

TOWN OF CORNWALL ROAD ACCESS POLICY

Adopted by the Select Board on April 2, 2002

AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

Under 19 VSA, Section 1111 (b), Select Boards have the authority to regulate access onto town roads. The purpose is to provide reasonable and safe access onto town roads and to minimize the development of unsafe conditions resulting from poor construction or maintenance practices. Standards, restrictions and requirements pertaining to roads and driveways are contained in the Town Highway and Traffic Ordinances, the Town Zoning regulations and this policy. The State of Vermont controls access onto state highways.

PROCEDURES

The Right of Way/Road Access Permit will be issued only after the Road Commissioner makes an on site inspection of the proposed location of the driveway/road, and meets with the owner and/or the contractor. Upon inspection and evaluation, the proposed location will be rejected, approved or approved with conditions. The criteria used in this evaluation process is based on concerns for safety and maintenance.

State law requires that the owner/contractor contact Dig Safe prior to any excavation, especially in the Town Right of Way.

GUIDELINES, RESTRICTIONS, REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

All driveway and roadway improvements shall be constructed or installed in accordance with sound construction practices.

Drainage: Access onto the town's roads shall not interfere with the regular maintenance or condition of the road. Any such interference shall be subject to correction by the town and upon the direction of the Select Board, done at the owner's expense. Actions or neglect adversely affecting the drainage onto or off the town Right of Way may be in violation of state law as well.

Ditches: Soil exposed during required ditch and slope construction will be seeded as soon after completion as practical and may also require mulching, matting or lining. The town may require the landowner to modify the existing roadside ditches to accept a new culvert or change in the water flow.

Culverts: The Road Commissioner will make a determination about the need for a culvert. The Road Commissioner will also determine the type, length and diameter of the culvert. Driveway and road culverts will be installed by the property owner. Subsequent routine maintenance, repair and replacement of such culverts will be the responsibility of the town. Any culvert that exceeds 24 inches in diameter will require headwall treatment. Culverts installed under driveways/roads should be placed as far as possible away from the town road, while still maintaining good drainage. This placement will be discussed at the on site meeting and will affect the length and depth of the culvert. The town may require the landowner to ditch the immediate area to accept the culvert.

Driveways: A minimum travel surface width of 12 feet is required. A driveway/roadway serving more than one property will require a travel surface width of at least 16 feet on the shared portion. Driveways/roadways serving more than three (3) properties will be constructed in accordance with, but not limited to, state standards A 76 and B 71.

Approaches onto the town road should be no more than a 5 % grade for a distance of twenty (20) feet. Approaches greater than this may require treatment, i.e.: paving.

The determination of a clear sight distance for the driveway/roadway is done by using a formula based on the safe speed limit at that location.



TOWN OF CORNWALL

2629 Route 30
Cornwall, Vermont 05753-9299
(802) 462-2775

RIGHT OF WAY / ROAD ACCESS PERMIT

Applicant / Property Owner _____
Mailing Address _____
Contact Phone Numbers _____
Property location _____
Project Description _____
Date(s) of visual inspection _____
Date(s) of on site meetings _____

Sight distance evaluation _____

Drainage evaluation including culvert, ditching and erosion control requirements _____

Additional requirements particular to this project _____

This permit is issued subject to compliance with all Town of Cornwall policies regarding road access and the requirements listed above. Revocation of this permit may have consequences with regard to the validity of issued Zoning Permits.

Permit issued Date _____ By _____

Permit Revoked Date _____ By _____

For the following reasons _____

