

Town of Falmouth
Parks and Public Works Department

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Date: February 12, 2009
To: Nathan Poore, Town Manager
From: Jay Reynolds, Interim Director of Parks and Public Works
Re: Road Postings

Introduction:

This memo is in regards to the seasonal posting of roads in Falmouth. The Falmouth Code of Ordinances, under Section 17 – Article IV, states the following: “the town council may, either permanently or seasonally, impose such restrictions on the gross registered weight of vehicles traveling over designated town way and bridges as, in their judgment, may be necessary to protect the traveling public and to prevent excessive damage to town ways and bridges” (§17-101).

As part of this submittal, Town staff is requesting that the Town Council consider the following additional roads for seasonal posting this spring:

Mountain Road,
Woodville Road (Woods to Winn),
Lunt Road (Falmouth to Middle),
Merrill Road,
Johnson Road (Route 1 to Foreside)

Background:

Section 17, Article IV of the Town’s Code of Ordinances, is attached. It was enacted in 2005. The Town’s code is supplemental to the State of Maine’s Statute (MRSA Title 29-A, §2395), which also covers state and local authority to regulate motor vehicle weights.

Since the inception of Section 17, Article IV, the only road that has been posted to date is Field Road. As per my previous discussions with former Public Works Director, Anthony Hayes, he had stated that Field Road was posted because of an active fill site. This active fill site was used by heavier trucks and with a high volume/frequency at the time. With excessive weight, volume, and frequency, compounded with seasonal freeze/thaw cycles in spring months, Field Road would have been susceptible to structural damage.

The Town currently prohibits vehicles on Field Road in excess of 23,000 pounds, typically between the middle of March to the middle/end of April.

Supporting documentation:

Heavy loads can cause significant damage to road infrastructure. This is prevalent during significant thawing periods, which are typically during warmer days when the road surface softens, and then refreezes at night.

Posting roads minimizes the amount of damage to the infrastructure. By minimizing the damage, this protects the Town's capital investments by maintaining the normal depreciation cycle for a road.

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Reynolds".