



TOWN OF STOW
STOW, MASSACHUSETTS 01775

TRAFFIC RULES AND ORDERS

With amendments through January 24, 2023.

At a meeting of the Board of Selectmen held in Stow on November 23, 1971 the following vote was duly passed:

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Stow acting by virtue of the power given to it by Chapter 40, Section 22 of the General Laws (Ter. Ed.) and by virtue of any other power it hereto enabling, hereby adopts and makes the following rules and orders for the regulation of traffic upon the streets and highways of said town, the same to be known as Traffic Rules and Orders of the Town of Stow, insofar as the said rules and orders or any of them are the same as any valid regulations, rules and orders now in force, they shall be deemed to be a continuation thereof.

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ARTICLE I: DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of these rules and orders, the words and phrases used herein shall have the following meanings except in those instances where the context clearly indicates a different meaning.

- (a) "Street or Highway" The entire width between property lines of every way open to the use of the public for the purpose of travel.
- (b) "Roadway" That portion of a street or highway between the regularly established curb lines or that part, exclusive of shoulders, improved and intended to be used for vehicular traffic.
- (c) "Lane" A longitudinal division of a roadway into a strip of sufficient width to accommodate the passage of a single line of vehicles.
- (d) "Vehicle" Every device in, upon or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon any street or highway, including bicycles when the provisions of these rules are applicable to them, except other devices moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.
- (e) "Parking" The standing of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, otherwise than temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading, or in obedience to an officer or traffic signs or signals, or while making emergency repairs or, if disabled, while arrangements are being made to move such vehicle.
- (f) "Official Traffic Signs" All signs, markings and devices, other than signals, not inconsistent with these rules and orders, and which conform to the standards prescribed by the Department of Public Works of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and placed or erected by authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction for the purpose of guiding, directing, warning or regulating traffic.
- (g) "Officer" For the purpose of these rules and orders an officer shall be construed to mean any officer, any constable or special officer, provided he has his badge of office displayed over his left breast and upon his outer garment.
- (h) "Emergency Vehicles" Vehicles of the Fire Department, Police vehicles, ambulances and emergency vehicle of Federal, State and municipal departments or public service corporations when the latter are responding to an emergency in relation to the Police or Fire Departments.
- (i) "Official Street Marking" Any painted line, legend, marking or marker of any description painted or placed upon any way which purports to direct or regulate traffic and which has been authorized the Board of Selectmen and which has the written approval of the Department of Public Works, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

- (j) "Person" The word "person" shall mean and include any individual, firm, co-partnership, association or corporation.
- (k) "Vehicle, Commercial" Any vehicle being used in the transportation of goods, wares or merchandise for commercial purposes. *(May 15, 1990)*
- (l) "Vehicle, Heavy Commercial" Any commercial vehicle over two and one-half (2-1/2) tons capacity. *(May 15, 1990)*

ARTICLE II: AUTHORITY AND DUTIES OF POLICE

Section 1. Police to Direct Traffic

It shall be the duty of the Police Officers to enforce the provisions of these rules and orders. Police Officers are hereby authorized to direct all traffic either in person or by means of visible or audible signal in conformance with the provisions of these rules and orders, provided that in the event of a fire or other emergency, to expedite traffic or safeguard pedestrians, officers of the Police or Fire Department may direct traffic as conditions may require, notwithstanding the provisions of these rules and orders.

Section 2. Police May Close Streets Temporarily

The Police may close temporarily any street or highway in an impending or existing emergency, or for any lawful assemblage, demonstration or procession provided there is reasonable justification for the closing of such street.

Section 3. Police May Prohibit Parking Temporarily

The Police may prohibit, temporarily, parking on any street or highway or part thereof in an impending or existing emergency, or for a lawful assemblage, demonstration or procession provided there is reasonable justification for such prohibition. Vehicles parked in places where parking is prohibited temporarily may be moved by or under the direction of an officer.

Section 4. Exemptions

The provisions of these rules and orders shall not apply to operators actually engaged in work upon a street or highway closed to travel or under construction or repair, to officers when engaged in the performance of public duties nor to drivers of emergency vehicles while operating in an emergency and in performance of public duties when the nature of the work of any of these necessitates a departure from any part of these rules and orders. These exemptions shall not, however, protect the driver of any vehicle from the consequences of a reckless disregard of the safety of others.

ARTICLE III: TRAFFIC SIGNS, SIGNALS, MARKINGS AND ZONES

Section 1. Interference with Signs, Signals and Markings Prohibited

It shall be unlawful for any person to willfully deface, injure, move, obstruct or interfere with any official traffic sign, signal or marking.

Section 2. Obedience to Traffic Controls

No driver of any vehicle shall disobey the instructions of any official traffic control signal, sign, marking, marker or legend, unless otherwise directed by a police officer.

ARTICLE IV: PARKING

Section 1. General Prohibitions

No person shall stand or park and no person shall allow, permit or suffer any vehicle registered in his name to stand or park in any of the following places:

- (a) Within an intersection.
- (b) Upon any sidewalk/byway. *(September 5, 1989)*
- (c) Upon or within 10 feet of any crosswalk. *(December 14, 2004)*
- (d) Upon the roadway in a rural or sparsely settled district.
- (e) Upon a roadway where parking is permitted unless both wheels on the right side of the vehicle are within twelve (12) inches of the curb or edge of the roadway, except upon those streets, which are designated as one-way streets. On such one-way streets vehicles shall be parked in the direction in which said vehicle is moving and with both wheels within twelve (12) inches of the curb.
- (f) Upon any roadway where the parking of a vehicle will not leave a clear and unobstructed lane at least ten (10) feet wide for passing traffic.
- (g) Upon any street or highway within five (5) feet of a fire hydrant.
- (h) Upon a private access road or across a driveway. *(September 5, 1989)*
- (i) Upon any street or highway within twenty (20) feet of an intersecting way, except alleys.
- (j) Upon a street or roadway posted "No Parking". *(September 5, 1989)*
- (k) In a fire lane. *(September 5, 1989)*

Section 1. General Prohibitions, continued

The Penalty for violation of this section shall be a fine of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) for each offense. *(October 6, 2009)*

Section 2. Prohibited on Certain Streets

Upon the following streets or highways or parts thereof, parking is hereby prohibited.

BARTON ROAD. Both sides, from a point 174 feet southerly of the junction of Pine Point Road a distance of 472 feet.

BOON ROAD. Both sides, from Whitman Street to Gleasondale Road, from September 1 to October 30. *(October 6, 2009)*

COMMON ROAD. Northerly side, from the westerly intersection of Library Hill Road, easterly a distance of 100 feet. *(May 21, 1991)*

CRESCENT STREET.

South side, from Library Hill Road easterly a distance of 74 feet. *(June 12, 1973)*

South side, from Library Hill road westerly a distance of 80 feet. *(June 12, 1973)*

North side, starting from a point 75 feet west of the intersection of West Acton Road, westerly for a distance of 196 feet. *(June 12, 1973)*

South side, starting from a point 44 feet west of the intersection of West Acton Road, westerly for a distance of 285 feet. *(June 12, 1973)*

Northerly side, from the westerly intersection with Great Road, easterly a distance of 949 feet. *(January 3, 1979)*

Northerly side, from the westerly intersection with Great Road, easterly a distance of 587 feet. *(March 25, 1980)*

Northerly side, from a point 86 feet from the westerly intersection with Hartley Road, easterly a distance of 346 feet. *(March 25, 1980)*

GARDNER STREET. Both sides.

GREAT ROAD.

Northerly side, between Pompositticut Street and Samuel Prescott Drive.

South side, from Center Place easterly a distance of 46 feet. *(September 23, 1975)*

Northerly side, from the westerly intersection with Crescent Street westerly a distance of 57 feet. *(January 3, 1979)*

Northerly side, from the westerly intersection with Crescent Street, easterly a distance of 57 feet. *(December 14, 2004)*

LIBRARY HILL ROAD.

West Side, from Crescent Street southerly for a distance of 118 feet. *(June 12, 1973)*

East side, between Crescent Street and Great Road. *(June 12, 1973)*

RED ACRE ROAD.

Westerly side, between Gardner Street and Great Road.

Westerly side, from Gardner Street northerly a distance of 210 feet. *(April 25, 1978)*

Easterly side, from Great Road northerly a distance of 460 feet. *(April 25, 1978)*

SUDBURY ROAD. Both sides, from Whitman Street to Lakewood Avenue, from September 1 to October 30. *(October 6, 2009)*

WHITMAN STREET. Both sides, the entire length, from September 1 to October 30. *(October 6, 2009)*

Section 3. No All-Night Parking.

It shall be unlawful for the driver of any vehicle, other than one acting in an emergency, to park said vehicle on any street from 1:00 AM and 6:00 AM of any day (between December 1 of one year and March 31 of the succeeding year). The Town shall exempt from all night parking prohibition those persons who provide notice to the police department about their vehicle being unable to operate or other hardship. The police still may tow the vehicle if deemed a public safety hazard.

The penalty for violation of this section shall be a fine of Twenty Dollars (\$20. 00) for each offense. *(January 24, 2023)*

Section 4. Declared Snow Emergency

The Town Administrator, Police Chief, Fire Chief or Highway Superintendent, or their designee, shall have the authority to temporarily prohibit parking on all roadways in Stow, during a declared snow emergency by Stow Officials. Notice will be given to the public with as much advance notice as possible. Whenever possible an end time will be posted. Notice will be provided through the Town Website, local Media, and all social media outlets. Police shall have the authority to ticket and tow any vehicle that is in the roadway, where the owner cannot be located or refuses to move their vehicle.

The penalty for violation of this section shall be a fine of Fifty Dollars (\$50. 00) for each offense. *(January 24, 2023)*

Section 5. Handicapped Parking.

No person shall stand or park and no person shall allow, permit or suffer any vehicle registered in his name to stand or park in an area posted "Parking for Handicapped Only", not being a handicapped person.

The penalty for violation of this section shall be a fine of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each offense. *(September 5, 1989)*
(renumbered as Section 5, January 24, 2023)

Section 2 of this Article shall be effective only during such times that official Traffic Signs are displayed setting forth the provisions of such section.

ARTICLE V: ONE-WAY STREETS

Section 1.

Upon the following streets or parts of streets vehicular traffic shall move only in the direction indicated below, provided that Official Traffic Signs are erected at each exit, at each one-way street.

ARTICLE VI: OPERATION OF VEHICLES

Section 1.

(a) Obedience to Isolated Stop Signs

Every driver of vehicle, railway car or other conveyance approaching an intersection of ways where there exists facing him an official sign bearing the word "STOP" or a flashing red signal indication, said sign or signal having apart from these rules and orders the written approval of the Department of Public Works, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and such approval being in effect, shall, before proceeding through the intersection, bring such vehicle, railway car or other conveyance to a complete stop at such point as may be clearly marked by a sign or line, or if a point is not so marked, then at the nearer line of crosswalk of the said intersection. In the case of a line of two or more vehicles approaching such "STOP" sign, or flashing red signal indication, the drivers of the second and third vehicle in any group shall not be required to stop more than once before proceeding through the intersection. This Section shall not apply when the traffic is otherwise directed by an officer or by a lawful traffic regulating sign, signal or device.

In accordance with the foregoing, the erection and maintenance of an isolated stop sign, or signs or flashing red signals, as the case may be, are authorized so as to face:

- Gleasondale Road and Library Hill Road at Great Road (*Warning Beacon Permit No. B-22 dated 2/20/68*)
- Northbound drivers on Library Hill Road at Crescent Street
- Southbound drivers on Library Hill Road at Great Road
- Northbound drivers on Wheeler Road at Great Road
- Eastbound drivers on Mitchell Road at Hudson Street
- Eastbound drivers on Sudbury Road at State Road
- Southbound drivers on Randall Road at Gleasondale Road
- Southbound drivers on Whitman Street at Boon Road
- Northbound drivers on Sudbury Road at Boon Road
- Eastbound drivers on Whitney Road at Great Road
- Westbound drivers on Randall Road at Hudson Street
- Eastbound drivers on Walcott Street at Hudson Street
- Eastbound drivers on Cross Street at Gleasondale Road
- Westbound drivers on South Acton Road at West Acton Road
- Westbound drivers on Crescent Street at West Acton Road
- Southbound drivers on West Acton Road at Crescent Street
- Westbound drivers on Sudbury Road at Gleasondale Road
- Westbound drivers on Boon Road at Gleasondale Road
- Northbound drivers on Whitman Street at Gleasondale Road
- Southbound drivers on Wheeler Road at Gleasondale Road
- Southbound drivers on Hartley Road at Crescent Street
- Northbound drivers on Hudson Street at Great Road
- Southbound drivers on Harvard Road at Great Road
- Southbound drivers on Crescent Street at Great Road
- Southbound drivers on Red Acre Road at Great Road
- Westbound drivers on Pompositticut Street at Great Road (*Traffic Sign Permit No. B-2023 dated 6/28/73*)
- Northbound drivers on Packard Road at Taylor Road
- Southbound drivers on Packard Road at Taylor Road
- Northbound drivers on Packard Road at Boxboro Road
- Eastbound drivers on Taylor Road at Boxboro Road
- Southbound drivers on Packard Road at Great Road
- Northbound drivers on Hiley Brook Road at Great Road
- Southbound drivers on Hiley Brook Road at Great Road
- Eastbound drivers on Lantern Lane at Great Road
- Eastbound drivers on Old Bolton Road at Great Road
- Northbound drivers on Bradley Lane at Great Road
- Northbound drivers on Crescent Street at West Acton Road (*Traffic Sign Permit No. B-3207 dated 2/3/77*)
- Westbound drivers on Crescent Street at Great Road (*Traffic Sign Permit No. B-3890 dated 11/2/82*)

- Westbound drivers on Tuttle Lane at South Acton Road
(Traffic Sign Permit No. D-B-286-3984 dated 4/6/84)
- Southbound drivers on Hiley Brook Road at Old Bolton Road
- Southbound drivers on Boxboro Road at West Acton Road
(Traffic Sign Permit Nos. D-4-286-0023 & D-4-286-0024 dated 9/11/84)
- Northbound drivers on Barton Road at Sudbury Road
- Westbound drivers on Boon Road at Randall Road
- Southbound drivers on Cross Street at Randall Road
(May 21, 1991)
- Westbound drivers on Crescent Street at Library Hill Road/Hartley Road intersection
- Eastbound drivers on Crescent Street at Library Hill Road/Hartley Road intersection
(January 11, 2000)
- Eastbound drivers on Boon Road at Sudbury Road (July 23, 2002)
- Westbound drivers on Sudbury Road at Whitman Street/Boon Road/Sudbury Road intersection
- Eastbound drivers on Sudbury Road at Sudbury Road, easterly of Sudbury Road/Boon Road/Whitman Street intersection (To make the intersection of Sudbury Road, Boon Road and Whitman Street a five-way stop; November 23, 2004)
- Northbound drivers on Marlborough Road at Gleasondale Road
(February 22, 2005)
- Southbound drivers on Garner Road at Harvard Road (January 24, 2023)
- Northbound drivers on Marlboro Road at Gleasondale Road (south of traffic island)
(January 24, 2023)

(b) Flashing Red

When a red lens is illuminated in a traffic control signal by rapid intermittent flashes, and its use has been specifically authorized by the Department of Public Works, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, drivers shall stop before entering the nearer line of crosswalk of the street intersection, or at a stop line when marked, and the right to proceed shall then be governed by provisions of Chapter 89, Section 8 of the General Laws (Ter. Ed.).

Section 2. Do Not Enter Regulation

No person operating a vehicle at the intersection of Great Road and Gardner Street shall enter Gardner Street to proceed in an easterly direction. (September 1, 1987)

No person operating a vehicle at the intersection of the easterly access drive of Stow Shopping Center and Gardner Street shall enter Gardner Street to proceed in a westerly direction. (September 1, 1987)

Official traffic signs bearing the legend "Do Not Enter" shall be erected and maintained setting forth the provisions of this Section.

Section 3. Care in Starting, Stopping, Turning or Backing

The driver of any vehicle before starting, stopping, turning from a direct line or backing shall first see that such movement can be made in safety. If such movement cannot be made in safety, or it interferes unduly with the normal movement of other traffic, said driver shall wait for more favorable opportunity to make such a movement. If the operation of another vehicle should be affected by a stopping or turning movement, the driver of such other vehicle shall be given a plainly visible signal, as required by Chapter 90, Section 14B of the General Laws (Ter. Ed.). *(April 10, 1979)*

Section 4. Drive Within Marked Lanes

When any roadway is divided into lanes, the driver of a vehicle shall so drive that the vehicle shall be entirely within a single lane and shall not move from the lane in which he is driving until he has first ascertained if such movement can be made with safety. *(April 10, 1979)*

Section 5. Following Too Closely

The driver of a vehicle shall not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard to the speed of such vehicle and the traffic upon and condition of the highway. *(April 10, 1979)*

Section 6. No Driving on Sidewalks

The driver of a vehicle shall not drive upon any sidewalk except at a permanent or temporary driveway. *(April 10, 1979)*

Section 7. Speed.

No person operating a motor vehicle on any way shall run at a rate of speed greater than reasonable and proper, having regard to traffic and the use of the way and the safety of the public. Unless a way is otherwise posted, it shall be prima facie evidence of a rate of speed greater than is reasonable and proper as aforesaid (1) on any other way outside a thickly settled or business district at a rate of speed exceeding forty (40) miles per hour for a distance of a quarter of a mile, or (2) inside a thickly settled or business district at a rate of speed exceeding thirty (30) miles per hour for a distance of one-eighth of a mile, or (3) within a school zone established by the Town as provided in Section 2 of Chapter 85 of the General Laws, at a rate of speed exceeding twenty (20) miles per hour. If a speed limit has been duly established upon any way, operation of a motor vehicle at a rate of speed in excess of such limit shall be prima facie evidence that such speed is greater than reasonable and proper. *(September 5, 1989)*

Any person convicted of a violation of this rule shall be punished by a fine of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each offense. *(September 5, 1989)*

Section 8. Turns Prohibited.

(a) Right Turns

No driver of a vehicle shall make a right turn at the intersections listed below and in the direction specified provided that sufficient official signs are erected and in place:

Eastbound drivers on Crescent Street westerly onto Great Road.

(b) Left Turns

No driver of a vehicle shall make a left turn at the intersections listed below and in the direction specified provided that sufficient official signs are erected and in place:

Westbound drivers on Sudbury Road exiting northerly intersection southerly onto Gleasondale Road. *(October 10, 2006)*

Eastbound drivers on Sudbury Road turning northerly onto north intersection to Gleasondale Road. *(October 10, 2006)*

The penalty for violation of this section shall be a fine of Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) for each offense. *(December 12, 1989)*

Section 9. Through Traffic Restrictions

At the intersections described herein no person operating a vehicle on the streets described shall enter the other streets described to proceed completely through in the direction indicated at the times listed.

(a) Official traffic signs bearing the legend "Not a Through Way" shall be erected and maintained on each side of the streets where entry is restricted and facing the traffic which would enter in the restricted direction and in accordance with Department of Public Works standards.

West Acton Road - Crescent Street in an easterly direction, 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M., Monday through Friday, exclusive of holidays.

(b) Official traffic signs bearing the legend "No Exit" shall be erected and maintained on each side of the streets where entry is restricted and facing the traffic which would enter in the restricted direction and in accordance with Department of Public Works standards.

Eastbound drivers on Crescent Street at Great Road, 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M., Monday through Friday, exclusive of holidays. *(December 12, 1989)*

Section 10. Operation of Heavy Commercial Vehicles

1. The use and operation of heavy commercial vehicles having a carrying capacity of more than 2-1/2 tons are hereby restricted on the following named streets or parts thereof, and in the manner outlined and during the period of time set forth:

Pompositticut Street, between Great Road and Summer Street, Maynard, any time.

The alternate route shall be by way of Great Road (Route 117).

2. Exemptions: Paragraph 1 of this Section shall not apply to heavy commercial vehicles going to or coming from places upon said streets for the purpose of making deliveries of goods, materials, or merchandise to, or similar collections from, abutting land or buildings or adjoining streets or ways to which access cannot otherwise be gained; or to vehicles used in connection with the construction, maintenance and repair of said streets or public utilities therein; or to Federal, State, municipal or public service corporation owned vehicles.

3. Paragraph 1 of this Section shall be effective only during such times as official signs are installed and maintained. *(May 15, 1990)*

Section 11. Obedience to "Yield" Signs

Every driver of a vehicle or other conveyance approaching an intersection of ways, where there exist facing him an official sign bearing the word "Yield", said sign having been erected in accordance with the written approval of the Department of Public Works of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and such approval being in effect, shall surrender to oncoming traffic his right to enter the intersection until such time as he has brought his vehicle or other conveyance to a complete stop at a point between the said "Yield" sign and the nearer line of the street intersection, provided, however, that this requirement to stop before entering the intersection shall not apply when a driver approaching a "Yield" sign can enter the intersection in safety without causing interference to approaching traffic. This section shall not apply when the traffic is otherwise directed by an officer or by a lawful traffic regulating sign, signal or device.

In accordance with the foregoing, the erection and maintenance of "Yield" signs are authorized so as to face:

- Southbound drivers on Edson Street at Randall Road; *(May 21, 1991)*
- Eastbound drivers on Taylor Road at No Name Road, *(January 11, 2000)*

ARTICLE VII: RESPONSIBILITY, PENALTIES AND REPEALS

Section 1. Owner Prima Facie Responsible for Violations

If any vehicle is found upon any street or highway in violation of any provisions of these rules and orders and the identity of the driver cannot be determined, the owner or the person in whose name such vehicle is registered shall be held prima facie responsible for such violation.

Section 2. Penalties

Any person convicted of a violation of any rule, regulation or order made hereunder, except as otherwise provided, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding twenty dollars (\$20) for each offense.

Section 3. Repeal

These rules are adopted with the intent that each of them shall have force and effect separately and independently of every other except insofar as by express reference or necessary implication any rule or any part of a rule is made dependent upon another rule or part thereof.

The provisions of these rules so far as they are the same in effect as those of any valid existing rules, orders or regulations heretofore made by the Selectmen of Stow relative to or in connection with official signs, lights, markings, signal systems or devices shall be construed as a continuation thereof, but all other existing rules, orders and regulations so made for the regulation of vehicles are hereby expressly repealed.

November 23, 1971

Date of Passage

/s/ Roland N. Wright

/s/ Arthur S. Hill

/s/ J. Bruce Ayer

Board of Selectmen

Attest: /s/ Francis W. Warren
Town Clerk

For the Department of Public Works
By V. J. Cantone, P.E.
Traffic Engineer
December 9, 1971