



Wenham Town Department Profile: Department of Public Works

Department Name: Department of Public Works
Website: www.wenhamma.gov/departments/department_of_public_works.php
Department Head: Bill Tyack
No. of Employees (FTE): 10
General Functions: Maintain all Town property, including roads, sidewalks, parks, cemeteries, buildings and grounds.
Contact Number: 978-468-5520 x.6
Annual Budget: \$1,335,922 (including Highway, Buildings/Grounds, Cemetery, Snow Removal, Trash Collection/Disposal, and Street Lighting)

Who are you (Past work experience, years of Municipal service, time in Wenham, etc.) and what is your department mission?

I am in my tenth year as DPW Director and before that I was the Facility Director for the Hamilton/Wenham Regional School District for eight years. Our department's mission is to maintain Wenham's assets and infrastructure, including but not limited to roadways, sidewalks, parks, cemeteries, buildings and grounds for the safety and enjoyment of the residents and guests of the Town of Wenham.

What are some of the most common tasks you assist the public with daily?

We regularly respond to trash questions, dangerous trees, road and sidewalk concerns, drainage problems and, of course, snow related issues.

What are some of the more rewarding elements of the work your department carries out?

We get a lot of praise for the work that we do maintaining the cemeteries and parks, especially the ball fields. We were also rewarded with breakfast at the Tea House by the Council On Aging for the great job that the crew did last winter keeping our roads clear.

What are some common challenges?

Working within our budget, especially with paving projects; Chapter 90 funding is helpful but not nearly enough to meet our infrastructure needs. It is also difficult to balance completing capital projects in the summer months while keeping up with the mowing of all town and school properties at the same time.

In what ways do you work with other town departments daily?

We work with the Police Department on safety issues such as crosswalks, signage, and other safety problems. We also maintain police vehicles. We work with the Fire Department as well, maintaining fire alarms through the Building and Grounds Department.

What are some achievements made by the department recently?

Last year, we finished the Cedar Street sidewalk, the final project to fulfill the master plan created by the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. This Committee was formed in 1999, was funded with public donations, and coordinated the installation of 11 miles of sidewalk over the past 15 years. We also completed a major paving project on William Fairfield Drive and Speakers Lane. Using funding secured through a Green Communities grant, all Town streetlights have now been upgraded to LED which will save approximately \$22,000.00 annually.

What are your goals for the department over the next year?

We will continue to work hard on repairing our streets from winter damage from the past two years and still focus on maintaining our buildings/grounds, parks, and cemeteries to our high standards. Using state funds that were secured earlier this year, we are planning to oversee the reconstruction of the Essex Street culvert next summer. We are also currently working with our Energy Manager on a grant project looking at the feasibility of upgrading the heating system for the Iron Rail building – which could result in significant savings.

What's the best way for the public to give you feedback and to get the assistance they need from you?

I will always return emails daily; my email address is btyack@wenhamma.gov. For those without computer access, I can be reached at 978-468-5520 x.6.