



TOWN OF UNION *Maine*

November is a transitional month for the Public Works Department as we try to wrap up any uncompleted fall projects while simultaneously getting ready for winter operations. Plows and wings were mounted on trucks and tested to make sure they were in work ready condition.

We spent the first week repairing washouts from a weekend rainstorm that dropped nearly five inches of rain in about an eight-hour window. We had minor washouts on Butler Rd, Coggins Hill, Daniels Rd, Payson Rd, Clarry Hill Ln and Rabbit Farm Rd. The most significant washout was on Clarry Hill Rd by the culvert that runs into Round Pond. At the peak of the storm the rain was running about a foot over the road and washed out a 140-foot section of the shoulder. The crew spent an entire day repairing it and making it safe for travelling.

Our grader operator, Tom Fontaine, spent the better part of two weeks completing the fall grading of dirt roads to make them as smooth as possible for the winter and we will grade them again in the spring. We serviced all the lawn mowers and put them away for winter storage. The excavator was also serviced and will be stored inside over the winter months. This machine registered over 350 hours this past summer which equated to a lot of changed culverts and cleared out ditches. We began leaf cleanup on the Common Cemetery as well as the Common itself and assisted the Chamber of Commerce with setting up the electrical cords and grade stakes for the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony. The bathrooms at Ayer Park were officially closed and the parking lot gated closed for the winter months.

Also, this month, All States Construction was finally able to complete the paving projects on Sidelinger, Coggins Hill and Townsend Rd. This will help significantly with washouts, mud season, and of course snow plowing.

Speaking of snow plowing, we got our first round of accumulating snowfall on the 27th and spent the early morning hours clearing the roads. Even a small storm such as this takes several hours to properly plow and sand the 110 lane miles of roadway that the public works crew is responsible for.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Elwell - Public Works Director