

May 2020 Public Works Report

Roads/Dock

- The crew continued to repair sod damage, curb and gutter clean-up, and sidewalk/bike lane sweeping in the early part of the month as weather improved.
- Ditching and rehabilitation of the south end gravel roads has begun, and we hope to continue this necessary practice on every Town gravel road as time allows. After Capser and Old Fort were ditched in the worst areas and new material was added, a substantial rain fell. The improved areas drained, and overall both roads held up very well.
- Wren Works is preparing to wrap up the dock improvement project. It will be great to have the additional space for pedestrians and heavy traffic on a busy day. I am glad they were able to patch the area near the blue bin where drainage issues were evident. I will be discussing funding options with the Town Board about repairing the approach area around the ticket booth and the transition to the Dockside parking area, as I strongly believe there must be substantial repairs done before next winter or we will suffer bigger, more expensive problems. The crew and I will continue to monitor and patch the collapsing areas east of the ticket booth.

Parks

- The Capser Trail was cleaned up after many months of it being nearly impassable. It was an impressive amount of debris and fallen tangled trees. Thanks to various volunteers who helped as well.
- Discussions have begun and plans are being deliberated with the intention of doing some serious shoreline rehabilitation and green space uplift at Joni's Beach/Memorial Park. This popular park is slowly eroding away, and the present memorials are at risk. I hope to find some solutions with limited funds available. Many thanks to all who have donated to the rehabilitation fund throughout the last 5 years. Stay tuned.
- Big Bay Town Park will open for camping on June 1st and offer limited restrooms to help keep cleaning standards the best that we can provide, for the safety of employees as well as customers.
- There was considerable discussion at the 5/12 TB meeting and some at the 5/19 Town meeting concerning the 'full opening' of public restrooms, trash and recycling receptacles, playgrounds, parks, downtown porta-potties, and all public spaces. I still believe that proceeding with caution is the wisest approach, but don't want to cause additional issues by not having restrooms available to the public or put any additional strain on downtown businesses. I was somewhat surprised at the number of people nonchalantly all over the place over the Memorial Day Weekend. For the foreseeable future, signage is posted and everything that is currently open is 'use at your own risk,' except for public drinking fountains, which are shut off indefinitely. The Parks crew is doing a great job so far and can only continue to do what is safe and practically possible.

COVID-19

- Be responsible and stay safe, for everybody's sake.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ben Schram
Public Works Director