

**TOWN OF SKOWHEGAN
225 WATER STREET
SKOWHEGAN, MAINE 04976**

SKOWHEGAN BRUSH AND LEAF PICK-UP POLICY

BRUSH, LEAF AND GRAVEL PICKUP ON PUBLIC ROADS:

In order to ensure that storm drain systems continue to work properly and do not become plugged with leaves, brush or gravel the Skowhegan Public Works Department will pick-up leaves, brush and gravel on **only** those streets that have curbing and storm drain systems.

Leaves and brush are considered **Natural Fall** from trees and bushes that are close to the streets. This does **not include** any cut limbs, branches or any brush or leaves from outside the general area of curbing or storm drains.

Leaves, brush and gravel pick-up will start the first or second week in April weather permitting for three (3) weeks and the 4th week of October for five (5) weeks. All pickup will be if time and weather conditions permit.

It is the responsibility of the resident who owns the property on these streets to ensure the leaves, brush and gravel are raked to the street beyond the edge of the curb in order to be picked up. If residents do not have leaves, brush and gravel raked to those areas during the time frame it is their responsibility to dispose of leaves and brush by taking them to the Transfer Station facility for composting.

Residents may dispose of leaves and brush at any time of the year by bringing them to the Transfer Station with the proper Transfer Station Permit.

TREE REMOVAL FROM PUBLIC ROADS:

From time-to-time trees and branches will fall into travel lanes, shoulders and ditches of town's public roads, especially during storms. This attempts to address issues concerning emergency removal of trees and branches from public roads and right of ways, as well as emergent removal from non-public roads.

Definitions:

- a. Public Way-** The locally maintained public roads of the Town of Skowhegan, both asphalt and gravel that are used by motoring public for operations or registered vehicle.
- b. Travel Way-** That portion of a public way in which motorized vehicles commonly operate.
- c. Shoulder-** That section of the public wat between the travel way and the ditch.

- d. **Ditch-** a depressed section to the outside of the shoulder used for drainage away from the public way.
- e. **Right of Way-** The legal area over which the public way is laid out to the boundary of private property lines.
- f. **Private Roads-** These roads used by residents and general public which are neither owned nor maintained by the Town of Skowhegan or the Maine Department of Transportation.
- g. **State Ways-** Those roads which are owned by the State of Maine and maintained either by the State of Maine or the Town of Skowhegan (Compact Zone).
- h. **Utility Lines-** Wires and other material over electricity, telephone, Cable TV and other public utilities are transmitted. This shall include all transformers and related gear to the lines.

Policy

- a. **Emergency Response-** The Road Commissioner and/or the authorized representative shall respond to an emergency road closure caused by a tree falling into or obstructing the travel lane of the road. The Town should always endeavor to have at least one travel lane passable within limitations below.
- b. **Utility Lines involved-** If utility lines are involved with down trees, no local personnel shall attempt to remove said tree. The response shall be placement of barricades to warn approaching vehicles of situations and CMP shall be notified and responsible for tree removal and road opening. It shall be the responsibility of the office in charge to determine whether or not fire and/or police department apparatus shall remain on the scene with warning lights; provided the response from CMP is likely to be less than an hour.
- c. **Tree Removal-** The Road Commissioner or the authorized representative shall utilize the proper tools and safety procedures to cut the tree into small enough pieces to be reasonably moved. The tree sections and brush shall be moved to the nearest non-developed area near the fall location and placed beyond the shoulder and ditch so as not to interfere with motorists, pedestrians and drainage.
- d. **Responsibility for Disposal-** In most cases the owner of the property adjacent to the road is responsible for the final disposal of the brush and wood. The wood from the tree is the property of the landowner from which the tree originated, and no employee of the Town or other person is authorized to remove such wood.
- e. **Removal from Private Ways-** Should a tree block a private named road, the Town of Skowhegan Road Commissioner is hereby authorized to make emergency removal so that public safety vehicles may access that private way, subject to the limitations above.

This policy, amended by the Selectboard of the Town of Skowhegan
on this 28th day of October, 2025.

/s/

Whitney Cunliffe, Chairman

Kevin Nelson, Vice-Chairman

Amber Lambke, Selectboard Member

Elijah Soll, Selectboard Member

Ethan Liberty, Selectboard Member

(approved at 10/28/25 meeting)