

Town of Waitsfield

WAITSFIELD, VERMONT 05673

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

I. Acceptance of Highways:

The following policy concerning acceptance of highways has been adopted by the Board of Selectmen at their regular meeting of December 8, 1986, and shall remain in force and effect until further action of said Board.

a. Defenitions

1. Highway-Means a way for vehicular traffic including highway, road, avenue, street, lane or other designation.
2. Entrances-or curb cuts-driveways or road providing access to State and/or Town Highways.
3. Specifications-Specifications herein refer to State of Vermont Department of Highways Standard Specifications for Highway and Bridge Construction, Vermont Department of Highway Standard A-76-"Standard for Development Roads" and Standards for residential and commercial drives as provided in town ordinances, all of which are hereby and herein incorporated by reference.

- b. Policy - It is hereby declared to be the policy of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Waitsfield that they will consider applications for the acceptance of public highways. Written application shall be made to the Board of Selectmen a minimum of four (4) weeks prior to proposed starting date of construction.

Application for acceptance of local roads received prior to adoption of this policy will be evaluated under existing guidelines which are based in part on State of Vermont Department of Highway Standard Specifications for Highway and Bridge Construction, Vermont Department of Highway Standard A-76 "Standards for Development Road and standards for residential and commercial drives as provided in town ordinances.

The Selectmen or their delegate shall inspect the proposed site within the four week period. Maps or surveys to scale prepared by an engineer certified by the State of Vermont, of the site and proposed highways acceptable to the Selectmen shall be submitted with the application in triplicate. The grade line and minimum radii of all curves must be shown. The center line of the highways shall be staked and flagged in the field, before application and inspection at 50 foot intervals. The decision on an application for acceptance of a highway is reserved to be the sole and absolute discretion of the Board of Selectmen, there being considerations to be made in determining whether the grant or denial of an application for the acceptance of a highway is in the best interest of and will best serve the public good, welfare, the safety and the convenience of the inhabitants of the Town.

- c. Inspection - The Selectmen or their delegate (s) shall inspect the highway site as follows:

1. Before clearing
2. Before stumping
3. After rough grading
4. Upon completion of subgrade
5. During graveling
6. After completion of road surface
7. Final inspection

Developer or his representative will advise Town with reasonable advance notice when inspection may be carried out.

- d. Completion Deadline - No highway will be inspected or accepted between October 15 and April 15. Highway specifications in effect at the time of the initial inspection will be applicable for a period of two years from that date after which time any new highway specifications will apply. All applications, once received, will be valid for two years and the proposed highway must be completed within that time frame unless a different time frame is agreed to by the Board of Selectmen.
- e. Fees - It is the express and stated intent of the Town that it shall bear no expense for any work or cost incurred in the acceptance of a way as a public way. A minimum fee of \$0.50 per linear foot of way proposed for acceptance shall be paid to the Town by the applicant or developer before the acceptance of the way as a public way. All other expenses beyond said minimum, should there be any, shall be paid to the Town before acceptance of the way as a public way. Signs required and meeting specifications of M.U.T.C.D. and the Board of Selectmen shall be installed and paid for by the Applicant. The minimum fee (\$0.50 per linear Foot) shall accompany each application.
- f. Right of Way - The right-of-way shall be a minimum of 50 feet in width plus slope and drainage rights if deemed necessary by the Selectmen. Center of the highway is to be located in the center of the right-of-way; marked title to the Selectmen, after notification of final acceptance, shall be deeded to the Town by Warranty Deed, including a metes and bounds description of the limits of the right-of-way. An as built survey map meeting Vermont State Statutes for recording of the finished highway shall be furnished to the Board of Selectmen. Also, said map shall contain the profile and cross section as built.
- g. Clearing-Right-of-Way shall be cleared full width of all trees, brush, and stumps; additional clearing may be required as deemed necessary by the Board of Selectmen (sight, distance, etc.). No fallen trees shall remain in the right-of-way. All stumps shall be removed from bed of highway. All mud, mulch and soft earth shall be removed, so that the base of the road is on hardpan, gravel, ledge or properly compacted fill.
- h. Sub grade- The sub grade surface shall be constructed in close conformity in cross section and grade to the finished highway surface. Crowning and banking on curves shall be as required by Selectmen. Compaction is required on any portion of the sub grade which has been disturbed by excavation or which has been filled during the construction of the sub grade. All ditches and drains shall be constructed so that they effectively drain the sub grade prior to the placement of the sub base material. Grade stakes on both sides of the road are required at 50 foot intervals.

- i. Sub Base - The sub base shall be composed of a minimum of 12 inches of clean compacted gravel with a maximum stone size of 8 inches. The cross section and grade of the sub base shall conform to that of the finished surface.
- j. Surface - The surface shall be crowned at a rate of 1/2" per foot of half width for normal sections and a maximum of 1" per foot on curves. The surface shall consist of a minimum of 6 inches of compacted crushed gravel 2 1/2 feet in width with a maximum stone size of 1 inch. Paved highways shall be paved with a minimum thickness of 3" and crowned at a rate of 1/4" per foot of half width.
- k. Shoulders - Shoulders, if required by the Selectmen, shall be a minimum of 2 feet in width on each side and shall be constructed to the same specifications as the highway sub grade, sub base, and surface.
- l. Turnarounds and Cul-De-Sacs - Shall be 80 feet in diameter and level; right-of-way to be 100 feet. The entire turnarounds shall be built to sub grade, sub base, and surface specifications. Turnarounds will be inspected separately from highway before and after clearing and after rough grading. Provisions shall be made at the perimeter for snow storage. No cul de sacs shall be more than 1,000 feet in length and will conform to A-76 specifications.
- m. Ditches - Drainage ditches shall be constructed at least 6 inches below the top of the sub grade and 2 1/2 inches below the finished surface of the road. This depth is to be measured from the outer edge of the road bed. Bottom ditches shall be minimum of 18 inches wide, as measured in the trough, and unobstructed. Suitable ditch protection dependent upon material and grade may be required as deemed necessary by the Selectmen (jute, matting, stone, etc.).
- n. Curves - Radius of curves shall be long enough to permit easy flow of traffic, including trucks, graders, and fire engines, with at least a 100 foot radius in all cases, measured on the center line.
- o. Intersections - When roads intersect they shall do so at an angle of 9 degrees for a minimum distance of 75 feet from the center line of the intersected road and shall have a maximum grade for this distance of 3%.
- p. Culverts - All culverts must extend to the near edge of the ditch on both sides of the highway. Culverts shall be a minimum of 18 inches in diameter or larger if required and spaced no greater than 400 feet apart in one continuous ditch line, unless a shorter distance is specified by the Selectmen or delegates after inspection. Culvert pipe shall meet Vermont Agency of Transportation specifications for Highway and Bridge Construction. Culverts shall be placed on uniformly bedded compacted gravel and backfilled so that no stones 3" and larger come into direct contact with the pipe. Stone or concrete headers shall be built at the inlet on all culverts 18 inch diameter and larger and at the outlet of all culverts 48" and larger. Any culvert which empties onto a slope must extend far enough to allow for proper rip-rapping to prevent erosion. Culvert post, 6-foot pressure treated, cedar 5 inches + in diameter shall be placed 3 feet in the ground at the inlet and outlet.

- q. Bridges - Plans for bridges must be submitted for review prior to commencing construction. Construction will be authorized only after a review by State Highway Engineering personnel indicates that the bridge will meet all applicable Vermont Transportation Agency specifications.
- r. Grades - 75 feet of level road is required before entering into a maximum 5% grade, and 75 feet additional before entering into a maximum of 8%.
- s. Slopes - Earth slopes within the right-of-way shall be 1 on 2 or flatter. Slopes outside the right-of-way shall be satisfactory for visibility and proper erosion control. Rock slopes shall be cut no steeper than 4 on 1.
- t. Guard Rails - Steel beam with steel posts, guard rail and anchors meeting Vermont Agency of Transportation specifications shall be placed along any fill having a slope of less than 1 on 3 and more than a 5 foot vertical drop or shall be placed as required by the Board of Selectmen.
- u. Private Entrances to Town Highways - Maintenance of private culverts is to be and remains forever the responsibility of the driveway owner. An application form is to be filed with fees at the discretion of the Selectmen, (See Application form).

Underground services require a sleeve and marker posts as in p. above to locate such and must be referenced on the as-built map.

- v. Curb Cuts - Such will conform to specifications as set forth in local ordinance. Care and attention shall be given to allow for the safe passage of fire equipment and/or other emergency equipment.
- w. Initial Acceptance - When the highway has been completed, inspected and a minimum of three (3) houses have been completed, the Town at its sole discretion may, upon request, begin normal maintenance for a 12 month period.

Final Acceptance - After 12 months of maintenance, if no serious defects have been observed, the deed will be recorded and the highway will become a Town Highway. During the 12 months initial acceptance/trial period, any flaws or defects which are pointed out to the highway builder will be his sole responsibility to correct.

- x. Non Acceptance - In the event the proposed highway for acceptance is not accepted for any reason or cause, developer shall reimburse Town ofr all costs incurred including normal maintenance.
- y. Violations - The responsibility of any violation of the above rests equally with the owner and/or persons or contractors or developers who accomplish the work. The penalties shall be assessed in accordance with Title 19, Section 43 of Vermont Statutes Annotated.

DATE: JANUARY 14, 1987

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