

UNION PUBLIC WORKS - MONTHLY REPORT / MARCH 2021

March came in like a lamb and stayed that way all month. We did not have any snow or ice events to attend to for the entire month, which was very unusual, but we are certainly not complaining! The lack of winter weather road maintenance allowed us to get a jump on springtime projects.

All the town roads were posted for heavy loads (over 23,000 lbs.) during the first week in March. Limiting heavy truck traffic is essential to help prevent vulnerable side roads from being destroyed. Hopefully with any luck from mother nature it will be a short mud season. We spent a couple days patching potholes and several days were spent repairing dirt roads. With rain and warm temperatures, we had to haul in gravel and crushed stone to fill in and smooth out the mud holes. There was one spot on Barrett Hill near Witch Mountain that was impassible to anything other than a 4-wheel drive. We used 1 ½ inch stone and basically built a “bridge” through the mud as regular gravel and stone wasn’t coarse enough to harden up the deep mud. This was by far the worst spot on any of our dirt roads. In total we have used over 120 yards of gravel and 220 yards of stone on the dirt roads this spring just to make them passable.

We were able to take the time to perform maintenance on a couple of our plow trucks since they weren’t being used to plow snow. We were also able to re-deck the equipment trailer. Several of the old planks were rotten so we completely stripped the deck off and replaced it with new hemlock boards. It came out very nice and with proper care should last at least 10 more years. We also spent a day cleaning up brush at Ayer Park, painting the parking lines, cleaning the grills and making sure the porta-potties were fresh and clean.

During the month I interviewed three candidates for the vacant public works opening and we selected a young man from Washington who began on March 29. Overall, it was a productive month in which a lot was accomplished. We are in great shape moving forward into spring.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Elwell - Public Works Director



20-ton equipment trailer