

Chapter 19

**STREETS AND SIDEWALKS\***

- Art. I. In General, §§ 19-1-19-20  
Art. II. Street Signs and Building Numbers, §§ 19-21-19-25

**\*Cross references**--Buildings and building regulations, Ch. 6; motor vehicles and traffic, Ch. 12; planning, Ch. 15.

**State law references**--Power of town to control the excavation of the highways and streets, G.S. § 7-148(c)(6)(C)(iii); to lay out, construct, etc., streets, sidewalks, etc., G.S. § 7-148(c)(6)(C)(i); to provide for lighting the streets, etc., G.S. § 7-148(c)(4)(F); to provide for the planting, etc., of shade and ornamental trees on the streets and public grounds, G.S. § 7-148(c)(6)(A)(v); to keep open, etc., the streets, sidewalks, etc., G.S. § 7-148(c)(6)(C)(ii); to require owners or occupants of land adjacent to any sidewalk to remove snow, etc., G.S. § 7-148(c)(6)(C)(v); to regulate and prohibit the excavation, etc., of sidewalks, etc., G.S. § 7-148(c)(6)(C)(iv); to prohibit and regulate the discharge of drains from roofs of buildings over or upon the sidewalks, streets, etc., G.S. § 7-148(c)(6)(B)(iv); to keep the streets, sidewalks and public places free from undue noises and nuisances, etc., G.S. § 7-148(c)(7)(F)(i); highways and bridges, G.S. § 13a-1 et seq.



## ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

### Sec. 19-1. Sidewalk construction and maintenance.

(a) The board of selectmen may call a public hearing from time to time to determine whether public necessity or convenience requires that a sidewalk be constructed in any specific area of the town. If after such hearing the board determines that the public necessity or convenience requires the construction of a sidewalk, the owners of any property abutting the location of the proposed sidewalk shall, subject to the provisions of the General Statutes, be required to construct a sidewalk along their respective property as directed by the board of selectmen. Upon the request of any such property owner, the town shall contribute one-half of the cost of such sidewalk construction; provided, however, that upon the recommendation of the board of selectmen to a special town meeting duly warned, such town meeting may abate all or part of any property owner's cost of construction.

(b) The property owners of the town shall maintain in reasonable repair and shall keep free from snow and ice any sidewalk situated upon or adjoining their property and abutting upon a public highway. A period of twenty-four (24) hours shall be deemed a reasonable time for the removal of snow and ice following the termination of the weather conditions creating the snow and ice.

(c) When any property owner, tenant or occupant who is liable to construct or repair a sidewalk shall neglect or refuse to do so for a period of thirty (30) days following the receipt of written notice of such obligation from the board of selectmen, the board of selectmen may undertake to construct or repair the sidewalk at the expense of the town, and the property owner, tenant or occupant shall indemnify the town for the expense.

(d) When any property owner, tenant or occupant who is liable to keep his sidewalk free from snow and ice shall neglect or refuse to do so, the board of selectmen may after reasonable notice cause the snow or ice to be removed from the sidewalk at the expense of the town and the property owner, tenant or occupant shall indemnify the town for the expense.

(e) When the board of selectmen acts in the manner described above at the expense of the town, the cost of such construction, repair, maintenance or removal of snow and/or ice may in the discretion of the board be secured by the placing of a lien upon the property adjoining the sidewalk.

(f) Any property owner, tenant or occupant who shall fail to construct, repair or keep free from snow and ice any sidewalk situated upon or adjacent to his property and abutting upon any highway shall be subject to a fine of not more than five dollars (\$5.00). Each day that such person shall fail to so construct, repair or remove snow and ice therefrom shall be considered as a separate offense.

(Ord. of 11-16-70)

### Sec. 19-2. Placing debris, snow, etc., in roadway.

(a) No person shall place or cause to be placed within any roadway, street or highway any debris, snow or other obstruction to traffic.

(b) This section does not apply to persons who are employed by permit or emergency to conduct road repair or maintain services.

(c) Any person found to be in violation of this section shall be deemed to have committed an infraction and fined in accordance with section 1-11. (Ord. of 10-16-89(2))

### Sec. 19-3. Liability for injuries.

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 13a-149 of the General Statutes or any other general statute or special act, the town shall not be liable to any person injured in person or property caused by the presence of ice or snow on a public sidewalk unless the town is the owner or person in possession and control of land abutting such sidewalk, other than land used as a highway or street; provided, the town shall be liable for its affirmative acts with respect to such sidewalk.

(b) The owner or person in possession and control of land abutting a public sidewalk shall have the same duty of care with respect to the presence of ice or snow on such sidewalk toward the portion of the sidewalk abutting his property as the town

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had prior to December 5, 1988 and shall be liable to persons injured in person or property where a breach of such duty is the proximate cause of the injury.

(Ord. of 12-5-88)

**Sec. 19-4. Performance bond for work affecting public ways.**

Applications for building permits shall be accompanied by a bond to the town in form and amount acceptable to the zoning enforcement officer, but not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), for the proper performance of such work as may affect public highways within the town and for the indemnification of the town for all expense that the town may incur in refilling openings and excavations and in restoring roads, streets and pavements to their former condition.

(Ord. of 7-28-64(3))

**Secs. 19-5—19-20. Reserved.**

**ARTICLE II. STREET SIGNS AND BUILDING NUMBERS\***

**Sec. 19-21. Purpose.**

The purpose of this article is to promote public safety and convenience through proper posting of street signs on public and private roadways, along with a building numbering system ensuring that addresses can be identified with the ease and speed essential to the quick response of emergency services, such as firefighting, police and emergency medical care.

(Ord. of 11-20-89)

**Sec. 19-22. Posting requirements.**

(a) It shall be the policy of the board of selectmen to have street name signs of public highways posted at each intersection where the street name is likely to be unknown to responding emergency personnel.

\*Cross reference—Buildings and building regulations, Ch. 6.

(b) Street signs on private roads shall be erected and maintained by the legally recognized private owner or association. Where no such owner or association exists, residents of private roads may request that the town install a street sign. Such signs shall be erected at the owner's expense.

(c) It shall be the duty of the owners of all residential, commercial, and other buildings to identify such buildings or parts thereof with numbers as herein provided. It shall be unlawful for any person to place, maintain or allow to remain on a building or any unit thereof any number other than the one required by this article.

(Ord. of 11-20-89)

**Sec. 19-23. Assignment and numbering of buildings.**

(a) The board of selectmen shall assign to each building, or part of a building, an identification number by which such building or part thereof shall be designated. The board of selectmen shall be authorized to change the identification number of any building or part thereof, at any time whenever such change is deemed necessary or appropriate.

(b) It shall be the duty of the owner of every building existing on November 20, 1989, without prior notice, to affix the identification number previously assigned to such building, or, in the absence of such assignment, the identification number which customarily has been used for such building. Such numbers shall be affixed by October 1, 1990.

(c) All new buildings on any street or highway within the town shall have affixed thereto identification numbers assigned hereunder within thirty (30) days of the issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

(Ord. of 11-20-89)

**Sec. 19-24. Sign and number specifications.**

(a) The identification number of a building shall be located on the exterior front of the building or on a post or mailbox between the building and the public or private street on which it fronts. The numerals shall be at least three (3) inches in height, shall be of a color contrasting with the

color of the background material to which they are affixed, and shall be made of substantial and permanent material. The identification number shall be placed or affixed so as not to be easily effaced or removed, and shall be positioned not less than three and one-half (3½) feet nor more than ten (10) feet from the surface of the ground. The identification number shall be so placed as to assure clear visibility from the public or private street on which the building fronts.

(b) If a building is set back more than one hundred (100) feet from the centerline of the street on which it fronts, or if the building's identification number is not clearly visible from such street, the identification number shall also be affixed to a post or mailbox located at the driveway entrance which provides the closest vehicular access to the building or part of the building to which the identification number has been assigned.

(c) For buildings containing two (2) or more residential, business or commercial units which have entrances from interior passageways, identification numbers shall be affixed on or adjacent to every exterior door of the building as well as on or next to the entrance door of each individual unit.

(d) For building complexes consisting of two (2) or more residential, business, or commercial building units served by separate driveways, signs shall be posted at the entrance to each such driveway listing the identification number of the unit served by that driveway; in addition, identification numbers shall be affixed on or next to every entrance door of each unit.

(e) Street name signs shall be placed near enough to the intersection of the street, roadway, etc., to be visible to emergency service personnel, but not so close to the roadway so as to pose a traffic hazard and to be consistent throughout the town, in accordance with the town engineer's specifications. Any sign identifying a private road shall have two-inch letters "PVT" on the right side of the sign.

(Ord. of 11-20-89)

**Sec. 19-25. Penalty.**

Any person who violates any provision of this article shall be fined no more than fifty dollars (\$50.00).

(Ord. of 11-20-89)

