



TOWN OF UNION *Maine*

August was another busy month for us. Three of us each had a different week of vacation, but we still managed to get a lot accomplished, thanks to cooperation from mother nature. In addition to the normal mowing schedule, we were able to complete ditching projects on Daniels Rd, Robbins Rd, and Clarry Hill Rd. We also changed out a culvert on Daniels Rd.

We focused on catching up on training, some of it required and some of it recommended. During the month of August, we conducted training sessions on Hearing Conservation, Lockout/Tagout, Fire Extinguisher/Fire Prevention, Bloodborne Pathogens, Trenching and Excavation Safety, and Ladder Safety. I attended a Personnel Protective Equipment class at the Safety Works Training Institute in Augusta and spent a significant amount of time working on updating the departments policies and procedures as recommended in last month's Department of Labor inspection. Not the most exciting work, as I'd rather be out getting dirty on the job site with the guys, but a necessary part of my position.

I'm also happy to report that our sand and salt sheds are completely full and ready for winter (my fingers are crossed that it doesn't come anytime soon 😊). Our salt is once again this year provided by New England Salt Company out of Searsport and our sand was provided by Kevin Jones Construction in Hope. We have approximately 2500 yards of sand here at public works, and Kevin has an additional stockpile at his lot that we can purchase if we run low during the season and need more.

At the end of the month All States Construction began chip sealing North Union and Sennebec Road. It's a rubberized chip seal that goes over the shim that was laid down earlier this summer. I had the opportunity to ride along with the crew and see how it all works and it was quite neat to watch. First they spray a rubberized liquid on the road which is about 400 degrees and then lay down the 3/8" chips which are 200-300 degrees and then roll over it. It goes down very quick and when they are finished, we are left with a nice surface layer which, because of the rubber, has the ability to flex when the road shifts due to frost etc., which will help lessen the amount and size of road cracks.

All-in-all it was a very productive August.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Elwell - Public Works Director