



Town of Medway STREET NAMING POLICY

Policy – The policy of the Town of Medway is to name streets in a manner that will provide an easy and recognizable reference for residents, visitors, mail and delivery vehicles, and the Town's emergency services and mapping personnel. Street naming applies to public streets and private ways and may apply to long access driveways to a major facility. This policy has been prepared in accordance with state and federal 911 standards; as those change, this policy may be amended.

The following street naming principles are required.

1. Usage of street names derived from a nearby geographic location or feature (specific place, neighborhood or land characteristic) shall be limited to locations in close proximity to the street.
2. Shall have a roadway designator/suffix such as Street, Road, Avenue, Drive, Lane, Way, Place, Court, Boulevard, Terrace, Circle, Path, etc.
3. Shall be easy to read, pronounce and spell.
4. Shall be grammatically correct whether in English or a foreign language.
5. Shall add to pride of home and community.
6. Where a proposed public or private way is a continuation of or in alignment with an existing public or private way, it shall utilize the same name as the existing public or private way. A new name shall be required if the proposed public or private way is disconnected from the existing public or private way by an intervening land use or by an offset greater than one hundred fifty feet with no planned connection or if a roadway intersects at an interior angle of one hundred ten (110) degrees or less with another road.
7. For mapping purpose, the number of letters in the street name should correlate to the length of the road. Short roads should have short names. Longer roads may have longer names.

The following street naming conventions are prohibited:

1. Names which duplicate, are similar to or phonetically approximate existing street names within the community. Similar sounding names are considered duplicates regardless of spelling. Street names cannot have the same name as an existing street with a different suffix (e.g., Birch Road, Birch Lane, Birch Street).
2. Names which include numbers, dashes, apostrophes or other non-alphabetical characters.
3. Names beginning with articles (A, The, An).

4. Names which duplicate common facility names already in the community.
5. Names exceeding three words or twenty-two characters including any combination of letters, spaces, punctuation and roadway designator/suffix.
6. Names which are unacceptable due to difficulties related to emergency service dispatch as determined by the Police or Fire Chief.
7. Names subject to copyright or which promote an existing company/business.
8. Names of commercial enterprises.
9. Use of first names such as Cindy Road or Tom Lane.

The following street naming practices are acceptable:

1. Last name of an individual or the surname of a family who has served the Medway community with distinction or made exceptional contributions to the town, region, state or nation
2. Last name of a prominent historical person in or from Medway.
3. Name of a historical place or area in the community.
4. Similar street names for a grouping of streets within a subdivision or development, such as Cobblestone, Millstone, Flagstone, etc.

Medway Street Naming Committee – The Medway Street Naming Committee is comprised of the Assessor, Fire Chief, GIS Coordinator, Planning and Economic Development Coordinator, Police Chief, or their designees, and a Citizen at Large. The Community and Economic Development office provides staff support. The Committee meets as needed.

APPROVED 5-6-19 by the Medway Board of Selectmen