

# **Town of Buckfield**

## **Winter Sidewalk Maintenance Policy**

### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the maintenance of sidewalks during winter weather events. This policy is established to prioritize the safety of Town maintained roads while addressing the sidewalk maintenance as resources allow. This policy aims to ensure the efficient use of Public Works resources while promoting public safety, as the municipal budget allows.

### **2. Priority**

The primary focus of winter maintenance operations in the Town of Buckfield is to ensure the safety and accessibility of roads for vehicular traffic. Therefore, the plowing and sanding of roads will be the top priority for the Public Works Department during winter weather events.

### **2. Sidewalk Maintenance**

Sidewalks are considered secondary in the Town's winter maintenance operations. While efforts will be made to clear sidewalks following winter storms, the timing and extent of sidewalk clearing will be dependent on available resources after addressing road conditions.

### **3. Resident and Business Owner Responsibility**

Residents and business owners are responsible for the safety of their visitors and patrons. If access to a sidewalk is required before Public Works can properly clear the sidewalks, it is the responsibility of the property owner to ensure the sidewalk is cleared for safe passage.

### **4. High Hazard Areas**

High hazard areas within the Town include locations with steep inclines, heavy pedestrian traffic, and heavy vehicular traffic. The Town Manager in consultation with the Road Commissioner may deem sections of the Town as high hazard areas.

High Hazard Areas requiring the use of larger equipment such as the bucket loader will only be cleared between the hours of 12 AM and 6 AM when traffic is minimal to reduce the risk of injury to personnel and damage to equipment.

### 5. Equipment Breakdown

In the event that equipment necessary for sidewalk maintenance breaks down, sidewalk clearing may be delayed until the equipment is repaired. The timing of repairs will be dependent on the availability of funds within the budget allocated for winter sidewalk maintenance in the current fiscal year.

### 6. Liability

Pursuant to Maine statute (Title 23, Part 1, Chapter 13, Subchapter 3, §3652), the Town of Buckfield is not liable for any claims of injury resulting from winter weather conditions, including but not limited to icy sidewalks or roadways. It is the responsibility of individuals to exercise caution and take appropriate measures to ensure their safety during winter weather events.

### 7. Review and Amendments

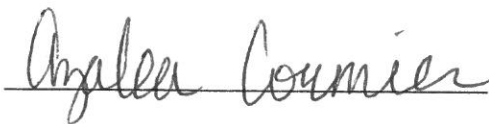
This policy will be periodically reviewed and amended by the Buckfield Select Board as necessary to ensure its effectiveness in addressing the needs of the community while prioritizing safety and efficient use of resources during winter weather events.

### 8. Adoption

This policy was adopted by the Buckfield Select Board at a duly called meeting on February 6, 2024.

  
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