

Draft Resolution

Sunset View Campers Association (SSVCA)

To the Colchester Selectboard

September 7, 2016

This resolution concerns the plowing and maintenance of private roads in the Town of Colchester. The issue of the plowing and maintenance of private roads has been before the Colchester Selectboard for several years and has been documented by the Governance Committee for the Town of Colchester in the course of its fact finding and report to the Board on August 25, 2015. The response of the Town to the Committee's Final Report concerning the issue of the plowing and maintenance of private roads was published in an Action Sheet on November 10, 2015, *to wit:*

- *Snowplowing/Private Roads – Longer Term Priority Before we tackle the issue of private roads, a good deal of history including how we got to where we are today, how the community voted in the past as well as a review of costs, legal advice, and the time available for the staff and Selectboard to deliberate this issue must be considered. This is a complex issue that will require the evaluation of cost savings and significant community outreach. The community dialogue will be contentious, robust and voluminous for the Selectboard and staff.*

Whereas: The Sunset View Campers Association now understands that new town charter changes are proposed for the Board's consideration on September 13, 2016. The snowplowing and maintenance of private roads is not included in the proposed changes, and

Whereas: The issues raised in the Governance Committee's report have not been addressed in a public forum, and

Whereas: There is an apparent lack of a clear policy to determine which private roads merit the application of town resources resulting from taxation of all residents,

Be it Resolved that: The Sunset View Campers Association at its September 7, 2016 meeting respectfully requests that the issue of the charter change concerning the plowing and maintenance of private roads be addressed and resolved by the Selectboard in such a way as to provide equity in the maintenance of town roads.

Gregory P. Bombardier *Deborah Light* *Rosalyn C. Durochia*
W. Burdick *John Condit*
Candice J. Cardillo *Janet Spitzer* *James H. Bombardier*
Kayla LaHaye *Manu* *Ally Hedges*
Jan Davis *Josanne Latane* *Keith Currell*
Sarah Austin - *Jan Smith*

September 26, 2016
Sunset View Campers Association

Dear Members,

Thank you for your resolution of September 7, 2016 requesting fairness and equity in the plowing and maintenance of private roads in Colchester.

The current Selectboard and Town staff share your concerns; they inherited the result of decisions made by voters and preceding boards. We recognize the need to tackle what will be a contentious policy debate. We intend to do this once we are past our busiest time of year, fall and winter, which includes completing our annual audit, finalizing capital and operating budgets, and preparing for Town Meeting in March, as well as implementing a new storm water utility to help improve Lake Champlain's water quality.

We will need input from associations such as yours about the issue plowing of private roads and assistance in ensuring that the public is well informed about why Colchester needs to transition to a consistent snow plowing policy. Your perspectives will be solicited as we host public meetings about the subject.

We hope to begin a community dialogue by summer 2017, with a proposal ready for public input before the end of that year.

Thank you for your interest in this matter, and your patience and understanding that we have limited staff resources to address multiple major policy initiatives at a time.

Sincerely,

Dawn H. Francis
Town Manager