



## Snow and Ice Procedures for the Town of Phillips

Winter weather presents a myriad of challenges for the Public Works Department. This report is a communication of these challenges to the residents of the Town of Phillips and the procedures that are followed to remove snow and ice from our roadways safely and as soon as practicable.

Snow removal is handled in the safest and most efficient way possible. Current weather conditions, equipment and manpower all play roles in the continual upkeep of winter roads. The best efforts are taken by the crew to maintain safe passage for our citizens. The crew needs to take into consideration the type of storm they are dealing with; the time of day; traffic conditions; how fast the snow (ice, rain) is falling and the duration of the storm. Heavy winds needs to be factored into this consideration as roads will need continued scraping even without precipitation to stay open in some instances.

The Town of Phillips plows approximately 58 center line miles of roadway. That translates out to 116 lane miles. Three plow routes cover these miles. Priority is given to the highest traffic roads and school bus routes. These areas will be plowed and treated first, followed next by public safety areas, dangerous intersections and hills, and municipal facilities.

Each plow route has its own cycle time. Route times are between 3 and 4 hours and are extended beyond that plowing in adverse weather conditions. The trucks have to travel at a low rate of speed to maintain safety and effectiveness. The drivers continue to work till the snow stops and the job is done resulting in long hours without rest or sleep.

Snow removal begins when an accumulation within a reasonable time as conditions warrant. Other factors may result in the Road Commissioner calling in the road crew earlier. The Road Commissioner monitors several weather reports in preparation of a storm and responds to the alerts from the Farmington Sheriff's Dispatch. Weather on one side of town can be completely different than the other side of town. As each storm is different, depth of snow, water content, icy storms, rain and resulting freezes with a drop in temperature all need to be considered for removal and treatment.

The town utilizes sand/salt mix. Unlike State roads that use straight salt, the road will not bare up as fast as those routes. During a storm, it is impossible to maintain a bare road, free of snow and ice. People should only travel if absolutely necessary, realizing this is a part of life, living in Maine. As noted above, high traffic roads will be addressed first, followed by the remaining route, with the intent to treat the roads so that they bare off as soon as possible with salt and sand applications geared toward that goal.

With best intent and effort in mind, there are situations that occur that will delay the clearing of roads. These situations include, but are not limited to, equipment breakdown, snow accumulation in excess of 1" per hour, freezing rain and other ice conditions, blizzards, high winds or emergency situations.

Phillips has a '**NIGHT PARKING ORDINANCE**' that describes:

*It shall be unlawful to park any vehicle on any street of the Town of Phillips from the hours of 11:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M. during the snow removal season. Penalty: Any vehicle in violation of this ordinance shall be removed from the street at the expense of the owner, and shall be recovered only after payment of said costs.*

Vehicles cannot be parked in the town right of way on urban or rural roads or snow plow turnarounds.

A parked vehicle that is "interfering with snow removal or the normal movement of traffic" can be removed by law enforcement. Vehicles in violation of parking in such places will be subject to towing at the cost of the owner.

It is illegal to plow snow across a public street. Sand and salt applications could be removed causing hazardous conditions by plowing across the road. The Road Commissioner has the authority to contact law enforcement to investigate these situations. Please respect the efforts put into clearing the roadways and folk traveling the roads while removing snow from your driveways and walkways. **State Law states this as well:** *A person may not place and allow to remain on a public way snow or slush that has not accumulated there naturally.*

Mailboxes are a subject brought up every year. Mailboxes that are placed in the town's right of way are placed there at the owner's risk and installation of such must be so as to not create an obstacle or safety hazard to those that use or maintain the roadway. Further, if the mailbox is not installed following correct applicable standards, the owner may be held liable for injuries or damages that may have been incurred as a result. If mailbox damage occurs during any sort of public works operations or maintenance, the town is not responsible for replacement or compensation. Whenever possible, your mailbox should be located after your driveway opening. This location placement improves visibility, minimizes the amount of snow that comes off of the snow plow, and improves the approach for your mail carrier.

The public have their role in winter storm driving.


- Be mindful of the Town's parking ordinance.
- Please leave plenty of room between yours and the car in front of you.
- Drive defensively.
- Leave plenty of room between you and the snow plow. Remember there are blind spots created by the plow and wing.
- Bridges freeze first. Use caution.
- Don't plow, blow or shovel snow into the roadway.
- SLOW DOWN

**Phillips does not plow private roads or driveways.**

When roads start to thaw out, the Road Commissioner is tasked to posting the roads closed to heavy non-exempt loads. The purpose is clear in posting the roads to prevent costly repairs to the town's roadways.

Phillips residents are allowed 2 five gallon buckets of sand/salt mix per storm, per household.

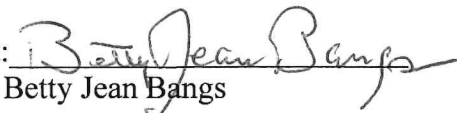
This Policy enacted February 8, 2020 by the Town of Phillips Select Board

  
Raymond Gaudette

  
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