

Street Naming Policy and Guidelines

Pursuant to section NH RSA 231:133 Street Names and Markers, the Town of Durham Council makes the following policy with regard to naming of Streets and altering of names of Streets within the Town of Durham.

Street names are intended to be enduring. Altering the names of Streets is discouraged unless there are compelling reasons for a change. Issues that can prompt the alteration of a Street name include the re-design of a Street, mail or service delivery problems and duplication issues.

The procedure for naming Streets is set out in Appendix B.

Principles

Naming of Streets for the first time and alteration of existing Street names shall follow these principles. To assist further, criteria are set out in Appendix A.

Principle 1: Street names to minimize confusion

- (1) Street names must not risk public and operational safety for emergency responses, or cause confusion for transport, communication, mail services and to occupants of the Street and to visitors.
- (2) Emergency responses (such as ambulance, police and fire) and other public services (such as mail) are impacted by the clarity of Street names and all Street name proposals must ensure that such operations will not be adversely affected and as far as is possible will prevent potential confusion for users of the Street.

Principle 2: Street names to reflect the heritage of an area

- (1) Durham NH has a rich history that is reflected throughout the region. Suburb and Street names can and often reflect our local history and our context in national and international events, people, and local landscapes and biodiversity. In turn this creates and consolidates a sense of place and identity.
- (2) Proposed names should reflect the historical or cultural or existing thematic or environmental identity of an area, to recognize the unique characteristics of that area and possibly the community.
- (3) This can be recognized by looking at early settlers, war servicemen and women and other persons who have contributed to the area, and to its heritage; local history themes; commemoration of a local or national significant event.
- (4) The Board expects that there will be consultation with the local residents' and local business associations, local special interest groups, historical societies to develop new names.
- (5) The names of living persons is not encouraged.
- (6) Where names of persons are being considered, applicants should endeavor to consult with and obtain consent from family members of the person being commemorated, and evidence of this should be provided with the application.

Principle 3: Street Types

- (1) All Street names must include a Street type that reflects and is sympathetic to the type of Street being named. A list of Street types is included in Appendix C.

Appendix A

Street Naming and Addressing Criteria

- (1) Street naming and addressing should follow the NH Dept. of Safety, Division of Communications, Addressing Standards Guide, June 2013 publication.
- (2) A Street name should only use characters from a standard English alphabet. Cultural differences should be recognized and used such as apostrophes and accents where necessary.
- (3) Street names should be easy to pronounce, spell and write, and preferably not exceed three words (including Street type) or 25 characters.
- (4) Where there is an existing similar/same Street name within Town of Durham, a new Street name should not be:
 - (a) the same as an existing Street name; or
 - (b) similar in spelling to an existing Street name; or
 - (c) similar in sound to an existing Street name
- (5) Street types do not distinguish different Streets of the same or similar sounding names (e.g. Smith Street, Smith Court, Smith Lane).
- (6) Punctuation should not be used as part of a Street name except for surnames or other names that include a hyphen.
- (7) A Street name should not be abbreviated or contain an abbreviation, initial or acronym, excepting that "St" can be used for "saint" and "Mt" can be used for "mount".
- (8) "The" should not be used as the sole name element of a Street name (e.g. The Avenue).
- (9) A Street name should not include a preposition (e.g. Avenue of the Allies).
- (10) Street names should not include an apostrophe or accent unless part of a person's name (e.g. O'Connor Drive) or part of a proper name.
- (11) For the purposes of consistency, names starting with Mc or Mac should not have a space included between the Mc or Mac and the rest of the surname.
- (12) A Street name shall be accurate and shall have the same spelling as any name from which it is derived and is able to be validated by reference to primary sources.
- (13) Where numbers occur in a Street name they must be in full form (e.g. Fifth Avenue, Nine Mile Street).
- (14) A Street name must not include initials (e.g. J Jones Street).
- (15) A suggested Street name is not to be offensive, racist, insulting, derogatory, blasphemous or demeaning, in that the use of such name is calculated or likely to wound the feelings, arouse anger or resentment or disgust or outrage in the mind of a reasonable person.

- (16) A Street name must not be commercially based, unless the company is no longer in use and/or the name reflects the heritage of an area.
- (17) Street types shall not be used in the formation of a Street name, for example Promenade Street, unless the Street type is the same as a surname (e.g. Court).
- (18) The use of given or first names in conjunction with a surname may be used if required to provide uniqueness for a significant name (e.g. Kate Shepherd Drive).
- (19) A Street name should preferably not include qualifying terminology (e.g. Upper, New, East, West) unless the Street name is derived from a name which includes such a qualifying terminology (e.g. xxx).
- (20) A directional word cannot be used to uniquely define a Street's extremities e.g. Boundary Street East, Boundary Street West.

Appendix B

Procedure for Naming or Re-Naming of Streets

- (1) Applications for new Street names or altering the name of a Street are to be submitted to Durham Town Council, and the addressing committee.
- (2) The application must include:
 - the reason for requesting the Street to be named or for the name of the Street to be altered;
 - a clear definition of the extent and location of the proposed Street to be named or of the Street whose name is to be altered (e.g. an annotated scheme plan);
 - evidence of consultation with appropriate iwi, family, local associations;
 - one preferred name and two alternative names for each Street being named for the first time or altered;
 - rationale for and meaning of the proposed name(s).
- (3) The addressing committee will assess the suggested name(s) and the supporting documentation to ensure that the Durham's policy and guidelines have been considered and applied.
- (4) The applicant is responsible for all cost associated with notification and public posting as outlined in NH RSA 231:133 for changing any current street names.
- (5) The addressing committee will then report to the Durham Town Council in a timely manner in terms of the Council's policy and guidelines for the Council's consideration.
- (6) The Durham Town Council shall have the final decision on the naming of Streets and the altering of Street names within the Town of Durham. The Council has the discretion to reject any names offered and to seek alternative names and to make its own enquiries. The Council's decision is final.
- (7) All applicants will be notified by the addressing committee of the new Street name.
- (8) All residents and businesses where applicable and any others consulted will be notified by the addressing committee of the new Street name.

Appendix C

Street Types

The Street types shall be selected from the following as most appropriate and applicable.

<i>Street Type</i>	<i>Abbreviation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Open Ended</i>	<i>Cul de sac</i>	<i>Pedestrian Only</i>
Alley	Ally	Usually narrow Streetway	Y	Y	
Arcade	Arc	Covered walkway with shops along the side			Y
Avenue	Av	BStreet Street, usually planted on each side with	Y		
Boulevard	Bvd	Wide Street, well paved, usually ornamented with trees and grass plots	Y		
Circle	Cir	Street generally forms a circle, or a short enclosed Street bounded by a circle.	Y	Y	
Close	Cl	Short, enclosed Street		Y	
Court	Ct	Short, enclosed Street		Y	
Crescent	Cr	Crescent shaped Street , especially where both ends join the same Street	Y		
Drive	Dr	Wide main Street without many cross-	Y		
Esplanade	Esp	Level Street, often along the seaside, lake or a river	Y		
Glade	Glde	Street usually in a valley of trees	Y	Y	
Green	Grn	Street often leading to a grassed public recreation area		Y	
Grove	Gr	Street that features a group of trees standing		Y	
Highway	Hwy	Main Street or thoroughfare, a main route	Y		
Lane	Lane	Narrow Street between walls, buildings or a narrow country Street	Y	Y	Y
Loop	Loop	Street that diverges from and rejoins the main thoroughfare	Y		
Mall	Mall	Wide walkway , usually with shops along the sides			Y
Mews	Mews	Street in a group of houses		Y	
Parade	Pde	Public promenade or Street that has good pedestrian facilities along	Y		
Place	Pl	Short, sometimes narrow, enclosed Street		Y	

<i>Street Type</i>	<i>Abbreviation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Open Ended</i>	<i>Cul de sac</i>	<i>Pedestrian Only</i>
Promenade	Prom	Wide, flat walkway, usually along the water's edge			Y
Quay	Qy	Street alongside or projecting into water	Y	Y	
Rise	Rise	Street going to a higher place or	Y	Y	
Street	Rd	Open Street primarily for vehicles	Y		
Square	Sq	An area of Street bounded by four sides, usually for pedestrians.	Y	Y	
Steps	Stps	Walkway consisting mainly of steps			Y
Street	St	Public Street in an urban area, especially where paved and with footpaths and buildings along one or both sides.	Y		
Terrace	Tce	Street on a hilly area that is mainly flat	Y	Y	
Track	Trk	Walkway in natural setting			Y
Walk	Walk	Thoroughfare for pedestrians			Y
Way	Way	Short enclosed Street		Y	Y
Wharf	Whrf	A Street on a wharf or pier	Y	Y	Y