



TOWN OF STRATHAM

Incorporated 1716

10 Bunker Hill Avenue · Stratham, NH 03885

Town Clerk/Tax Collector 603-772-4741

Select Board's Office/Administration/Assessing 603-772-7391

Code Enforcement/Building Inspections/Planning 603-772-7391

ROAD NAMING POLICY STRATHAM SELECT BOARD *Adopted February 3, 2025*

The Stratham Select Board hereby adopts this Road Naming Policy in order to advance the following objectives:

- 1.) To provide for adequate emergency response by fire, police, rescue, and other emergency services.
- 2.) To provide residents and others a convenient and accurate means of wayfinding and identifying real property.
- 3.) To assist in the proper delivery of utilities, mail and package deliveries, and other services.
- 4.) To foster public awareness of Stratham's rich historical heritage and of its natural features and landscapes.

Administration: This policy shall be administered by the Select Board or its designee.

Assignment of Street Names: Every road, public or private, serving more than two parcels of land shall have a name designated by the Stratham Select Board. Whenever practicable, a road name shall honor a historical figure, place, landmark, or event in the community or a feature of the natural or built environments, including a water body, hill, park, landscape, farm, neighborhood, prominent structure, or conservation area. Road names that include terms that are generic in nature or that include features, vegetation, or wildlife that is not located within or native to the landscape of the Town of Stratham are highly discouraged as are proper names or those proposed in honor of living persons.

The following processes shall be observed depending upon whether a public or private road is proposed.

- A. When a new public road, to be maintained by the Town of Stratham or the NH Department of Transportation, is anticipated as a result of a subdivision or site plan approved by the Stratham Planning Board or by any other circumstance, the following road naming process shall be observed:

- 1.) The applicant of the proposed development may provide a list of up to three unique preferred road names, which fit the criteria described in this policy to the Select Board for its consideration. Applicant is encouraged to seek input from the Planning Board.
 - 2.) The Select Board shall select a road name either from the list of options provided by the applicant or a name the Board brings forth of their own accord at a public meeting.
- B. When a new private road, to be owned and maintained by a private entity, is anticipated as a result of a subdivision or site plan approved by the Stratham Planning Board or any other circumstance, the following road naming process shall be observed:
- 1.) The applicant of the proposed development may provide a list of up to three unique preferred road names, which fit the criteria described in this policy to the Select Board for its consideration. Applicant is encouraged to seek input from the Planning Board.
 - 2.) The Select Board shall select a road name either from the list of options provided by the applicant or a name the Select Board brings forth of their own accord at a public meeting.

The Planning Board may recommend a road name as part of its land use approvals for the Select Board's consideration. The Select Board may consult with the Planning Board, Heritage Commission, Conservation Commission, the NH Division of Emergency Services and Communications, the US Postal Service and/or Town Staff in selecting a road name, however the Select Board shall have the sole authority to designate a road name.

The Planning Director shall work with the Town Administrator and Select Board in anticipation of a Planning Board approval to ensure the process is carried out efficiently and that a road name is designated by the Select Board within 30 days of the Planning Board approval.

In designating a road name, the Select Board shall observe the following best practices:

- 1.) Road names shall be clearly distinct from existing road names in Stratham. Road names shall not duplicate or closely approximate names of roads already assigned within the municipality.
- 2.) Road names shall be as clear and concise as is practicable. The road name shall be reasonably easy to communicate both verbally and in writing for those reasonably well versed in the English language.
- 3.) Use of proper names shall be avoided, unless one is proposed as a historical reference. The Select Board may choose to seek input from the Heritage Commission to vet

naming proposals intended as historical references for appropriateness. Consistent with guidance from the State of New Hampshire, no name matching a currently living individual will be approved.

- 4.) The primary road name, which does not include the suffix indicating the road type (e.g. Street, Road, Avenue, etc.) shall not exceed a maximum of 15 characters as recommended by the US Postal Service. The primary road name shall not include more than two words.
- 5.) The road suffix shall include a term that clearly represents the road as an accessway. The terms Road, Street, Avenue, Boulevard, Court, Way, Terrace, or Drive are preferred suffix names. The road suffix, when abbreviated, shall not total more than four characters.
- 6.) The primary road name shall not include any common road suffix terms (e.g. Plaza Court or Circle Drive).
- 7.) The use of special characters in road names is discouraged.

Street Numbering: Street numbers shall be designated by the Town's E-911 Coordinator after consultation with the NH Division of Emergency Services and Communications.

Road Suffix Guidance:

The following road suffix naming guidance is provided for guidance purposes only. All road names should contain a suffix which complies with the USPS Postal Standards Publication 28.

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| Avenue: | A tree- or building- lined thoroughfare that typically serves as a through road. |
| Circle: | A cul-de-sac that includes a defined circle. |
| Court: | A cul-de-sac that is typically short in length. |
| Drive: | A winding road shaped by natural features and topography, typically associated with rural areas, parks, or scenic landscapes. |
| Lane: | A more narrow road, typically located in rural areas. |
| Place (Pl.) – | Place is often used in a similar fashion as “court,” or “close.” It can also sometimes refer to a dead-end road (sometimes P-shaped), with or without a cul de sac. |
| Road: | A thoroughfare that typically serves as a through road. |
| Street: | A thoroughfare typically associated with more densely settled areas that |

typically serves as a through road.

Terrace: A road that runs along the top of a slope.

Way: A side street off of a road.

Notification: The Town's E-911 Coordinator shall be responsible to notify the NH Division of Emergency Services and Communications and the Stratham Police and Fire Departments of new road names and/or numbering systems or of changes in road names or numbering systems. The E-911 Coordinator shall make reasonable efforts to notify public utilities and the US Postal Service of new road names and/or numbering systems or of changes in road names or numbering systems. Property owners are encouraged to contact the US Postal Service and public utilities to ensure addressing information was correctly recorded.

This State of New Hampshire Resource was utilized in developing this policy.

<https://www.desc.dos.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt716/files/inline-documents/nh911-addressing-standards.pdf>