

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Mission Statement

The mission of the Town of Weston's Department of Public Works is:

- To construct and maintain the physical infrastructure that provides for the public's health and safety.
- To protect the environment.
- To enhance the quality of life, and to ensure that Weston continues to be a desirable place in which to live and conduct business.

The mission of the DPW will be accomplished through an equitable and cost effective delivery of the following services and products:

Activities to ensure community health and protect the environment:

- The provision of water.
- The drainage of surface water.
- The disposal of waste refuse.
- The recycling of waste.
- The composting of leaves and yard waste.
- The maintaining of parks, cemeteries and recreation areas.

Activities to provide for the safety of pedestrians and motorists:

- The construction and maintenance of roads and sidewalks.
- The provision of street signs, traffic signals, and pavement markings.
- The sanding/deicing, plowing, and removal of snow.

Public Works Administration

The DPW Administration is responsible for the budgeting, planning, construction, maintenance and overall management of the entire scope of services that is provided to the citizens of Weston by the Department of Public Works. The success of the department could not occur without the talent and commitment that exists within its workforce, the support and guidance that is provided by the Town Manager and the cooperation that exists between Town Departments.

Management of snow and ice operations is considered one of the most important of DPW functions. During the winter of 2005-2006 the Town of Weston received 50.5 inches of snow. While this would be considered a milder than normal winter, the DPW encountered four town-wide plowing events and were called out eighteen times for full road deicing operations. The DPW has made a commitment to reduce the amount of road deicing materials it places on Town roads by installing computerized controllers on the sand trucks in order to reduce the harmful environmental effects caused by the overuse of these materials.

The following divisional reports contain our accomplishments for the year:

Town Engineer

The Town Engineer is responsible for the implementation of the capital improvements program for the DPW, including water, roadway and drainage system improvements, and assistance to various other departments and boards.

A new position of GIS Coordinator/Assistant Engineer was filled in August 2006, to manage the day-to-day operation of the new Geographic Information System (GIS), and to assist the Town Engineer with construction inspection, permit compliance, and other duties.

Capital Improvements projects designed and constructed during 2006 included the Drabbington Way drainage improvements, North Avenue and Town House Road water system improvements. Projects in planning/design stage include Shady Hill Road drainage and Church Street drainage and road improvements.

GIS milestones included full deployment of software and data, and training of staff, installation of two kiosks for public use in the Assessor's and Building Department areas, and updating/publishing of the Assessor's Tax Maps.

Support to DPW operations included management of the Environmental Management System (EMS), oversight of environmental monitoring at the former landfill, management of the EPA Phase II Stormwater permit, and planning for the new DPW facility.

Other activities included review of private development plans for conformance with Weston Stormwater Regulations, participation on Traffic Committee, Emergency Management Committee, and assistance to other departments and the public on matters regarding the location and use of the public way.

Highway Division

The Highway Division is responsible for the maintenance and care of the roads and sidewalks in Town as well as all street signage, guardrails and pavement markings. The seven individuals that make up this division accomplished the following special projects this past year:

- Road preparation and supervise Installation of stone seal surface treatment on Sherburn Circle, Tyler Road, Oakdale Ave., and Brenton Road.
- Road preparation and supervision for the Cold Planing and overlay of portions of Boston Post Road, Church Street, Conant Road, and School Street.
- Prepared and supervised the full depth reclamation and paving of the access road to Middle School and the entrance roadway and front parking lot at the High School.
- Prepared and supervised the full depth reclamation and paving of the Linwood Cemetery Entrance and some of the adjoining roadways.
- Prepared and supervised the full depth reclamation and paving of Brown Street, Golden Ball Road, and Drabbington Way.
- Installed new bituminous concrete curbing and sidewalk at the High School entrance.
- Installed over 1000 linear feet of new bituminous concrete curbing in various locations through out the town, including the new island at the intersection of Conant Road, Town House Road and Church Street.
- Assisted the Storm water Division with the new drainage install on Brown Street, as well as many other smaller new drainage installations and repairs.

- Assisted the Water Division with the rehabilitation of the Paines Hill Water Tank, and then reconstructed the access road to the tank.

In addition, road conditions maintained (potholes patched), vegetation was cut back on the sides of many roads, as well as the removal of tree limbs hanging over roads and sidewalks to promote safe vehicular and pedestrian travel in Town.

The Highway Division responds to snow and ice emergencies as well as downed trees and roadway hazards (potholes).

This year was a great success, the Highway Division and the Stormwater Division performed the usual maintenance tasks while also working together to complete the 2006 road rehabilitation program consisting of over 6 miles of road work.

Stormwater Division

The Stormwater Division is responsible for the maintenance of the Town's storm drains and waterways. This division is made up of three individuals whose focus is promoting Stormwater Management as prescribed by the EPA. Areas of attention include street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, repairs to catch basins and drainage systems and the clearing of brush and debris from brooks, streams and waterways.

Operation highlights of the past year include:

- Rebuilding of 12 drainage structures in various locations around town.
- Built 33 new drainage structures, replaced and/or added 1500 LF of Drain Pipes. This work was performed DPW staff and a rented excavator and was focused primarily on Brown Street, a problem location on Winter Street. The Stormwater staff also worked to solve problem drainage issues at a location on Glen Road, and the intersection of Merriam Street with Westland Road.
- The jetting of 10 drainage systems.
- Removed approximately 250 tons of debris from 151 catch basins.
- Cleared streams, brooks and waterways of brush and debris along Boston Post Road By-Pass, Deer Path Lane, Rockport Road and Westgate Road.
- Swept 87 miles of roadway twice, removing approximately 2100 tons of debris.
- Worked with the Town Engineer, Board of Health and The Conservation Commission to eliminate Stormwater, Wetland and Pollution problems.
- Assisted the other DPW divisions in emergencies and their day to day operations.

The Stormwater Division also responds to snow and ice emergencies as well as all reports of flooding in the Town.

Park and Cemetery Division

The primary responsibility of the Park & Cemetery staff is the care, maintenance, and operation of the Town's Cemeteries. This includes planning funeral arrangements with residents, carrying out interment and committal services, and tending to perpetual care of the landscape. This same crew also cares for several scenic parks and the grounds at an assortment of Town buildings including Town Hall.

Linwood Cemetery is undergoing a much needed face-lift with the addition of a new entrance sign and roadway reconstruction. The cemetery sits on 35 acres of rolling terrain, winding paths, native shrubs, specimen trees, and is a well maintained example of the park-like, romantic style cemetery which became popular in the late 19th century. Dating from 1873, it is Weston's largest and only active burial ground. Although nearly picture-perfect, the one missing element was a proper entrance sign to welcome visitors into the hallowed grounds.

For decades Linwood has been marked with only a small metal black and white sign that one might find in a hardware store. Prompted by urgings from residents and patrons, the Park and Cemetery Division embarked on a mission to design and install a new sign, one befitting the grace and grandeur of the landscape and have it in place by Memorial Day. On May 9, the old sign was removed, and in its place stands a structure of grace, elegance, and artistic form which compliments the cemetery as well as the town.



The majority of the paved roads in Linwood are very old and in a deteriorated state. With the help of

the DPW, a comprehensive roadway replacement plan was put into action. This summer over 2300 linear feet of asphalt was replaced and new drainage installed from the entrance leading up into the cemetery. This program is slated to continue for several years until all of the roads in the cemetery are reconstructed.

In recent years we have become increasingly aware of and concerned over the rate of deterioration of many of the headstones and monuments in Central and Farmers' Cemeteries. Many of the monuments, markers, and tombs are failing at an ever increasing rate and without proper and professional care and restoration we fear that these historic pieces will be lost forever.

At last May's Town meeting \$12,500.00 was approved to be expended under the Community Preservation Act for the procurement of consultant services to prepare a Condition Assessment Report. The report will document every stone that is in need of conservation, prioritize the order of repairs, recommend what measures should be taken to achieve the proper results, and provide an overall cost for the project. These repairs require expert advice and implementation. The report is anticipated to be completed in time for the 2007 Town Meeting where we will be asking for additional funding for the actual repair work. By preserving these historic grounds, we in turn preserve the history of those individuals who shaped and defined the character of Weston.

The Weston Garden Club, which has been planting flowers and seasonal arrangements in the watering trough located across from the Town Green since 1948, made a very generous donation to the Town by arranging for, and contributing a large sum of money for its refurbishment. The trough was removed and spent several weeks undergoing an extensive reconditioning process which will keep it looking new for many years. We thank the Garden Club for their continued efforts towards beautifying the town.

As part of its 100th year celebration, the Rotary Club of Weston took on the much needed task of renovating the stairs and pathway that traverses the Town Green. The steps were completely reconstructed using bluestone and fieldstone, and the pathway was re-graded and edged. The Rotary funded this project completely through club fundraisers and donations. Many thanks go out to the club for their generous donation of time and resources and for undertaking such a highly visible and long awaited project.

Town Hall, which has been bathed in virtual darkness at night due to a lack of exterior lighting, will soon be illuminated with colonial-style lampposts around the building, walkways, and parking areas. The Public Spaces Committee was charged with the task of hiring a lighting consultant to help alleviate this problem and to bring about a sense of style and perhaps set the tone for future lighting around the Town Green and Town Center.

For Halloween, the Town Green and other municipal sites were adorned with scarecrows of all shapes and sizes. The Coalition of Weston Organizations hosted a scarecrow making contest for school-age children. The creations were displayed around town for the month of October adding a seasonal feel and providing many topics of conversation.

A pumpkin-making festival was held on the Green on October 21 as part of a High school fundraiser. This event was organized by Hillary Sieber and benefited Camp Sunshine, a camp for children with life-threatening illnesses. Not only was money raised for a most worthy cause, but also, Weston’s pumpkins, when added to those at similar event on the Boston Common, broke the world record for pumpkin carving at 30,128.

A newly formed traffic island at the intersection of Town House Rd. and Conant Rd. has been accented with cobblestones and a planting area continuing the efforts to add color and seasonal interest to the Town Center.

We would again like to thank all of the many Garden Club members and other residents who donate their time and knowledge towards the betterment of our surroundings. The Town continues to benefit from this sense of community pride and spirit. There are many unseen hands involved in the planting, care, and watering of the gardens, planters and landscaped areas around town that all deserve our applause.

Throughout the year assistance was given to and received from other Town departments including Highway, Water, Recreation, and Schools.

For information regarding Weston’s cemeteries please contact William O’Neil at 781-893-1263 Ext. 16.

The department’s fiscal year 2006 statistics are as follows:

<u>Interments</u> -	70	<u>Memorials</u>	
Casket -	71	Monuments -	34
Cremation -	29	Markers -	22
Interment Fees Collected -	\$38,700.00	Fees Collected -	\$11,387.00

Lot Sale Fees Collected

Perpetual Care Trust Fund - \$20,000.00

Sale of Lots Fund - \$30,000.00

Town Clerk Recording Fees - \$95.00

Total Cemetery Revenue - \$100,182.00

Solid Waste and Recycling Division

Our monthly recycling rates ranged from 35% to 43% with an average of 38.5% during fiscal year 2006. In fiscal year 2006, the average cost to process recycled product was \$21.57 per ton, a decrease of \$0.84 per ton from fiscal year 2005. The average cost to process our solid waste was \$124.25 per ton, an increase of \$1.86 per ton from fiscal year 2005. One thousand six hundred twenty seven (1,627) tons of material was removed from the waste stream by recycling. During fiscal year 2006 recycling generated \$12,384 in revenue and saved a total of \$167,094 in avoided disposal costs. Recycling is tremendous cost avoidance for the Town with the added potential of some revenue.

The annual household hazardous waste collection day will now be held in the spring of 2007. The next collection day will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2007 at the Dept. of Public Works, 190 Boston Post Road By-Pass (Route 20), from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. This event is open to Weston residents only. Commercial and industrial wastes will not be accepted. For information please call the Dept. of Public Works at 781-893-1263.

Yard waste is now being collected at the Transfer Station as an added convenience to residents. All residents are welcome to recycle at no charge. An annual fee covers the disposal of Solid Waste. The Transfer Station off of Church Street accommodates all residential trash disposal needs. You may recycle the following: glass containers, newspaper, mixed paper, cardboard, all metals, tin cans, deposit containers, plastic, brush, logs, leaves, grass and other yard trimmings. We also provide a collection area for televisions, computer monitors, and components as well as fluorescent light bulbs per DEP mandate. Donated clothing and household goods for Pine Street Inn and Goodwill Industries are accepted at the Transfer Station as well. Removing these items from the waste stream will result in a continued reduction of expenditures on Solid Waste and Recycling Operations as well as aiding us in our goal for a cleaner and healthier environment.

We would like to announce the retirement of Robert Cronin, who has worked for the Town for over fifty years. Bob has been involved in many facets of the department including Highway, Brush Dump, and for the last several years at the Transfer Station. Bob will continue to act as the Town's Dog Officer and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

Thank you to all individuals and families that continue to recycle. Our recycling program is a success because of your enthusiastic effort!

School and youth groups received tours of the Transfer Station and Recycling Facility. Interested organizations or individuals should call the DPW office at 781-893-1263.

The Division's statistics for fiscal year 2006 are as follows:

Solid Waste and Recycling Revenues		Processed at the Transfer Station	
Resident Permit Sales	\$295,730.00	Total Solid Waste	2,603 Tons
Recycling Proceeds	12,384.00	Total Recycled	1,626 Tons
Total Solid Waste & Recycling	\$ 308,114.00	Total Materials	4,229 Tons

Water Division

The Water Division is responsible for supplying water to 3,592 customers in the Town of Weston. The four individuals that make up this division maintain 106 miles of water main, 942 hydrants, a pump facility and four water storage tanks that store 2,721,000 gallons of water supplied by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. On July 27, 2005 the John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant in Marlborough, MA went online to provide ozone treatment as the primary disinfectant and chloramines for residual disinfection to our drinking water enabling the Town to discontinue its own treatment at the Wellesley Street Pumping Station.

Operational highlights of the year include:

- Emergency repair of five water main breaks.
- The addition of seven house services lines to the system
- The replacement of ten old and deficient hydrants in various locations.
- Assisted homeowners in locating and repairing eight service leaks.
- Installation of 835 feet of 12 inch water main and two fire hydrants on North Avenue that provides an inter-municipal connection with the City of Waltham to be used by either municipality during emergency situations.
- Replacement of 740 feet of 8 inch water main and two fire hydrants on Town House Road to alleviate water quality problems that was caused by the original (1916) unlined water main.
- A comprehensive leak detection survey of the entire town was performed to find undetected leaks and to reduce unaccounted for water.
- A comprehensive hydrant flushing program was performed in which approximately three million gallons of water were expended in order to remove naturally occurring sediments, which if left in water mains over time could cause taste, odor and turbidity problems.
- Continued the cross connection control and prevention program as required by the Department of Environmental Protection in which 254 tests were performed on 171 facilities.
- An aggressive meter change out schedule to replace older meters with new computer compatible models continued.
- Completed the Paines Hill Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation Project in which the inside and outside of the one million gallon structure was cleaned, patched and painted.
- Maintained and painted 900 fire hydrants as part of the annual hydrant maintenance program.
- During the past year the water supply passed all DEP and EPA required water quality tests including lead and copper testing, asbestos monitoring and weekly coliform testing.

During 2006 the Town of Weston consumed 530,367,619 gallons of water, a reduction of over 93 million gallons from the previous year. The daily average consumed was 1,453,062 gallons of water, a reduction of over 250,000 gallons of water per day from the previous year. The greatest amount of water pumped in one day during 2006 was 4,039,400 on August 13.

The Water Division responds to all water system emergencies including system leaks, loss of service, poor water quality and low water pressure. The rank and file members also serve the community during snow and ice emergencies.

Bertin LeBlanc, water division equipment operator for twenty-eight years, retired on July, 26, 2006. His knowledge and work ethic leaves a void in the division that will be hard to replace. We wish him a long and healthy retirement.