

February 27, 2025

Good afternoon Chair Alice Emmons and House Corrections Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to share my 39 years of using Correctional Work crews of one sort or another – it may have been community service teams or direct from the jail or Work camp. We have had all male crews, all female crews and mixed crews.

Participants included College students, teachers, a Veterinarian, College basketball coach, lawyers, farmers, construction workers . Charges include sex offending, drug trafficking, murder, rape, burglary, drunk driving, other driving infractions, assault. I have seen a wide gamete.

Why do I support these work crews.

1. We all need to feel self-worth and importance –offenders need assurance that they are performing the right task on the correct path to pay back the community.
2. Community based work is a meaningful way to make a difference that affects a great percentage of the public – cemeteries, fish and game accesses, cutting brush along roadsides and powers lines, litter pickup along the interstate system, park maintenance, graffiti cleanup, little league fields, volunteer fire stations, food shelves.
3. So much work is going undone in all our communities
4. Cannot lock humans up without outside human interaction-remember Covid stay at home times?
5. Let's not waste all the skill and knowledge that our offenders (neighbors) have.
6. Community work is part of a valuable “correction” process

Please reestablish the Community based Work programs and expand/continue the Work Camp Programs. Just yesterday I received word that the St. Johnsbury work will not have any outside work crews this coming summer. Feel free to use me as a resource for Correctional Work Crews. Additionally I invite each of you and any other interested party to visit our cemetery and interact with the offenders. (With DOC permission of course). You should take the time and discuss work crews with those serving on the crews.

Sincerely,

Patrick Healy, Director Green Mount Cemetery, MPA

Offender Work Program Board Chair 1st three years for Governor Howard Dean

(We met the mission, and the board disbanded after 4 or 5 years)

Twinfield Union School Board Chair – past 12 years.

