

# OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA

## Welcome to the January Issue of OUR TOWN

Happy New Year! We are starting off 2025 right with a new issue of our town newsletter. We are excited to announce that this is the 4th volume of the newsletter, marking four years since its creation. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to its success by submitting content and encouraging others to subscribe. 2025 is set to be a busy year for the town, with many upcoming projects and the town meeting warrant articles beginning to take shape. In this issue, you will find a major update on the town's compliance efforts with the MBTA Communities Act by the Planning Board, project updates, and many ways to get involved!

If you are part of a Town Department/  
board/committee/commission and would like to submit  
content for the January issue, please contact  
[newsletter@doverma.gov](mailto:newsletter@doverma.gov)

VOL. 4 NO.11, JAN 2025

### WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE...

#### Town Departments

- DPW
- Planning
- Council on Aging
- BOS office hours
- Town Clerk

#### Boards and Committees

- Conservation
- Board of Health
- Open Space  
Committee
- Volunteer

## SIGN UP FOR THE NEWSLETTER



# Planning Board

## **MBTA Communities Act**

In 2021, the Massachusetts legislature passed a law (the MBTA Communities Act) that requires that the 177 municipalities in the MBTA's service area (including Dover) have at least one zoning district of reasonable size in which multi-family housing (housing with at least 3 units on one piece of property) is permitted as of right. Even though Dover doesn't have MBTA services within its borders, because it abuts a town that does provide services, it has been deemed to be an "Adjacent Small Town" and so must comply with the law by December 31, 2025.

### **It's important to note that the MBTA Communities Act law:**

- Does NOT require that multi-family housing be built
- Does NOT compel Dover to pay for or approve new infrastructure like sewer or water
- Does NOT supersede or override Dover wetlands or Title V laws or any of Dover's general bylaws or regulations.
- The law DOES allow Dover to maintain control of future development in the proposed district through our local regulations and bylaws and allows us to develop specific zoning regulations for any proposed MBTA multi-family district, such as screening, setbacks, and dimensional requirements.

### **Here are some of the ways you can get involved in the coming weeks and months:**

- **Town Website:** Check the [MBTA Communities Multi-family Zoning webpage](#) regularly for updates, resources, FAQs and information on upcoming meetings. This will be an important source for official announcements and documents related to the compliance process.
- **Newsletters and Notifications:** Subscribe to town newsletters or notifications to receive updates directly in your inbox.
- **Social Media and Local News:** Follow local social media channels or news outlets that cover town meetings and planning board activities for real-time updates and discussions surrounding the MBTA Communities Act compliance efforts.
- **Community Outreach Events:** Participate in community workshops and public hearings planned by the Planning Board. These events are designed to gather input from residents and provide information about the compliance requirements and proposed zoning changes.
- **Planning Board:** Watch the Planning Board's agendas in the coming months and join in the ongoing compliance conversations to make your voice heard. You can also reach out directly to the Planning Board with your comments, ideas or feedback.

**Special Town Meeting:** Attend the special town meeting that we will be scheduled for September 2025, at which residents will have the opportunity to debate and vote on the proposed bylaw.

We look forward to working together with Dover residents

# Planning Board (Continued)

## Here's what you can expect in 2025:

The Planning Board will lead a process to select a location (or locations) for a proposed overlay district where multi-family housing would be allowed by-right and to draft a new proposed zoning bylaw to comply with the MBTA Communities Act.

Over the next few months, we'll be holding public workshops and meetings to gather your input and feedback.

Both the proposed bylaw and the proposed overlay district will be brought to a vote at a special Town Meeting in September 2025.

## Board of Selectmen Office Hours

We are pleased to announce that Selectmen Robyn Hunter will hold office hours on January 27th from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. This is an excellent opportunity for residents to address any town topics of interest or concern. To ensure that your time is reserved, please contact Mona DiSciullo at [mdisciullo@doverma.gov](mailto:mdisciullo@doverma.gov) to schedule an appointment.

The meetings will be held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at the Town House. We encourage residents to make an appointment to discuss town matters, ask questions, or simply to meet with a local elected official. Your participation is important to us and greatly appreciated.

## Town Clerk

Annual dog licensing forms will be mailed out in January. Please be on the lookout for them, and return them promptly! Each application must include a copy of the current rabies certificate. 2024 licenses expire on March 1, 2025 (\$15/dog), and late fees (additional \$50/dog) will be applied beginning on April 15, 2025. License your dog now! If you need forms, please email Darlene in the Town Clerk's office, [dheidke@doverma.gov](mailto:dheidke@doverma.gov).

The 2025 Annual Street Listing was mailed out on December 31, 2024. Please review this document carefully, indicate any changes necessary, sign and date, and return it to the Town Clerk's office as soon as possible. This is a requirement of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Your correct information is very important to our Police and Fire Departments, as well, in case of an emergency. If you have questions, please call Felicia Hoffman at 508-785-0032 ext. 226; or send an email to [fhoffman@doverma.gov](mailto:fhoffman@doverma.gov).

# Department of Public Works

The Willow Street culvert project has successfully reached its conclusion after a comprehensive and meticulous construction process. In December, the project reached its final phase with the completion of guardrail installation along the adjacent road section. These guardrails not only ensure the safety of motorists but also complement the functionality of the newly constructed culvert. With this final step finished, the entire project is now officially complete, signifying a significant upgrade to the infrastructure of Willow Street and providing lasting benefits to the community..



## Eversource

As part of our ongoing commitment to deliver reliable energy and superior service to our customers, we are proposing replacement of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in the Dover, Needham and Westwood area. The cable was installed in 1967 and is nearing the end of its design life expectancy. The existing high pressure fluid filled (HPFF) transmission line will be replaced with solid dielectric cross-linked polyethylene (XLPE) cables. The proposed transmission system improvements proactively increase system reliability by:

- Proactively addressing any issues with obtaining supplies and upgrading system technology with longer life expectancy
- Reducing occurrence of unplanned outages that may require the need for emergency replacement or repair
- Eliminating the risk of oil leaks from existing HPFF cables
- Potentially increasing line capacity for future load growth

The proposed project is part of our larger Underground Cable Modernization Program that we are conducting throughout our service territory in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Additionally, the project website has gone live for the public to visit and receive ongoing updates as the project progresses. Residents can sign up for email updates, get project hotline contact info, and view details of the project.

Eversource scheduled information sessions (Dover to Needham UCMP) & [Project Website](#):

- Information Session | Monday January 13, 5-7PM | Dover Town Library 56 Dedham St. Dover, MA 02030
- Virtual Open House | Monday January 27, 5:30 PM | Zoom (See website for link)



# Open Space Committee

## **Second Saturday Stroll on Snow Hill**

**January 11th, 10:30 am to ~noon**

**Explore Dover's Open Spaces**

**Guided Walks for Friends & Families**

**\*\*\* Free but Pre-registration is Required \*\*\***

**<https://snow-hill-stroll.eventbrite.com>**



Please join us for a guided walk, sponsored by the Dover Open Space Committee (OSC). On January 11th, we will walk through Dover's town-owned conservation land on Snow Hill and into the Dover Land Conservation Trust's Snow Hill Reservation. Conditions permitting, we will investigate some of the spectacular erratics, some off the trail!

This walk will be more rigorous than our usual walks. It will be over uneven and possibly wet & slippery ground so wear appropriate footwear. Wear warm clothing, hats, gloves and bring walking sticks, binoculars and cameras. Polite dogs on leash welcome. We will stroll in misty rain to shine. Parking information will be provided to registered participants on Friday morning and again early on Saturday before the walk.

## Tree Preservation Committee

Are you thinking about cutting trees on your property? The Town of Dover frequently receives calls concerned about tree removal and the impact on abutting properties. It is strongly encouraged that before removing trees, you first verify whether tree-related bylaws impact your property.

The Scenic Road Bylaw impacts all trees along the right-of-way on designated roads. [Click here for the list of designated Scenic Roads.](#)

Are your trees in wetlands or a wetland buffer zone? [Click here for information about tree removal in or around wetlands.](#)

Are you removing or disturbing 5500 sq ft of area on your property, or adding impervious surfaces to your lot? [Click here for the Stormwater Management and Erosion Control Bylaw.](#)

If you are a realtor, tree company, or contractor/builder, please encourage your Dover clients to check the Tree Preservation Committee webpage, [click here, for additional information about tree policies and bylaws before removing trees on their property.](#)

# Recycling Committee

The Dover Recycling Committee (DRC) announces guidelines for recycling during the holiday season to encourage residents to continue to reduce, reuse, recycle, and conserve town funds.

## RECYCLE – DO NOT THROW IN THE TRASH

- CHRISTMAS TREES, WREATHS, AND PLANTS: Strip all ornaments, tinsel, and wires and deposit in the yard waste section of the Transfer Station.
- FOOD WASTE: Bag all food waste including turkey carcasses, egg shells, all bones, fruits, and vegetables, and deposit in the Food Waste barrels at the Transfer Station.
- HOLIDAY STRING LIGHTS (TANGLERS): Place in the metals bin at the Transfer Station. These are a HUGE contamination hazard in the recycling stream.
- CARDBOARD BOXES: Break down and flatten all boxes and remove plastic liners and Styrofoam. Include greasy pizza boxes.
- REFUNDABLE BOTTLES AND CANS: Place in the barrels at the deposit trailer.
- TEXTILES: Bag dry textiles (old clothes, shoes, bedding, etc.) in any condition and place them in the textile bins at the Transfer Station or the Middle and High Schools.
- BATTERIES: Non-alkaline and button batteries should be given to the Transfer Station personnel.

## THROW IN THE TRASH

- WRAPPING PAPER: DO NOT THROW IT IN THE MIXED PAPER TRAILER. It goes in the regular trash since it is chemically treated with fire retardant and cannot be recycled.
- PLASTIC LINERS: Throw in the trash.
- BLACK PLASTIC: Throw in the trash.
- WAXED CARDBOARD: Milk, juice, soup cartons-throw in the trash.
- ALKALINE BATTERIES: Throw in the trash.

## FURNITURE COLLECTIONS

Did you get some new “stuff” for the holidays and now have duplicates? Do you have too many small kitchen appliances, dishes, glasses, utensils, towels, sheets, etc.? Don’t throw them out - Donate them.

The Dover Recycling Committee partners with New Life Furniture Bank (NLFB) of Walpole to provide furniture collections on the third Saturday of every month at the Transfer Station. NLFB, a non-profit organization accepts specific items of furniture and household goods for families making a fresh start in a new apartment.

NLFB is a non-profit organization offers these items at no charge to those in need. It does not accept items that need repair. If an item is not suitable for a family member or friend, it is not suitable for donation. Please check their website for acceptable items  
<https://newlifefb.org/give-furniture/what-we-accept/>

# Recycling Committee

## STYROFOAM SPECIAL RECYCLING COLLECTION

### JANUARY 11 DOVER TRANSFER STATION

Please bring appropriate types of foam (it must SNAP when bent...expanded polystyrene) in CLEAR or WHITE leaf or trash bags.

#### BRING THESE FOR RECYCLING:

- Packing foam-used to ship electronics, appliances, etc.,
- Foam coolers
- Foam egg cartons
- Foam food trays and cups- must be rinsed, clean, and dry.
- 

All items must be Clean and Dry, No Labels, Tape or Glue

#### NOT ACCEPTED FOR RECYCLING:

- Foam wrapping sheets
- Foam urethane- spongy packing material; i.e. mattress toppers
- Pluck foam- spongy, ridged packing material; may be used in mattress toppers Packing peanuts



## Parks and Recreation

Winter programs are off to an exciting start! Intramural Basketball is hitting its stride, and the first session of PROformance Soccer wrapped up with great success. Don't miss out on the fun – be sure to register for the fantastic programs launching in the New Year. Whether you are ready to dive into technology and STEM with iCode, express your creativity in our Art Classes, take center stage with Musical Theatre, or stay active with our energetic sports programs, Dover Parks and Recreation has something for everyone. Let's make this winter unforgettable!





Dover Council on Aging invites you to our upcoming programs. You can check out the Jan/Feb Newsletter with our full slate of programs. Some January highlights are below.

Sign up for programs by emailing [coa@doverma.gov](mailto:coa@doverma.gov) or by using our Online COA Program Sign-Up Form.

## KNITTING

Mondays, January 4, 1:00-2:00pm

Dover Town House, Fireside Room

All levels of knitters welcome. Bring your latest project!!

(No registration necessary)



## CHRISTMAS TREE SHOPS

Monday, January 13, 11:00am-12:00pm

Dover Town Library, Community Room

with Historian Anthony Sammarco

The Christmas Tree Shops was not just an icon of New England, it was a destination with stores that boasted a diverse assortment of merchandise from seasonal decorations, home decor, housewares, food and more. These were items you never thought you needed before stepping through the door, but who could resist a bargain? Founded in 1970 in Yarmouth Port, the word-of-mouth advertising and unique merchandise made the shop popular and was to create a sensation on Cape Cod.

## COA LUNCHEON

Tuesday, January 14, 12:15-1:45pm

The Dover Church, Kraft Hall, 17 Springdale Ave

Cost: \$5.00; Cosponsored by Wingate Living

Seniors are invited to kick off the New Year with Lunch and BINGO Fun! Bring an unwanted holiday gift to add to our prize table—it's a fun way to regift and make someone else's day! Sign up by Jan 7.

## TRAVEL TALK: JAPAN

Monday, January 27, 1:00-2:00pm

Dover Town Library, Community Room

Temples, Pagodas, Sushi and more! Join Travel Enthusiast and COA Fitness Instructor, Sophia Mellen, on a photographic journey of her recent trip to Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan.

## INTERGENERATIONAL LADIES LUNCH

Wednesday, January 29, 11:30am-1:00pm

Location: Most Precious Blood Church

Dover Mothers Association will join the COA for a special luncheon. Enjoy a delightful meal and share stories, laughter, and insights with women of all ages. RSVP by Jan 22.

## FITNESS CLASSES

The COA offers weekly fitness classes in person, virtual, or both (hybrid). Let us help you with your New Year's resolutions and fitness goals! Check out page 9 of the Newsletter and sign up





## FIRESIDE CHEER COCKTAIL PARTY

The Friends of the Dover Council on Aging invite all residents to our “Fireside Cheer Cocktail Party.” This is an opportunity to join your friends and lift your spirits to mitigate the winter doldrums. This is our way of showing appreciation to the many people who support our seniors. We will provide music, hot cider and hors d’oeuvres at \$5.00 per person. This event will take place on Friday, January 17 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. upstairs at the American Legion. A cash bar is available. Please RSVP by January 14 to [contact@coafriends.org](mailto:contact@coafriends.org).

## Board of Health

### Influenza/COVID-19 Combo Test Kits

Available at Local Pharmacies around Dover, did you know that the FDA has approved at-home tests that screen for COVID, Influenza A and Influenza B? With just one swab, you can quickly check for both flu and COVID, making it easier than ever to stay ahead of seasonal sickness. This new streamlined process saves time and helps you get back to what matters most—your health and peace of mind. Protect yourself, your loved ones, and our Dover community by taking advantage of this innovative testing option!

### FREE COVID-19 Test Kit Availability

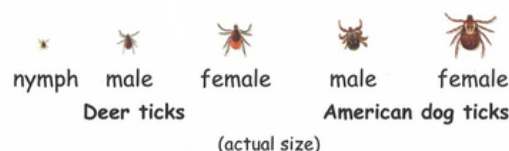
The Board of Health is happy to provide residents with FREE COVID-19 Test kits this winter season. Each kit includes 5 rapid tests, and expires in mid-February/early March. Stop by the Board of Health office on the lower level of the Town House to grab your FREE test kit, and stay healthy and safe during this season of sickness, Dover!

### Ticks are Everywhere, Even in the Winter!

The Board of Health reminds residents to be mindful of ticks when going outdoors. Ticks survive through the winter, though they are inactive when temperatures fall below freezing. Ticks are common in forests, backyards, school yards, parks, and can be more prevalent during certain outdoor activities. Be sure to dress for protection, apply tick repellent, and check yourself and others (including pets) after spending time outdoors.

If you have been bitten by a tick, be sure to follow the proper steps for removal and see your doctor if you have concerns.

#### TICK IDENTIFICATION CARD



MA Department of Public Health  
617.983.6800  
[www.mass.gov/dph](http://www.mass.gov/dph)

# Conservation Commission

## Conservation Commission Seeks Property Owners For a FREE Wetlands Buffer Planting Program

Do you live along the Charles River or a perennial stream? If so, the Conservation Commission would like to help you improve wildlife habitat and protect your property and our water resources. The Commission is seeking interested property owners to participate in a FREE pilot program to expand natural vegetative buffers along perennial streams and rivers in Dover.

The Commission is working on this project with other communities in the area through a State-funded grant to improve protection of sensitive wetland buffer areas and water quality. By planting native trees and shrubs along waterways, we reduce flooding impact and increase our climate resiliency. This program is designed to assist homeowners in creating a streamside buffer of native trees and shrubs. A streamside buffer creates habitat for wildlife, moderates peak summer temperatures, and reduces the amount of sediment, fertilizer and toxic materials that enter our waterways. Deep-rooted trees and shrubs can also stabilize streambanks, protecting them from erosion. Plus, it can look beautiful and keep your property from washing downstream!

Each selected property will be provided with a FREE bundle of native shrubs and tree saplings, seed mix for groundcover and erosion controls and temporary fencing, if needed. Planting bundles will be distributed for planting in the spring of 2025 and pilot properties will be monitored in cooperation with the Commission through the fall/winter of 2025. Depending on need and grant funding awarded, installation costs may be covered by the program.

If you're interested in participating in this program and would like more information, please contact the Commission's Conservation Agent, Janet Bowser, at [jbowser@doverma.gov](mailto:jbowser@doverma.gov).

The Conservation Commission is charged with protecting and preserving the Town's wetlands, natural resources and open space. We're available to help you with any questions or concerns about protecting our environment. If you think there may be wetlands on or near your property, please contact the Commission to see if any approvals are needed before starting a project or removing any trees. You can reach the Commission Office by calling 508-785-0032 extension 7 or by emailing us at: [lhagerty@doverma.gov](mailto:lhagerty@doverma.gov).



# Volunteer on a Board or Committee

Participating in community service has numerous benefits, such as enjoying government service and engagement, understanding the process of municipal government, building personal relationships, meeting interesting people of all ages, and achieving accomplishments for citizens.

Dover's boards, commissions, and committees are made up of citizens who volunteer their time to help the town. They work together to address complex issues and recommend policies that shape our community. Dover's By-laws (Town Code) establish these groups. We offer various opportunities for interested individuals to participate. Terms vary from one to five years. Some committees require specific expertise. Some committees have associate members. Vacancies on full committees are typically filled from the pool of associates. If you would like to serve on a board or committee, please visit the following link:



<https://www.doverma.gov/596/Volunteer-on-a-Board-or-Committee>

## Quick Links

➡ Interested in serving on a volunteer board/committee/commission? Click to learn about the process and vacant positions.

LEARN MORE



➡ Register for the Community Center Club

LEARN MORE



## Click below to stay updated on Town news

