

Report of the Highway Department

To the residents of Fremont,

Thank you for electing me as your Road Agent this past March. This job can be very challenging, but also rewarding in keeping our roads as safe as possible to travel. I enjoy it very much, thank you again for your support over the past year. As you all remember, the beginning of 2015 kept the Highway Department very busy with snowstorm after snowstorm. There were many weeks we had two or three storms back to back and many long hours for the plow operators. Thank you all for a job well done!

When spring finally came, our winter budget was in tough shape. The winter hire equipment line was over spent and so was the winter salt line. We still had to plan for November and December potential snowstorms. In order to stay within budget, cuts had to be made.



Unfortunately, we had to reduce the amount of paving that was planned to do. Overall, we had a pretty good spring, summer and fall for road maintenance. Spring started with sweeping off all the winter sand, filling numerous pot holes, cleaning up by chipping a lot of trees and brush, cleaning culverts, catch basins, and many miles of shoulder gravel. Last year was also expensive replacing street signs and stop signs due to theft and vandalism. During the summer months we worked on Sandown Road prepping for new hot top. Culverts were cleaned, brush was cleared and shoulders were re-graded for drainage. We were able to repave 3,000 feet of this road.

This year there are many Highway Department articles for your consideration on the ballot. Article 3 asks to put in place an expendable trust fund only to be used if needed for winter maintenance.

Article 5 asks to continue saving for the Martin

and Scribner Roads bridge replacements.

Article 8 is for the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund to replace worn out equipment when needed.

Article 10 is for funds to repave sections of Chester Road.

Article 11 is to finish paving Sandown Road from where we left off in 2015. These photos depict work done to improve drainage and shoulders during the summer of 2015 on Sandown Road. If approved, Warrant Article 11 will allow for completion of overlay paving on Sandown Road in 2016.

Another paving project for 2016 is to repave Whittier Drive from Sandown Road to Kingman Court. This project will be funded with the Highway Department 2016 operating budget, should the Town budget pass on March 8th.

My goal for the next three years is to get caught up on repaving all the main traveled roads. Once this is accomplished, we can focus on subdivisions for repaving. Many of these frequently traveled roads are 25 and 30 years old, which are overdue for repaving.

The Fremont Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen are in support of these articles and the Highway budget. I ask for your support on March 8th. Thank you!

In closing, I would like to thank all our dedicated, hard working plowing contractors and our two part-time employees; Peter “Butch” Porter and Jared Butler. Also, a special thank you to our Town Hall office staff and our Town Administrator, Heidi Carlson for the many hours spent helping me with budgets.

Respectfully,

Leon Holmes, Jr.
Road Agent

“After a storm comes a calm.”

~Matthew Henry

Photos Courtesy of Leon Holmes Jr

