

June 2021 Public Works Report

Roads/Equipment

- June began with 1 ½ days of the Northwoods paving crew laying hot mix asphalt on the Town dock approach, the 2nd layer of the ESB parking lot, and several culvert patches on the South end of the island. The Town crew assisted as needed with prep work, cutting, rough grading, signage, and traffic control. It was very satisfying to have this work finally complete.
- The first few weeks of June saw the crew painting curbs and crosswalks, striping the busiest downtown roads as needed, and painting the dock lanes and approach area. With the new dock expansion in full use, this was done in an effort to guide the flow of Ferry customers in the safest and most practical way.
- The JD 444K Loader had the 500-hour service done by a McCoy service technician.
- At the request of Ashland County, the shoulders on H were cut with the Airport's TV145 New Holland tractor, along with the Town Roads. There was an outcry over the milkweed, but there is still a lot of milkweed in other areas. Cutting the shoulders gives the motorist a potential ½ second of reaction time in an emergency braking situation which could involve running fawns or other wildlife, inexperienced moped riders, or bicyclists of all ages. This seasonal task must be done, especially on Big Bay Road/H where there is very little shoulder to accommodate other users of the busy road.
- Dust abatement was a hot topic at the 6/22 Town Board meeting, and the TB approved the Road Crew's plan to fabricate a water truck with material we already have, with the intent to have ability to apply biodegradable dust abatement product on gravel roads as needed during the dry summer months. This is an exciting development, and another efficient and cost saving approach between departments working together to tackle an issue which affects many residents, as well as the integrity of gravel roads. It has thus far been a terrific team effort, with great fabrication work by Pete and Evan. The crew will be spreading a generous mixture of VP Racing dust deterrent on gravel roads with the new water tank set-up, mounted on the MRF hook-lift truck (Woodstock) on a recycled scrap metal box frame (retired from MRF) in early July. In the meantime, Ashland County spread a mixture of salt brine, magnesium chloride, and beet juice on Miller Farm Road, Sunny Slope Road, Voyager Lane, and Snowplace Road. We will be monitoring how well this application holds up on medium ADT areas for research and possible future budgeting. The water tank project will also allow for grading to be much more effective during the driest periods by having the ability to simply water down a road and add moisture beforehand.

Parks

- Big Bay Town Park and all downtown Parks and green spaces were mowed and cleaned up in anticipation of the holiday weekend.
- The Rec Center bathroom remodel project is finally out for bids.

Watch out for pedestrians, pets, kids, bikers, mopeds, rogue deer, etc. and slow down.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Schram, Public Works Director