

Town of Henniker
Office of Selectmen
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DRIVEWAY POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to provide a uniform procedure throughout the Town for review of submissions and issuance of driveway permits. Review of all driveway permits shall be in accordance with the following principals:

- Provide maximum safety and protection to the traveling public through the orderly control of movement;
- Minimize conflict points;
- Acquire appropriate sight distance on Town maintained roads;
- Maintain the serviceability of affected roadways, which could require alterations to the existing roadway;
- Monitor the design and construction of driveway entrances and exits.

DRIVEWAY CHARACTERISTICS AND DISTANCES:

All driveways connecting to Town roads must be built and maintained by the homeowner or his/her representative in accordance with the following specifications:

In essence, driveways cannot interrupt the natural or ditch line flow of drainage water. In most cases, this can be accomplished through the installation of double walled polyethylene pipe culvert (12" minimum or as specified) under the driveway with proper alignment, grade and end treatments.

In some cases where shallow ditch lines or natural drainage courses exist, driveways may be required to be depressed at a point beyond the road shoulder to accommodate the flow of surface water.

In all other cases, driveways must have sufficient sized culverts installed and maintained by the homeowner or developer. In no case shall the culvert pipe under a driveway be less than 12" diameter pipe.

Grades of all driveways shall be constructed downward from the highway surface at a grade of not more than 6%, for at least 1 car length or 20 feet or to the existing ditch line, and shall slope up or down not more than 6% to a further distance sufficient to accommodate expected vehicle storage.

In the driveway beyond the approach area referred to above, the maximum grade of any driveway shall be 8-12 percent. The algebraic difference between any 2 adjacent grades in a driveway shall not exceed 10 percent. The Henniker Highway Superintendent / Road Agent shall consider grades in excess of the above, if adequate provision is made for safety and the prevention of erosion problems during construction as well as after completion.

Driveways shall intersect the roadway at a preferred angle of 90 degrees, but in no case shall the intersecting angle be less than 60 degrees.

Slopes on either side of a driveway shall be gradual enough to minimize the hazard to a vehicle leaving the town maintained highway for any reason.

No driveway will be permitted to be constructed within 50 feet (50') of an intersecting street. One hundred feet (100') is desirable.

Maximum allowed driveway width should be 20 feet (20') not counting the flares. The desirable width shall be 12-15 feet. Flares shall have at least a 10 foot (10') radius.

For residential driveways, single or common, an all season safe sight distance of 200 feet (200') in each direction must be present for a permit to be issued.

A circular driveway may be permitted, if the following criteria are met:

- Frontage on a Class V road or better must exceed 300 feet (300');
- An all season safe distance of 200 feet (200') from either entrance is available.

STANDARD CONDITIONS OF DRIVEWAY PERMITS:

A request to construct or modify a driveway including resurfacing and/or paving on any town right-of-way shall be filed with the Selectmen's Office.

Driveway approval of commercial or industrial properties shall first be obtained from the Planning Board during site plan review. Failure to adhere to the standards and application approved by the Planning Board shall render the permit null and void.

Failure to start construction within one calendar year of the date of this permit shall require application for a permit extension or renewal in accordance the Driveway Policy.

There shall be no structures, including buildings, permanent or portable signs, lights, displays, fences, walls constructed, below or above the finish grade, which is contained within the Town right-of-way. It shall be the applicant's responsibility to determine the location of the right-of-way line (property line).

THE PROPOSED DRIVEWAY LOCATION MUST BE STAKED PRIOR TO APPROVAL OF THIS PERMIT.

The applicant shall comply with all applicable ordinances and regulations of the Town of Henniker and the State of New Hampshire.

A Certificate of Occupancy may not be issued until a driveway apron is constructed and inspected by the Highway Superintendent.