

Roadway Acceptance Procedure

Compliance with the Roadway Acceptance Procedures is the legal and financial responsibility of the applicant.

Application

The applicant should meet with the Town Planner to review any outstanding issues or missing information with the subdivision and / or file before initiating the Roadway Acceptance procedure. Applicants should also consult with their own attorney to ensure compliance with the Roadway Acceptance Procedures. The applicant is responsible for ensuring all documents are correct and that the Town boards, departments, and Town Counsel are satisfied with the supplied documentation.

Acceptance of a road as a public way involves three steps:

1. First, the Board of Selectmen must lay out the road as a public way in accordance with the requirements of Massachusetts General Law (MGL) chapter 82, §§21 to 24, which includes a referral of the layout to the Planning Board for its recommendations in accordance with MGL chapter 41, §81I.
2. Second, Town Meeting must vote to accept a road as a public way
3. Third, the Board of Selectmen must acquire by gift, the deed in the road and drainage, water, sewer, utility, access, buffer, and / or other related easements (the "appurtenant easements") within one hundred twenty (120) days from the close of the Town Meeting at which the road is accepted as a public way.

Compliance with all three steps is necessary for a road to become a public, Town way.

Tips for Roadway Acceptance

If you are interested in having the Town accept a street layout at Spring Town Meeting (held the last Monday of April), contact the Town Planner six months prior to the Town Meeting to discuss any outstanding items left unfinished for your project.

It is imperative that applicants, attorneys, and engineers review, understand, and follow these procedures. Please note the required documents and the deadlines listed in the Town of Groveland's Roadway Acceptance Procedures in order to eliminate confusion and delay to all parties involved.

Timeline for Roadway Acceptance

| Necessary Actions | April Town Meeting |
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| Submit Petition to Selectmen | November to December |
| Selectmen vote their "intent to lay out the way." They refer the petition request to the Planning Board for recommendation. | January |
| Warrant Article created | Early to mid-March |
| Selectmen notify owners and hold Public Meeting to "adopt order of layout." | March |
| Selectmen file signed order of layout, the layout plan, and legal descriptions with Town Clerk | Late March |
| Town Meeting Vote | April |
| Applicant submits updated Title Certification within 14 days of Town Meeting | Early-May |
| Acquisitions, layout, and Town Meeting vote recorded at S Essex Registry of Deeds within 120 days of Town Meeting | Early September |
| Any remaining balance of fees held for Street Acceptance returned to applicant by Town after receiving proof of recordation | October |