

## 2023 Public Works Annual Report

The public works department had another busy year in 2023. Our first project was the overlay of 1/2 mile on Faxon Hill Rd. The existing pavement was beginning to show signs of water intrusion. Ditches were cleaned and culverts inspected for replacement. All States Asphalt was awarded the contract to place 1 1/5" of hot mix asphalt on the existing pavement. This will improve ride quality and provide easier snow and ice removal in the winter while reducing our salt usage. State block grant funds in addition to a town article appropriation were used to complete the project. We also overlaid 1 mile of East Washington Rd.

At the 2022 town meeting, discussion was had regarding the possibility of establishing a gravel pit for exclusive use by the Town on a property in East Washington. This property had been taken for taxes and was previously identified as a potential gravel source. The town appropriated \$25,000.00 to conduct borings on site and analyze the material. The borings indicated trace amounts of gravel. However the majority of the samples revealed vast quantities of course sand. We currently purchase all our sand for winter operations from a pit in Hillsboro. This is costly and the Town is vulnerable to material shortages and access to the pit in emergencies. A topographic survey was completed in 2023. Wetland delineation and survey points were identified for future road access. The next phase would include the appropriate wetland crossing and road construction.

After final town meeting approval and appropriation, the sand shed was constructed behind the public works garage. All site work was completed with town labor and equipment. Local contractors were hired to frame and roof the structure. The shed may be easily extended in future years for more capacity. We completed the project in fall 2023 and came in under budget. The shed will store approximately 800 cubic yards of sand for winter maintenance.

Another major flooding event damaged several roads and culverts in Town on July 17<sup>th</sup> 2023. Thousands of cubic yards of material were washed away during the torrential rain. The response overwhelmed our municipal resources. We relied heavily on private contractors and Public Works Mutual Aid to respond accordingly and reopen washed out roads. In the weeks that followed, we replaced many damaged culverts, regraded roads and replaced gravel. One large culvert on Valley Rd was damaged by debris and is under review with FEMA for possible Mitigation Funding Assistance. A federal disaster declaration was approved for this event and an anticipated 75% FEMA reimbursement is expected for all eligible costs.

Other work this year included gravel road maintenance. Over 90 loads of crushed gravel was added to several roads. We applied 9,000 gallons of calcium chloride for road stabilization. We replaced several culverts, cleaned ditches and mowed all roadsides including class VI fire lanes.

I would like to thank the town departments, employees and selectmen for their continued support of the Public Works Department.

Respectfully Submitted, Edward G. Thayer, Public Works Director