

May 3, 2021

NHPWA NEWS

New Hampshire Public Works Association Newsletter

President's Message

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works, Nashua, NH

Happy spring! I hope you are all enjoying the warmer weather and longer days. Congratulations to those of you who have been vaccinated. Because of you, this pandemic is finally coming to an end. This is my favorite time of year in Public Works. It's a time for us to showcase all of the great work we do. We are all tasked with maintaining the infrastructure in our communities with limited funding. It's an enormous challenge that we all know well. This is also a time to make a difference in and improve the quality of life for our residents. My staff would tell you that I am a big fan of Ian Hill. Remember him from APWA and the Leadership in Changing Times program? One of my favorite Ian Hill sayings is, "If you always do what you have always done, you will always get what you have always got." I would encourage you to revisit the Ian Hill Sessions and challenge each of you to think outside of the box as we engage with residents and do our essential work. How can we do things more efficiently? What has the pandemic taught us? How can we add more value to the services we provide in our communities?

The NHPWA Board has been busy thinking about how we can provide value to our membership during these challenging times. Public Works Week is May 16 through May 22. While this Public Works Week may not look like previous years, we would encourage you to do something to highlight public works in your community. You may want to send some staff to participate in the Public Works Memorial Clean up on May 19 or 20. The NHPWA will be having its Annual Meeting on June 10. There is a great line up of topics including Cyber Security, Flood Resiliency and Challenges of a Bridge Maintenance Program. More information is coming. Please save the date!

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and find it informative. We would appreciate your feedback. Thanks for all you do to promote and celebrate Public Works. Together we will create better awareness of the important work that we do. We would love to welcome new members. Please join us whenever you can. We all look forward to the days when we can once again meet in person and network. Brighter days are ahead. Don't forget to schedule some time off to enjoy the summer and spend time with friends and family. Be safe. Warm Regards, Lisa

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Challenges of Bridge Maintenance

Packard Hill Covered Bridge , Lebanon, NH

By Christina Hall, City of Lebanon

The Packard Bridge is considered a gem to many who live in the City of Lebanon.

In 1991, the City of Lebanon contracted Arnold Graton and Associates to construct a new Howe Truss Covered Bridge, to replace the bridge that was taken down in 1958 and that was replaced with a temporary Bailey bridge. The new covered bridge was placed on the original alignment from the late 1800's and it was a simple span bridge along the picturesque River Road that crosses the Mascoma River. In 2013, after very little maintenance it was needing repairs and the deck was rated in poor condition. The steel rods that are key components to hold the bridge deck and upper cord beams together had started to deteriorate with section loss, due to the salt and weather which can be a common problem with the Howe Truss design.

In addition, the shingles on the roof had started failing and there were openings and holes where rain, sleet, snow, was leaking on to the floor. Salt laden water from the winter maintenance operations and vehicle traffic would track across the bridge and get up onto and down on the steel rods corroding the critical steel components of this bridge consisting of unprotected (bare steel) truss vertical rods, plates and nuts, and lower lateral cross bracing rods.



The Packard Hill Covered Bridge in Lebanon, New Hampshire

A lack of a good yearly cleaning and maintenance plan helped to exasperate the deterioration. The bridge reports that were done yearly, stated the conditions of the roof, rods, and floor as key area of concerns, along with the damage from vehicle hits mostly from oversized vehicles trying to squeeze into the low clearance bridge. Cost estimates were done to estimate the repairs and they were more than \$800,000 in 2014. The City was unable to find and plans relative to the original bridge construction and NHDOT did not have records as well. So, checking in with the original builder it was discovered there were no plans for the bridge and that they had constructed the bridge based on the single span and a typical Howe design. In 2019 Arnold Graton and Associates had been willing to look at the bridge reports and come out make some visual inspections, meet with Bridge maintenance to come up with the recommendations and costs for the repairs to prolong the life of the bridge and much less than the original estimate. The City contracted with Graton for work to be performed the Spring of 2020.

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Challenges of Bridge Maintenance

The recommendation was first to give the bridge a good cleaning and then go with a new seamless steel roof, to replace the original shakes, replace the timber floor with new floorboards, replace the steel rods that demonstrated any sectional loss, along with some chord repair and replacement. There were other repairs made while the roof and floor were removed. The Construction was delayed a bit due to Covid and getting the roofing materials, but they still finished under schedule and budget. The bridge itself was built well and will continue to hold up structurally over many more years as long as it has a thorough yearly cleaning and maintenance schedule.

Arnold Graton and Associates was a great contractor to work with. They are extremely knowledgeable and take pride in their work and really seemed committed to wanting to help to preserve the structure. They added some additional running boards to help alleviate the salt from getting down on the rods and added an epoxy on the rods and components where salt may spay to help preserve the steel.

Over-all the project was very successful. Since this, the City of Lebanon has committed to working on coming up with a good maintenance plan for all its bridges, knowing the importance and how much difference it really makes in preserving the life of these key structures.



Revitalized Packard Hill Covered Bridge



Workforce Development for Operators

By Peter Goodwin, Tate & Howard

Passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972 triggered a push to construct wastewater treatment facilities and associated infrastructure across the USA and here in New Hampshire. Facility operations saw a huge influx of technicians, mechanics, and engineers in the following years. Some of New Hampshire's water systems date back to the late 1800's and continue to expand and upgrade to meet stringent regulatory requirements. Now, after decades in the business, many facility operators are retiring. In fact, nearly two thirds of Water/Wastewater Operators in the U.S. are approaching retirement age.

One of the biggest challenges faced by municipalities looking to hire new staff is getting the word out. Many people are not aware of the career opportunities in the Water/Wastewater field, including good pay & benefits, job security, skilled training, opportunities for advancement, and working with advanced treatment technologies.

The New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA) with representation from NHWPCA and NHWWA members has an active Workforce Development Committee that is exploring opportunities to recruit graduating high school and trade school students and retiring service members into the "Water Sector".

Here are several avenues to let potential candidates about career opportunities in the field:

Association Outreach & Career Websites:

Work for Water: www.workforwater.org/careers-in-water/

NEWEA Professional Development page: www.newea.org/careers/professional-development/

NEWWA Career page: <https://www.newwa.org/Careers.aspx>

Water Warriors Jobs Initiative:

If you are a veteran or know a veteran looking for employment, the NEWEA - Water Warriors Jobs Initiative can help connect returning and retiring U.S Armed Forces veterans with opportunities in the drinking water and clean water infrastructure fields.

Many skills learned in the Armed Forces translate well into a successful career protecting the one thing no one in our country can live without, clean water. While many of our most qualified water/ wastewater operators are retiring and leaving the industry with a labor shortage, not to mention the imminent loss of decades of institutional knowledge, the Water Warrior Jobs Initiative seeks to tackle this problems by promoting the water/ wastewater field as a desirable career options for returning veterans. The group's objectives include:

Providing education and training opportunities,

Streamlining the certification process for our veterans, and

Providing placement assistance and GI Bill stipend apprenticeships.

This initiative requires the coordinated efforts of industry leaders, veterans' organizations, and government agencies, but the end result, getting veterans into good paying jobs while serving their communities, is worth it.

The timing has never been more opportune to provide those who served our country with a career that will provide for their future, while still allowing them to serve their local communities.

May 16th thru May 22nd

So, how can *New Hampshire* Public Works Agencies connect with our residents and businesses? Here are some suggestions;

1. Hold a Fill-A-Truck event at your facility to collect food items for a community organization that supports those in need.
2. Volunteer members of your organization to help with clean up at the state Public Works Memorial site in Concord.
3. Offer “virtual” tours of your facilities and post those on social media and City websites.
4. Volunteer to speak with local media outlets- print, radio, television, internet—to discuss what your agency does and how important that work is to the public.
5. Have a Resolution created by the Mayor or Town Council of your area and post the resolution on-line or take a video of the reading of the Resolution and post that to your website and social media outlets.

These are just a few ways we can all work together to promote the important and irreplaceable work that we do each and every day for our communities.





Community Spotlight

By Timothy Clougherty, NHPWA Vice President

I recently had the opportunity to meet with Michael Cahalane, Chairman of the Select Board of Effingham, one of the newest New Hampshire Public Works Association members.

Effingham was incorporated in 1778 and is located in Carroll County, between Ossipee and Freedom. The State of Maine constitutes the eastern border of the town of approximately 1,500 residents.

Michael has been an active member of the community in Effingham and has served in various volunteer and elected roles over the past 11 years, including: the select board, the planning board, as well as the zoning board.

As with many small NH communities Effingham's approach to public works responsibilities falls to the elected officials, the select board in this case. Michael has taken a keen interest in all matters public works: from bridge and culvert construction to winter roadway treatment and beyond.

Michael took the opportunity to give me a tour of the Town where I learned about their historic Masonic/Town Hall/Library and the restoration efforts underway in preparation for the Town's 250th anniversary. We also toured the various paved and non-paved roads as well as the location where a laminated wood bridge is proposed for crossing of the South River. This style of structure would fit very well with the character of the Town and the area and am hopeful this comes to fruition.

I also found it very encouraging that Effingham, despite their lack of full time employees or roadway engineering consultants, has taken an informed approach to roadway treatments and improvement techniques. This can be directly attributed to Michael, his dedication to the Town of Effingham, and his passion for public works operations.

Michael's interest in the NHPWA stems from a desire to network with peers and learn from their experiences, thereby insuring Effingham's precious public works funding is spent responsibly. If you are in Effingham, or happen to see Michael at an event, please be sure to introduce yourself. Based on the time I spent with him, I'd bet you'll find something in common!

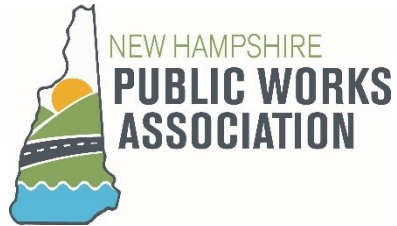


Save the Date!

Virtual

June 10, 2021

NHPWA Annual Meeting



Save the Date!

The NHPWA will be holding our Annual Meeting in June. We encourage everyone to attend this virtual meeting and invite others in our field to attend as well! We have some great topics this year:

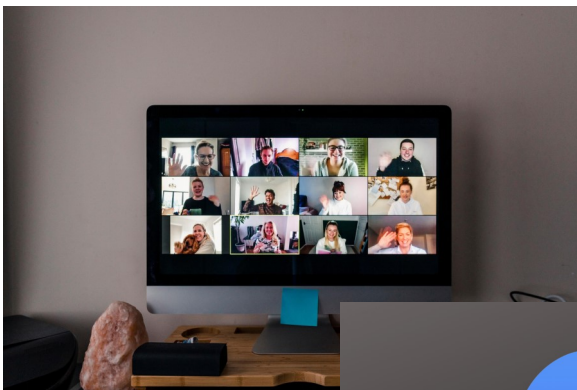
- ⇒ Cybersecurity
- ⇒ Flood Resiliency
- ⇒ Challenges of Bridge Maintenance

Date: June 10, 2021

Time: 9 am - 12 pm

Place: Wherever you are comfortable! The meeting will be virtual this year!

More information will be made available prior to the meeting date—including Zoom information—looking forward to seeing everyone there!



NHPWA Board Members

President Lisa Fauteux City of Nashua 603-589-3140 Term Expires: June 30, 2021		
President Elect Timothy Clougherty City of Manchester 603-624-6444 Term Expires: June 30, 2021	Treasurer/Secretary: Dan Hudson City of Nashua (603) 589-3120 Term Expires: June 30, 2021	
Public Sector Representatives:	Partner Associations:	
Lisa Fauteux (See above under President) Term Expires: June 30, 2021	Past President Scott Kinmond Town of New Durham 603-859-8000 Term Expires: June 30, 2021	
Timothy Clougherty (See above under President Elect) Term Expires: June 30, 2020	State Director Representative of the New England Chapter APWA Kurt Blomquist - City of Keene 603-352-6550	
Dan Hudson (See above under Treasurer/Secretary) Term Expires: June 30, 2021	Representative from the NH Water Pollution Control Association Peter Goodwin - Tate & Howard 207-752-0119	
	Representative from NH DOT CR Willeke - NHDOT 603-271-6472	
Members At Large:		
Christina Hall - City of Lebanon 603-448-0674 Term Expires: June 30, 2022	Representative from the NH Water Works Association Bill Boulanger - City of Dover 603-516-6462	Ian Rohrbacher - City of Rochester 603-335-7610
F. Adam Yanulis - Tighe & Bond 781-708-9823 Term Expires: June 30, 2022	Representative from the NH LTAP Marilee LaFond 603-862-2826	
Aaron M. Lachance, P.E. Hoyle, Tanner & Associates, Inc. 603-669-5555 Term Expires: June 30, 2022	Representative from the Municipal Management Association of NH Bill Herman - Town of Auburn 603-483-5052	
Britt Eckstrom Wright-Pierce 603-570-7126 Term Expires: June 30, 2022	Representative from NH Road Agents Association Rick Riendeau - Town of Milford 603-673-1662	
	Representative from NH DES Keith DuBois 603-271-8806	
	Member of the NH Consulting Community John Vancor, on behalf of ACEC - Hayner/Swanson, Inc 603-883-2057	
	Chairman from the NH Public Works Mutual Aid Alan Cote - Town of Derry 603-432-6144	
	Representative from NH Prime David Witham - Primex 603-225-2841	

Become a Member of the NHPWA!

- \$50 for Individual membership
- \$100 for Municipal Group membership
- \$150 for Corporate Group membership

To download the membership application form and to learn more about the NHPWA go to: www.t2.unh.edu/nhpwa

A Special Thank You! To Our Corporate Sponsors:

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