

November 2020 Public Works Report

Roads

- November 2020 began with a Sunday morning windstorm that caused a significant regional electrical outage, canceled Ferry service, and resulted in multiple trees down across island roads. Trees were removed from roads, ferry service ran in the afternoon, and power was restored before nightfall.
- All plows and sanders were assembled and ready to go, and the first snowfall worthy of plowing was Veterans Day, November 11th. It has now proved to be the only snow that stuck all month long.
- Evan spent a day working on a great experiment, and after some modifications, he and Pete had the old Henke plow from the 1991 International articulating on the 444 John Deere loader. This very successful set-up should be great for side roads, dead ends, parking lots, and the like with the 11' wide plow and high lift power of the loader.

Parks

- The Gazebo was decorated with a tree and holiday decorations.
- Joni's Beach shoreline stabilization project is scheduled for next Spring. We will likely lift the area under the existing pavilion again and add to the gravel base. I hope to add a set of swings to the playground area as well.
- The crew and I will spend some time this winter continuing to work on the Rec Center interior, getting to a point where a general contractor can take over in the future and turn dreams into reality. I will have final building plans for multi-stall ADA restrooms, drinking fountains, and a storage room/rentable space by the end of this year. I am very hopeful that the project will take shape in 2021.
- Big Bay Town Park has been popular this month with hikers and dog walkers due to the weather holding out. Fortunately, most people have been respectful of a 'leave no trace' philosophy this time of year.

MRF

- Republic Services hauled away a semi load of 27 plastic bales, essentially freeing up the pole barn which used to be the old exchange. We will be using this space to stockpile bales and store equipment and materials throughout the winter.
- OSI Environmental brought over a vacuum truck and sucked out 300 gallons of waste oil sludge and oily water from the reservoir. Evan and I assisted with the old culvert steamer and pressure washer, and the clean-up was a success. We will re-set the existing waste oil tank and look over plans and ideas for constructing a new lean-to. The entire waste oil collection area will be ready for use again next year.
- The old firehall/paper storage garage is being converted into a workshop and the building is being repaired as needed. The unused propane tank from the Rec Center was moved by Midland, and the small ceiling mounted Hot Dawg heater from the old Police garage was installed. Recycling Town equipment indeed. The MRF crew and MRF Bobcat will enjoy having a warmer space when needed.

Misc./Admin.

- After budget meetings and much discussion throughout the month, I believe we've looked at every factor and are on track with an efficient public works plan looking forward.

Respectfully submitted,
Ben Schram
Public Works Director