

WAITSFIELD ROAD DEPARTMENT 2016 Report

The coming of the New Year rang in some of the warmest temperatures we have seen in a while. The lack of snow and ice saved the town money for sure. Even the equipment got off easy, but, winter did not end. Our crew was plowing snow in April with our largest snow fall of the year, 6". Winter still was not done until May 16, when we saw our last snow fall of the season. I remember remarking with Foreman Jones, road grading in a snow storm is normal, right!

Fortunately, the weather got warmer, but continued dry. So dry, that we had to use our dust control earlier than usual, and then came along the closure of the bridge on Rt. 100. Weekly grading was required to keep our roads in travelable condition due to the high traffic volume. Rolston Road on a normal July day takes about 225 vehicles a day. The average during the bridge closure was over 700 per day, and peaks that reached over 900 vehicles in a days' time. All in all, the crew did a great job of staying on top of the challenge.

Now that Rt. 100 is open again, our crew got busy with the rest of their summer maintenance. There were culvert crossings, ditch and stone lining work to be done, and spreading about three thousand yards of crushed gravel. Along with spreading crushed gravel, the Town crushed five thousand yards of gravel from our pit. That is a two year supply of material for our dirt roads.

This year saw three paving projects in Town. The Old County Road was paved, and our crew had to follow with material for shoulders and driveways, after the pavement was completed. Then our crew and some volunteers tackled the firehouse parking lot. Considerable effort was made to greatly improve run off from the parking lot. Stone lined drains and improved water flow has greatly reduced the impact of water run-off. A huge savings of money occurred through the volunteers and Town crew on this project. New pavement was put down and success is seeing the new parking lot and road entrance. The new Town office also got paved as well, rounding out that important part of the new office.

Summer is moving right along and five-year veteran Ken Bagley took a job a bit closer to home. We were in the hunt to replace him when Waitsfield native Taylor Armstrong stepped in to take Ken's place. Taylor comes with an outstanding knowledge of the work we do and has

fit right in with our other two employees. Our road crew is led by Foreman Rodney Jones with Josh Rodgers road maintainer, and rookie Taylor Armstrong.

After a spectacular fall color season, winter was starting to ease in. Early snows and cold led us to believe that an old Vermont winter was on the way. So it seemed, until Mother Nature started to mess with us. Until years end, the weather was back and forth, but the Waitsfield Highway Department kept right up with her. Many thanks to a great job done.

Charlie Goodman,
Waitsfield Road Commissioner



Waitsfield Road Department vehicles at the Town Garage.

Photo: Rodney Jones