
§ 215-9.21. Roads and driveways.

The following standards shall apply to the construction of roads and/or driveways and drainage systems, culverts and other related features.

- A. Roads and driveways shall be set back at least 100 feet, horizontal distance, from the normal high-water line of a great pond classified GPA or a river that flows to a great pond classified GPA and 75 feet, horizontal distance, from the normal high-water line of other water bodies, tributary streams, or the upland edge of a wetland unless no reasonable alternative exists as determined by the Planning Board. If no other reasonable alternative exists, the road and/or driveway setback requirement shall be no less than 50 feet, horizontal distance, upon clear showing by the applicant that appropriate techniques will be used to prevent sedimentation of the water body, tributary stream, or wetland. Such techniques may include, but are not limited to, the installation of settling basins and/or the effective use of additional ditch relief culverts and turnouts placed so as to avoid sedimentation of the water body, tributary stream, or wetland. A bond of an appropriate amount must be recommended by the Planning Board and approved by the Selectboard for new roads.
 - (1) On slopes of greater than 20% the road and/or driveway setback shall be increased by 10 feet, horizontal distance, for each 5% increase in slope above 20%.
 - (2) This subsection shall apply neither to approaches to water crossings nor to roads or driveways that provide access to permitted structures and facilities located nearer to the shoreline or tributary stream due to an operational necessity, excluding temporary docks for recreational uses. Roads and driveways providing access to permitted structures within the setback area shall comply fully with the requirements of this Subsection A except for that portion of the road or driveway necessary for direct access to the structure.
- B. Existing public roads may be expanded within the legal road right-of-way regardless of its setback from a water body, tributary stream or wetland.
- C. New roads and driveways are prohibited in a Resource Protection District, except that the Planning Board may grant a permit to construct a road or driveway to provide access to permitted uses within the district. A road or driveway may also be approved by the Planning Board in a Resource Protection District upon a finding that no reasonable alternative route or location is available outside the district. When a road or driveway is permitted in a Resource Protection District the road and/or driveway shall be set back as far as practicable from the normal high-water line of a water body, tributary stream, or upland edge of a wetland.
- D. Road and driveway banks shall be no steeper than a slope of two horizontal to one vertical and shall be graded and stabilized in accordance with the provisions for erosion and sedimentation control contained in § 215-9.33.
- E. Road and driveway grades shall be no greater than 9% except for short segments of less than 200 feet.
- F. In order to prevent road and driveway surface drainage from directly entering water bodies, tributary streams or wetlands, roads and driveways shall be designed, constructed, and maintained to empty onto an unscarified buffer strip at least 50 feet plus two times the average slope in width, between the outflow point of the ditch or culvert and the normal high-water line of a water body, tributary stream, or upland edge of a wetland. Surface drainage which is directed to an unscarified buffer strip shall be diffused or spread out to promote infiltration of the runoff and to minimize channelized flow of the drainage through the buffer strip.

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- G. Ditch relief (cross drainage) culverts, drainage dips and water turnouts shall be installed in a manner effective in directing drainage onto unscarified buffer strips before the flow gains sufficient volume or head to erode the road, driveway, or ditch. To accomplish this, the following shall apply:

- (1) Ditch relief culverts, drainage dips and associated water turnouts shall be spaced along the road or driveway at intervals no greater than indicated in the following table:

Grade	Spacing (feet)
0% to 2%	250
3% to 5%	200 to 135
6% to 10%	100 to 80
11% to 15%	80 to 60
16% to 20%	60 to 45
21% +	40

- (2) Drainage dips may be used in place of ditch relief culverts only where the grade is 9% or less.
- (3) On sections having slopes greater than 9%, ditch relief culverts shall be placed at approximately a 30-degree angle downslope from a line perpendicular to the center line of the road or driveway.
- (4) Ditch relief culverts shall be sufficiently sized and properly installed in order to allow for effective functioning, and their inlet and outlet ends shall be stabilized with appropriate materials.
- H. Ditches, culverts, bridges, dips, water turnouts and other stormwater runoff control installations associated with roads and driveways shall be maintained on a regular basis to assure effective functioning.

[Amended 1-18-2022 by Art. 5]