

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

TOWN OF BELMONT

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Residential Snow Removal Bylaw Information

Bylaw Information

The Purpose of the bylaw is to encourage owners of residential property to remove snow, slush, and ice for abutting sidewalks... so that the Town's local services and amenities are reasonably accessible by pedestrians via sidewalks...

A Sidewalk is defined as any walkway paved with brick, stone, cement, concrete, asphalt, or any other impervious material. Note: Sidewalks that do not meet this definition are not required to be cleared under the bylaw.

Snow, slush, and ice must be removed from the sidewalk or treated no later than 8:00 PM on the day following the end of the storm event. The sidewalk must be cleared to a width of no less than 36 inches. A continuous clear path connecting to abutting property is required; piling snow on the sidewalk at the property line is not allowed.

Property owners subject to exemptions established by the Board of Assessor's automatically are exempt from the snow removal bylaw.

Property owners are not required to clear a path to the street, clear accessible ramps, or clear MBTA or school bus stops. Corner properties are required to clear both sidewalks along their corner property.

Enforcement

The Office of Community Development enforces the snow removal bylaw. The Department of Public Works determines when the storm ends and notifies Community Development. Note: property owners should wait until a storm ends before clearing sidewalks. This will avoid the need to clear a sidewalk twice due to snow plowing of the roadways.

Community Development has two staff members for enforcement of the bylaw. These staff members are also building inspectors and are required to continue their responsibilities as inspectors even during snow events. This means they must be available to meet with homeowners, architects and contractors and perform building inspections. Snow removal enforcement typically occurs in the afternoon.

Enforcement is focused on school walking routes and at locations where specific complaints have been filed. Enforcement areas are broadened as more time passes after a storm event. There are areas such as along the Route 2 Access Road where the Town does not do the plowing and therefore enforcement is difficult.

Property owners are cited only once per event. If a property isn't cleared they receive written notice for this first offense. If the property remains uncleared after the same event the owner does not receive an additional citation. If the property is not cleared after the next event a \$50.00 fine is sent.

The bylaw does not give the Town the ability to compel a property owner to clear their sidewalk. Property owners are subject to fines up to \$350 per winter season if they do not clear the sidewalk but they can chose to not clear the sidewalk.