

**55. ORDINANCE RELATIVE TO ACCESS DRIVEWAYS OR WALKWAYS  
(AUGUST 6, 1984)**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Groton:

1. **Section 1:** Except as herein otherwise provided, no driveway, shall hereafter be constructed in excess of the following widths at any point in the public area:

(a) Twelve feet (12') where the abutting property is used for residential purposes serving five (5) or less off-street parking spaces; and

(b) Twenty-four feet (24') where the abutting property is used for business purposes, commercial purposes, or residential purposes serving over five (5) off-street parking spaces; and

2. **Section 2:** Except as herein otherwise provided, no more than one driveway shall be permitted for any one abutting property. If the City has installed a curb or sidewalk at the site of the proposed driveway, the City shall assume the cost for cutting said driveway, otherwise, the property owner or his agent shall pay all costs of paving and installing said driveway. Grades for any driveway, shall be compatible with the City highway system.

3. **Section 3:** Additional or wider access driveways, walkways or other constructions of any kind permitting access between any public highway and property abutting thereon shall be permitted only upon approval by the Highway Superintendent of plans and specifications presented by, or on behalf of, the affected property owner. The Highway Superintendent shall either approve or disapprove such proposed construction within sixty (60) days of receipt of said plans and specifications. If the Highway Superintendent does not approve or disapprove said proposal within said time, the proposal shall be deemed approved. In reviewing said plans, the Highway Superintendent shall consider:

(a) the health and safety of pedestrian or vehicular traffic; and

(b) whether the proposed construction is consistent with similar construction in the neighborhood and/or is harmonious with the development in the neighborhood.

In performing such a review, the Highway Superintendent may secure the recommendations of the Police Department and the Zoning and Building Official. The expense of such plans and specifications and any construction made pursuant thereto, including, but not limited to the cost of cutting an additional or wider driveway shall be assumed by such property owner or his agent.

4. **Section 4:** Nothing herein shall excuse any property owner from securing necessary building or zoning permits, if any, for an access driveway, walkway or other access construction.

5. **Section 5:** Any person, firm or corporation, undertaking construction inconsistent with the foregoing shall upon conviction, be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and the City shall be privileged to correct any such construction, the expense thereof to be assessed upon such owner and recovered in any proper action before any proper court.

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6. **Section 6:** Ordinance 37, entitled “Ordinance Relative to Access Driveways or Walkways (August 4, 1952)” and Ordinance 38, entitled “Ordinance Relative to Access Driveways or Walkways (July 16, 1956, April 6, 1970)” are hereby repealed.
7. **Section 7:** This Ordinance shall become effective on 7 August 1984. Nothing herein shall require the City to assume the cost of cutting the curb to widen any driveway in existence on the effective date of this Ordinance.

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** To delegate the Highway Superintendent the authority to review applications for wider or additional accessways; to set standards and procedures for such review, to adopt formally the City’s current practice of paying for a single curb cut; to limit said liability of the City to its current practices; to resolve any discrepancies between Ordinances 37 and 38; to discourage proliferation of accessways; to preserve residential neighborhoods; and to promote the public health and welfare.

Initially approved: July 2, 1984  
Finally approved: August 6, 1984