

HVPOA Snow Plowing Decision Making Policy January 3, 2016

Each year, we set aside \$250 for snowplow expenses. This is about what it cost to plow all of our roads for ONE snowstorm. Some years we do not spend anything to remove snow. Other years we have spent as much as \$450 on snow plowing. So, the \$250 is our average budget that we set aside for this purpose.

If we can, we try to avoid plowing, which means that those of us who live here try to be patient when it snows and assume that our roads may not be passable for a day or so. This is not unlike some suburban neighborhoods in Washington or Richmond.

So, if a big snowstorm is happening, and you need to be somewhere the next day, you may want to figure out a “Plan B” because we may not get our roads plowed for a day or two.

Our cutoff for plowing or not plowing is 6 inches of snow.

- If less than 6 inches we typically will not plow.
- If more than 6 inches we will plow unless a warm weather front is rolling in the next day.

This is our approach:

Step One

Each year, the Roads Committee appoints a “Snow Czar” who is charge of making the decision to plow or not to plow.

The Snow Czar keeps an eye on the weather by checking with the National Weather Service www.forecast.weather.gov. NOAA does not always predict what we get but it is at least a start.

Step Two

If snow is predicted, the Snow Czar sends an email to the association members on the Horizon’s Village Emergency Contact List (those with dwellings on their property) with an alert and a description of decision-making process that will be used to handle the plowing of the roads.

Step Three

If more than 3 inches of snow is on the ground the Weather Service is checked again.

If warm weather is predicted for the next day and the snow will end such that people can still get to work, plowing will not be done.

If, however, cold weather or more snow is predicted for the following days or if there is enough snow that people cannot get in or out then a decision is made to plow.

- The Snow Czar puts the snowplow contractor on alert that we will need plowing if the snow accumulation **exceeds 6 inches**. (Horizon’s Village is then placed in a queue with the other Contractor’s clients).
- Plowing will not normally begin until after all snow has fallen.

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- We definitely arrange for plowing whenever we have 6+ inches of snow, but will wait until the snowstorm is over.
- On some occasions, if the snow is not too heavy and not more than 5 inches, Randy Whiting will take on the plowing tasks rather than us using a contractor. Randy is paid about the same amount as a contractor, but his little tractor is less destructive to our gravel roads than the equipment and personnel used by our contractor.

As decisions are made about how we will proceed and the timing of plowing, emails will be sent to the Emergency Contact List to keep everyone updated.