

TOWN OF EASTON DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

I would like to ask all residents to assist us if they notice any streetlights that are out by calling National Grid with the pole number at 1-800-322-3223 or contacting their website at www.nationalgrid.us.com/streetlights.

The Department of Public Works had a very busy 2007 hosting several public events.

- The first event, held on April 21st, was our annual Household Hazardous Waste Day at the DPW. Over 412 residents participated. During that weekend, we also conducted our first Easton Pride Community Roadside Cleanup with over 100 volunteers and all DPW personnel participating.
- On Friday, April 27th, we held our annual Arbor Day celebration with a tree planting at the Town Office in memory of John Luke, the original caretaker of the Wayside Estate and father of Highway Supervisor Jim Luke.
- On Saturday, May 5th, the Easton Water Division held its annual Open House and poster contest with over one hundred guests.
- The Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee held its 20th annual Canoe River Awareness Day with over 50 participants starting with a tour of the new Water Division Pumping Station on Red Mill Road and then enjoying a nature canoe trip on the river in Easton.

The Department of Public Works is working on a project with the EPA Community Energy Challenge Representative to evaluate the energy use in all schools and municipal buildings. This initiative is to help Easton cut energy use, save money, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.

The DPW has entered into a pilot program with Envista Corporation and Bay State Gas to share construction schedules to better coordinate work with a limited number of street openings.

The DPW responded to a gas explosion on Jenny Lind Street on September 10th and assisted the Police and Fire Departments with road closings, heavy equipment to move building debris, emergency lighting and street sweeping.

DPW personnel attended a pre-construction hearing at the Mass Highway District #5 Office in Taunton regarding the Central Street Bridge Project, which was scheduled to begin construction on October 15th with a tentative completion date of July 18, 2008.

The DPW assumed the duties of overseeing the Town's single vendor trash program, including billing, customer relations, and promotion of the program.

The DPW set up all the polling locations for the election on April 27th, assisted with the set up of the Town Meeting on May 21st, the Special Town Meeting on November 5th, 2007 as well as Graduation exercises at Frothingham Park on June 3rd.

The department also assisted with the Community Visioning Session at Oakes Ames Hall on Saturday, October 27th, and worked with the Historical Commission repairing damage done by vandals at the Rockery.

Bids and specifications were prepared for a new boiler at Center School. The low bidder began construction in mid October and completed the project in December.

The DPW assisted the Fire Department on responding to the fire at the Ames Barn on Main Street.

The contractor working for Aquaria, Inc. has completed the installation of the 20" water main through Easton as well as the replacement of an 8" ductile iron water main on Turnpike Street.

A new sidewalk will be constructed on the west side of Turnpike Street and the roadway will be resurfaced in the spring as part of the mitigation of the Aquaria project.

The DPW provided contract oversight for the electrical upgrades at Moreau Hall, Center School, and Parkview School.

Bids and specifications were prepared for the roof replacement for the DPW Building on Center Street and construction was completed in November.

During the past year, the DPW has implemented a GIS (Geographic Information System). Adrienne Edwards was hired as our GIS/CAD Specialist and has begun implementation of the new program. The necessary hardware and software has been purchased and a needs analysis was conducted with all town departments.

The DPW dealt with its first real snowstorm of 2007 on March 16th and 17th (St. Patrick's Day Nor'easter). Crews dealt with snow, sleet, wind and rain.

As we entered the next winter season in December, the DPW was extremely busy dealing with 8 winter storm related sanding operations and conducting 4 snowstorm plowing operations.

Cleaning and painting of the \$2 million gallon Bay Road water storage tank was completed.

Sidewalks were rebuilt on King Avenue, Linden Street, Pleasant Street, and Holmes Street. Repairs were made on Lothrop Street at Center Street.

Royal Road, Rollins Road, and Elm Street Extension were paved

A new cement pad was installed at the entrance to Fire Station 1 on Lothrop Street, replacing the damaged asphalt pavement.

The DPW relocated several offices at the Town Offices and continued interior painting and floor refinishing on the first floor.

We would like to thank the Easton Garden Club for their efforts in restoring the gardens at the entrance of the Town Offices on Elm Street.

I would like to praise the entire staff at the Department of Public Works for their positive work ethic and team spirit.

Our experienced office personnel, Shirley Tufts, Jan Jacobson, and Karen Gallo continue to provide friendly and knowledgeable service to all our customers.

The DPW managers, John Marsh, Maurice Goulet, John Fresh, Paul O'Neill and James Luke challenge each other with the latest technology breakthroughs to allow us to provide efficient service to the citizens of Easton.

"With Community Pride"

Wayne P. Southworth, Director

