

**To:** Property owners on private ways receiving Town plowing services

**From:** David Morton Road Commissioner

**Re:** compliance with 1972 standards for plowing of private ways with an acknowledgement of a public easement.

Dear property owner:

This notice is being sent as an **important follow up reminder** to property owners on private roads that currently enjoy plowing services by the Town of Casco that it is **important** to make sure that your road complies with the 1972 standards governing this service. The Selectboard held a meeting last summer to discuss the problems with lack of compliance to the 1972 standards and invited roads associations and home owner groups to contact the Town to review road standards and to determine the timeframe for the road association to comply with the requirements. This is a reminder that once a deadline is established, and then reached, roads not in compliance will not receive the services and will need to make their own arrangements for winter road services. In order to be considered again for plowing by the town once service is terminated a road will need to be brought up to the new 2015 standard which includes wider road standards as well as paving (see 2015 standards on Casco website ([www.cascomaine.org](http://www.cascomaine.org))). It is important to make sure your road meets the minimum standards from 1972 (see Casco website [www.cascomaine.org](http://www.cascomaine.org)). Each road association or group of neighbors needs to do a self-assessment (form on Town website [www.cascomaine.org](http://www.cascomaine.org)), it is highly recommended to schedule an appointment with the Road commissioner to go over your assessment.

Each road association or group of neighbors needs to do the following in order for the Town to continue to provide winter road plowing and sanding services:

1. File a new acknowledgement of a public easement which is required to allow the expenditure of public funds on your private road. This is a legal document that is revocable and acknowledges that the general public may use your road. In the case of organized associations it may be executed by the leadership of the association. In the case where no formal association is

present we must have a signed acknowledgement from each property owner. The Town will provide documents for each case. These acknowledgements will need to be updated periodically. Without the acknowledgement of a public easement the Town cannot provide plowing services. (forms are available at [www.cascomaine.org](http://www.cascomaine.org) or at the Casco Town office)

2. Roads will need to be improved to meet the 1972 standard. The deadline for compliance will be established by the Selectboard sometime in the fall of 2018, it is not yet determined if the deadline will be one or two years. The Town strongly recommends that the associations make this an item on your annual association meeting agenda this summer to assure you have the resources to make the necessary upgrade or improvements.
3. Appoint one or two people to represent your roadway association or neighborhood and have them contact the Road Commissioner (Dave Morton 627-4515 ext. 201 or [manager@cascomaine.org](mailto:manager@cascomaine.org) ), to arrange a meeting to review your self-analysis and discuss any improvements that need to occur. Only a few roads have done this to date.
4. Remember this is an extra ordinary service and one that the Town is not required to provide. Very few Towns provide this type of service. The Town is only requiring roads to comply with standards that were agreed upon when roads were accepted for this extraordinary service.