



TOWN OF FALMOUTH RESOLUTION

Street Acceptance Application Procedure

WHEREAS, the owner of a private way in the Town of Falmouth may submit an application to have the private way accepted by the Town as a public street; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has the legislative authority to accept streets in the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council is committed to considering the overall benefits and costs of street acceptance and street connectivity when evaluating applications; and

WHEREAS, interconnectivity offers the following benefits: 1) reduces the cost of providing municipal services, such as waste collection, snowplowing, and public transit; 2) shortens emergency access response times and allows emergency vehicles to use alternate routes if one route is blocked; 3) reduces traffic congestion and vehicle miles traveled, thereby reducing vehicle emissions; 4) provides a wider variety of travel choices to residents and fosters livable, walkable and bikeable neighborhoods; and connects neighborhoods and provides access to future neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, while street acceptance is a discretionary act of the Town Council, the Council desires to refine the application review process and develop more quantitative methods for evaluating public benefit and connectivity; and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance Committee, as directed by the Town Council, proposed an amended street acceptance ordinance which includes the addition of a preliminary application and Town Council preliminary application review; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council approved an amended street acceptance ordinance on May 9, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance Committee initially developed a street acceptance analysis scoring sheet that evaluates the public benefit, connectivity, and amenities included in street acceptance applications.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FALMOUTH ASSEMBLED THIS 9TH DAY OF MAY 2022, THAT:

1. the Town Council will establish a review group comprised of the chairs of the Town Council Finance, Community Development, and Ordinance Committees or their designees, the Chair of the Land Management and Acquisitions Committee or their designee, the Chair of the Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee or their designee and the Town Manager and/or the Town Manager's designated Town staff; and

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2. the Town Council will utilize the new street acceptance analysis scoring sheet as a guidance document during the preliminary application review; and
3. upon completion of the preliminary application and submission of the preliminary application staff reports, the review group will be charged with 1) conducting a site visit of the private way and any amenities included in the application, 2) individually completing the street acceptance analysis scoring sheet, 3) holding additional meetings as deemed necessary, and 4) providing a summary assessment on public benefit, including connectivity, to the Town Council.

Attest:  Date: 9/25/2023
Ellen Planer, Town Clerk