

An Open Letter to the Residents of the Wallingford Village,

The Fire district Office has fielded a complaint with a consequence of our new V-Plow on the lawns bordering the sidewalks in the village.

As you may have noticed, Fire District #1 purchased a new V-Plow and retired the snowblower for emergencies. The V-Plow is a bit wider than our old snowblower and the grass on each side of the side of the sidewalks is being peeled back by the V-plow.

The old snowblower was 47" wide and the new V-Plow is 48. So yes, it is a bit wider and will likely peel a bit of lawn up as we begin the season with this new equipment and as the operator acquires more skills in plowing with a new piece of equipment.

The new equipment has a larger foot print and has a wider arc as it maneuvers around corners, compared to the snow blower we used it the past.

We apologize for any lawn damage that may occur, but please understand, our primary objective is the safety of residents and children walking on the sidewalks in the winter. Our winter this year has been unusual and the ground hadn't frozen solid yet and has led to some turf rollback. Again, our apologies.

The Prudential Committee felt the need to upgrade our equipment to deal with several issues we encountered over the last few years.

- 1) Local plowing contractors were repeatedly blocking sidewalks with large compressed and icy piles of snow. In some cases, our snowblower was unable to clear these obstacles and in other cases, the snowblower was sustaining sever damage as it combatted this situation.
- 2) The Vermont DOT was causing a similar problem. As the large plows swept through Main Street (RT 7), the sidewalks that were cleared only hours before were once again filled with compacted, slushy, or icy snow. The snow blower had to be called back out to SLOWLY creep through town trying to clear this debris from the sidewalks.
- 3) The snow blower had difficulty blowing slushy snow or ice and the snowblower clogs up repeatedly, hindering timely progress getting the sidewalks cleared. Our first snowstorm of 2015-2016 is such a storm.
- 4) The severe damage affecting the snowblower put the equipment out of commission for days at a time. Refer to last year, as damage was incurred, all progress of snowblowing has to be suspended. Disassembly of the equipment was required, damaged parts were cataloged and compiled and in some cases replacements couldn't be ordered until the next day. As we waited, the town 'enjoyed' additional snowfall amounts. Replacement parts for the snowblower have become prohibitively expensive.
- 5) The Prudential Committee hopes the V-Plow will clear the sidewalks faster, Reduce fuel consumption, minimize operator interaction with moving parts and lessen component replacement.

So as we try to find a better and more efficient solution to keep the sidewalks in the village clear, we appreciate your concern, but safety above all else is our goal!

Thank You for your Continued Support,
The Prudential Committee