HOLA

Road Committee Report Oct 2022 – Sep 2023

by David Douglas, HOLA Road Commissioner

The following is a summary of HOLA road committee events that took place in 2022-2023.

**Winter:**

In general, the winter was historically mild again with only a couple of significant late snowfalls (March – 68 inches) and a couple of cold spells (February record -62 windchill). The roads held up well in all cases with sanding being the primary need. The HOLA snow removal contractor did a great job clearing and sanding the roads in a timely fashion and well under budget.

I want to thank all the HOLA owners for doing your part in driving slow and under control in winter conditions. I witnessed or was notified of very few accidents and towing snowmobile trailer incidents on HOLA roads.  Please keep up the great driving, get snow tires, and have fun this coming winter!

The budget for snow removal and plowing was set at 45k, actual was $38,000. A savings of $7,000 that will be transferred to the emergency fund.

**Spring – Mud Season:**

Heavy Loads Limit signs were posted on HOLA roads in March and were lifted on May 22nd this year. HOLA traditionally follows Rangeley’s posting timeframes. During the road restriction period we had a couple of violations, resulting in fines being levied and paid in a timely fashion. There were also a couple incidents were the resident worked with the delivery company to transfer the product at the Rangeley Overlook to a smaller truck in order to comply with the heavy roads limit. Thank you to those residents for thinking and planning ahead! The purpose of posting the roads is to reduce or limit the damage that mud / frost can cause on the roads which in turn saves the HOLA summer road budget for planned repairs. Lastly, if a resident next year **HAS** to receive a heavy truck delivery during this period, please notify the road commissioner early on to discuss a plan of action and to possibly avoid a fine.

**Summer:**

**WOW, were do I begin**? To answer the question: Why has it taken a long time this summer to repair HOLA roads as opposed to last year?

First, the weather! This is the wettest summer on record. In June we had only 5 days of sun. In July we had 10 days, and in August we had about 15 days of sun.

Second, the state received funding to bring rural America into the 20th century by installing fiber internet to areas like Rangeley. Beginning on May 8th, Fidium the fiber internet company started digging up the HOLA roads to install conduit which is needed to house the fiber internet and Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) lines.

Third, 2023 has been HOLAs biggest year for lot tree clearing and house construction. A total of **twenty** lots have paid road construction fees resulting in numerous heavy construction vehicles on our roads daily.

Fourth, M&H our summer road contractor had a very large job with the State of Maine to repair over 3 miles of Route 17 near the height of land. The state took ALL of M&H assets to work the job.

So where are we today regarding repairing / maintaining HOLA roads? In July we were able to grade all the roads in the Highland side of the community and fix one broken culvert once Fidium had finished their conduit installations and once we had a couple of consecutive days of no rain. During that time we were also able to add a few truckloads of new gravel to build up / restore a small portion of Lynn Way before the weather turned for the worse yet again.

In August, M&H was able to grade about 85% of the Overlook roads and fixed two culverts. On August 9 after a day of torrential rain, HOLA road committee members, Ed Zambraski, Al Salvini, Larry Malone and myself repaired road damage on Paul’s path and the Overlook road by spreading and grading 28 yards of gravel. **Thank you for your help!**



The next step for September and October is for the road committee to identify and prioritize which HOLA roads (based on the remaining annual budget) required new gravel and crowning as part of the long term HOLA road reconstruction / restoration effort.

I want to thank those HOLA residents that adhere to the reduced HOLA speed limits especially when on the steep hills and corners to reduce the washboard effects. Collectively if we can keep to these speed limits the roads will last longer, have less problems, less dust, and for the near term keep our annual dues in check without increases to continue to repair the roads. It is up to all of use to help out.

Lastly, I want to thank all those road committee and other volunteers that assisted me with various efforts throughout the year! THANK YOU!

The budget for summer road work was set at $50,000, actual to date is $13,438.63. The remaining will be spent on road reconstruction this year.

David Douglas

HOLA Road Commissioner