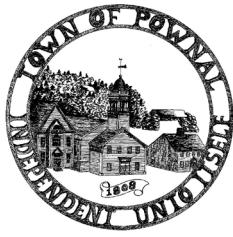


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NOTES FROM THE ROAD COMMISSIONER JANUARY 28, 2019

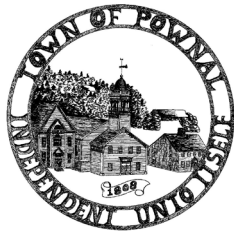
- I would like to remind residents that pushing or placing snow into the town road is against Maine State Law 29-A M.R.S.A. ss 2396. By disposing of snow/slush into the town road it becomes an obstruction to the vehicles traveling the road and creates additional icing problems. Please be mindful of this and help us keep our town roads safe for everyone. If you have a contractor plowing for you please check with them to see if they are using good practices that follow the law.
- Please remember to slow down and drive with caution during winter weather events. Give yourself extra travel time to get to your destination safely. Please give plenty of room for the plow trucks. The trucks are slow, but they are clearing the roads and treating them to help the public travel safer. Many of the slide off accidents are from driving too fast for the road conditions.
- Maine DOT plans to do a Light Capital paving project from Route 231 in New Gloucester to Elmwood Rd in Pownal during the 2019 paving season.
- The long-term gravel road maintenance plan draft shows the cost of adding 1 ½” crushed gravel at depths of 6 inches to twelve inches per road. Many of our gravel roads are in need of new material. A typical Maine local gravel road loses on average about one inch per year per mile of material. This is from dust, plowing and erosion. (See attached draft spreadsheet)
- Sand and Salt usage on the roads has been higher this month due to the types of storms and timing during heavy morning commute times. This year we have had a continued weather pattern of snow, rain and freezing rain. This requires more material to be used compared to a regular Maine snowstorm.
- Use of the new public sand bin has been steady in the past month because of the weather conditions. In the new fiscal year, we will track the public use sand separate it from the costs of our road sand. This winter has had an impact on our sand supply a considerable amount has gone into the public sand bin for use by residents of Pownal.
- The crew has had to cut Ice out of the roads a few times this winter due to the high-water content of our weather events.



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- With the addition of a new employee, public works will begin a new worker safety program and team training on the equipment. We will be working with Maine Municipal Association and Maine Local Roads to accomplish this goal.
- I am making a list of all utility poles that need to have wires transferred and the old poles to be removed. We should consider adopting a six-month transfer/removal policy as part of our pole permit process. Public Works can work together with the utilities to fill the removed pole hole with ditching material if it would help to get the old pole removed faster.
- This last big snow storm we had five trucks out on the roads and it allowed us to clear the roads sooner. We are going review and work to improve our timing and routes to get the secondary roads cleared sooner if possible. Timing and intensity of the storm does make a difference during commuter time.
- In case of an emergency I (Dick Clarke) can be reached at 207-650-0433 or Brunswick Dispatch at 207-721-4301.



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