

DPW 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



2019 was another busy and transitional year for the Department of Public Works (DPW). In November of this year I started as the new Public Works Director, after having worked for the Goffstown Public Works Department for the last 15 years as both their Town Engineer and Public Works Director. I am honored to have been selected as the new DPW Director here in Gilford and look forward to getting to know the residents of this beautiful community. The Gilford Town employees have been extremely welcoming and I have enjoyed getting to know everyone over the last two months. The DPW staff and highway crew are a very dedicated, hardworking group of individuals who take pride in serving this community, which I am proud to be a part of. I am excited to help facilitate and manage all the great services and events that Gilford DPW provides to the citizens (see insert below).

This year included the departure of two long time employees. Dee Chitty, Building and Grounds Supervisor with 16 years of service to the Town of Gilford and Mike Donovan, Solid Waste Supervisor with 6 years of service. Congratulations to Bruce Hewitt on his promotion to Solid Waste Supervisor and to Matt Whitney who was hired earlier this year as the new Building and Grounds Supervisor. We also welcomed two new truck drivers, Troy Northcutt and Tyler Zinkand this year. I'm excited and very optimistic about the great team here!

HIGHWAY DIVISION

The Highway Division stays busy throughout the year with many ongoing maintenance tasks such as drainage maintenance, street sweeping, pothole repairs, signage installs, brush cutting and shouldering. Drainage maintenance is a critical task that the Highway Division is responsible for which directly impacts the functionality of the road and pavement condition. This year staff ditched over 10 miles of roadside swales, cleaned and inspected 110 catch basins and cleaned over 50 culvert pipes. This summer our crew installed four (4) catch basins and 200 linear feet of pipe in various locations as needed.

Another important maintenance task which impacts roadway conditions is the removal of overgrown brush, downed trees and roadside mowing. DPW cut over ten (10) miles of brush along the roadways, some with the use of a rented roadside mower. This work provides clearance to larger trucks and allows sun light to reach the pavement in the winter which directly helps with melting snow and ice.

<p><i>DPW SERVICES & EVENTS</i></p> <p><i>Plowing & Snow Removal</i></p> <p><i>Roadway & Sidewalk Maintenance</i></p> <p><i>Roadway Construction</i></p> <p><i>Drainage System Cleaning & Maintenance</i></p> <p><i>Environmental Permitting</i></p> <p><i>Town-Wide Department Fleet Maintenance</i></p> <p><i>Sewer & Pump Station Maintenance</i></p> <p><i>Transfer Station Operations</i></p> <p><i>Town Wide Building and Grounds Maintenance</i></p> <p>- - -</p> <p><i>Island Cleanup Weekend</i></p> <p><i>Household Hazardous Waste Weekend</i></p>
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In between regular preventative maintenance work, DPW responds to and completes “Requests For Action” (RFAs) that come in from residents. This year staff completed over 70 RFAs and 40 driveway permits. Assistance to other departments such as the Police Department for Old Home Day and Parks and Recreation at the Town beaches and playgrounds is part of our regular routine as well. DPW helped get the new Solid Waste Center open by shouldering the new pavement, mulching around the site, general cleanup and building the new bays with concrete block and plywood walls.

Reconstruction on roadways throughout Town continued again this year with more progress on the original 10 year road plan. This year a total of 3.25 mi was rebuilt with all new drainage and another 0.5 mi was paved as well.

Lastly, what most residents associate all Public Works Departments with is plowing during the good old New England winter weather events! DPW has responded to 23 snow and ice events since January and Mother Nature is not disappointing (or IS disappointing some of us depending on how you look at it) by closing out 2019 with yet another dump of snow and ice!

SOLID WASTE DIVISION

DPW’s most exciting project this year is the opening of the new Gilford Solid Waste Center. Thank you to the numerous contractors, subcontractors, DPW staff (from all divisions) who assisted with the completion of the new building and site work. Thank you to the Solid Waste Committee for bringing this vision to fruition and providing continued support during all of the ups and downs. Lastly thank you to the residents for your patience during planning, design, construction and the switch to separated recyclables. DPW is very excited to start accepting all residential separated recycling and household trash at no charge in the new facility on Jan 2nd.



Gilford DPW launched new public informational flyers across multiple platforms to help notify the community of the new rules associated with the mandatory recycling requirement once the new facility opens. While it may seem daunting at first, DPW is confident that our staff can help make this transition smooth for residents and we are ready to assist in any way we can. Thank you to the Gilford Public Library for co-hosting two Recycle Right Info Sessions in early January to help educate residents. For questions about this new program, please go to the new “Recycle Right” website (www.gilfordnh.org/recycleright), email us at recycle@gilfordnh.org or call 293-0220.

We appreciate all efforts toward recycling right and ask that you help spread the word to others and make sure everyone in your family is following the rules for the new facility so that DPW can process clean recycled material bales and save taxpayer dollars.



SEWER DIVISION

The Sewer Division is happy to report that the new pump stations at Varney Point worked flawlessly this year. The Hedgewood pump station had both pumps rebuilt and a new station heater installed. Throughout the year, 150 manhole inspections were completed, 63 water meters and 76 MXU readers were replaced or updated and 75 final sewer reads were also done (real estate sales). Annual CCTV inspections and sewer line cleaning of 10,000 linear feet were completed with the assistance of a contractor. Staff approved several new sewer connection permits in 2019 including 21 residential and 6 commercial discharge permits. Other projects this year were the connection of the floor drains to the sewer system in the DPW and Fire Station buildings, along with the purchase of a new power lift tailgate to aid in putting heavy supplies in the sewer service truck.



BUILDING AND GROUNDS DIVISION



All the personnel of the Building and Grounds Division worked very hard this past year with maintenance and repair of Town-owned buildings and grounds. Working behind the scenes, they handle everything from emergency calls to snow removal, custodial duties, landscaping, building projects and beautification of the Town. This small group is dedicated to ensure that when residents, and guests visit the municipal properties, parks, and beaches, each are clean and safe. Employees also take pride in decorating for the holidays, keeping flags flying high, and helping with Town events such as Elections, Old Home Day, and The Candle Light Stroll, to mention a few.

FLEET MAINTENANCE DIVISION



The Fleet Maintenance Division is responsible for the all needed preventative maintenance and repair orders in each and every Town Department. From police cruisers to fire trucks, DPW loaders and excavators to chainsaws and generators, this department is truly a jack of all mechanical trades. The three talented mechanics completed 125 preventative work orders and over 200 minor and

major repair orders, consisting of steering, suspension, brakes, electrical defects, computer control faults, tires, batteries, lights, mirrors, etc. Larger repairs completed in-house this year, which saves significant outsourcing costs, involved a transmission replacement, complete engine replacement and a clutch replacement.

Other notable projects and custom work completed this year were the Village retention dam repair, recycle center wall stations, and repairs made to the Belknap Regional Mobil Command Vehicle along with 25 other smaller welding or fabrication projects. Two new major pieces of equipment were added to the DPW fleet in 2019; a slip-in asphalt hot box and a 2019 Mack dump truck equipped with plow, wing, sander, and stainless dump body. Last, but certainly not least, all three of the personnel under the Fleet Maintenance Division regularly assist with winter weather events due to a shortage of staff by plowing, operating equipment, clearing sidewalks in addition to making necessary emergency repairs and adjustments as needed to keep all snow fighting vehicles and equipment in service during weather events.

A huge thank to your amazing Gilford Public Works team who puts their heart and soul into each task and project! I am excited to work with this awesome team and look forward to all the projects and challenges that lie ahead!

