All town owned roads in the Town of Newcastle are now posted, this is important because the major roads that most of the citizens use are not posted as they are state owned. This is a common area of confusion as most people don’t know that the Town is not responsible for some of the largest roads in town. The following list of roads are owned and maintained by the MDOT and are not posted:

Sheepscot Rd

Mills Rd

Pond Rd.

Jones Wood Rd.

Bunker Hill Rd.

River Rd.

Snead Spur

All of the other town owned roads are posted which means that the uses of vehicles that have a GVW of grater than 23,000 Lbs are restricted/ prohibited. These posting are put in place to protect the town’s infrastructure. Many of the roads were improperly built and suffer from insufficient drainage and structural material to support heavy loads during wet conditions. These postings are designed to restrict these weights until such time that the road bead can dry and reasonably sustain the weight. The posting will be removed as soon as conditions in the roadways allow for the postings to be removed. This means that some roads may become un-posted quicker than others, so it is very important to look for the bright orange posters at the beginning of each road prior to assuming that passage over the road is allowed.

There are exceptions to the postings, septic trucks, oil trucks, school busses, plow trucks, emergency vehicles and food delivery are all exempt from the postings. In addition to these exceptions vehicles in excess of the posted weight can travel on the road if the ambient temperature is below 32 degrees and the road is solidly frozen. One additional condition of this is the lack of visible water in any cracks or surface of the pavement. The road must be dry and the temps below freezing. If either of these conditions are not met, the postings are still in effect.

The Town of Newcastle currently does entertain requests to cross posted roads. This does not mean that every request will be granted, however it is very unrealistic to be able to regulate every possible situation. Understanding that these unique situations arise we do consider requests for waivers on posted roads and each situation is evaluated and a decision is made. The responsible party should reach out to the road commissioner at roadcommissioner@newcastlemaine.us to discuss any possible scenarios that a wavier is being requested.

Additional information can be found on the MDOT website listed below, or please reach out via the email above if any other information or questions arise:

<https://www.maine.gov/mdot/postedroads/faqs/>

Seth Hagar

Road Commissioner