

Town of Copake Highway Department

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Monthly Report:

The major task accomplished during the last month was Oil and Stone operations. This process, also known as Chip Sealing, entails the application of a layer of asphalt emulsion that is then covered by a layer of stone aggregate. The oil seals and protects the existing layer of pavement; the stone once embedded in the oil provides a thin wearing course for vehicular traffic.



Oil is sprayed on the road surface by an oil tanker, followed by a chip machine that tows a dump truck while spreading stone on the oil. The operation is completed when a roller permanently embeds the stone in the oil.

The key to Chip Sealing is timing; this is a preventive maintenance and needs to be done before any serious pavement deterioration has occurred. Paved roads will need resealing on average every five years. While a continuous cycle it is the most cost effective tool to properly manage hard surface roads. If neglected pavement will rapidly deteriorate to the point that repaving or reconstruction is needed. It is important to follow a schedule resealing roads to avoid these very expensive measures. The roads sealed this year were a portion of Snyder Pond, Twin Bridges, Empire, and Weed Mine totaling 7.7 miles. After the oil has properly cured it is necessary to pickup any loose stone, which we have begun doing.

The town of Hillsdale provided three trucks and four men to assist us with our sealing. We in return sent three trucks on 3 days to Hillsdale when they were sealing their roads.

Drag boxing is nearly complete with an additional 16 tons on Underhill and 325 tons on Farm rd. We also assisted the Taconic Hills School District by drag boxing the bus lanes and areas of the parking lots at the school. The town of Hillsdale provided man power one day to help out with our drag box operation

Culvert replacements for the previous month include Pheasant, Birch Hill and Leroy roads. The town of Ancram has lent us a blacktop saw which we will use to cut the pavement over culverts to be replaced during the course of the next month.

On August 28th the Highway Department hosted the first Open House at the Highway Garage. On display were all of the trucks and equipment the town owns as well as the building and grounds.



Trucks on display at the first annual Highway Department Open House.

Roadside mowing continues.

In addition to our road work we helped the following departments:

Copake Falls Day Committee with moving picnic tables and trash cans, detouring traffic and trash pickup.

Park Summer Program by moving and storing their supplies and equipment in the West Copake Firehouse until next summer.

Ancram Highway used our truck lift as we assisted them in brake repairs on their tandem dump truck, 3 1/2 hours.

Community Rescue Squad we serviced an ambulance, 3 hours.