



# TOWN OF UNION *Maine*

Just when we thought it was safe to cut back on the mowing the month of July happened. It seemed like it rained every other day and now the grass is as green as it has ever been, forcing us to keep mowing it on a weekly rotation. Speaking of rain, the Town of Union recorded 4.5" on July 9 in less than 12 hours, thanks to the remanence of hurricane Elsa. Despite so much rain falling in a short amount of time, we escaped with only some minor erosion issues in the typical spots. We were easily able to fix them with the resources we had. I would contribute this to the good amount of ditching that has been done not just this year but in years past. The more time we can commit to proper drainage before the rain, means less time fixing washouts after the rain.

Because of all the rain a couple of the dirt roads had become quite rough with several "washboard" areas, so I asked Bill Packard if he would be kind enough to help us again with grader training. Bill gave up two and a half days of his own time to continue training employee Tom Fontaine on proper grader operation. I'm very thankful that Bill has been willing to do this as it not only benefits us but also every member of the public who drives on these roads as well.

The crew spent two and a half weeks ditching on Miller and Payson Roads. We also had to use the excavator to clear out a 36" culvert on Clarry Hill Lane that beavers had built a home in which was causing the road to flood.

And finally, Safety Works, the training division of the Maine Department of Labor, conducted a voluntary inspection of the public works facility. They identified several deficiencies mostly involving training and policies that needed to be updated. Because this was a voluntary inspection there are no penalties involved. We have 60 days to address the identified problems, which we are well on the way to having completed.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Elwell - Public Works Director



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Repairing a washout on Coggins Hill