

Hi my neighbors,

Last weekend, a storm dropped more than 20" of snow on Belmont, one of the biggest single snowfalls in town history. I've been in close contact with town staff throughout the cleanup.

DPW crews and contractors have worked enormously long hours for a week straight during and after the storm. The cleanup progressed slower than we'd hoped. Like many of our neighboring communities, we ran out of places to put the snow, and had to haul it away by truck. This was expensive and slow. Crews are understandably exhausted.

This was a huge storm and cleanup has been a lot of work for residents too. Plowing runs to widen the travel way have meant more shoveling to clear your driveways and sidewalks again. Clearing intersections has piled snow high onto the corners, sometimes blocking sidewalks and crosswalks. Navigating around bins and parked cars has left snow in the street. We recognize this is a hassle, and we're sorry.

We're working to improve our response and communication during major weather events. It's been a few years since we've had a storm of this magnitude, and we need to rebuild our institutional knowledge. We've had team debriefs to help us learn and improve.

News flashes and weather alerts will continue to be posted on <https://belmont-ma.gov>. There will be extreme cold for the next few days. You may need to drip your faucets to prevent pipes from freezing, and please take extra care when going outside. Please check in on your neighbors.

If you still have specific issues on your block or street, please let DPW know by emailing BelmontDPW@belmont-ma.gov or calling 617-993-2680.

Thank you for working so hard to clear your walkways, sidewalks, driveways and fire hydrants. I've also heard stories of neighbors helping each other, and that small-town vibe is one of the many things I love about our community. If you have further questions or concerns, please write me at mtaylor@belmont-ma.gov, or call me 617-251-7618

All the best,

Matt

Matt Taylor
Chair, Belmont Select Board