

Town of Peacham
Highway Department
Winter Operations Policy
2004

Administrative Assistant	592-3101
Town Garage	592-3576
Pager	283-3242

This plan addresses the wintertime Public Works operations for ice and snow control on the Town roads of Peacham, Vermont.

Philip Jejer
Administrative Assistant
Approved by the Select Board
Dated: August 4, 2004

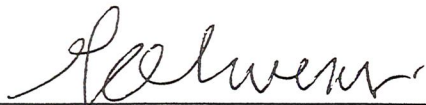
Resolution

Be it resolved that the Select Board of the town of Peacham adopts the following statements of policy regarding winter snow and ice clearing operations:

1. Notwithstanding the circumstances involved with changing climatic conditions, the Town will endeavor to keep Town roads in a reasonably safe condition for travelers and
2. Town employees will endeavor to exercise reasonable care and diligence in the performance of their duties and
3. Travelers who use Town roads are expected to demonstrate due care and reasonable caution, especially under adverse winter conditions.

Executed at Peacham, Vermont, this 4th day of August, 2004.

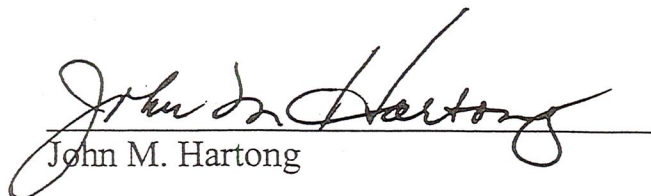
Select Board



Gary Swenson



Richard Browne



John M. Hartong

The Town of Peacham Highway Department has the responsibility of maintaining essential services on accepted Town roadways, 52 miles of which are gravel and 10 miles of which are paved. During the winter period extending generally from the 1st of November through the 30th of April, the Department's overall efforts are directed towards maintaining the roads during an extended period of high precipitation, low temperatures, and heavy winds, which together characterize the Vermont winter. Motorists should drive according to conditions, be aware of winter storm warnings, and vehicles should be properly equipped. The Administrative Assistant has direct responsibility for management acting under the general policy and authority of the Select Board.

Using the resources available at the time and judgement based on experience, the Administrative Assistant or his designated representative will determine the appropriate level and timing of snow and ice control to be performed by the department. Each driver is given the responsibility to make decisions regarding snow removal and the blend of materials and application rates to keep the roads trafficable and reasonably safe while concurrently minimizing costs.

Although significant improvements have been made in weather forecasting, accurate predictions of the specific effect of winter conditions on the roads in the Town of Peacham are not possible. A routine policy for clearing and treating roads is generally followed. However, each storm event is unique and deviations from this routine may occur. Decisions must be made using individual judgement based upon a current assessment of the situation. Following each storm event, the Administrative Assistant will do an after-action review of the methods used. These decisions will be reviewed for future adjustments in managing winter storm operations.

Roads with the heaviest usage and history of severest conditions have the highest priority. (For example, bus routes, and black top.) The time frame for clearing can vary markedly depending on conditions and continuing effects of a storm. Other factors affecting the plan are:

- Nighttime plowing
- Commuter traffic
- Parked cars
- Equipment breakdown
- Assistance to fire/police departments
- Assistance to school buses
- Time length since start of storm

It is important to wingback snow on road shoulders following each major storm. This is an ongoing function, which needs to be addressed as soon as storms subside.

In an emergency situation where the Town equipment is out of service for repair or the situation is beyond the ability of the Town to handle, supplemental equipment and operators may be rented from area contractors.

Title 19, Section 111 prohibits encroachment of the Town right-of-way without prior approval by the Select Board. Objects in the right-of-way are placed there at the owner's risk and the Town assumes no responsibility for any damage to objects placed in violation of the statutes. Common items damaged are fences, flowerpots, etc., all placed in the Town right-of-way.

Title 19, Section 1111 (b) V.S.A. prohibits plowing snow across a Town or State highway in a way that leaves snow in the roadway. Violation of this law may result in a \$100.00 fine or 30 days imprisonment or both. A violator may also be liable for damages to vehicles.