

## MEMORANDUM

To: Natick Board of Selectmen  
From: Josh Ostroff, Cochituate Rail Trail Advisory Committee  
Date: January 25, 2018  
Re: Spring 2018 Town Meeting Article – Snow Removal Amendment  
  
Cc: Bill Chenard; Jeremy Marsette; Victoria Grafflin

Following referral of Spring 2017 Town Meeting Article 31 (Sidewalk Snow and Ice), Victoria Grafflin, DPW Director Jeremy Marsette and I have had occasional conversations about this issue.

Based on these discussions, I propose a modest change to an existing bylaw, article 50, Section 18b, and respectfully ask the Board or Town Administrator to sponsor this article.

Following a minor change in Fall 2017, Section 18 now reads:

### **Section 18 Snow Removal**

- a. Any person leaving a vehicle so as to obstruct snow removal operations shall be subject to a fine of \$50.00.
- b. No person shall deposit snow into any public way after it has been plowed.

(Fall 2017 Town Meeting voted to change “plow” to “deposit” in section b on the recommendation of the Charter and Bylaw Review Committee.)

I propose to change section b as follows:

- b. No person shall deposit snow into any public way ~~after it has been plowed~~, nor deposit snow so as to impede snow removal operations, without the authority of the Town Administrator or his designee.

The rationale is to prohibit private property owners or their agents from plowing snow onto sidewalks, whether before or after plowing. It is unfortunately common for private parties to pile snow on sidewalks in the course of clearing lots and driveways, which makes it impractical, if not impossible for sidewalk plow operators to do their work, and which undercuts sidewalk snow clearing efforts by the Town or other parties.

This would not affect Town snow clearing practices, which should be looked at but are not addressed through this article. This article does not address the responsibility or scope of sidewalk snow clearing, nor touch on liability issues.

Suggested article text follows. Thank you for your consideration.

**Article \_\_**  
**Snow clearing on public ways**  
**(Sponsor)**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Natick Bylaws by changing Article 50, Section 18, removing the text “after is has been plowed” from the end of subsection b, and inserting the text “, nor deposit snow so as to impede snow removal operations, without the authority of the Town Administrator or his designee” so that the Article 50, Section 18, section b reads in its entirety:

**Section 18    Snow Removal**

- a. Any person leaving a vehicle so as to obstruct snow removal operations shall be subject to a fine of \$50.00.
- b. No person shall deposit snow into any public way, nor deposit snow so as to impede snow removal operations, without the authority of the Town Administrator or his designee.,

Or otherwise act thereon.