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Barrington Highway Department Construction Projects Completed In 2023

There was a fair amount of construction work done by the Highway department this year. It started with infusing more stone product into our gravel roads in the spring, reshaping with a substantial crown to shed the water and compacting with a rented vibratory roller. This makes the second year we have used this process, and it looks like it is starting to pay off. The rainstorms have done very little to wash out the gravel roads, even on the hills. We used to have to send the grader out every time it rained. The way things are going, if we repeat this process another year or two, we may only have to grade the first time in the spring, and very little to nothing for the rest of the season. The really noticeable spot is Durgin's Hill on Back Canaan Road. Rainstorms used to make that road impassable with mountains of dirt washed to the bottom. Even the worst storms this year have ended up with very little dirt at the bottom and the hill remained solid enough for two cars to pass side by side.

In addition to the usual maintenance ditching, the rented excavator was kept busy replacing well more than a dozen cross culverts. The majority of these culverts were replaced prior to paving the road, and all of them were old deteriorated corrugated metal culverts. In a lot of instances, we upsized the pipe to be able to take more water. The excavator also reshaped all the ditches on Hall Road where we elevated the road in spots.

We also used the excavator at the new Town Hall to pull stumps and forest mat off of places where we cut trees and brush earlier, over the areas that weren't grass, we used our own wood chips from trees that we chipped after last year's storms. It was a free alternative to buying bark mulch, and it actually looked pretty good. Plus, it helped get rid of a mountain of chips at the Highway garage. While we were there, we also enhanced the parking area in two spots to give more potential parking area, and make it easier to plow, and store more snow.

Respectfully submitted
Marc Moreau