

Town of Dorset, Vermont

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=====Chartered 1761=====

Town of Dorset Road Policy Acceptance of New Town Highways (Public Hearing Draft 8-21-18)

1. AUTHORITY

The Selectboard of the Town of Dorset, County of Bennington, State of Vermont, in accordance with the authority vested in it by 24 VSA § 1971-1984, 19 VSA § 301-317, and 19 VSA § 701-819, hereby adopts the following Town of Dorset Highway Acceptance Policy.

2. BACKGROUND

The Town of Dorset strives to be efficient and effective in the planning, funding and maintaining of public roads in Dorset for the year round safety of motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians. In recent history the Town has not accepted private roads as new Town highways.

The following policy establishes procedures and standards for accepting new Town highways. The policy is intended to provide potential road developers and existing private road owners the opportunity to obtain a decision on whether a road will be accepted as a Town highway.

3. CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTING A PRIVATE ROAD

In deciding whether a private road should be accepted by the Town the Selectboard shall determine whether acceptance of the private road as a Town highway is in the best interest of the Town and will best serve the public good, necessity and convenience of Town residents. In making this determination, the Selectboard will consider all relevant factors, including without limitation, the following:

1. Number of homes or businesses served by the private road;
2. Financial impact on town highway resources;
3. Connectivity of private road;
4. Consistency with the Town Plan;
5. Impact on traffic circulation;
6. Proximity to a designated downtown or growth area;
7. Vulnerability to extreme storm events;

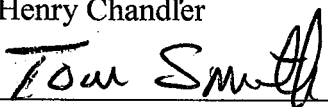
4. SPECIFICATIONS AND CONDITIONS

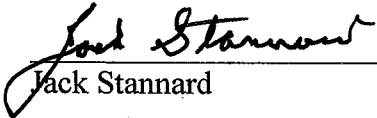
Selectboard acceptance of a private road shall be conditional, based conformance with the following:


1. The road shall be built or upgraded to meet or exceed the Town of Dorset Road and Bridge Standards and the VTrans A76 standards for a Class 3 Road.
2. Traveled way and shoulder widths shall be comply with traffic volume and use. For guidance reference "AASHTO's policy on geometric design of highways and streets."
3. No grade shall exceed fifteen (15) percent (%).
4. Slopes shall be graded to reduce erosion to a minimum.
5. The Dorset Road Foreman or designee must give approval of road construction as designated by the Selectboard. Inspections and acceptance of a new road must occur between April 15th and November 1st of each year (no roads will receive review or final acceptance between Nov. 1 and April 15).
6. Before a road is accepted by the town, the owner(s) of the property where it is built shall deed to the town a 50 foot right-of-way (25 feet each side of the road center), including slope rights if necessary; such deed to be a Vermont warranty deed free and clear of all encumbrances and property supported by a survey showing roadway and right-of-way centerlines, driveways, utility lines (surface or subsurface), and major road features, alignment and curves.
7. A minimum of 15 dwellings (or 5 businesses) must be on the road prior to its acceptance by the town as a Town highway.

Adopted by the Dorset Selectboard on this 21 day of August, 2018.


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