Community Profile: Amherst

The Public Works Department in the Town of Amherst is responsible for highways, solid waste, the town commons, cemeteries, and street and traffic lights. They also bid on gasoline, diesel and heating oil for the town, including the school district. Bruce Berry is the Director of Public Works. He has been with the Town for the past two-and-a-half years and he has a crew of 15 full-time and part-time employees.

The department’s major initiative this winter was an experiment using Ice-Be-Gone, a liquid magnesium chloride solution, for the treatment of seven roads. On these roads, they have gone salt and sand free. In order to purchase a truck for this operation, they worked out a seasonal sharing program with the Recreation Department. In the winter, the Public Works Department uses the truck, and the rest of the year it is used by the Recreation Department. Good public relations helped to educate the community about this project.

Slated for this summer is the completion of the replacement of 5,000 feet of culverts and catch basins. This project began last summer. They replaced 3,000 feet of pipe and 18 catch basins. They also reclaimed the roads and installed geotextile fabrics when appropriate.

For the first time, the department has an article on the warrant to add a turning lane and traffic lights in front of Souhegan High School. Currently, this is a 22-foot wide road with about 6,000 ADT and a 10 to 12 minute back up during the morning commute.

In addition, there is a new 1,400 square foot space that was constructed mostly by the department itself.

Message from Our President

As mud season approaches, we are becoming more active. Several events are scheduled, and others are in the planning stages.

The Mud Matters technical sessions are being held throughout the state in March, April and May. Our annual meeting will be in conjunction with the Tri-State Safety Conference in Concord on April 22, 2004.

We plan to schedule a visit to the UNH Center for Stormwater Technology Evaluation and Verification to see the newly constructed stormwater runoff test system. Planning for the fall social to support the scholarship fund is also under way.

Public affairs and legislative activity have begun. Our main focus is on CDL and insurance liability issues. Printed in this newsletter is the open letter written by Chum Cleverly of Bow regarding this.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the technical sessions and the annual meeting.

Jim Brown, Engineer
President
Salem
Open Letter about Driver Liability

This is an open letter that Chum Cleverly, Director of Public Works in the Town of Bow, wrote regarding driver liability and winter operations:


As the Public Works Director in Bow, it has come to my attention that the employees of the Public Works Department share an unfair burden of fiscal responsibility for their actions as employees. Vehicular accidents that occur while driving on the job adversely affect the private insurance rates of employees.

At first glance this policy may seem reasonable and in-line with current commercial trucking practices. However, these employees, namely snowplow and sanding truck operators, are a community's first line of defense in weather events. These employees are REQUIRED to be on the road when conventional wisdom would have other drivers sidelined. They see the roads at their worst and are penalized financially for facing a hazardous situation in order to ensure public safety.

Additionally, with increased budget constraints and unprecedented growth throughout the State, many Public Works employees are required to spend increasing numbers of on-call hours to get the job done.

These additional hours only add to the potential for their misfortune.

Every town is responsible for minimizing risks faced by its employees. And, employees must act responsibly in the execution of their duties. I pride myself on providing a safe working environment for all my employees. In bringing this inequity to your attention, I feel that it is another manner in which I can ensure the safety of my employees. In this instance, it is the fiscal health of my employees. It is only fair that this class of employees should be afforded some type of common law official immunity for accidents that are not found to be willful misconduct.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Chum Cleverly
Director,
Department of Public Works,
Town of Bow, New Hampshire

Technical Sessions: Mud Matters

Since 1992, large public and private construction projects have needed coverage. Beginning March 10, 2003, small construction projects need permits under the U.S. EPA’s General Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Construction Projects; this involves notifying EPA as well as developing and implementing a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan to minimize polluted runoff. EPA provides outreach on the new requirements and is increasing their enforcement. Abby Swaine and Thelma Murphy, New England EPA, will explain what projects require an EPA permit, who is responsible for obtaining the permit, how to stay in compliance, and what an EPA inspector looks for when visiting a construction site.

The first session was held at the Dover Public Works Department on March 4. Additional sessions will take place at the Keene Parks and Recreation Center on April 8; and at the Inns at Mill Falls in Meredith on May 12. Registration will cost $15.
What's Wrong with This Picture?

Answer: All salt should be covered to prevent rain and snow from reaching it. Salt from adjacent areas could spread to let water drain away and prevent run-on around the storage base. The storage base should slope away and be covered with an impermeable base, such as asphalt, not directly on the ground. The storage base should also be sloped on an impermeable base, such as asphalt, not directly on the ground.

Member Profile
Paul Degliangeli, PE

Paul Degliangeli is the Town Engineer and Public Works Director for the Town of Conway. He serves as a member-at-large on the board of NHPWMEA. In the past, he has served on the board of the American Society of Heating and Refrigeration Engineers (ASHRE).

Paul has been with the Town for 12 years. Previously he was on a sabbatical mountaineering and climbing around the world. His travels took him to mountains in the Soviet Union, the Andes and across the United States.

Paul is a mechanical engineer by training. In this capacity, he worked as an engineer and engineering manager at Bath Iron Works. He also worked as an engineer at the shipyard in Newport, Rhode Island.

When Paul settled in North Conway, he began consulting. He also taught physics at the local high school for three-quarters of a year.

Since he began as the Town Engineer in Conway, he has made the transition to civil engineering mostly through on-the-job training.

He has maintained his status as a mountain rescue service volunteer. In his free time, he enjoys mountain climbing and bicycling.

Legislative Update

The following bills have been introduced into the New Hampshire Legislature during the current session. They are in various stages in the legislative process:

- HB 1127 is relative to the consideration of road improvements in property appraisals.
- HB 1148 defines a wetland for the purpose of fill and dredge in wetlands.
- HB 1199 is relative to water connection fees.
- HB 1209 is relative to substances added to public water supplies.
- HB 1223 establishes a committee to study state reimbursement to municipalities for emergency response along interstate highways.
- HB 1283 is relative to wetland permits.
- HB 1284 is relative to setbacks from wetlands.
- HB 1421 is relative to solid waste incineration.
- SB 373 is relative to the disposal of mercury-added products.
- SB 374 is relative to emissions requirements for municipal waste combustion units.
- SB 422 is relative to the use of Route 28 in Derry and establishing a penalty for violating weight control designations made by the commissioner of the department of transportation.
- SB 449 is relative to fluoridation of municipally-owned public water systems.
- SB 468 relative to solid waste management.
CALENDAR

**Mud Matters: NPDES II Construction Activities**

- Technical Meetings, 8:00–11:00
  - March 4 — Dover Public Works Department ($15)
  - April 8 — Keene Parks and Recreation Center ($15)
  - May 12 — Inns at Mill Falls, Meredith ($15)

**NPDES II: Conducting Effective Stormwater Outreach and Education**

- April 1 — 8:00–3:30, Fratello’s, Manchester ($25)
- April 8 — Keene Parks and Recreation Center ($15)
- March 4 — Dover Public Works Department ($15)

NHPWMEA Annual Meeting

- April 22 — 8:30–2:00, LGC, Concord, NH

Tri-State Safety Conference

- April 21 – 22, 2004, Concord, NH

**Fall Scholarship Social**

Planned for September

Useful Links

NHPWMEA

c/o LGC

PO Box 617

Concord, NH 03302