

# Trees In Dover: A Fact Finding Session

- February 4th, 2023, 10:30-12:00pm, Dover Library
- 26 sign in forms completed (24 residents)
- Time living in Dover spanned 2-73 years
- Interested/Concerned Citizens, Conservation/Hort Organizations, Real Estate, Arborists, Landscape Architect, Town Officials
  - Conservation, Health, Transportation, Tree Preservation Committee



## Run of Show




- Welcome In - Board Activities
- Assets & Constraints - Annotated Map Exercise
- Tree Stewardship - Hypotheticals
- Tree Threat Rankings & Share Outs
- Group Discussion - Dover Strengths & Opportunities



DOVER LAND CONSERVATION TRUST



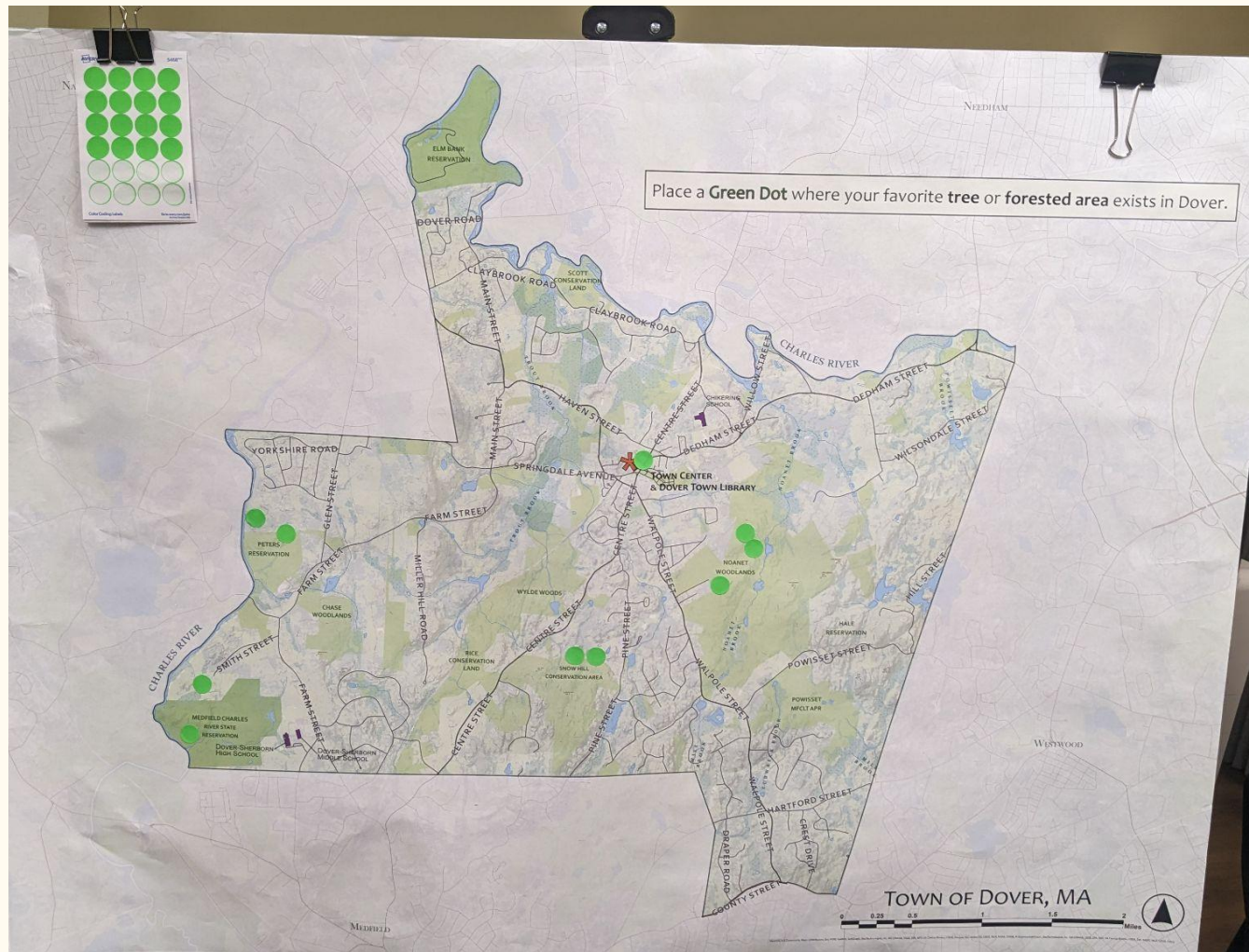
# Welcome in!

HAVE YOU...	
<u>FACED CHALLENGES</u> KEEPING A TREE ALIVE?	<u>PLANTED A TREE</u> ON YOUR PROPERTY?
YES 	YES 
NO	NO 
Why? DIFFICULTIES WITH WAY TOWN CONTRACTS OUT FOR ROADWAY TREE PRUNING ALONG PROPERTY LINE STRESSED OLDER CANOPY TREES → DROUGHT → Septic clearing → Drought	Why? PLANTING NEXT GENERATION TREES • For landscaping border and shade • Fun/beauty/enjoyment • Shade/Privacy/Landscaping

- Difficulties with way town contracts out for roadway tree pruning along property line
- Stressed older canopy trees
- **Drought\*\***
- Septic clearing
- Road salt
- Spongy moths

- Planting next generation trees
- For landscaping border and shade
- Fun/Beauty/Enjoyment
- Shade/Privacy/Landscaping

Where are residents' favorite trees and forests in Dover?







# Tree Assets & Constraints - Map Activity

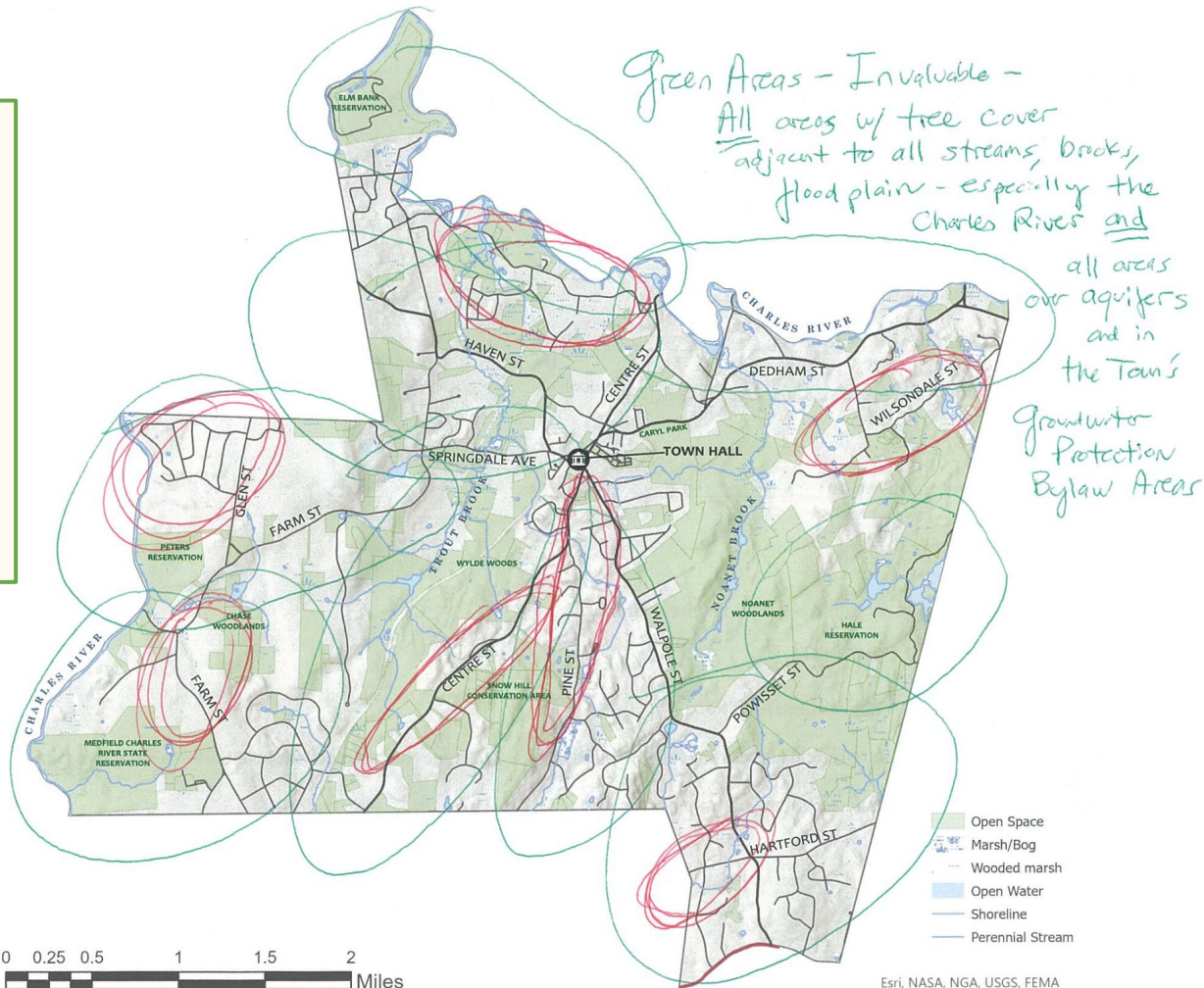
Use a **green pen** to annotate trees/forested areas you feel are invaluable to Dover.

Use a **red pen** to show where you've seen tree loss that concerns you.





“All areas with tree cover adjacent to all streams, brooks, flood plain - especially the Charles River and all areas over aquifers in the Town’s Groundwater Protection Bylaw Areas”

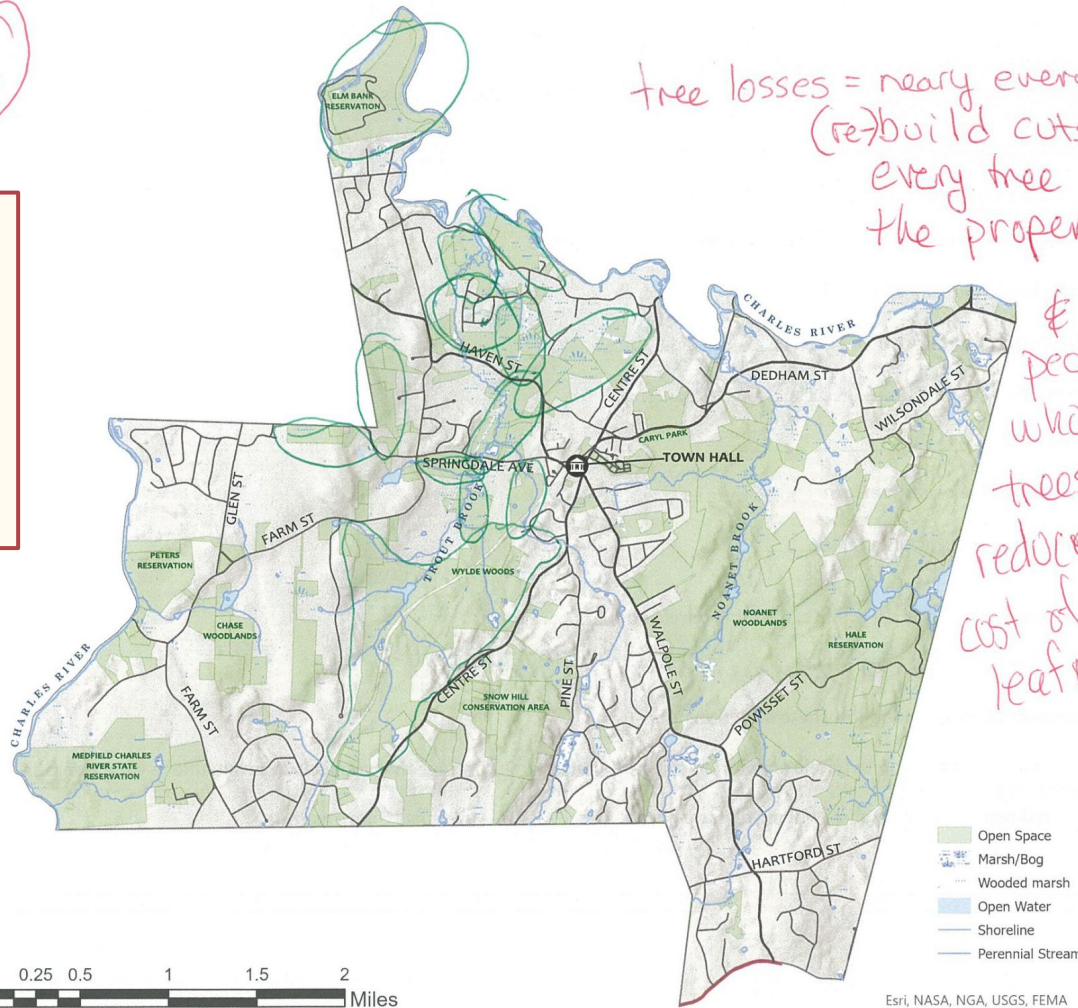


~~A~~  
C

“Tree losses = every new (re)build cuts down every tree on the property & people who remove trees to reduce the cost of fall leaf removal”

tree losses = nearly every new (re)build cuts down every tree on the property

& people who remove trees to reduce the cost of fall leaf removal!







“Trees are dying because of water inundation and invasives everywhere - what to replace the non-water inundation tolerant trees with”



*these are dying  
because of  
inundation,  
and invasives  
everywhere  
- what to  
replace  
the non-water  
inundation  
tolerant trees  
with*

(B)

\* WHOLE TOWN!  
- ALL ALONG THE  
CHARLES RIVER  
\* ALONG MAJOR STREETS  
& TOWN PROPERTIES (BUDGS  
& PARKS)  
- DOVER TRUST PROPERTIES  
(SO GRATEFUL FOR IT)  
- SCHOOLS

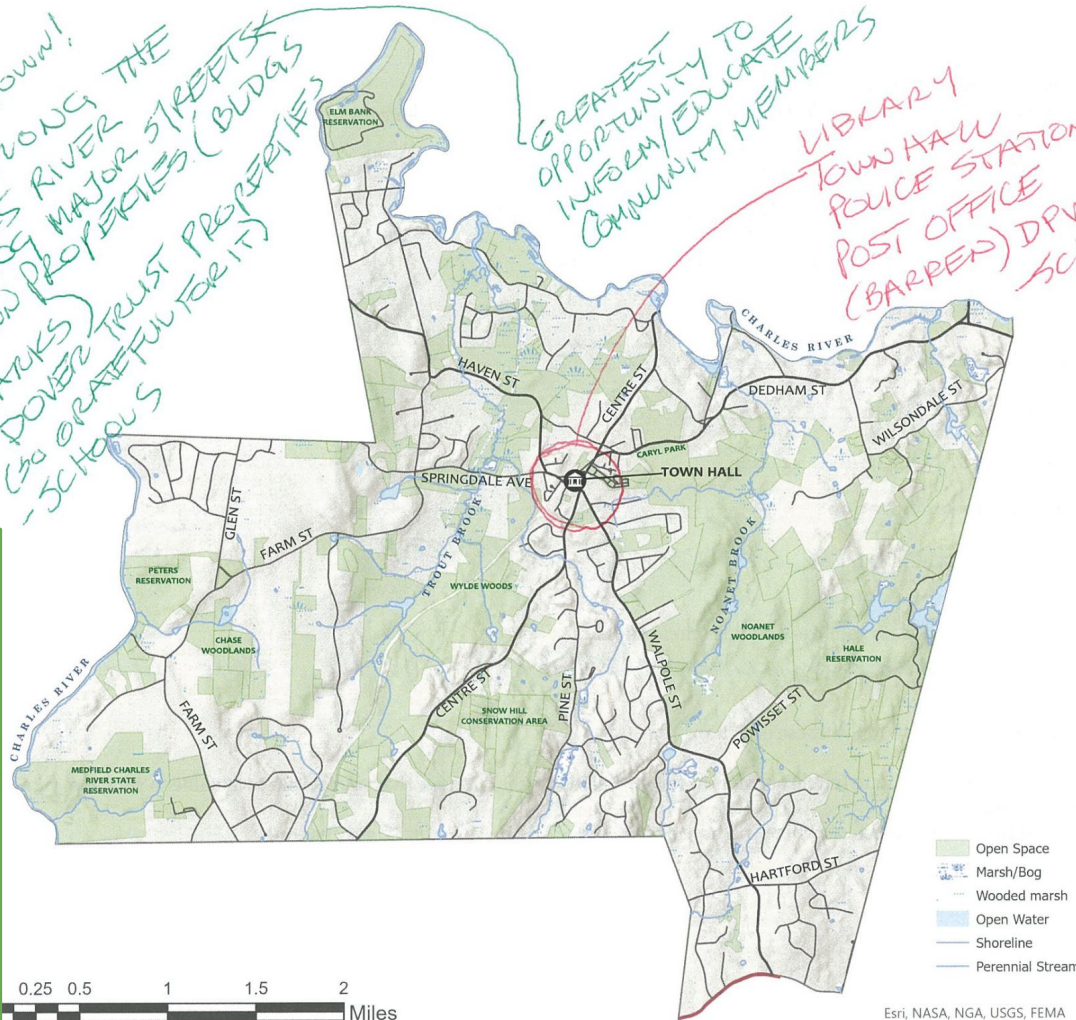
GREATEST  
OPPORTUNITY TO  
INFORM/EDUCATE  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS

LIBRARY  
TOWN HALL  
POLICE STATION  
POST OFFICE  
(BARREN) DPW AREA  
SCHOOLS

- Library
- Town Hall
- Post Office
- (Barren)
- DPW Area
- Schools

Whole town!

- All along the Charles River
- Along major streets (greatest opportunity to inform/education community members)
- Town properties (buildings & parks)
- Dover Trust properties (so grateful for it)
- Schools

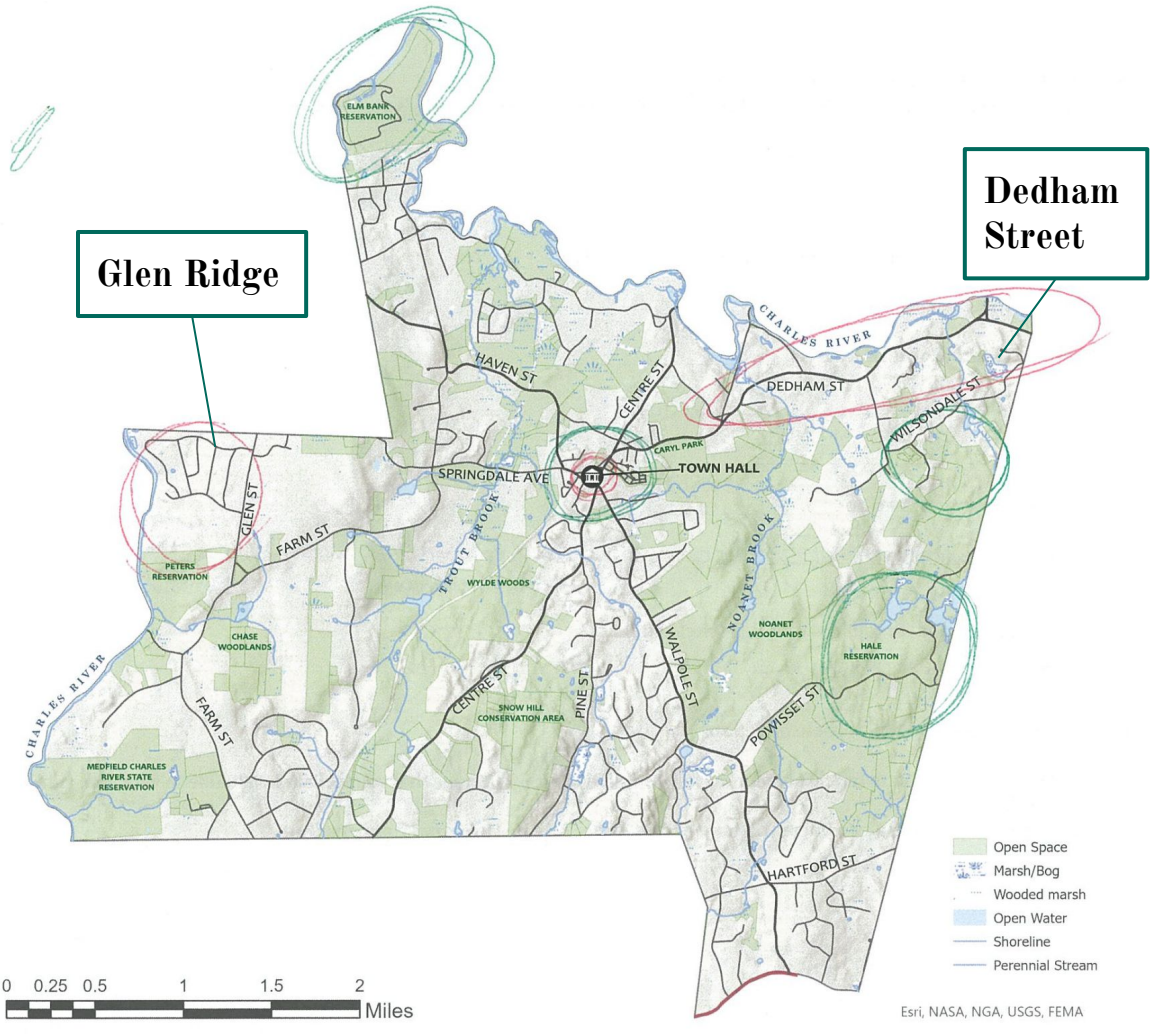


Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA



Two common  
areas of  
concern in  
Dover for tree  
loss

③



# Stewardship Hypotheses - Sick Tree

*What do you do? What resources do you turn to?*

## Common Answers

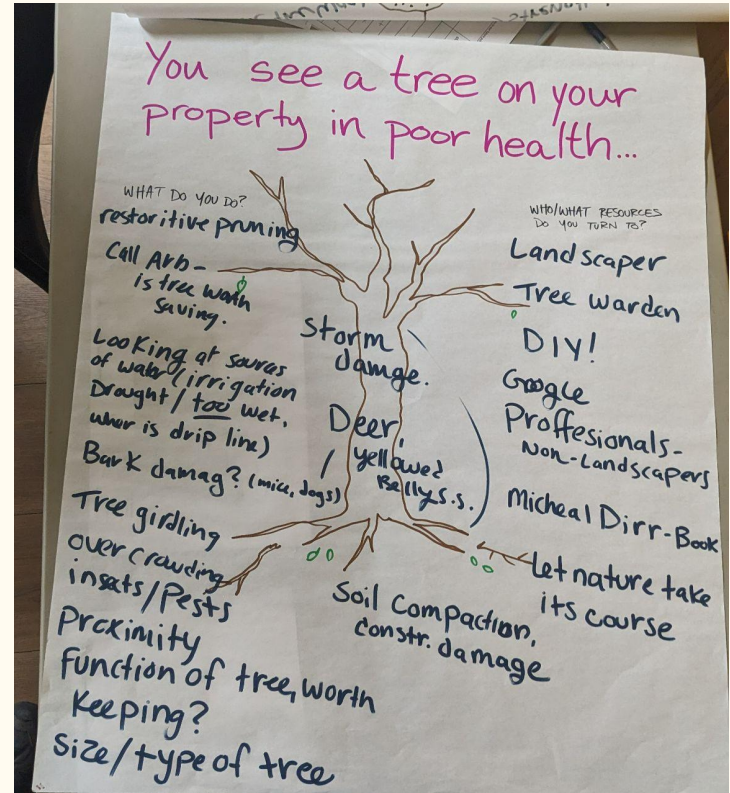
All three tables - Call the arborists!

One mention of Tree Warden

Internet research

Leave it alone

Michael Dirr books



# Stewardship Hypotheses - New Tree

*Where do you go to acquire a tree? How do you choose a new tree?*

## Common Answers

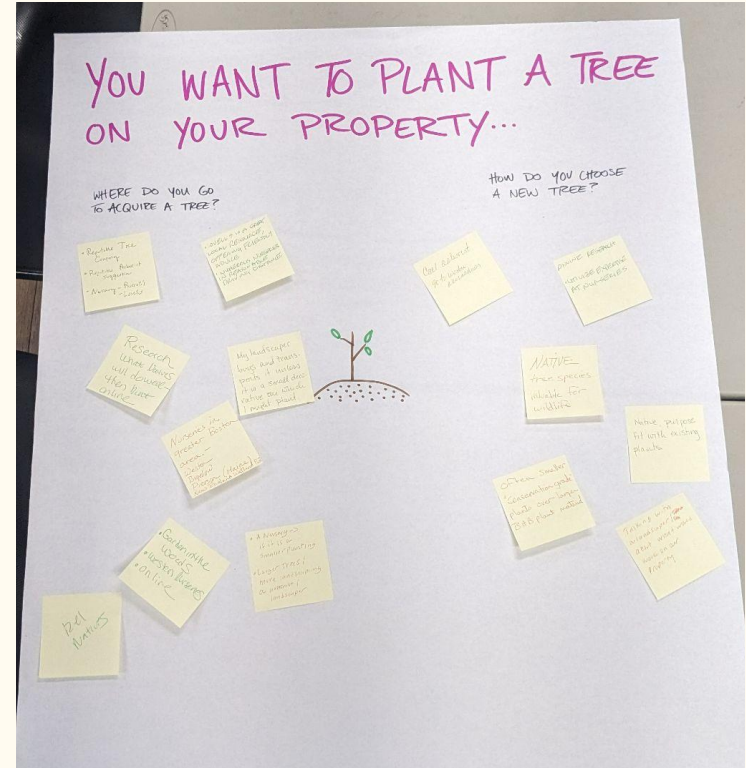
### Local nurseries mentioned by all groups for sourcing and advice

## Landscape professionals

*"I have a multi-year tree plan for my property"*

## Native species suited for the site

# Doug Tallamy books





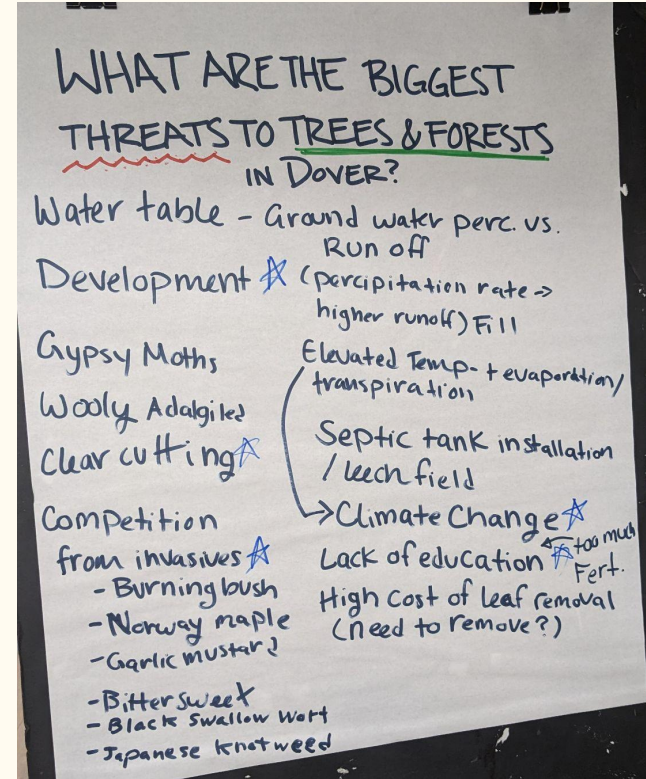
# What are the biggest threats to Dover trees?

## Most Common Top 5

- **Development**
- Drought
- Climate Change
- Pests
- Invasive Plant Species



*Spongy Moths*



# What is Dover doing right and where can the town improve regarding tree preservation and maintenance?

- Lack of tree bylaw means **development is a “free for all”**
- New large houses require **new large septic systems** ~ Lot clearing
- Developers are now **able to build on previously ‘unbuildable lots’** due to advances in technology and increased value of land
- **Lack of 40b** housing puts town at risk of large scale projects that do not necessarily prioritize conservation ~ Where will it go?
- Majority of tree/forest composition in town are **declining pines**
- **Trickle up education** ~ Inspire the youth to educate their parents with new tree based curriculums

# Main Takeaways

Attendees of the public engagement meeting had an **appetite for a bylaw** that regulates tree cutting/lot clearing on private property.

**Development and construction** are the leading causes for concern in Dover.

Other contributing factors to tree loss include **drought, pests**, and competition with **invasive species**.

Most attendees care about **native tree** species.

There seems to be a **strong network of local arborists** who work together often and expressed a shared interest in the ecological value of trees in the area.



# Additional Stakeholders for Future Engagement

Youth/Students in Dover

Trustees of the Reservation

Dover Tree Warden/Highway  
Department

Dover Tree Committee members

Local Plant Nurseries

DCR

Hale Reservation

Dover Building Department

Dover Council on Aging

Dover Transfer Station

Dover Open Space Committee

Dover Con Com

Dover Board of Health

School Board

