



Tree Preservation Committee
DOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Annual Report

To: Planning Board
From: Valerie Lin, Chair, Tree Preservation Committee
Date: Sep 9, 2024
RE: Summary of Initiatives and Activities

Two years ago, on November 21, 2022 the Dover Planning Board approved the creation of the Tree Preservation Committee and appointed its first members. Since that day, this committee has worked diligently to accomplish its charge, and to support the Planning Board with providing community education and bylaw development around the preservation of trees in Dover.

This document will summarize the activities and initiatives that the Tree Preservation Committee has engaged in over the past two years, and briefly list the planned initiatives for the upcoming fiscal year: July, 2024- June, 2025.

2022-2023

The Tree Preservation Committee immediately set to work determining the current state of tree preservation in Dover. To do this, the Planning Board engaged The Conway School as a consultant to conduct research, engage the community, and make recommendations regarding the elements of a future tree preservation bylaw. Some of the activities that resulted from this partnership are the following:

- A series of interviews with staff and volunteers across Dover's land management departments and committees
- Two public forums with Dover residents which served two purposes: to educate the community about current tree-related bylaws, and to survey and gather their opinions about current Town-led tree preservation efforts and future needs/interests
- Interviews and meetings with leadership from communities with best management practices on tree bylaw development

The final report from this successful partnership was delivered in May, 2023 and included community mapping, recommendations, illustrations, strategies for implementation, and other elements related to the creation of a tree preservation bylaw. [You can find the report here](#). The Tree Preservation Committee and Planning Board then began prioritizing and planning to address the many recommendations listed within the report.

During the remainder of 2023 and first half of 2024, the Tree Preservation Committee initiated and completed the implementation of the following initiatives:

- Hosted its first Dover Days booth to bring awareness of the new committee and provide fun, educational engagement activities for Dover residents of all ages
- Initiated the collaboration with the Department of Public Works to update the Stormwater Management Bylaw to include tree preservation aspects
- Assisted with the bylaw amendments, and presentation development for the successful passing of Article 20, Stormwater Management Bylaw Amendments at the May 2024 Dover Town Meeting
- Successfully gathered, organized, and submitted data needed to secure Dover's first designation as a Tree City USA community
- Assisted with the development of regulations to support the updated Stormwater Management Bylaw
- Development of an online resource page for community members to access tree-related bylaws and tree maintenance/care guidance, and committee information. Please find the online resource [here](#)
- Collaborated with the Board of Selectmen to create and approve Dover's first proclamation to officially recognize and celebrate Arbor Day in Dover, MA in 2023 and in 2024.
- Collaborated with the Department of Parks & Recreation, Department of Public Works, Open Space Committee, Dover Chickering Elementary School, Dover-Sherborn Regional School, Cemetery Commission, and the Dover Town Library to develop a calendar of events encouraging all Dover residents to participate in the celebration of Arbor Day in Dover. These activities included:
 - The planting of a new tree on the Dover Town Green
 - The planting of a new tree in the Highland Cemetery
 - The planting of a new tree at Chickering Elementary School
 - The give-away of 500 seedlings to Chickering Elementary School students
 - The planting of two trees on the campus of the Dover-Sherborn Regional Schools
 - Educational talks, and hands-on activities for both children and adults at the Dover Town Library
 - Vernal Pool & Native Tree walk on a local Dover property

As the second half of 2024 begins the committee is continuing to build on our successful activities from the past year two years, and initiate new ones. The current initiatives are listed below:

- 2024/25 Tree City USA application completion and submission
- Completion of the Stormwater Management Regulations
- Provide a community education session around current Dover tree-preservation bylaws and regulations
- Development and passing of a clearcutting and large lot tree bylaw
- Support the creation of a Tree Fund
- Development of a Master Planting Plan
- Prepare and implement activities for Arbor Day in April 2025
- Work with the newly-established Sustainability Committee

In summary, over the past two years this committee has creatively engaged with the Dover community through various public events to encourage broad resident participation and improve local tree

preservation awareness and efforts. It has also prioritized a collaborative and multidisciplinary approach across many Town departments and committees with the goal of ensuring that initiative deliverables are efficient and comprehensive. Lastly, we've engaged with outside groups and communities to ensure that our efforts are consistent with best practices and forward-looking tree preservation methods. This committee embraces its mission to continue working with the Dover Planning Board and our Dover residents as we protect our community's beautiful natural resources for our future generations.