

MOTIONS – 2025 SUBSEQUENT TOWN MEETING

MOTION UNDER ARTICLE 11 2025 SUBSEQUENT TOWN MEETING

Move that the Town vote to adopt a bylaw regulating the clearing of public sidewalks by (1) inserting a new Article 8.15 into the Town’s General Bylaw, as follows:

Article 8.15 Clearing of Public Sidewalks

8.15.1 Removal Requirement

The owner or manager of any property abutting a sidewalk of a public way in the Downtown Smart Growth Overlay District, as shown on the Town’s Zoning Map, shall cause the portion of said sidewalk abutting their property to be maintained in a non-slippery condition, suitable for pedestrian travel, by clearing any slush, loose, granular, or packed snow, and ice for the portion of the paved sidewalk abutting their property.

Removal of slush, snow, and ice shall be conducted in a manner that clears the full paved path or a minimum of forty two (42) inches wide, whichever is less, unless otherwise specified herein. Slush, snow and ice shall be removed by plowing, shoveling, scraping or other methods in such a manner as to not damage the sidewalk, and shall be performed within the first (4) four hours between sunrise and sunset after such slush, snow and ice has come upon such sidewalk. In the event of an unusually heavy snowfall, the time limit may be extended at the discretion of the Director of Public Works or their designee.

8.15.2 Handicapped Ramps

Handicapped access ramps located within a sidewalk of a public way shall be cleared to the full extent of the width and length of the main slope, curb ramps, landings and side slopes.

8.15.3 Maintenance

When necessary, the owner or manager shall maintain said portion of cleared sidewalk in a non-slippery condition by application of agents designed for such purposes, provided said agent is approved by the Director of Public Works. The Director of Public Works shall annually cause a list of such approved agents to be published on the Town’s website and posted in Town Hall from November to April. Individuals shall not apply any agent to the sidewalk which does not appear on the approved list without written permission from the Director of Public Works or their designee.

8.15.4 Enforcement and Administration

8.15.4.1 In addition to any other means of enforcement, the provisions of this bylaw and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto may be enforced by non-criminal disposition in accordance with the provisions of Section 1.8 of this bylaw, and MGL Chapter 40 Section 21D. Every calendar day

upon which such violation exists shall be considered a separate offense; provided, however, that the offense count shall restart each fiscal year.

8.15.4.2 This bylaw shall take effect on November 1, 2026, or immediate after it is posted by the Town Clerk in accordance with G.L. c.40, §32, whichever is later.

And (2) by amending Article 1.8 of the General Bylaws by inserting a new line in the table, as follows:

Bylaw Section	Bylaw Title	Enforcing Person	Penalty-First Offense	Penalty-Second Offense	Penalty-Additional Offences
8.15	Clearing of Public Sidewalks	Director of Public Works	\$100	\$200	\$200

Bylaw Committee
