

Town of Moretown Class IV Road and Trails Policy
Adopted by vote of the Select Board 9/17/12
Revised 10/21/13 to add #7 & #8

It is the goal of the Town of Moretown to provide regular to semi-regular maintenance on all class IV roads that are in sufficiently good condition as to allow them to be maintained by the Town. The purpose of this goal is the continued protection of town assets.

1. Class IV Road and Town Trail Definitions:

Class IV Road: Class IV roads are all other roads not falling under definitions of class I, II, and III highways. Class I, II, and III are defined in Vermont Statutes for the purpose of receiving state aid and are passable by a pleasure vehicle on a year-round basis.

Town Trail: Trail means a public right-of-way which is not a highway and which:

- a. Previously was a designated highway and having the same width as the designated town highway, or a lesser width if so designated, or
- b. A new public right-of-way laid out as a trail by the Selectboard for the purpose of providing access to abutting properties or for recreational use.

2. Class IV Road Classification:

It is the policy of the Selectboard to discourage the reclassification and/or upgrading of class IV roads and trails. However, it is the right of a landowner to request changes in highway status. The Selectboard, if so petitioned, will follow the procedures set out in Title 19, V.S.A., § 708-716.

All class IV roads will be placed into one of two groups by a committee of three made up of the road foreman, road commissioner and Selectboard road liaison. Criteria used to group class IV roads will be condition, topography, slope and use. The select board will review and approve the groupings. The groups will be as follows:

Group A: These roads are determined to be of sufficiently good condition that town equipment will not be damaged if used on these roads.

Group B: These roads are determined to be not gradeable by town equipment.

Class IV roads in which the actual location is not discernable by either the Selectboard or the current road foreman will be placed into Group B.

Residents of Class IV roads may request a change in grouping at any time throughout the year. All changes will be made via joint decision of the road foreman, road commissioner and Selectboard road liaison and approved by the Selectboard.

3. Summer Maintenance: Effective October 1, 2012

It is the policy of the Town of Moretown that public expenditures on Class IV town highways and trails should be held to a minimum amount necessary that the public investment is preserved through basic maintenance; and limited to the amount budgeted and approved by the Selectboard on an annual basis.

Regular maintenance is defined as shaping and grading yearly or every other year. No staymat or other purchased material will be provided by the town; however, if residents of class IV roads provide the materials, the town will, if possible, provide the manpower and equipment to shape and grade road. Please note that all materials provided by residents must be approved by the road foreman before applying to road surface. If no materials are provided, the road crew will shape and grade to the best of their ability. Residents providing materials and requesting assistance from the town in the form of manpower and equipment should make all requests in writing to the road foreman no later than May 15. The road foreman will then schedule the work at the convenience of the road crew.

In addition, bridges and culverts associated with class IV roads will be periodically reviewed by the road foreman to determine their functionality. This inspection does not obligate the town in any way to maintain stated bridges and culverts.

Roads in Group B will receive no Summer Maintenance of any kind.

Town Trails will receive no Summer Maintenance of any kind.

All private maintenance on public right-of-ways must conform to the current approved town policy and permitting processes.

4. Winter Maintenance: – Effective May 1, 2013

It is the policy of the Town that class IV roads, town trails and private roads will receive no winter maintenance, including but not limited to snow plowing and the pushing back of snow banks. The winter maintenance of these roads is the responsibility of the resident in all circumstances.

5. Control:

The Selectboard shall exercise control of class IV roads and trails to ensure their integrity as a public right-of-way by means which may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Enforcement of vehicle weight limits.
- b. Prohibition or restriction of wheeled vehicle use during mud and snow season; signs and barriers may be utilized to accomplish this purpose.
- c. Requirements for temporary permits for heavy equipment access may be imposed and the stipulation included that any highway damaged will be repaired by or at the expense of the user; posting of bond or other security to guarantee that repairs are made may be required as a condition of any permits.
- d. Speed limits may be established.

6. Policy Review:

This class IV and town trail maintenance policy should be reviewed each year to ensure that directives put forth in this policy are working to the benefit of the Town of Moretown.

7. Disaster or Emergency Maintenance:

In case of a disaster or an unforeseen emergency event, the town will restore a class IV road or trail to its pre-disaster condition.

8. Use of Free or Donated Material:

The Road Foreman may haul and place free or donated materials onto class IV roads or trails as he sees fit, after the approval of the Selectboard.