

# Town of Franklin

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OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

## Memorandum

October 6, 2023

To: Town Council  
From: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator  
Amy Frigulietti, Deputy Town Administrator

**Re: Bylaw Amendment 23-902: A Bylaw to Amend the Code of the Town of Franklin by Inserting Chapter 147, Snow and Ice, Removal Of**

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This is a first reading of Bylaw Amendment 23-902, which if approved, will insert Chapter 147 "Snow and Ice, Removal Of", into Town Code.

Town Code has not included a snow removal bylaw since a previous iteration of one was repealed in 2017, and we are now working on a new version to address some snow related challenges that we face. In short, the DPW does not have enough staff to clear and make safe every sidewalk in Franklin within the current budget structure. The EDC has discussed this issue for several years and recently decided the current draft should be discussed and debated by the entire Town Council.

We recognize that insufficiently cleared sidewalks present a safety hazard to residents of and visitors to Franklin, notably in Downtown Franklin; especially the elderly and differently abled populations, and children. Therefore, we are proposing bylaw 23-902 which aims to engage sidewalk-bordering property owners in select parts of town in the effort to keep our sidewalks clear. The impacted properties and roads are largely concentrated in the center of town and along 140, and are indicated in the proposed map titled "Sidewalk Snow Removal Required By Property Owner". The proposed bylaw includes a time limit and specifications for snow and ice removal from sidewalks and footways as well as from roofs, awnings and signs which slope toward the sidewalk. There is also a proposed fine of \$50 per offense for noncompliance. It is worth noting the Town has not issued a citation for lack of snow removal in the last two decades. The Town is not looking to penalize citizens, but enforcement.

In the absence of adequate staffing or funding for the Town to do this alone, the purpose of this bylaw is to encourage a community effort approach to keeping our sidewalks safe and clear for everyone.

For more information please see the proposed bylaw and map included in the packet.

Please let us know if you have any questions.