

# Andover Road Agent

By Jon Champagne  
Road Agent

Thank you to all who voted for me in the election on Town Meeting Day. Your support means a lot to me and my crew.

With April, we have spring rains. This will reveal all the damage left by Mother Nature and errant plow blades, and even though we still can have snow, it will quickly disappear again.

Flooding this time of the year is a major concern for us in the Highway Department. Ditch lines that overrun their bounds can easily do hundreds if not thousands of dollars of damage, especially on hillsides. If you see a wash-out starting to happen, do not be afraid to let me know.

Drivers should take extreme care at this time of year – the shoulders on the roads are extremely soft. We posted the roads almost a week early due to warm weather conditions causing the roads to become soft. Heavy trucks on soft roads can break pavement easily.

The edges of the road are much softer than the center because traffic and being clear of snow causes the frost to be deeper than on the edges where snow banks can act as insulation. If you must have something delivered, please contact me and we may be able to arrange it where trucks can possibly access your home in the early morning when the roads are still hard.

We hope to in the coming month start cleaning up the brush left from the snow storms earlier in the season. We had held off on picking up this debris due to budget concerns. The selectmen felt that there was no sense in doing this activity twice, and as a result we have waited 'til now before beginning this task.

We hope to rent a chipper at the same time and cut back roadside brush, too. The reason we like to keep brush cut back is for multiple purposes: first, clear roadsides look nicer. If the roadside is not covered in brush, it promotes better drainage by allowing water to easily pass to the ditch line. The sunlight also penetrates better on clear roadsides,

causing snow and ice to melt faster in the winter.

Another benefit to keeping brush cleared back on roadsides is that it allows us to in the winter better wing back the roads, as brush does not block the passage of snow off the edge of the plow wing or grader wing in large snow years.

When we cut brush, we try to cut trees as low as possible to the ground and not take large trees unless they are dead or a hazard. The desire is to leave a smooth surface free of items that a sickle bar mower or brush hog will catch when roadside mowing takes place in late summer.

If you have concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. We are also going to try to do some specialized tree work to remove large branches that hang low in the road way and create an overhead obstruction to school buses and large trucks.

We will be sweeping sand off roadsides and bridge decks. I have heard the question asked why we do not reuse this sand as a part of next winter's sand stock. Sand is not reused because when you sand the road in slippery conditions, it creates traction because the individual grains of sand have sharp edges that cut into the ice. This gives tires something to bite into.

As the sand is driven on, however, these sharp edges break down and smooth out, rendering the sand no longer effective. This is why after a few days in the winter we have to re-sand roads, because the sand has simply worn out and blown off to the edge.

If this worn out sand was returned to the sand pile, it would lessen the effectiveness of our new sand, and we would have to treat the road more often as a result. This would be a bad deal for the town.

Other activities that the road crew will be conducting is replacing broken street signs and delineator posts, and replacing or repairing broken guardrails and bridge rails. If you see our crews out working, please slow down and watch out for workers.

# Growth Management Ordinance Expired After Town Meeting

By Donald Gould  
Planning Board

Andover's Growth Management Ordinance, adopted at the 2002 Town Meeting and extended at the 2007 Town Meeting, no longer limits the number of residential housing permits.

This addition to the Town's zoning ordinance was originally proposed by the Planning Board after preparation of a Capital Improvement Plan which specified likely major asset expenditures in every Town department and provided predictability to funding requirements resulting from an uncon-

trolled increase in town population. The aim was for a stable tax rate and revenue stream through a growth management statute.

During its 10 years of existence, there has been an increase in the number of residences in Andover from 888 in 2001 to 973 in 2011, an increase of 9.5%, or approximately 1% per year. This has occurred within the goals of the Growth Management Ordinance.

After the 2012 Town Meeting, there is no longer a limit imposed on the number of residential building permits.

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- Applications are considered by the date and time received.
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  - HUD income restrictions apply.
  - Tenant rents are based on income.



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