



# TOWN OF UNION *Maine*

November was a quiet month weather wise which afforded us time to get caught up on other jobs. We only went out once this month to sand the Clarry Hill and North Union areas when we got a coating of snow one morning.

We started the month off by hosting a Snow & Ice Control class at the town office. The class was taught by the Maine Local Road Center (a division of Maine DOT) and there were about 20 other public works personnel from the local area that attended. The goal of the class was how to utilize best management practices to keep roads safe for travel in the wintertime. A large portion of the class was spent learning the best way to chemically treat the roads to prevent the bond of ice or snow. The key is to get out early, ahead of the storm, and treat the roads before the ice or snow gets packed to the road. Also, as part of the class we learned the proper procedure for calibrating the trucks for both salt and sand. All our trucks are now calibrated which will help us be more efficient when spreading material on the roads.

We spent several days cleaning up and removing leaves from the cemeteries and finished cutting brush on Pound Hill Rd. We also performed annual maintenance in all the dump trucks, the excavator and backhoe, and replaced an axle seal in the wheeler. We are officially ready for winter.

And lastly, we had a voluntary inspection by Safety Works, a division of Maine Department of Labor. They check everything from policies and training logs to the safety and cleanliness of the building and yard and make recommendations on areas that need to be fixed. Other than one minor safety issue in the building that was corrected while the inspector was present, we passed with flying colors! This was the first step in our goal to achieve "SHAPE" recognition. (Safety & Health Award for Public Employers)

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Elwell - Public Works Director