THE NEW ENGLANDER

IRWA Newsletter, New England Chapter 16, Region 4 Fall 2019 Edition

President's Message

Chapter 16 Members,

As always in New England the colors are starting to flourish as we welcome in the fall season. I want to thank all of you for your continued efforts and support for Chapter 16. Please join me in welcoming in any new members we have gained and remember those we have lost.

This being my first term as President I wanted to thank all of those that have put their faith in me to lead this chapter. A big thank you to all those that stepped up to fill a leadership role. As someone new to the right-of-way profession, having a great support team always makes things a little easier. I hope that I can fulfill my duties as your president. My door is always open, so if you feel you have ideas or suggestions to help the chapter in any way, please feel free to reach out.

A goal of mine this year is to work with Patty Quinn and develop the best possible education outlook we can. We have sent out a survey asking members what classes they would like to see the chapter offer, if you have not filled that out please visit the website and look for the link to the survey. We can only build an educational platform that benefits you if you are willing to let us know what you want.

Region 4 is getting ready to host the Fall Forum next month and there seems to be a few of us attending. Take the opportunity to partake in this event if you can. Attending the forum is a great way to meet others in our unique field that you may not get to see often. Their three-day forum will consist of an education day, an educational forum, and finishing up with the business forum. To all those going, I look forward to seeing you down there.

Again, I just wanted to thank all of you for allowing me to serve in this position. I will do my best to help the chapter be as successful as it has been these past few years that I have been a part of it. The incredible team of officers that we have right now shows what an amazing chapter we have. I know that they will help guide me to keep this chapter on the right path. I look forward to the next seven months and will continue to put forth my best effort in leading the chapter the way I have seen it been led in my short time here. A big thank you to all past officers and board members. Without all of the hard work you put in I would not have the foundation you all have already set.

Benjamin Sprague

IRWA Chapter 16 President and Director

In This Issue

7TH ANNUAL MINI GOLF CLASSIC: FAMILY, FRIENDS, FUN!

Another great year for making memories at the 7th Annual Mini Golf Classic at Kimball Farm in Westford, MA this past July! This year the participants sported Virginia Beach Strong t-shirts in honor of our fellow Chapter 52 colleagues/friends and their families following the tragic events in Virgina Beach on May 31, 2019.

We hope you'll join us next summer for another year of memories, on *July 17, 2020* at Kimball Farms in Westford, MA!

Healthy Obsession: Roundabouts

By Benjamin Sprague

I grew up in an area where roundabouts were a common occurrence. Now, there wasn't much traffic where I grew up, but where there was traffic, roundabouts always seemed to be used to mitigate the situation. This is where I think my obsession came into play. As I got older and moved away from my small-town roots, I started noticing that roundabouts were not used everywhere. There were some places that I have called home that never used any, no matter the situation. This was something that I could never understand. The way I looked at it, they seem to work, they seem to allow a steady flow of traffic flow, and you almost never see any accidents when traveling through them. So why weren't there more? Why didn't roundabout make sense to everyone?

In today's traffic, it seems that the use of roundabouts has increased. Why has the use of roundabouts increased substantially over the last couple of decades? In what I call my healthy obsession with these marvelous circles; I assumed I was not the only one that looked at them in this light and through my reading over the last few years as a Right of Way Agent, I was correct. 31 one out of the 50 states have dedicated pages on their DOT websites that provide studies and literature for the public informing them on their use and safety. Nation wide there has been an increase in the creation of roundabouts when reconstructing intersections. Roundabouts don't work in every situation, but when they are used numbers don't tend to lie.

Safety

Roundabouts have many safety features that may go unnoticed by the users, but when examining the data from before they were implemented to after their creation the Federal Highway Administration states that when used in the appropriate scenarios, they can make a huge impact. For example, a standard four-way intersection has 32 points of conflict, where as a

roundabout has only 8. That is a reduction by a factor of four. So, no matter how you play with the numbers, reductions in accidents are inevitable. NHDOT states that roundabouts account for 90% fewer fatalities, 75% fewer injuries, and 35% fewer accidents.

Capacity

In a traditional intersection, there is always stop and go. You wait for the light to tell you to move and when you get the green you proceed on your way. To get traffic to flow through these intersections you need a few pieces of the puzzle to make it work. You need power, the lights don't just work, they must be fed electricity and have continued maintenance to ensure they continue to work. What happens if the power goes out? Now that intersection becomes either a four way stop (we all know how courteous other drivers are) or blinking yellow and red lights, in which the blinking red means those drivers need to cross their fingers for an open space to proceed through. Roundabouts never need to worry about this, they work whether there is power or not. Now that's not the only issue with traffic lights, what about timing. How is it determined that the lights change? Traffic studies of the intersection must be done to gather enough information to determine when they allow for one road to stop and the other to go. But it is not that simple, not everyday is the same. Traffic patterns are a multifaceted moving problem that has so many variables; it will make your head spin. Think about it, is weekday traffic the same as weekend? What is the weather like? Is school in session or is it summer break? And let's not even mention holiday's where thousands of people travel. Roundabouts on the other hand allow the free flow of traffic that can adapt to the ever-changing traffic density. Studies have shown that using a roundabout the intersection can now process about 30% more traffic.

Impacts to Property Owners

This is the hard sell, especially as a Right of Way Agent that has approached property owners being impacted by their construction. Fact is, roundabouts take up more room, meaning they impact property owners more. Convincing the property owner that a roundabout is justified can be a challenge. When dealing with property owners I have found it is easier to convince a commercial property owner that a roundabout is justified. Using facts like increased capacity is usually my go to. More passing traffic essentially means more potential customers and the ability for a driver to switch directions in travel easier means even more potential. Now convincing a residential property owner may be a little more challenging. You may never be able to make them happy about the situation but making them see some of the positive that they will garnish helps shrink the blow. Speed is a big one, seeing as though the average speed through a roundabout is 15-25 MPH the impact of pedestrians is reduced. With the elimination of traffic lights drivers must slow as they enter the roundabout and you won't get the driver that races the yellow light trying to make it through. In fact, the FHWA says there is a 40% reduction in pedestrian collisions. Another point I try to bring up is pollution. Everyone can

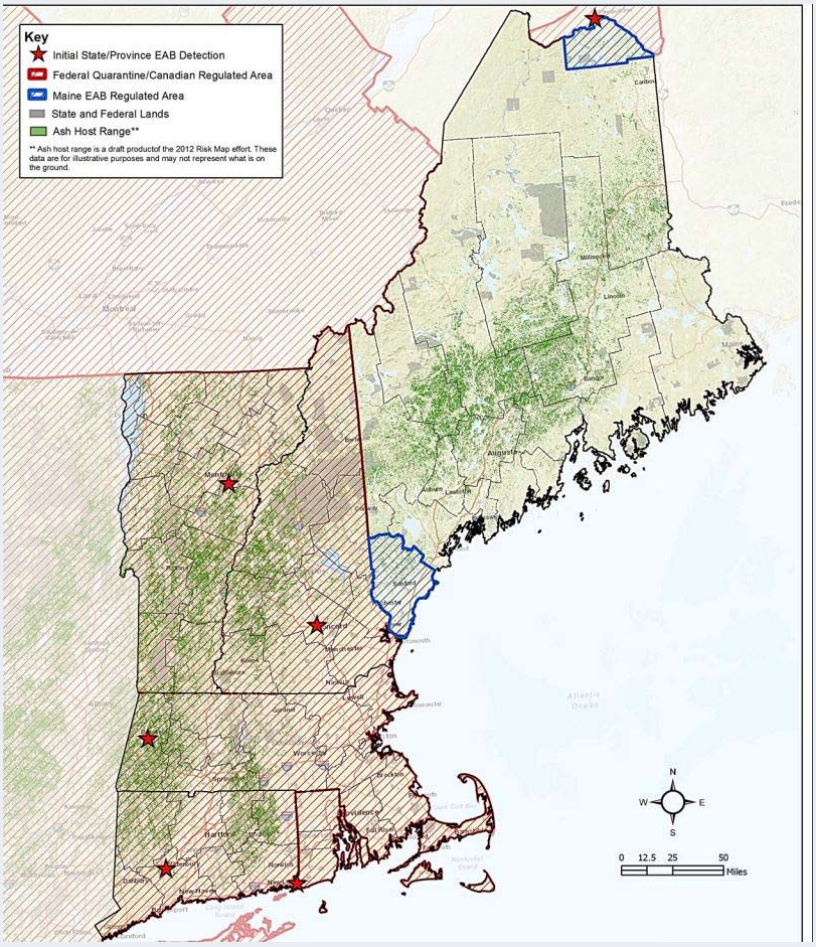
admit they like breathing fresh air, and because vehicles are less likely to stop and go like they would at a traditional intersection, less gas is used emitting less pollution into the environment. Now these facts may not make the property owner happy, but it can help them to see some of the positives.

So, roundabouts are something that for as long as I can remember have been something I can stand behind. They increase the safety for all people that use them. They allow for more traffic to flow through reducing commute times. In the long run it can be less expensive because of lower maintenance costs. The trick is convincing those impacted by them they are practical and beneficial to all. So the next time you are tasked with an acquisition involving a roundabout do a little research to help property owners understand how and why they work.

Emerald Ash Borer Epidemic

Recap from Speaker Bill Conn, September General Membership Meeting

Bill Conn is an acclaimed certified forester for Vermont Electric Power Company. Bill joined the Chapter at the September General Membership meeting in White River Junction, Vermont and gave an interesting presentation on the Emerald Ash Borer epidemic—something that you may have of heard about on the news or social media as the bug continues to plague our New England forests. The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) epidemic is important to educate yourself about as a homeowner, as a recreational enthusiast, and as a ROW professional as the EAB is causing many issues for utilities, transportation and municipalities especially as it pertains to maintenance, protecting assets and public safety. Since the September meeting attendance was low, we take this opportunity to share with you a summary and resources of Bill's presentation.



MOVING FIREWOOD CAN TRANSPORT TREE-KILLING PESTS

Tree-killing pests can hitchhike on infested firewood- accidentally creating new infestations that destroy our street trees, forests, and parks.

Protect the places you love:

- Leave firewood at home – do not transport it to campgrounds or parks.
- Ask your campground how you can get locally harvested firewood.
- Be aware of firewood regulations.
- Tell your friends not to move firewood.

BUY IT WHERE YOU BURN IT.

DONTMOVEFIREWOOD.org

VTinvasives.org

Tree-killing pests pose a serious threat to our trees, forests, and communities.

Prevention is the key. Don't move firewood when you travel, camp, or visit another state.

* Actual size

Emerald ash borer

Agrilus planipennis

Host: All species of ash native to North America

Insect: ½" long, bright metallic green

When: Adults visible May to August

Look for: Crown dieback, peeled bark from woodpeckers, s-shaped larval galleries in bark cracks

Asian longhorned beetle

Anoplophora glabripennis

Host: Maples and other hardwoods

Insect: 1 to 1 ½" long, long black and white banded antennae, black patent leather body with white spots

When: Adults visible July to October

Look for: Oval to round pits (egg-laying sites) in bark, round 3/8"+ exit holes, coarse sawdust (frass) in branch crotches or at tree base

PHOTO CREDITS: Emerald ash borer [illegible]

Keep your backyard, campgrounds, and favorite places safe from these insects and diseases — buy firewood near where you will burn it.

For more information about tree pests and Vermont specific firewood regulations, go to vtinvasives.org

VTinvasives.org

DONTMOVEFIREWOOD.org

Pest Alert

United States
Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry
NA-PR-02-04
Reprinted July 2013

Emerald Ash Borer

A beetle from Asia, *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire (Coleoptera: Buprestidae), was identified in July 2002 as the cause of widespread ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) tree decline and mortality in southeastern Michigan and Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Larval feeding in the tissue between the bark and sapwood disrupts transport of nutrients and water in a tree, eventually causing branches and the entire tree to die. Tens of millions of ash trees in forest, rural, and urban areas have already been killed or are heavily infested by this pest.

A. planipennis has been found throughout Michigan, across much of Ohio, and in parts of Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Infestations have also been found in more areas of Ontario and in the province of Quebec. The insect is likely to be found in additional areas as detection surveys continue. Evidence suggests that *A. planipennis* is generally established in an area for several years before it is detected.

The broad distribution of this pest in the United States and Canada is primarily due to people inadvertently transporting infested ash nursery stock, unprocessed logs, firewood, and other ash commodities. Federal and state quarantines in infested states now regulate transport of these products.

Identification

Adult beetles are generally larger and brighter green (Fig. 1) than the native North American *Agrilus* species. Adults are slender, elongate, and 7.5 to 13.5 mm long. Males are smaller than females and have fine hairs, which the females lack, on the ventral side of the thorax. Adults are usually bronze, golden, or reddish green overall, with darker, metallic emerald green wing covers. The dorsal side of the abdomen is metallic purplish red and can be seen when the wings are spread (Fig. 2). The prothorax, the segment behind the head and to which the first pair of legs is attached, is slightly wider than the head and the same width as the base of the wing covers.

Figure 1. Adult emerald ash borer.

Larvae reach a length of 26 to 32 mm, are white to cream-colored, and dorso-ventrally flattened (Fig. 3). The brown head is mostly retracted into the prothorax, and only the mouthparts are visible. The abdomen has 10 segments, and the last segment has a pair of brown, pincer-like appendages.

Figure 2. Purplish red abdomen on adult beetle.

Biology

A. planipennis generally has a 1-year life cycle. In the upper Midwest, adult beetles begin emerging in May or early June. Beetle activity peaks between mid June and early July, and continues into August. Beetles probably live for about 3 weeks, although some have survived for more than 6 weeks in the laboratory. Beetles generally are most active during the day, particularly when it is warm and sunny. Most beetles appear to remain in protected locations in bark crevices or on foliage during rain or high winds.

Figure 3. Second, third, and fourth stage larvae.

Throughout their lives beetles feed on ash foliage, usually leaving small, irregularly shaped patches along the leaf margins. At least a few days of feeding are needed before beetles mate, and an additional 1 to 2 weeks of feeding may be needed before females begin laying eggs. Females can mate multiple times. Each female probably lays 30-60 eggs during an average lifespan, but a long-lived female may lay more than 200 eggs. Eggs are deposited individually in bark crevices or under bark flaps on the trunk or branches, and soon darken to a reddish brown. Eggs hatch in 7 to 10 days.

After hatching, first instar larvae chew through the bark and into the phloem and cambial region. Larvae feed on phloem for several weeks, creating serpentine (S-shaped) galleries packed with fine sawdust-like frass. As a larva grows, its gallery becomes progressively wider (Fig. 4). Beetle galleries often etch the outer sapwood. The length of the gallery generally ranges from 10 to 50 cm. Feeding is usually completed in autumn.

Figure 4. Gallery of an emerald ash borer larva.

Prepupal larvae overwinter in shallow chambers, roughly 1 cm deep, excavated in the outer sapwood or in the bark on thick-barked trees. Pupation begins in

Figure 5. D-shaped hole where an adult beetle emerged.

Figure 6. Jagged holes left by woodpeckers feeding on larvae.

Figure 7. Ash tree killed by emerald ash borer. Note the serpentine galleries.

Figure 8. Epicormic branching on a heavily infested ash tree.

late April or May. Newly eclosed adults often remain in the pupal chamber or bark for 1 to 2 weeks before emerging head-first through a D-shaped exit hole that is 3 to 4 mm in diameter (Fig. 5).

Studies in Michigan indicate 2 years may be required for *A. planipennis* to develop in newly infested ash trees that are relatively healthy. In these trees, many *A. planipennis* overwinter as early instars, feed a second summer, overwinter as prepupae, and emerge the following summer. In trees stressed by physical injury, high *A. planipennis* densities, or other problems, all or nearly all larvae develop in a single year. Whether a 2-year life cycle will occur in warmer southern states is not yet known.

Distribution and Hosts

A. planipennis is native to Asia and is found in China and Korea. It is also reported in Japan, Mongolia, the Russian Far East, and Taiwan. In China, high populations of *A. planipennis* occur primarily in *Fraxinus chinensis* and *F. rhynchophylla*, usually when those trees are stressed by drought or injury. Other Asian hosts (*F. mandshurica* var. *japonica*, *Ulmus davidiana* var. *japonica*, *Juglans mandshurica* var. *sieboldiana*, and *Pterocarya rhoifolia*) may be colonized by this or a related species.

In North America *A. planipennis* has attacked only ash trees. Host preference of *A. planipennis* or resistance among North American ash species may vary. Green ash (*F. pennsylvanica*) and black ash (*F. nigra*), for example, appear to be highly preferred, while white ash (*F. americana*) and blue ash (*F. quadrangulata*) are less preferred. At this time all species and varieties of native ash in North America appear to be at risk from this pest.

Signs and Symptoms

It is difficult to detect *A. planipennis* in newly infested trees because they exhibit few, if any, external symptoms. Jagged holes excavated by woodpeckers feeding on late instar or prepupal larvae may be the first sign that a tree is infested (Fig. 6). D-shaped exit holes left by emerging adult beetles may be seen on branches or the trunk, especially on trees with smooth bark (Fig 5). Bark may split vertically over larval feeding galleries. When the bark is removed from infested trees, the distinct, frass-filled larval galleries that etch the outer sapwood and phloem are readily visible (Fig. 4 and Fig. 7). An elliptical area of discolored sapwood, usually a result of secondary infection by fungal pathogens, sometimes surrounds galleries.

As *A. planipennis* densities build, foliage wilts, branches die, and the tree canopy becomes increasingly thin. Many trees appear to lose about 30 to 50 percent of the canopy after only a few years of infestation. Trees may die after 3 to 4 years of heavy infestation (Fig. 7). Epicormic shoots may arise on the trunk or branches of the tree (Fig. 8), often at the margin of live and dead tissue. Dense root sprouting sometimes occurs after trees die.

A. planipennis larvae have developed in branches and trunks ranging from 2.5 cm (1 inch) to 140 cm (55 inches) in diameter. Although stressed trees are initially more attractive to *A. planipennis* than healthy trees are, in many areas all or nearly all ash trees greater than 3 cm in diameter have been attacked.

Resources

For more information on the emerald ash borer and related topics...

- Visit the following Web sites:
  - Multi-agency Emerald Ash Borer Web Site: www.emeraldashborer.info
  - USDA Forest Service: www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/eab/
  - USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/
- Contact your state Department of Agriculture, State Forester, or Cooperative Extension Office.

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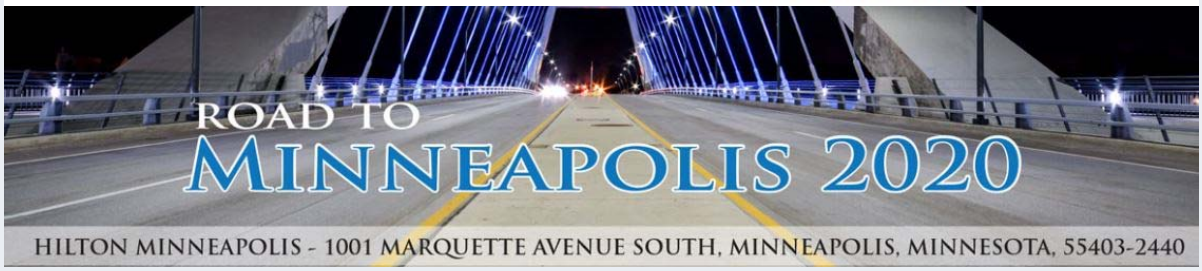

Your Education Foundation

Right of Way International Education Foundation

Who We Are In the 1970's, the then American Right of Way Association realized that specialized education would be an ongoing need for right of way professionals. To support this pursuit, the Right of Way International Education Foundation (RWIEF) was formed in 1976 to serve as the funding mechanism. A separate entity from the Association, the non-profit Foundation's core mission is to fund right of way education. We focus on generating financial contributions and determine how best to allocate those funds for the betterment of right of way education. Over the last few years, funds have been allocated for educational summits, creation of new courses, upgrades to existing courses, conversion to on-line delivery methods, and leadership programs.

Funding Who provides funding? **You**! Association members, chapters and regions, along with leading industry corporations generously donate money plus their time, energy and passion to raise funds. The Foundation hosts a Monday night event and golf tournament at annual conferences that also generate funds. With these funds the RWIEF has awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars for education and professional development programs.

What We Do The Foundation does not develop or update courses; that is the purview of the Association. It is our responsibility to safeguard and grow funding. When we receive new funding proposals, a basic approach is used in evaluating each request. Projected donations are estimated, then funds already pledged and sunset dates for those funds are verified to confirm remaining, unpledged funds. The Foundation vets the merit of each funding request before putting to a vote before the Trustees. With this data in hand, approval or denial of any request is systematically evaluated. Our goal is to allocate available dollars with an open mind toward the future of the profession and its professional development needs.

We also support multiple award and scholarship programs. Some programs were created by individuals in the industry who provided funds that RWIEF holds in trust. Other programs such as the 40 For 40 Launching Careers Scholarship and the RWIEF Regional Professional of the Year Scholarship were created and funded by RWIEF.

Advancing Careers The RWIEF applauds the efforts of right of way professionals to become better informed and specialized. There are more than 60 courses to keep current and new courses are being developed as industry needs warrant. Maintaining this cutting-edge education curriculum requires a robust financial commitment. We are grateful for the continued support of Association members, both individual and corporate, without whom funding the ever-expanding education needs of our profession would not be possible.

RWIEF
Founded 1976
RIGHT OF WAY INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

www.rwief.org

First and Last on the Scene: The Importance of the ROW Agent Role

By Allyson Brown, RWA

The role of the Right of Way agent is important in any project. Often, the role of the ROW agent is most intensive/emphasized at the beginning of the project, ensuring that any given rights, easements, or land is acquired to support the continuation of the project. But we as ROW professionals know that our roles carry on far beyond the planning and acquisition stages. And while securing the necessary rights and/or land is incredibly important, so equally is the work that we do through the remainder of the project to foster productive and positive relationships with the landowners and the public now and into the future.

Not unlike many other electric transmission utilities, Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO) has assets on both developed and undeveloped properties. Vermont, being the largely rural state that is, has more ROW in corn fields, forests, and open land than it does in back yards and while either scenario has its own pros and cons, performing large scale maintenance efforts in highly congested areas proves to be one of the most challenging and one where the ROW agent can really depend on being a vital part of the project from the early stages to the very end.

VELCO's infrastructure was largely built in the 50's and 60's and there has been a significant effort over the past few years to get aged poles replaced with most of them having seen their useful life expectancy. The replacement of these (mostly) H-frame structures requires heavy equipment and the work occurs over a couple of months. We in Vermont have become accustom to significant access road construction to get modern day heavy equipment to our assets that exist in extremely challenging terrain in any given time of year. Working along busy road side traffic or on a sidewalk in front of an operating business is not something that we experience every day.

Often when this maintenance occurs in typical rural parts of the state, ROW's role in this project is a heavy lift in the beginning—researching landowners, making contact and presenting the proposed scope of work, site meetings, identifying potential concerns, acquiring additional rights if needed, and developing trustworthy relationships. During the actual construction work, the ROW agent usually serves as support to the field crews and the re-

(Continued…) mainder of the project team and is called upon should any problems arise. I recently learned the importance and value of the ROW agent in highly congested commercial/industrial/residential areas.

VELCO just recently completed structure replacement work where line crews replaced 17 aged structures in Williston, Vermont among some of the most highly congested areas on our system in terms of commercial, residential and industrial areas. Working in areas like Williston pose challenges for multiple departments and the success of the work relies on communication, planning and creativity. This project serves as our latest example of a culmination of hard work from across the company coming to fruition and highlights the importance of the ROW agent in this kind of work.

These structures were within the parking lots of shopping centers, on the berms of storm water detention ponds, within the active construction of condo complexes, adjacent to daycares and directly on front lawns in residential developments. Well ahead of any field work beginning there were extensive reviews, landowner and stakeholder meetings, and collaboration among the entire project team and our contractors. The line outage was rescheduled three times over the past few years, making the collaboration for this work even more challenging due to varying time of year conditions, resource planning, complicating landowner communications and dealing with an area of our state that constantly changing and being built up around our infrastructure.

Getting this important work done while also ensuring safety and limiting our impacts to our neighbors properties and business's required the entire project team and our contractors to collaborate closely with a heightened sense of communication and appreciation for small details. Access crews were tasked with finding and/or creating enough space for line equipment to set up in places where there was limited space physically but also limited space as to not hinder operating businesses. In residential areas extra care had to be taken on our neighbors lawns and driveways as the cutting of vegetation, excavating of holes and presence of heavy equipment was of particular concern. In multiple areas, we had to coordinate with businesses and residents in housing complexes to ensure they had egress/ingress. There was a significant amount of effort put into coordinating with the large scale construction where multiple buildings, parking lots and utilities are being installed on either side of and within the VELCO ROW. Compared to project efforts in more rural areas where crews work in the woods and on the farmers 'back forty', there was an overall heightened awareness for this work being performed directly in the public eye and among very busy areas where safety not only for our crews but for our neighbors was paramount. The relationships and commitments made to landowners in early stages of this work were of great value to us and honoring those required the ROW agent attention undoubtedly through the entire project.

Communicating schedules and scope of work with every landowner/stakeholder along this line was essential to this maintenance being performed smoothly. And the many landowner/

(Continued…) stakeholder meetings that occurred leading up to this effort paved the way for a great working relationship with our neighbors. We sought out their concerns, questions, and priorities first so that we could develop our plans for access and line work with those in mind as much as possible and this really built a foundation of trust even in our early interactions. Our willingness to meet, even multiple times, and answer questions, send maps, provide progress updates etc. also added to our reputation for being a trusted partner. Communicating with the crews and landowners during the restoration phase was critical in ensuring that all commitments were met before leaving the property.

It is also our typical practice to follow up with the landowners after the completion of the work in the form of a survey. Landowners have the chance to give feedback or mention any last concerns using this tool. The ROW agent's role continues to be valuable even after the work is complete.

I think we created even stronger working relationships with our landowners in the Williston area through doing this work. I also think the interdepartmental connections within the project team and our company grew stronger through the communication and coordination that this effort required, with everyone working toward the same goal—to perform this work safely and in positive coordination with our neighbors. The ROW agent may be known for the important role they play in the beginning of any project, but like this work the ROW agent is often the first person a landowner connects with and often is the common thread throughout the project and the last person to leave a positive lasting impression of the entire project.

New Members

Let us welcome the Chapter's newest members, those who have joined to date in 2019!

⇒ **David A. Lively**—*Independent SR/WA*

⇒ **Renee Chalifoux**—*Vermont Electric Power Company*

⇒ **Diane Demakis**—*New Hampshire Department of Transportation*

⇒ **Ryan Hansen**—*The NLS Group*

⇒ **Jason Bascom**—*NiSource*

⇒ **Joanne Cleary**—*O. R. Colan*

⇒ **Tara Bartos**—*O.R. Colan*

⇒ **Jim Rose**—*Vermont Electric Cooperative*

⇒ **Jeremiah Manfra**—*Instegra-Boston*

Professional Development Update

IRWA continues to be considered the unsurpassed source of right of way education programs and professional services worldwide. Chapter 16 continues to bring these valuable resources closer to home for our Chapter Members.

Upcoming Courses in the Region:

- Course 400: Principles of Real Estate Appraisal, 11/13/19, Hanover, MD
- Course 410: Reviewing Appraisals in Eminent Domain, 11/15/19, Hanover, MD
- Course 406B: National Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP), 1/7/20, Enbridge in Waltham, MA
- Course 415: USPAP and the Yellow Book: A Guide to Understanding Their Relationship, 1/8/20, Enbridge in Waltham, MA
- Course 804: Skills of Expert Testimony, 4/22/20, Wilmington, DE

SURVEY!

Have you taken the course offerings survey?

If you have any training or continuing education needs, and/or would like for the Chapter to host a specific IRWA Course, please let us know using the quick online survey.

This information can only help better the educational offerings of the Chapter and ensure members are getting the most value from their membership!

Find the survey on the Chapter website www.nechapter16.com and visit IRWA's website to see a list of course titles and descriptions:

Upcoming Chapter and Regional Membership Events

Check the Calendar posted on the Chapter website to stay up to date on changes

January 10: TBD—Manchester, NH

March 6: TBD-

May 8: TBD—NHDOT

June 21-25: 66th Annual IRWA Educational Conference, Minneapolis, MN

July 17: Chapter 16's 8th Annual Mini Golf Classic, Westford, MA

Chef's Corner

It's fall in New England and that means it's apple picking time. The following recipe was originally shared by Marcie Derby, a longtime VELCO employee who has since retired and relocated to Florida. This easy recipe makes the most scrumptious seasonal dessert, and we hope making it becomes a treasured tradition in your family.

Marcie Derby's Famous Apple Crisp

Preheat oven to 350°. Peel, core, then slice lots of apples into a bowl.

Add to the apples and mix:
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 TBS. flour
- Cinnamon and salt to taste

Mix together topping in separate bowl:
- 1 cup oatmeal
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 cup melted butter

Place apples in a 9" x 13" pan or other baking dish. Spread topping over apples and bake for approximately 45 – 60 minutes until slightly browned and bubbling.

(The amount of baking time, sugar, and cinnamon depend on the type and amount of apples.)