

Down and Dirty with Goffstown DPW

March 2012

By: Mike Hillhouse, Assistant Director

I'm going to kick this month's newsletter off with what may be the most controversial subject so far this year – the Mast Road Drainage Project. In a nutshell – drainage is not the same as sewerage – which is what they've been working on for the last 2 seasons. (Drainage is rain, sewerage is wastewater.) There have been some changes to the plan with that project so a full width overlay of Mast Road from the Manchester line to 114 was planned this year instead of 2014.

With that being the case, there are some drain lines and structures that need to be changed before we pave. As much as doing it now may be unpopular, digging up new asphalt in two years is going to be even less popular – not to mention more costly. For more information on this project and updates to the construction schedule see the Town's homepage. That being said, we started right in on it at the end of March after quite a bit of prepwork.



Tim Savaria prepares the trench for the compactor.



This work is slated to take us into the summer as several sections of sidewalk will also need to be reconstructed as the drain lines are under some sections.



Jeff Sarette back fills with the Bobcat.

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Leading up to the Mast road drainage Project, part of the crew continued with tree and brush work throughout most of March. Here Rob Davison, Nate Strong and Mike Kos clean up after taking a tree down along the back of West Lawn Cemetery.



Drainage work continued. Plenty of ditch work and tuning up the swales behind the grader. In addition, a collapsed catch basin on North Mast was replaced. Below, key player on the excavator crew, Tim Savaria, hooks up the chains so the new structure can be lowered into place. There are a few other structures in the neighborhood that will likely require attention in the near future.

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The Engineering Division typically spends the winter working on plans for upcoming projects. This winter is no different. Below, Town Engineer Meghan Theriault takes some shots on a culvert on Gorham Pond Road.



While the weather was on our side we took care of a couple more items at Roy Park while we were there cleaning the inlet to one of our drain pipes. Below Mike Guerrette (Parks and Rec), Rob Davison and Bob Gage work on removing a dead tree. Several other trees and brush also needed to be cleared to get a machine into the area to work.



Below Ryan Kenny carefully guides Billy Holt's bucket to remove debris surrounding the inlet of the culvert. Once the area was cleared of debris the swale was also cleaned and a new headwall was constructed.

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(Below Left) Somewhat drainage related, below Ryan Kenny, Dalton Clark, Matt Clement and Jason Georgantas tune up some of the swales between the road and sidewalk on Church Street. Several year's accumulation of dirt debris were removed so water can better flow to the drains.



(Above Right) Up at the top of Langan Drive we installed some underdrain along with redigging the ditch lines. This is a perfect example of where this type of drain comes in handy. You can see in the picture below the ground water is literally pouring down the trench as Corey Wike and Mike Kos prepare the trench for the drain line. Without this drain, groundwater saturates the road base causing the pavement to fail and subsequently get peeled up by the plow. While Langan Drive is still in need of reclamation, hopefully with this drainage in place the eventual asphalt patching will last with a dry base material.

As you can see with the major projects starting, April promises to be even busier as we get into full swing with the Mast Road Drainage Project and the typical springtime rituals like sweeping, painting and patching.