



Town of Simsbury

66 TOWN FOREST ROAD, P.O. BOX 495, SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

~ Department of Public Works ~

Memorandum: Requests for the Installation of New Curbing

To: Board of Selectmen
CC: Al Ilg, Rich Sawitzke, Hiram Peck
From: Thomas J. Roy, Director of Public Works
Date: July 13, 2010

The Department of Public Works routinely receives requests from residents for the installation of curbing along their roadways. Each request for curbing will be evaluated by a Highway Department Supervisor or the Director of Public Works. New sections of curbing will be installed to:

- Facilitate proper roadway drainage / prevent erosion
- Manage traffic at intersections (prevent trucks and buses from cutting the corner)
- Fill in gaps for roads that are nearly completely curbed

*curbing will not be installed for aesthetic reasons or to prevent snowplow damage.

The primary purpose of curbing in Simsbury is to facilitate proper roadway drainage. The rural nature of the Town and the high quality sandy soils allow for the majority of the Town's roadways to function with minimal drainage systems (catch basins and pipe networks). By allowing the stormwater (rain water) to drain off the edge of the roadway and percolate into the grass and soil along the roadside, the groundwater stores are recharged and any contaminants from the roadway are filtered through the soil. These groundwater stores support the flow of the numerous small brooks and streams in Town. This natural dissipation of the stormwater is the most ecologically sound process for the management of stormwater.

In addition, constructing sections of curbing based on a house-by-house request will lead to a disjointed roadway network and lead to significant maintenance challenges. For each section of curbing added to the Town's roadway our maintenance costs are increased. Each year, the Highway Department spends several weeks repairing and replacing sections of curbing damaged during the winter months.

If there are any questions relating to the Department's procedures for evaluating the need for new curbing, please contact the Public Works Department at 860.658.3222.