

The majority of our efforts during the month of May were concentrated on street sweeping and repairing winter damage to lawns and roadsides. If not for the rainy weather lately, we would be finished sweeping. We should be done in the next couple of days. We also had the opportunity to try out a new sweeper for half a day. It was a different style than the one we presently own. This unit steered in the rear like a forklift. Other than that difference, it performed as well as our current unit. I am trying to get a demo unit like our current unit to make a better comparison between the two.

Mike and I met with Vassalboro Sanitary District on May 19. Because of new environmental concerns about brown bats, it was decided to abandon the cross-country route from Taylor Road to Verti Drive. It was felt by VSD's engineers that this could delay the project, so it has been decided to go down Route 32 and connect to the Dunbar Road. It has been thrown out for discussion that approximately 4300 ft of the Cushman Road (Rte 32) could be a gravity system. With Vassalboro funding the majority of the installation, the Council may want to consider paying the difference between a gravity sewer and a force main and extending our sewer system up the Cushman Road. We will never have a less expensive opportunity to do so. At the upcoming Council meeting, you will be asked to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with VSD to continue moving the project forward.

Our contractor, Manter Construction, is progressing with the sewer replacement project on the Augusta Road. It may appear to be moving slowly, but when they cleared the affected businesses, they set back and paved all the trenches and the sidewalks. This should also minimize any further impacts on these businesses. As a part of repairing some of the damaged sidewalks, we are trying something relatively new in this area, slip formed concrete curbing. It is slightly more expensive than asphalt curbing, but much stronger and a lot less expensive than granite curbing. We will also be using the same product from Matheson to Gail Street.

We have begun to stripe crosswalks, stop lines, and arrows. I have requested that our contractor for centerlines and side lines wait until after July 1 due to budget constraints.

The third week of May, both mechanics attended classes in Brewer on hydraulics and Cummins diesel engines.

Finally, last year's storm drain contractor, Pratt & Sons, returned last week to complete the loaming and seeding of the areas disturbed last fall.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Paul E. Fongemie  
Public Works Director