

Press Release

STOWE, VT – The Town of Stowe is pleased to announce the completion of the Main Street Overhead Utility Relocation Project.

This local investment in Stowe's Historic Downtown, a \$3.2M project to install underground conduit throughout the Main Street corridor, was funded through a voter-approved bond using Local Option Tax income. This project had been discussed for decades, but when the State indicated they would be paving the Stowe's Class 1 Highways in 2020, it became a now or never moment. This project was concurrent with a \$3.4M project to replace the Town's cobblestone sidewalks with new, ADA-compliant concrete sidewalks and pedestrian crosswalks with "bump outs" that improve visibility. The projects have taken two years to complete, with construction beginning in the spring of 2019. Last construction season the majority of the conduit was installed underneath the sidewalks and roads, and in 2020 the process to run wires through those conduits and remove the overhead wires was completed. On Thursday, November 19th, the utility poles were removed from Main Street, marking the final step in this project to clean up the skyline and views of the historic village, including the iconic Stowe Community Church.

This was a very complex project to design and could not have been accomplished in a timely manner without Stowe's Public Works Director/Engineer, Harry Shepard. Through the public bid process, the contract for the work was awarded to Dale E. Percy, Inc, with Gould Corp serving as the prime subcontractor for the electrical conduit work. Both of these companies are local businesses based in Stowe, and the project benefitted greatly from their knowledge of the lay of the land and their commitment to the community. Also, the project could not have been done without the cooperation of local utilities Stowe Electric and Stowe Cable. Many municipal employees provided invaluable assistance in getting this project completed in a timely manner.

There were a number of advocates for the removal of the overhead wires, including Stowe Vibrancy, Stowe Area Association and the Friends of Stowe Village. Through their efforts to promote the project, the voters approved the funding of the project in 2018. The Stowe Selectboard provided vital support to the project and guided the vision to reality.

On November 23, 2020 the Stowe Selectboard held a "Virtual Ribbon Cutting," and the video can be found online at <https://youtu.be/nkJMaAtssxI>

Questions about this project may be directed to the following:

Abigail Earle, Public Information Officer (253-7350 or aearle@stowevt.gov)

Lisa Hagerty, Stowe Selectboard Chair (508-560-3523 or lhagerty@stowevt.gov)

Harry Shepard, Stowe Public Works Director (253-8770 or Hshepard@stowevt.gov)

Charles Safford, Town Manager (253-6868 or csafford@stowevt.gov)

Michael Diender, Friends of Stowe Village (253-7159 or michael@sunandskiinn.com)

Attached are some examples of before & after photos of the project.





