



TOWN OF NEW BOSTON

Mailbox Ordinance

Background

Most mailbox damage occurs during the winter when mailboxes and/or posts are hit by plows. If standard postal guidelines are followed, a mailbox should be far enough off the road and high enough to allow plowing without the mailbox incurring damage. PS Form 4056, issued by the Postal Service, says in part “Boxes must be placed to conform with state laws and highway regulations.” RSA 41:11 and 47:17 give towns broad authority to regulate placement of structures in right-of-ways.

Location

By virtue of the establishment of this ordinance, the town grants permission under RSA 236:9 for mailboxes to be placed within the Town of New Boston right-of-way.

Setback

Mailboxes must be at least three feet from the edge of pavement, or if a gravel road, three feet from the travel way. This conforms with the guidelines recommended by the postal service. Compliance with setback issues should be addressed to the Town or Post Office.

Height

To minimize potential damage to mailbox platforms and to conform with local recommended Postal guidelines, rural mailboxes should have 48 inches of clearance from the road surface to the bottom of the mailbox.

Responsibility for Damage

The Town of New Boston will replace damaged mailboxes when:

1. It can be clearly established the damage was caused by the town hitting the mailbox or post with town property (heavy snow or ice rolling off the plow and consequently doing damage cannot be controlled and is not covered).
2. It can be demonstrated the mailbox was placed consistent with this ordinance.

3. That no other obstructions, such as a newspaper box or support arm, was placed below the 48" height requirement.
4. The broken post is found to be in otherwise sound condition (not rotten).

Replacement Mailbox

The Town of New Boston will either replace with and install a wooden post and shelf style mailbox platform (along with a USPS standard size mailbox if it was too damaged), or, if the owner wishes another style unit, what it costs the town to purchase the material for its style post and mailbox with the owner paying the difference, purchasing what they want and installing it themselves.

Removal of Mailboxes

Pursuant to the powers accorded the town under RSA 236:32 the town may, at its discretion, remove any mailbox that is not in compliance with the requirements stated in this ordinance. Before doing so, the Town would consult with the Postal Service and provide prior notice to the affected customer.

Approved January 12, 2004 by the New Boston Board of Selectmen