

### Town Council Policy Regarding the Control and Regulation of the Public Ways

Under Section 2.14 of the Amherst Home Rule Charter, the Town Council “shall control and regulate the public ways.” (Keeper of the Public Way) Under this authority, the Town Council hereby adopts this policy, which delegates a portion of its authority to control and regulate the Public Ways to the Town Manager. The Town Council reserves the right, at any time, to revise or rescind this policy.

<b>1. Town Commons</b>	<b>Town Council</b>	<b>Town Manager*</b>
a. <b>Short-Term Event Uses:</b> Requests for temporary short-term reservations (less than 3 months) associated with specific events (festivals, concerts, etc.)		<b>X</b>
b. <b>Long-Term Event Uses:</b> Requests for temporary long-term uses (3 months or longer) associated with specific events (holiday structures, etc.)	<b>X</b>	
c. <b>Other Alterations, Changes, and Uses:</b> Requests for reservations, construction of structures, or other uses that are intended to be permanent, in place 3 months or longer, or that are not associated with specific events but exempting maintenance and repairs.	<b>X</b>	

\*With report of all requests and approvals provided to the Town Council monthly (except banner requests)

2. Parking	Town Council	Town Manager*
a. <b>Short-Term Requests:</b> Requests for short-term reservations (less than or equal to 14 days, either cumulative or consecutive) of any number of parking spots associated with specific needs of a property owner or renter (construction, moving, etc.) or associated with a specific event (garden club, Town fair, festivals on the Common, etc.)		X
a. <b>Long-Term Requests:</b> Requests for long-term, temporary reservations (greater than 14 days, either cumulative or consecutive, but not permanent)	X	
b. <b>Permanent or Other Requests:</b> Requests for permanent parking changes, modification of fees, or other requests relating to parking not detailed above (parking permit required, no parking signs, parking meter fees, etc.)	X	

\*With report of all requests and approvals provided to the Town Council monthly

3. Reservations of Public Ways – Road or Sidewalk Closures	Town Council	Designee
<p><b>a. Temporary Closures – Town Departments – Delegation of Authority</b></p> <p>i. All temporary short- and long-term road or sidewalk closures required by the Department of Public Works for road maintenance or construction may be approved by the Superintendent of Public Works (or acting, if appropriate), with notice to the Town Manager</p> <p>ii. All temporary short- and long-term road or sidewalk closures required by the Police Department or Fire Department for public safety reasons may be approved by the Police Chief or Fire Chief, respectively (or acting, if appropriate), with notice to the Town Manager</p>		<p><b>Superintendent of DPW**</b></p> <p><b>Police Chief or Fire Chief**</b></p>
<p><b>b. Short-Term Closures:</b> All temporary road or sidewalk closures not subject to Section 3.a above (less than or equal to 14 consecutive or cumulative days) for planned events (block parties, Halloween Stroll, May Day celebration, running events, sidewalk sales, etc.)</p>		<p><b>Town Manager*</b></p>
<p><b>c. Long-Term Closures:</b> All long-term road or sidewalk closures not subject to Section 3.a above (greater than 14 consecutive or cumulative days, but not permanent)</p> <p>i. Town Council remains Keeper of the Public Way and will review and take action as follows:</p> <p>1. Prior to taking action, consult with the Town Engineer, Police Chief, Fire Chief and Town Manager and comply with Massachusetts General Laws and Regulations.</p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	
<p><b>d. Permanent or Other Requests:</b> All permanent changes to roads or sidewalks, acceptance of Public Ways, or other Public Way requests relating to roads (as opposed to parking or commons)</p> <p>i. Town Council remains Keeper of the Public Way and will review and take action as follows:</p> <p>1. Prior to taking action, consult with the Town Engineer, Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Town Manager and comply with Massachusetts General Laws and Regulations.</p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	

\*With report of all requests and approvals provided to the Town Council monthly

\*\* Notice to Town Manager

**4. Miscellaneous**

- a. The Town Council remains Keeper of the Public Way for any request not specifically falling under any section in this Policy
- b. The Town Manager has the right to request the Town Council act as Keeper of the Public Way on any item that has been delegated to the Town Manager under the adopted Public Ways policy if the Town Manager desires.