

Gorham Road Reconstruction Project Begins: Week of September 16th

By Mike Shaw, Director of Public Works

Shaw Brothers Construction of Gorham is scheduled to start work on the Gorham Road (Route 114) reconstruction project beginning the week of September 16th. The project will run from September until winter weather forces a temporary shut down until the spring of 2019. Once the project commences in spring it should be complete in mid-June.

This project is the first of a five phase plan to reconstruct Gorham Road from Oak Hill to Payne Road. Master planning was completed in fiscal year 2016. During the master planning phase, the Town held two public meetings so engineers and town staff could better understand the issues of property owners along the corridor as well as learn what residents hoped to achieve with the project.

Once the master plan was completed, staff went to work on detailed design for the first phase of the project during fiscal year 2017. Full width road reconstruction will start at Wentworth Drive and continue to Maple Avenue. The pavement will be milled down and replaced with a new wearing course of pavement. Public meeting feedback included a need for pedestrian and bicycle amenities. To that end, a sidewalk will be constructed from the corner of Route One near Walgreens to Maple Ave. This will include a new crosswalk and island at the intersection of Sawyer road and Gorham Road, in addition to shoulders for bicyclist use. This design is part of a Complete Streets policy for road reconstruction that uses the town's right of way for multiple modes of transportation instead of strictly motorized vehicle use.

Stormwater treatment will also be a primary focus of the project. I think it is safe to say that we all want clean water; to effectively achieve this, harmful material and silt must be removed from road water runoff before it enters the waterways. (in this case, Mill Brook) Three existing road crossings will be replaced with new pipes to include a buried bottom mimicking the stream bed. Along the roadside will be filtration features and landscaping which will capture sediment and contaminants. While the upper reach of Mill Brook in the area of Gorham Road is not fish habitat, the lower reaches are, so ensuring clean water runoff is essential.

A major undertaking such as this will inevitably result in some traffic disruption and delays. Our goal, as always, is to minimize these delays as much as possible. Rest assured that we will share all scheduling information as it becomes available. We utilize our website and social media for the bulk of our communication, however, feel free to call (730-4400) or email (pwinfo@scarboroughmaine.org) at any time with questions or concerns.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we upgrade the road and make it more functional for all.