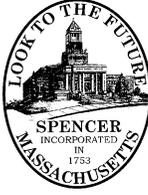


# TOWN OF SPENCER

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## Winter Plowing Damage and Mailbox Policy

The Town of Spencer Select Board voted at their March 26, 2012 Meeting to enact the following Winter Plowing Damage and Mailbox Policy.

### General:

1. The Town is not responsible for damage to, repairing or replacing private property including, but not limited to, signs, vehicles, landscaping, fences, mailboxes and other structures, etc. placed within Town owned road right-of-way (ROW) / layout. The Town owns the roadside right-of-way (i.e., the land areas adjacent to the road pavement) and must retain all rights to maintain these areas for clear visibility, snow storage and public safety or public need purposes.
2. The construction/placement of walls, fences or other structures within Town owned right-of-way is already prohibited by existing laws. The purpose of this policy is to clarify Town and private property owner responsibilities.

### Mailboxes:

1. The construction/installation of concrete, granite post, brick, block or other unyielding or other unsafe mailboxes or other structures that pose a hazard to traffic as determined by the Superintendent of Utilities and Facilities within Town owned right-of-way is further prohibited by this policy.
2. The Utilities and Facilities Superintendent shall be responsible for establishing standard requirements for type of construction and placement of mailboxes within Town owned road right-of-way (ROW) / layout which may reference common accepted safe practices; and/or FHWA, AASHTO, MassDOT, USPS or other applicable requirements.

### Lawns:

1. The Town is not responsible for grooming or repairing grass lawns, sod or other roadside vegetation damaged by routine snow plowing and removal operations.
2. It should be expected that damage to roadside vegetation, lawns, etc. will likely occur during routine plowing, snow removal and/or roadside maintenance operations. Abutters are permitted to maintain these areas as extensions of their grass lawns, however the Town is not obligated to repair or maintain them in any way especially not to the potentially varying conditions or standards of the abutter.
3. If the resident or property owner feels extensive amounts of lawn damage has occurred due to Town performed snow plowing or removal operations a report can be sent to the Highway Department for repair consideration in the spring season.

### Snow Plow Limit Markers:

1. The placement of metal rods or metal stakes of any kind on Town ROW or as roadside snow plow limit markers or for private signs are strictly prohibited. The use of wood stakes greater than three fourth inch (3/4") diameter or square are also prohibited. Steel and wooden stakes can penetrate when struck or they can become dangerous projectiles and for these reasons are therefore prohibited.
2. Residents may use small diameter break away plastic or fiber glass stakes designed for roadway demarcation and approved by the Utilities and Facilities Superintendent to mark areas to aid in preventing snow plow or removal damage.

**Re: Enforcement of Spencer's Winter Plowing Damage and Mailbox Policy**

Dear Spencer Resident,

Please refer to the Winter Plowing Damage and Mailbox Policy provided on the reverse side of this sheet including but not limited to the section regarding Snow Plow Limit Markers. As you can see, for safety reasons the use or placement of metal rods or metal stakes of any kind on Town right-of-way (ROW) or as roadside snow plow limit markers or for private signs are strictly prohibited. The use of wood stakes greater than three fourth inch (3/4") diameter or square are also prohibited. Steel and wooden stakes can penetrate when struck by a vehicle or they can become dangerous projectiles and for these reasons they are prohibited.

Furthermore, while we understand the desire to demarcate the edge of paved road for winter plow operations, the edge of road and several or more feet beyond the existing edge of paved surface is in fact Town owned land and it serves as the area used for snow plow storage during the winter season. Therefore as a matter of safety for Town employees and other drivers, and for adequate snow storage, this office is hereby directing you to do the following right away, as may be applicable to current conditions at your property.

1. Remove all metal rods or metal stakes or wood stakes greater than three fourth inch (3/4") diameter or square of any kind from all Town ROW.
2. Remove and/or do not place markers of any kind in Town owned ROW on or near the edge of existing pavement or as roadside snow plow limit markers or for private signs. Plow limit markers should not be placed any closer than 2-4 feet from the edge of paved surface so that the Town owned roadside land area is unobstructed and available for roadside snow storage.

Thank you for your understanding and assistance with this matter. Feel free to contact our office if any questions or concerns.

Thank You,

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