

# Snow Removal Policy

There are 29 miles of streets in Town. Due to the high costs of removing snow, it is important for the Department of Public Works to use its resources wisely with cooperation from the residents to minimize the cost. Additionally, the state CTDOT plows Routes 49, 138, & 165.

**Plow Routes** – The streets are plowed and salted in order of priority. Main (collector) roads are addressed first with special attention to steep hills, and difficult intersections. Side streets are done next, then dead end streets. Side streets will remain unplowed if the main roads require repeated plowing. This may not seem fair to the residents of side streets or dead ends, but main roads must remain open.

**Blocked Driveways** – All snow plows angle the same way – to the driver's right – and when going by they will push the snow in front of a driveway. The homeowner is responsible for access to his driveway. The only way to avoid extra shoveling is to wait until DPW crews have done their final clean up on the street.

**Mailbox Damage** – The Town repairs or replaces only mailboxes and/or posts that are actually struck by a plow blade. Usually a paint mark or truck tire tracks supply evidence of a mailbox strike. **The Town does not repair or replace mailboxes and/or posts that fall from the force of plowed snow.** Mailboxes and supporting posts must be installed to withstand the rigors of snow removal, including the force of snow pushed from the street onto the roadside.

**Street Parking** – The Town plows need all roadways, including cul-de-sacs, to be cleared of vehicles and personal property, including but not limited to boats, trailers, campers and basketball hoops, to provide access and efficient snow clearing capability. During a storm, residents should park in their driveways and not on the streets. It is a safety hazard to residents and plow drivers when vehicles are parked in the road. Not only do parked vehicles reduce the sightline for pedestrians and oncoming vehicles, but they also force the plows to veer out of the travel lane. Please remove vehicles from the roadway prior to a snow/ice storm. Similar to mailboxes, DPW is only responsible for damage done to a vehicle as a result of the plow blade actually striking the vehicle, not the effect of snow, ice, or salt hitting the vehicle as a result of plowing.

**Private Plowing** – The Town of Voluntown prohibits plow contractors and residents from pushing snow from driveways or parking lots onto Town streets. This practice is dangerous and impedes the Town's snow removal efforts. If there is no other alternative to pushing snow into the street, the plow driver must plow off the windrow left across the street by re-plowing until the road is safe. This may not necessarily mean bare pavement, but certainly it should be no worse than when the driver began work.

**Snow Stakes:** The Town of Voluntown Highway Department reminds Voluntown residents to install “snow stakes” now before the ground freezes. It is difficult to distinguish between the pavement edge and the edge of a lawn in heavy snowfall. Installing stakes along property edges as close to the pavement as possible without interfering with traffic will help homeowners avoid

unsightly lawn damage this winter, especially for properties with underground sprinklers or invisible fencing. Snow stakes should be 30-36" high and can be purchased at a local hardware store. If using wooden stakes, paint the top 3" of the stakes red to increase visibility against the snow.

**Re-Plowing/Snow Removal Concerns** - If you have snow removal concerns call the Town Hall at 860-376-5880.