

April 2021 Public Works Report

Roads

- Warmer temps earlier in the month allowed for some groundwork to take place, despite the seasonal load limits in effect.
- The bottom of Miller Farm Road began to erode from a false ditch and was repaired as soon as possible with minor hauling and shoulder shaping with the Town's New Holland skid steer.
- Bike lanes, Intersections, most of Main Street, and the Town dock were swept with the JD 444 broom attachment. There was a lot of sand to clean up and we will continue on the curbs and sidewalks next month. As we get closer to one year of completion, the Town dock expansion was washed off with our ice road approach pump prior to the Town, MIFL, Wren Works and Smithgroup inspection of dock project.
- The dock approach was patched with gravel when the weather allowed, and Northwoods Paving is planning to pave the area in early June. Culvert replacement patches from last year were also touched up with gravel and continue to be monitored until paving time.
- The wetland culvert between Penny Lane and Old Fort Road began to collapse to a point where it became dangerous to motorists and was replaced with plastic pipe. We expanded the shoulder to the south with DNR approval and the project was completed with minimal swamp disturbance. Rental equipment, in this case a mini excavator with rubber tracks, was used so that the job could be completed and roadway opened by 3 p.m., with no blacktop damage.
- Pete ended the month with a few big days in the grader and did a great job shaping up the worst areas on the gravel roads. We will continue to spread gravel as needed and proactively ditch when possible throughout this summer.

Parks

- Many tall and injured oak trees around the Big Bay Town Park office were dropped by Bruce's Tree Service with Evan Jr.'s assistance. Joe, Evan, and I spent a day cleaning up the aftermath. The new MRF truck with a 40 yd. box made very quick work of the considerable debris clean-up.
- Joni's Beach, the RV Dump Station, and the Whitefish Street bathrooms were opened to the public as demand was high. This is much earlier than usual, and I waited until the (hopefully) last nights in the upper 20's and lower 30's were over for the season.

Misc.

- The crew worked on the annual MSHA refresher course in anticipation of the upcoming hauling season, and for good 'safe practices' reminders in the workplace.
- See other MRF report for details on the new MRF roll-off truck and the new "Island Closet" collaboration between the Town and St. Johns.

Respectfully submitted,
Ben Schram
Public Works Director