed between Pine & Birch as a turn around area for the plow. It will not be plowed down to South Chesterfield Road. This road failed inspection in FY2019 & FY2020 & FY2021. Therefore it is permanently removed from the eligibility list.							
Lake Drive	There are two turn around area complications. From Pond Hill Road to the Golf Course can be plowed if you authorize the use of the parking area at the golf course as a place to turn around and deposit snow. From the hydrant to the turn at the golf course, to be safe for a plow, a proper area must be made for the plow to turn around and deposit snow. As a proper turn around area has not been made, Hammond Acres will need to plow from the dam to the turn at the Golf course. As the turn around area by the dam has not been fixed for a three years, this the portion of Lake Drive, from the dam to the top of hill is permanently removed from the eligibility list.							
Pine Road	This road failed inspection in FY2019 & FY2020 & FY2021. Therefore it is permanently removed from the eligibility list.							
Washington Road	Vehicles need to be removed from the road. If vehicles are parked on the road this street will not be plowed. The town is aware that the residents at the location in question intend to move their vehicles BEFORE the snow is on the road. If the vehicles haven't been moved before the plows go by, the road won't be plowed.							
Washington Road South	There is not a safe area of sufficient size for plows to turn around. Additionally, if there were a safe area of sufficient size for plows to turn around, vehicles would need to be removed from the road. This road failed inspection in FY2019 & FY2020 & FY2021. Therefore it is permanently removed from the eligibility list.							
<b>PRELIMINARY ROADS INSPECTION on September 16, 2020 by Highway Superintendent and Select Board member Wayne Glaser</b>								
<b>FINAL ROADS INSPECTION on October 22, 2020 by Highway Superintendent and Select Board member Wayne Glaser</b>								