

City of Laconia Policy
Maintenance Standards for Emergency Lanes

1. Purpose: To establish the City of Laconia's policy for maintaining Class VI and private roads that have been declared emergency lanes

2: General:

a: The State statutes that applies to a Municipality maintaining Class VI or private roads states:

"Notwithstanding RSA 231:59 or any other provision of law, a town may raise and appropriate, and the selectmen may expend, money for the repair of any class VI highway or private way which has been declared an emergency lane under paragraph II. Such repair may include removal of brush, repair of washouts or culverts, or any other work deemed necessary to render such way passable by firefighting equipment and rescue or other emergency vehicles. "

"A declaration under this section may be rescinded or disregarded at any time without notice. This section shall not be construed to create any duty or liability on the part of any municipality toward any person or property. Utilization of this section shall be at the sole and unfettered discretion of a town and its officials, and no landowner or any other person shall be entitled to damages by virtue of the creation of emergency lanes, or the failure to create them, or the maintenance of them, or the failure to maintain them, and no person shall be deemed to have any right to rely on such maintenance."

City Council Policy on rescinding or disregarding a Streets Emergency Lane Status: In the event the City Council determines that the emergency lane designation of a particular private or Class VI road should be rescinded pursuant to RSA 231:51-a, IV, the City will work with affected abutters to establish the procedure by which the City will cease maintenance and/or plowing of the road.

b. The Emergency Lane designation does not allow the City the authority to regulate traffic on these private roads. For example, the City cannot establish speed limits, parking restrictions and seasonal weight limits. Additionally the City does not have authority to remove trees on private roads.

3. The City utilizes emergency lane designation to:

a. Maintain those private streets that provides the City access to its property such as a city owned sanitary sewer pump station.

b. Maintain those private streets that improves its ability to respond to emergencies and to conduct snow removal operations. An example is the connector between Addison and Durkee that allows fire trucks to respond to emergencies and municipal plows to clear those roads without backing down the length of either of those roads.

c. Provide limited maintenance to those streets that the City cannot determine their status due to the lack of records. An example is Pickerel Pond Road. The objective of this maintenance is to provide a means for emergency vehicles to respond to incidents on these roads whether they are Class VI or private.

4. Emergency Lane Maintenance Standards;

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a. The City has both gravel and paved roads that have or may be declared as emergency lanes. The following are the maintenance standards for those roads designated as emergency lanes.

b. For both types of road the City will:

- Install & maintain street name signs in the City Right of Way for the entrance to the private road network. All other street name and traffic signs are the responsibility of the property owners.
- Clear fallen trees and limbs, and limbs on living trees that prevent emergency vehicles from using the road.
- Replace failed culverts and other underground drainage structures which will pose a risk to City emergency vehicles using the road.
- Remove dead animals that may block the road

b. For paved roads the City will

- Plow and treat it with salt to the same standards as the City's Class V paved streets
- Repair potholes
- Will fund maintenance shims for the road to pass City emergency vehicles at a reasonable speed

c. For graveled roads the City will

- Plow and treat it with sand to the same standards as the City's Class V gravel streets
- Grade and rake the road surface to minimize the depressions in the roads' surface thus improving the travel way for emergency vehicles.
- Add gravel during the spring thaw if required to improve soft spots enough to pass emergency vehicles

5. As sidewalks are not required for emergency vehicles to travel on an emergency lane the City cannot install or maintain sidewalks on paved emergency lanes.

6. The City will not repair plow damage to private property associated with its snow removal operations on roads declared emergency lanes only for the purpose of emergency vehicle response.

I hereby certify adoption by the Laconia City Council on September 11, 2017

Mary A. Reynolds, City Clerk