Memorandum

To: Select Board

From: Todd Croteau, DPW Director

Date: June 13, 2019

Re: Gravel Road Plan

Based on input received at the May 13th and June 10th Select Board meetings, the following plan has been formulated to address maintenance and safety concerns with gravel roads throughout the Town of Hollis.

A change in the manufactured gravel specifications which increases the amount of clay content in the mixture has been made. When used to amend roadways during grading, the increase in clay content will improve compaction and the encapsulation of the coarse aggregate, leading to a more robust roadway with significant integrity. Water will be applied to the graded material to reduce dust and to increase the bonding of the gravel during the grading process.

When grading maintenance is required on the roadway, the disturbed area will be limited to the travel way only. Emphasis will be placed on establishing the proper crown in the road, but no maintenance will take place in the shoulders or beyond. The operator will stay clear of trees, stonewalls and private property.

To augment the current road grading procedure, a pilot program will be implemented to compact the graded surface immediately after grading is completed. The intent of this step is to bind the coarse aggregate and reduce the amount of stone migration from the travel way. We will rent or outsource a roller/compactor that is suitable to achieve proper compaction of the graded surface.

To improve safety for motorists traversing these roads we will mark all potentially hazardous storm-water features and embankments with reflective delineators.

To help identify the boundaries between private property and Town rights of way, Public Works staff will identify legal property bound monumentation and place a wooden grade stake with bright flagging next to the monument. This will make evident to operators, motorists and property owners where private property ends and public right of way begins.
I will research with industry professionals about the best management practices for selecting the appropriate size grader; including weight, length, mold board width and any other features that may be deemed necessary to properly maintain gravel roads. I will report back the findings to the Select Board. The results of this report may understandably require an alteration to the capital rolling stock plan.