



TOWN OF MONTEREY

435 Main Rd. P.O. Box 308
Monterey, MA 01245

Dear Resident,

It has come to the attention of the Monterey Select Board that some private ways (roads) in Monterey are suffering from inadequate maintenance. This neglect of private ways is causing occasional damage to public ways, but perhaps more importantly may pose significant hazards to residents of those roads.

The Select Board feels it is important to remind residents of private ways that the poor condition of some private ways may seriously jeopardize life and property in the event of an emergency. Poor maintenance of the road may bar access to or significantly slow response time of emergency vehicles and personnel in the event of an emergency, including fire, EMS, police and ambulance services. This delay, or in some cases complete lack of access, could result in both loss of property and loss of life.

The second issue is that in a number of recent instances, the poor maintenance of a private way has caused damage to and/or obstruction of a public way. The strong storms of recent years with their consequent heavy runoff and tree falls have caused damage to roads all over Monterey, and this trend is likely to continue. The Select Board urges all residents of private ways to prudently consider how their road is being managed. It is not acceptable for a private way to cause damage to a public way, nor is it acceptable for those responsible for the private way's maintenance to refuse to accept responsibility for the damage caused by their negligence.

We understand that the joint maintenance and ownership of a private way can result in difficulties with its maintenance. Many of Monterey's private ways are very well maintained because the residents of those roads have successfully worked together to ensure that their homes are accessible for themselves, their guests and emergency personnel. Unfortunately, not all private ways have benefitted from adequate oversight, planning and investment.

We strongly urge those living on private ways to find productive ways to come together to maintain the private road that serves their dwellings. This is undeniably the best, most prudent and most cost-effective approach to this problem. We urge all residents who live on private ways to step up their efforts to repair and maintain the condition of the private road that serves their home, themselves and the emergency personnel they may call upon.

Respectfully,


Justin Makuc, Chair
Monterey Select Board


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