

WINTER ROAD POLICY

TOWN OF SHARON

(Revised 2005)

A written policy is essential to receive the full benefit of the liability protection found in RSA 231:92-a.

Sharon's Winter Road Policy is to try and maintain and make our roads as safe as possible during the winter season. The roads maintained by the Town of Sharon are: Nashua Road, Temple Road, Greenleaf Road, Mountain Road, McCoy Road, Cross Road, Sliptown Road, Spring Hill Road starting at the intersection of Jarmany Hill Road to the Jaffrey/Sharon town line, and Mill Road. State maintained roads are: Route 123, Route 124, Jarmany Hill Road, and Spring Hill Road from the intersection of Jarmany Hill Road to the Sharon/Peterborough town line.

Sharon's school bus route will be maintained first because of the need to have our roads as safe as possible for the transporting of our students.

Sharon does not use a large amount of salt, therefore, our roads, depending on the season, could be ice and snow covered for a period of time. The town will do its best to try and remove as much as possible from the surface of the road by means of a grader or other equipment.

Per order of the Selectmen pursuant to RSA 41:11, the town has adopted a Winter Parking Ordinance which states that:

No person shall park any vehicle upon any Town highway at any time of the day between November 15th and April 1st. Violation of this ordinance shall be deemed to be the responsibility of the registered owner of the vehicle.

Each date during or on which a violation shall occur or continue shall be considered a separate offence. The penalty for each Violation shall be \$25.00. Unlawfully parked vehicles may be towed and stored at the expense of the registered owner.

If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect the other provisions or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are severable.

The purpose of this winter parking ban is to allow winter maintenance crews unobstructed snow removal and ice control methods, as much as possible, to maintain the maximum effectiveness of their efforts. Private roads, private drives, private businesses and parking areas, per RSA 231:93 imposes no duty to maintain such an area.

Roads to summer cottages open for summer maintenance only, because RSA 231:79-81 exempts the municipality from duties of winter maintenance.

Plowing our roads will not commence until snow has accumulated to a sufficient amount, unless slippery road conditions occur first. Roads will continue to be plowed according to the accumulation of snow as determined by the Road Agent. Four inches of a "cold" snow provides better traction than two inches of wet snow on a frozen road surface.

After completion of each snow and or ice storm, roads will be sanded if necessary, to help the covered roads melt and make our roads safe. It should be noted that salt has a much slower effect on melting snow and ice at

temperatures below 25 degrees, extremely slow at 20 degrees and at 10 degrees it stops and turns into an icy condition.

Driveway plowing across Town roads will not be allowed. This narrows the road and compacts the snow bank, making it much more difficult for our contractors to plow and push back snow. This will be enforced by the Road Agent.

During the course of the winter, as snow depths get increasingly higher, and our roads get narrower, roads will be widened and snow pushed off to the sides as much as possible.

The town has one part-time Road Agent who engages the services of contractors to carry out its winter maintenance operations.

For communication the town is equipped with radios and its own frequency enabling operators to communicate amongst themselves, the Emergency Management Director and a Selectman.

Emergency situations that arise during an event, equipment can be diverted at the request of a police or fire officer, emergency management director or an incident commander, from a planned snow removal route, responding to a motor vehicle accident, fire or a medical emergency. (RSA 154:7)

It should be noted that the town is not held responsible for damage to private property that is located within the public right-of-way. (RSA 231:92-a) The right-of-way (ROW) is often 50' wide, and is often confused by property owners as their own property. In most cases, the ROW often extends 10 to 20 feet of either side of the paved or graveled road. Home owners often cultivate extensions of their lawns, place mailboxes, erect fences or stonewalls in these areas, which improves the appearance of the street greatly, but is obstructive to good maintenance from being conducted on the roadway.

In the event of personal property damage, the Town of Sharon will only be responsible to repair or replace damaged property having been in actual contact with the snow removal equipment that is on private property and not within the public right-of-way.

RSA 215-A:6 states OHRV's are not permitted to operate on the traveled portion or within the right-of-way or any public way, including roads, streets, highways, bridges, parking lots, sidewalks or ways that are maintained by any city, town, county, state or federal agency, except when specifically allowed and posted.

It is unlawful to:

- Operate as to endanger any person or damage property
- Operate on any road or within the right-of-way except where authorized and posted
- Chase or harass wildlife
- Operate on **town roads** or sidewalks unless posted for OHRV's
- Operate on or across any highway bridge unless posted as open for OHRV's
- Tow any person or sled without a rigid hitch.

The town does not allow snowmobiling on town roads.

It is important that people take into account and be aware of weather and road conditions while driving Sharon's roads. Please drive cautiously and safely at a reasonable rate of speed, so as not to endanger other vehicles and or pedestrians.

TO ALL A SAFE WINTER

