

Sidewalk Policy

Snow Removal:

During snow events, it is the first priority of the Department of Public Works (DPW) to clear streets and make them safe. Thereafter, the DPW is responsible for clearing sidewalks it deems appropriate or as defined by the Selectboard. Depending on the severity of the snow event, it may take 2-3 days to clear those designated sidewalks.

Generally, the Town does not regulate requiring residents to remove snow from sidewalks adjacent their home. Except for the sidewalks that the DPW clears, that responsibility is left to the residents. However, it is prohibitive to block or obstruct sidewalks with snow once it has been cleared, unless it is DPW roadway cleared snow.

New Sidewalks:

Where sidewalks currently do not exist and new sidewalks are proposed, said sidewalks shall be cement and built to a standard compliant with local regulations (or with AASHTO standards in the absence of local regulations) and in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. In the event of conflicting regulation, the most stringent rule shall apply. Where the Town finds a new segment cannot be constructed to such standards due to a pre-existing hardship, the Superintendent of Public Works may allow relief from such standard but only in the immediate area in which the pre-existing hardship exists.

Repairing and Replacing Sidewalks:

Where sidewalks currently exist and significant repair or replacement is necessary, said sidewalks should be cement and built to a standard described in New Sidewalks above. If other materials are in place (e.g., slate), those materials may continue to be used, unless the work involves a major repair/replacement of significant length then cement should be used.

Obstructions:

The Town reserves the right to reasonably clear any obstruction (e.g., tree limbs, shrubbery, snow, etc.) within a Town sidewalk right-of-way/easement to make the sidewalk pedestrian-friendly and/or compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

This policy is adopted by the Fair Haven Selectboard this 10th day of June 2013.

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Christopher Cole, Chair

[Handwritten signature of Jeff Sheldon]

Jeff Sheldon

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Claire Stanley, Clerk

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David Ward

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Bob Richards