

TOWN OF WHITEFIELD
Select Board

Policy for Road Acceptance

Purpose. This policy is to provide a uniform means for the Select Board to prepare a recommendation to the Town Meeting on acceptance of a road as a town way. It is to be used when citizens request that a private road be considered for acceptance by the Town.

Procedure. Citizens who are full time residents of a road must initiate a process for acceptance of their road by providing the Select Board with a request for acceptance from at least one-half of the full time residences on the road. In order to be considered by the annual Town Meeting, a request must be received at least 90 days prior to the Meeting date.

The Select Board will consider the request, along with any objections it may receive, using the following criteria:

1. The road must have been constructed according to the standards in the Town's Subdivision Ordinance.
2. The Road Commissioner and Fire Chief must have reviewed the road and not found any conditions that would prevent plowing, normal maintenance or emergency vehicle responses.
3. There must be at least four full time residences on the road.
4. Any objections received do not demonstrate a serious injustice, inequity or situation that would clearly be in conflict with the general public interest.

When the Select Board finds these conditions have been met, it will place the question of accepting the road on the warrant for the next annual Town Meeting, with a recommendation that the article be passed. In doing so, it will provide estimated costs for plowing and maintaining the road.

In the event the Select Board finds that the conditions have not been fully met, it may place the question on the Town Meeting warrant and explain its reasons for not recommending road acceptance.

The Board may also recommend acceptance of a road when it finds other conditions (such as commercial development) create circumstances that are unique and beneficial to the Town.

In the event the Select Board finds the conditions have not been fully met and chooses to not place the question on the Town Meeting warrant, citizens may file a petition signed by at least 10% of the number of residents who voted in the last gubernatorial election to have the matter considered by the Town Meeting. Such a petition must be filed by January 1 to be considered at the March annual Town Meeting.

Date:

BY:


Dennis Merrill, Chair