

Town of Unity Culvert Policy

Section 1: The cost of purchasing the initial or first driveway culvert will be the responsibility of the homeowner/taxpayer. Driveway culverts may be purchased at cost through the Town of Unity by any homeowner or taxpayer for use in the Town. More than one driveway culvert is permissible, (please refer to LUO for driveway distances) however the homeowner or tax-payer will be responsible for the cost of installation, maintenance and replacement of each additional culvert.

Section 2: The cost of replacing, or resetting, a driveway culvert will be the responsibility of the Town of Unity, if the work is to be performed by the Town. The Road Commissioner(s) shall determine the necessity of installing, replacing, or resetting a culvert. If it is their determination that a culvert does not need to be installed, replaced, or reset, the Town will not be responsible for performing the work. If the culvert is installed within the limits of a Town-owned road, the Town thereafter becomes responsible for the maintenance and any necessary replacement of the culvert according to the requirements of this policy.

Section 3: If a homeowner or taxpayer prefers, they may install, replace, or reset a culvert at their own expense under the following conditions:

- (a) A homeowner or taxpayer may install, replace or reset a culvert by themselves according to the Town's specification; or
- (b) A homeowner or taxpayer may employ an individual or contractor to install, replace or reset a culvert according to the Town's specifications.

Section 4: Notwithstanding the other provisions of this policy, the Town of Unity will not be responsible for installing, replacing or resetting a culvert if the homeowner, taxpayer, their agents or assigns, cause the condition which necessitates that a culvert be installed, replaced or reset.

The intent of this section is to place responsibility on the homeowner if they cause their own need for work to be performed, and to place responsibility on the Town if environmental or other uncontrollable factors cause the need for work to be performed. By way of example, and not limitation, a homeowner would be responsible for repairing or replacing a culvert if he ran over the end of it with a vehicle and closed off the end, or if he paved a large area and directed the run-off toward a culvert that was too small. The Town would be responsible in such cases as rusted out culverts, or culverts that had risen due to frost action.

Section 5: All culverts shall have a minimum length of 24 feet and a maximum length of 36 feet, unless specific written approval to do otherwise is obtained from the Road Commissioner(s). This approval will not be granted unless there are legitimate extenuating circumstances that make a different length preferable.

All culverts shall also be a minimum of 15 inches in diameter; the Road Commissioner(s) may require that a larger diameter culvert be installed if they deem it necessary. All culverts, regardless of who they are installed by, should be set in gravel of good quality, and designed so as to allow the free flow of water through them. The area around the mouths of the culvert should be rocked-up or graded such as to prevent soil erosion.

Section 6: A permit must be obtained from the Town Office before any new culverts are installed.

Section 7: This policy is effective immediately upon signing and replaces any other policies the Town had in respect to driveway culverts.