

## Report of the Highway Department

To the residents of Fremont,

I'd like to say a heartfelt thank you for re-electing me to continue to serve as your Road Agent. I take the responsibilities of this position very seriously. The safety of the public traveling our roads is very important and it is what all who work for the Highway Department strive for by keeping our roads as safe as possible. As with every year, the winter months are always tough. I very much appreciate the dedicated group of men that work for the Town taking care of our roads. It doesn't matter what time of night I call them to start plowing or sanding our roads, each and every one of them take their jobs seriously and are at the Highway Shed within minutes ready to go. Thank you all so much, your dedication and loyalty, means more than words can say. Without your efforts, my job would be a nightmare.

At the present time, Fremont's Highway Department consists of two full-time employees, two seasonal part-time employees, and many private contractors for winter and summer maintenance projects. We have a small, but adequate amount of equipment, two plow and sander trucks, one loader backhoe, one brush chipper, one street sweeper, four salt - sand spreaders, four front plows, and four wing plows. Total replacement costs of about \$433,000. Every year we have a Warrant Article established in the amount of \$25,000 to contribute to our equipment replacement Capital Reserve Fund. Please continue to vote for this Article, it is a savings account and saves borrowing large amounts at once.

Other Articles approved in 2018 were to add funds to the Capital Reserve Fund for Bridge replacements. The Town has three bridges currently on the State's Red List. Currently the Martin Road Bridge has been accepted is in the NH DOT Bridge Aid Program for funding in the next couple of years. As part of NH Bridge Aid, Fremont pays all costs up front, and is ultimately responsible for 20% of costs and the State reimburses 80%. The time frame for our eligibility and what can be done depends on State funding availability. A 2019 Warrant Article asks to continue saving an amount of \$25,000. Please continue supporting this important Article to fund the Bridge savings account. We will continue to have major bridge work in our future.



Warrant Articles have a major effect on every part of Fremont's infrastructure. Thank you for supporting all of them in 2018.

We had a good year, other Warrant Articles for 2018 were to rebuild and pave the Town's portion of Beede Hill Road and Red Brook Road. Both of these roads were a success. With the funding, we were able to complete

Beede Hill Road. The first stage of Red Brook was completed with a 2 1/2-inch base binder pavement. The 2019 Highway Budget will allow us to finish the final 1 1/2-inch paving coarse

for Red Brook Road. The third paving project for 2018 was the completion of North Road, which we started in 2017. The final coat was overlaid in 2018.



All of our paving projects came in at or below established costs. Beede Hill Road and Red Brook Warrant Articles were close, but we made it. North Road came in under budget. Fortunately, we were able to use the balance for subdivision repairs and unforeseen equipment breakdowns. Due to these

breakdowns, we could not complete a budget line for new guardrails for two bridges on Sandown Road, near the Sandown-Fremont town line. The 2019 budget allows for new guardrails on these bridges. Warrant Articles have a major effect on every part of Fremont's infrastructure. Thank you for supporting all of them in 2018.

As with every year, 2018 was no different and provided us with plenty of snowstorms. April arrived and it was time for sweeping all of our roads and filing spring time potholes. After the cleaning was done, we started to prepare roads that were on the list for rebuilding and repaving.



Our biggest project for 2019, if passed in March, will be repaving Chester Road. This road is over a mile long and needs more than just an overlay band aid. Plans are to replace three rotted culverts, much drainage work for water flow and removal of older trees. Plans include; grind up all of the old hot top, raise two sections with NH DOT approved gravel, regrade, compact, and put down a base coarse hot-top. The finish coat would then be done in 2020. Please support this Article. This road is a main connector from Fremont to Chester.

As I stated when I was first elected as your Road Agent almost four years ago, my plan is to get the main connector roads that link Fremont to abutting towns in good condition. Over the past three years, you the voters, our Town's Budget Committee, and the Board of Selectmen, have

been working together to make these efforts happen. Please support Fremont's Town Budget and Warrant Articles.

Many of our residents who live in subdivisions have concerns about their roads and when repaving will happen. My answer to them is "soon", "Please have patience, we do have a plan in place". Over the past two years, because of your support, we have been able to repave over 6 miles of roadways. The 2019 budget and warrant article amounts will be almost 2 more miles, plus crack-sealing.

I hope this Town Report has been somewhat informational to you. Thank you, the residents of Fremont, our dedicated Highway Department employees and contractors, the Budget Committee, Board of Selectmen, Fremont Fire Rescue Department, Police Department, the Town Hall Selectmen's Office staff Jeanne Nygren, Kathy Clement, and our Town Administrator Heidi Carlson, for your endless efforts in helping me throughout the year with anything I ask of you.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Holmes, Jr.  
Road Agent

In sequence, the three photos above depict the work done on Red Brook Road. The first is the reclamation process (grinding old pavement). The second show installation of a fiber mat which goes underneath the new gravel for frost protection. That process is followed by grading, compacting and paving. The third photo shows installation of the binder pavement coat as seen from the Route 111A end of Red Brook. The top coat of finish paving on Red Brook Road is planned within the 2019 operating budget.



Photos courtesy of Leon Holmes Jr