

## GEORGIA MUNICIPAL OFFICES

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### Town of Georgia, Vermont Sidewalk Ordinance

December 8, 2009

#### **Authority**

This sidewalk ordinance is adopted by the Town of Georgia under the authority of 24 V.S.A. § 2291(1), and shall be considered a civil ordinance.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this ordinance is to protect the health, safety and general welfare of Town citizens by the adoption of regulations concerning the construction, maintenance, and repair of public sidewalks within the Town.

#### **Definitions**

As used in this Ordinance:

1. Sidewalk - a paved or surfaced leveled area paralleling and usually separated from the road or street, used as a pedestrian walkway.
2. Town - the Town of Georgia, Vermont.
3. Owner/Applicant – for sidewalks on State of Vermont highways, the Town (as represented by the Selectboard) shall be named the owner/applicant on VT Agency of Transportation (VAOT) Permit applications, with the property owner(s) as co-applicant. For sidewalks on Town highways, the adjacent property owner shall be named the applicant.

#### **Regulations**

1. The owner or owners of all lots, parcels and premises within the Town are required to maintain, repair and keep safe sidewalks adjacent to or upon their property and premises in or along public roads in the Town.

2. All persons shall remove from the sidewalks in front of the premises owned or occupied by them all snow, dirt, garbage, grass, and weeds.

### **Owner Caused Defects**

Where sidewalk defects creating pedestrian hazards are caused by conditions existing upon an abutting property, such as, but not limited to (a) trees or other growth; (b) surface drainage; (c) on-site construction or vehicular traffic; or (d) other on-site activities, the abutting property owner shall be responsible for its repair, maintenance and safe condition, and liable for all consequential injuries, damages, expenses or costs resulting from the condition and lack of repair or maintenance and unsafe condition.

### **Enforcement and Penalties**

This is a civil ordinance and shall be enforced by the Georgia Zoning Administrator in the Vermont Judicial Bureau in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §§1974a et seq.

### **Severability**

If any of this bylaw is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such finding shall not invalidate any other part of this ordinance.

### **Effective Date**

This ordinance shall become effective 60 days after its adoption by the Georgia Selectboard. The Selectboard approved the Sidewalk Ordinance at their December 14, 2009 meeting. If an appeal is filed under 24 V.S.A. § 1973, the effective date shall be governed by that statute.