

TOWN OF STRAFFORD
 P. O. Box 27
 Strafford, Vermont 05072

Town Office 1-802-765-4411
 Town Garage 1-802-765-4550

TOWN OF STRAFFORD
 POLICY REGARDING CLASS IV HIGHWAYS & TOWN TRAILS

This policy is adopted by the Board of Selectmen pursuant to the authority granted in Title 19, VSA, Chapters 3 & 7.

It is the policy of the Town of Strafford that the rights-of-way for highways classified as Class 4 town highways and for town trails should be retained for the public good in the form of access for recreation and landowner purposes.

Further, it is the intent that where Class 4 highways are routinely used by landowners that the highways be in no better condition than that they may be traversable by four-wheel drive, high clearance vehicles during the months of May through October.

Where a Class 4 Town Highway provides an alternative seasonal or emergency route for a Class II or Class III Town Highway, the Road Foreman, with the approval of the Select Board, shall use his/her discretion about the degree of maintenance needed. This maintenance shall not constitute improvements or upgrades.

It is the policy of the Town of Strafford that the property owner who buys or wishes to build and live year-round on a Class 4 Town Highway will have to keep his road open for his/her own use and expense during the winter season by plowing and sanding the highway, subject to the directions of the Select Board. The property owner(s) accepts liability for such work.

Landowners and others served by a Class 4 town highway or town trail may make certain improvements for their convenience at their cost and as approved in advance by the Select Board. With the approval of the Select Board and subject to written agreement, the Town road crew personnel and Town equipment may make improvements with equitable payment made by the landowner(s) to reimburse the Town.


The Select Board may prohibit or restrict wheeled vehicle use on Class 4 town highways or town trails during mud and snow season and utilize signs and barriers to accomplish this purpose.

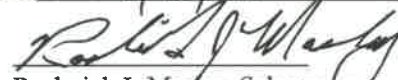
Use of a Class 4 town highway or town trail by trucks and equipment in excess of posted weight limits is allowed only by permission of the Select Board, which may impose on the applicant a requirement for compensation for damage to--or reconstruction of--the highway or town trail. In addition, the Select Board may request a copy of the applicant's motor vehicle insurance policy as well as require the applicant to post a cash bond or letter of credit as security for any restoration work that needs to be done.

In order to preserve Strafford's rural character and minimize public investment in its most remote areas, the Town of Strafford does not encourage the upgrading and/or reclassification of Class 4 town highways and town trails. However, it is the right of the landowner to request changes in road status. The Select Board, if requested, will follow the procedures set out in Title 19, VSA, Sections 708-716.

APPROVED BY THE STRAFFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN:


 Stephen Willbanks, Chair


 Karl D. Johnston, Selectman

6/23/10

 Roderick J. Maclay, Selectman