

TOWN OF CANAAN, VERMONT

STUMP DUMP FACILITY POLICY

I. Purpose –

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear standards for the operation and use of the Town of Canaan stump dump facility. This policy is intended to provide residents with a controlled and appropriate location for the disposal of natural woody debris and yard waste while ensuring compliance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

- Protect public health, safety, and the environment.
- Prevent illegal dumping and misuse of Town property.
- Ensure compliance with the Town Solid Waste Ordinance, Vermont ANR rules, and EPA guidance.
- Provide clear operational expectations for users and staff.

II. Authority –

This policy is adopted pursuant to the Town of Canaan Solid Waste Ordinance and is intended to implement and support the requirements set forth therein.

- May be adopted, amended, or interpreted by the Selectboard.
- May be established or modified through action taken at a duly warned Selectboard meeting.
- May be implemented through written policy, posted signage, or operator direction.

Actions and determinations made by the Selectboard or its designee shall have the same force and effect as a formally adopted policy.

III. Location –

The stump dump facility is located at 5926 VT Route 102, Canaan, Vermont, at the site of the former Town dump.

- This is the only location designated by the Town for stump dump operations.
- Use of any other location for disposal of similar materials may be considered illegal dumping.

IV. Hours of Operation –

The stump dump operates on a seasonal schedule established by the Town.

- Open Saturdays from May through October, 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM.
- Open the first two Saturdays of January for holiday-related materials such as natural Christmas trees.
- Closed outside posted hours unless otherwise authorized.
- The facility shall remain locked when not open.

The Town may open the facility outside normal hours for storm events, emergencies, or municipal operations.

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V. Authorized Users –

Use of the stump dump is limited to residential use within the Town. Commercial clients may not be permitted to use the facility.

- Residents, including seasonal and second homeowners, may use the facility.
- Materials must originate from the user's own residential property within the Town.
- Use by contractors or businesses is limited. Contractors may only bring in items generated in Town and must follow all load limits designated by the Policy.

Loads determined to be commercial, contractor-generated, or those that do not meet the load limits may be refused at the discretion of the operator.

VI. Accepted Materials –

The stump dump is intended for disposal of natural and clean materials only.

- Brush, limbs, and natural woody debris.
- Clean, untreated wood free of paint, stain, adhesives, or preservatives.
- Leaves, grass clippings, and garden waste.
- Cold, clean ashes free of contaminants.
- Limited inert materials such as asphalt, when approved by the operator.

Acceptance of materials is subject to operator discretion and current Town practices and site conditions.

VII. Prohibited Materials –

The following materials are not accepted at the stump dump under any circumstances:

- Stumps of any size.
- Construction and demolition debris (C&D).
- Contractor or business-generated material, that are not generated in Town.
- Treated, painted, or stained wood.
- Composite or engineered wood products.
- Pallets unless clearly marked heat-treated (HT).
- Household trash, recyclables, or municipal solid waste.
- Hazardous or regulated materials.
- Any material not approved by the operator.

VIII. Load Limits and Restrictions –

The stump dump is intended for small-scale residential use.

- Maximum wood diameter of 4 inches at the butt end.
- Maximum load size of approximately a 12' x 14' trailer or similar volume.
- Loads must be consistent with typical residential activity.

The operator may refuse excessive, repeated, or commercial-scale loads. Determination of load acceptability shall be made by the operator.

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IX. Site Operation and Requirements –

All users are expected to follow site rules and directions.

- Follow all posted signage and operator instructions.
- Signage designates burnable and non-burnable materials and placement areas.
- Deposit materials only in designated locations.
- No entry outside authorized hours.
- No dumping outside the gate or after hours.

Unauthorized use of the site may be considered illegal dumping.

X. Burning and Environmental Conditions –

Burning activities at the stump dump shall be conducted in accordance with applicable regulations.

- Only natural, untreated wood and brush may be burned.
- Burning shall be conducted only by the Town or its designee.
- Authorization from the Town Fire Warden is required.
- All burning must comply with Vermont ANR regulations and EPA guidance.

Burning shall not occur during burn bans, drought conditions, or periods of elevated fire risk. The facility may be closed when such conditions exist.

XI. Temporary Closures –

The Town may close the stump dump as necessary.

- Closures may occur due to weather, fire danger, site conditions, or operational needs.
- Closure authorities include the Selectboard, Road Agent, Fire Warden, or designee.

Reasonable efforts will be made to notify the public of closures in advance.

XII. Enforcement –

This policy shall be enforced in accordance with the Town Solid Waste Ordinance.

- Violations may result in refusal of materials, removal from the site, billing, or ticketing.
- Using outside authorized hours may constitute illegal dumping.
- Costs associated with cleanup or remediation may be charged to the party responsible.

XIII. Operator Authority –

The operator is responsible for day-to-day management of the facility.

- May direct placement of materials.
- May reject any load.
- May determine compliance with this policy.

Operator decisions shall govern site operations.

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XIV. Key Control –

The Town shall maintain control of all keys associated with the stump dump facility. Authorized key locations shall include:

- Town Office
- Transfer Station
- Town Garage
- Wastewater Treatment Facility

The employee assigned to open the stump dump:

- Shall report to the Transfer Station to obtain the key
- Shall return the key to the Transfer Station after securing and locking the facility

Keys shall not be taken home or retained outside authorized duties. No duplicate keys shall be made or distributed without approval of the Selectboard or its designee.

XV. Policy Flexibility –

The Town retains flexibility to respond to changing conditions.

- The Selectboard or its designee may modify rules as needed.
- Changes may be communicated through signage, direction, or public notice.

XVI. Effective Date –

This policy shall take effect upon approval by the Selectboard.

Adopted this 11th day of May, 2026.

SIGNATURES:

Dillon Begin, Chair

Alfred Buckley

Alan Leigh