

Senior Health Assessment and Education Clinics are coordinated in conjunction with Dover's Council on Aging. These clinics are developed and led by the Public Health Nurse Specialist to provide health assessment and counseling, and to address various health-related issues, such as medications and chronic diseases. The clinics also cover other community resources available to seniors.

Maternal/Child Health Services promote the health and stability of families during pregnancy, childbirth, and child-rearing years. Our maternal child health nurse specialists are certified lactation counselors who provide assessment, teaching, and support through home visits.

Communicable Disease Services promote the prevention and control of communicable diseases through case finding, education, and the provision of follow-up care in coordination with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Case finding is conducted through the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiological Network (MAVEN) system. Visits, education, and immunization are all part of this service.

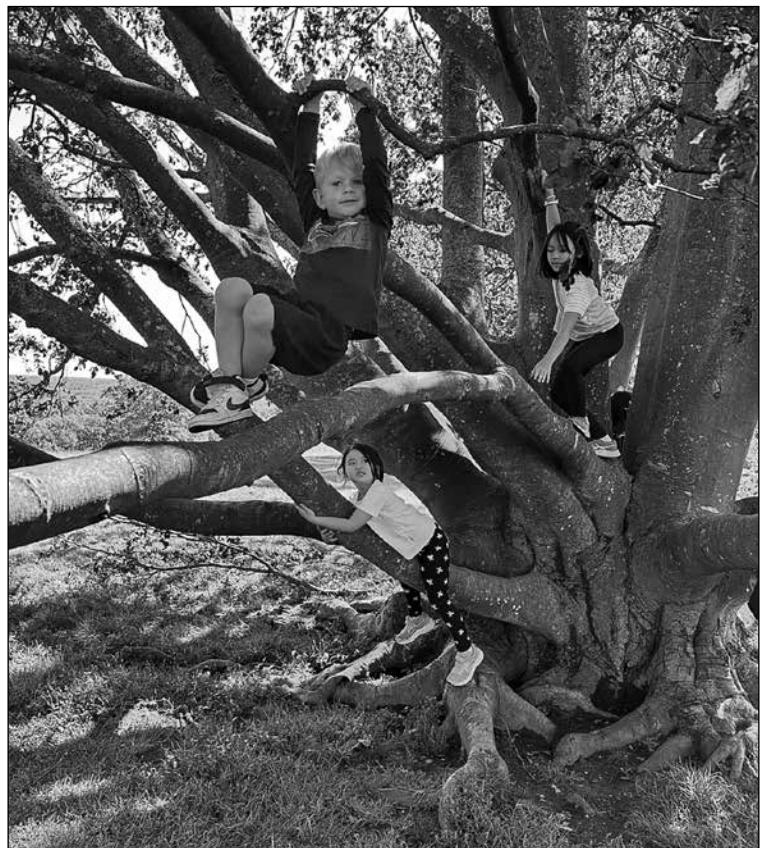
2024 Public Health Statistics for Dover

Total hours spent on blood pressure clinics, flu clinics, as well as communicable disease, TB cases, and MAVEN tracking and follow-ups: 156.

DOVER

Land Use Reports

2024



Report of the **Planning Board**

Carol Lisbon, Chair
Jody Shue, Vice Chair
Val Lin
Bill Motley
George Sidgwick
Kate Williams, Associate Member
David M. Haviland, Board of Selectmen Liaison

The Planning Board is composed of five elected full members and an elected associate member. Its duties are set forth in various state laws (e.g., Massachusetts General Laws [MGL], Chapters 40A and 41) and the Town of Dover Zoning Bylaws (e.g., Chapter 185, Zoning Bylaws). Town Planner Jasmin Farinacci and part-time Planning Assistant Susan Hall support the work of the Board.

A Planning Board member also serves on the Open Space Committee, Housing Task Force, and the Sustainability Committee, and members attend the meetings of other Town boards and participate in ad-hoc committees relating to planning issues, such as the Housing Task Force. A Board member also chairs the Tree Preservation Committee, a subcommittee of the Planning Board.

Membership

In general, each full member of the Board serves a five-year term. The Associate Member serves a two-year term. Midterm vacancies on the Board are filled by appointment by the remaining Board members and the Board of Selectmen (BOS) until the next election, at which time the newly elected member serves for the remainder of the term.

There were a few changes to the Planning Board membership in 2024. In June, Scott Freedman informed the Town that he could no longer serve on the Board. The Board appreciates Scott's time, dedication, and attention as a member. On August 15, 2024, the Board and the BOS held a joint meeting via Zoom to appoint Associate Member Val Lin as a full-time member with a term expiration of May 19, 2025. The Board publicized the resulting open position and received applications from three Dover residents. After an interview process, the Board voted on December 9, 2024, to appoint Kate Graves Williams to fill the unexpired term. The Board thanks all the applicants for their interest.

Board Review and Approvals

In 2024, the Board held 17 public meetings on a wide range of issues summarized as follows:

Subdivision Applications: Pursuant to state law, the Board governs the local subdivision process. A subdivision can be approved only after the Board conducts a public hearing and makes detailed findings. In 2024, there were no Definitive Subdivision or Preliminary Subdivision applications.

Site Plan Reviews: The Board also conducts site plan review of certain proposed as-of-right uses before the Town issues a building permit per Zoning Bylaw 185-36. The review process regulates permitted uses by imposing conditions, limitations, and safeguards taking into consideration factors such as public safety, and potential impacts on existing structures, open space, and Town resources. In 2024, there were 16 Site Plan Review applications (five pools, one shed, one barn, two garages, two ground-mounted solar photovoltaic systems, and five Accessory Dwelling Units).

Approval Not Required (ANR) Plans: Under the state process, the Board has the authority to endorse property owners' plans to create new lots on existing roads if the resulting lots comply with local zoning dimensional requirements and have adequate access. In 2024, the Board endorsed six ANR applications. Given the interest of nearby property owners in proposed ANRs, the Board continued its practice of giving formal notification to abutters of ANR applications.

Sign Permits: The Board reviews sign applications and issues permits for signs. The number and nature of signs are of particular importance in preserving the Town's rural character. In 2024, there were two sign applications.

Scenic Road Applications: The Board has jurisdiction over the Town's 27 designated Scenic Roads. Pursuant to state and local laws, a person must obtain permission from the Planning Board, after a public hearing, before altering any trees or stone walls within a Scenic Road right-of-way. In 2024, the Board received a few applications for determinations that a hearing was not required but did not receive any applications necessitating a hearing.

Special Permits: The Board is the Special Permit Granting Authority for personal wireless service facilities, off-street recreational parking in a residential district, and new or altered buildings or structures in the Business, Medical-Professional, and Manufacturing Districts of Dover. The Planning Board received two applications in 2024.

Other Business

Housing: Multifamily housing activity has increased significantly this year in Dover and the Board is very involved in addressing the short- and long-term impact of multifamily housing initiatives. The Board and Town Planner are actively working with the Dover Housing Task Force, established by the BOS in 2023, to develop a comprehensive approach to multifamily housing

in Dover. This involves developing both a long-term housing plan and philosophy, as well as a process to ensure that all projects are collaboratively and appropriately vetted and managed.

Multifamily Project: In 2024, the Board participated in public hearings for a proposed four-unit, scattered-lot 40B Comprehensive Permit application on Troutbrook Road, Chickering Drive, and Edgewater Drive.

In addition, the Board is working with a consultant to develop Dover's plan to address the requirements of the MBTA Communities Act. This includes identifying options for overlay district site selection that meet compliance modeling requirements set forth by the law, with the help of consulting firm Horsley Whitten, as well as crafting preliminary language for a proposed zoning bylaw that would be brought to a special town meeting in fall 2025. Dover is designated as an "Adjacent Small Town," and as such is required by law to adopt zoning by December 31, 2025, that identifies and establishes a zoning district where a multifamily housing unit is allowed by right at a minimum capacity of 102 units (5% of Dover's 2020 housing stock) with 15 units per acre. It should be noted that the Act does not require that multifamily housing in fact be built, it does not compel Dover to pay for new infrastructure, and it does not supersede Massachusetts wetlands or Title V laws. The Act does allow Dover to develop specific zoning regulations for the district, such as design criteria, setbacks, and dimensional requirements.



Photo by James Swanson.

Strategic Planning: The Board engaged in several key strategic planning activities to better position the Town to manage growth, protect open space, mitigate climate change, and become more fiscally sustainable. It successfully obtained an extension of a 2023 grant for \$12,000 to create a Natural Resource Protection Zoning Bylaw or Tree Preservation Bylaw.

Land Purchases: In 2024 there were no activities associated with land acquisitions.

Zoning Bylaws: The Planning Board is committed to reassessing the Town's Zoning Bylaws to foster and regulate development, all the while safeguarding those aspects of Dover that we all appreciate, as well as the essential natural resources and elements integral to Dover, as outlined in the Town of Dover Master Plan (last amended in 2012).

Accessory Dwelling Units: At the May 2023 Annual Town Meeting, the Town of Dover passed an updated Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Bylaw to encourage healthy development and growth by right. After a public hearing in February, the Board voted to approve new ADU regulations to support the Bylaw.

Village Center Development: The Planning Board is continuing its work on the Village Center Visioning process begun in 2021 to create consensus on future uses and desired architectural character so as to better position the Town in its guidance of upcoming redevelopment in the village center area. Combined regulations and zoning changes are being developed for presentation to the community in 2025.

Tree Preservation Committee: The Tree Preservation Committee has worked diligently to accomplish its charge and to support the Planning Board by providing community education and contributing to bylaw development. During the first half of 2024, the Committee:

- collaborated with the Department of Public Works (DPW) to include tree preservation aspects in the update of the Stormwater Management Bylaw and assisted in developing presentation material to support the Bylaw's approval at the May 2024 Annual Town Meeting;
- gathered, organized, and submitted data needed to successfully secure Dover's first designation as a Tree City USA community;
- helped develop regulations to support the updated Stormwater Management Bylaw;
- developed an online resource page for community access to tree-related bylaws, tree maintenance/care guidance, and Committee information. The resource can be found on the Town's website by selecting "Government" then "Boards & Commissions";
- collaborated with the BOS to create and approve the first Dover Arbor Day Proclamation to recognize and celebrate Arbor Day in Dover, MA, in 2023 and 2024; and

- collaborated with the DPW, Open Space Committee, Chickering Elementary School, Dover-Sherborn Regional Schools, Cemetery Commission, Town Library, Parks and Recreation, and community volunteers to develop a calendar of events encouraging residents to participate in celebrating Arbor Day, during which activities included new tree plantings (one each on the Town Green, Highland Cemetery, and Chickering Elementary School, and two on the Dover-Sherborn Regional Schools campus); a giveaway of 500 seedlings to Chickering students; educational talks and hands-on activities for children and adults at the Town Library; and a "Vernal Pool & Native Tree Walk" on a Dover property.

In the second half of 2024, the Committee continued building on its successful activities and initiating new ones by:

- submitting a 2024 Tree City USA application;
- completing the Stormwater Management Regulations;
- planning a 2025 community education session on awareness of Dover tree-preservation bylaws and regulations;
- developing a Tree Preservation Bylaw to reduce clear cutting;
- supporting the creation of a Tree Fund;
- initiating discussions and planning of a Master Planting Plan;
- preparing and planning Arbor Day activities for April 2025;
- collaborating with the newly established Sustainability Committee and other boards and committees to support the healthy growth of the community; and
- working with the Planning Board to update and renew the Committee's mission, terms, and membership.

In summary, over the past two years the Tree Preservation Committee has creatively engaged with the Dover community through public events that encourage resident education, participation, and engagement in local tree preservation awareness and efforts. Its collaborative, multidisciplinary approach across many Town departments, boards, and committees helps ensure that its initiatives are efficient and comprehensive. Lastly, we have researched and engaged with outside groups and communities so that our efforts comport with best practices and forward-looking tree preservation methods. The Committee embraces its mission to continue working with and educating Dover residents on the protection of the Town's beautiful natural resources and on healthy community growth for future generations.

Other Zoning Initiatives: The Planning Board developed and presented two bylaws at the May 2024 Annual Town Meeting, which were then passed: one to address ground-based, medium- and small-scale solar installations and a bylaw to address construction noise, which the Building Department requested to meaningfully respond to resident noise complaints. The Board participated in developing the new Massachusetts General Law Chapter 159 (Stormwater Management and Erosion Control) Bylaw approved at Town Meeting. Through a public hearing process, Regulation 53G (Section 248-26 of the Dover Rules and Regulations) was amended to allow the Board to use applicant-paid consultants during Site Plan Review. Following approval of the Solar Array Bylaw, supporting regulations were developed and approved.

Dover Master Plan: The Board continues to pursue the implementation of the specific recommendations listed in Section IX of Dover's Master Plan, last adopted in 2012. Some prior recommendations have been implemented and certain areas are being addressed, as described in this report. The Board is prioritizing plans that are required by state and/or federal law, that are required for eligibility to participate in state funding programs, and/or are a required step to have legal authority to proactively manage growth. It hopes to update the Dover Master Plan in 2026-27 through a process involving all Town residents. Prior master plans and related documentation can be found on the Planning Board's Web page on the Town's website (www.doverma.gov), which also provides detailed information on Board initiatives and work products, as well as educational materials on zoning and housing issues. We hope that Dover's citizens find this information useful and welcome your input.



Pegan Hill/Lewis Hill. Photo by Nancy Greene.

Report of the **Zoning Board of Appeals**

George L. Chimento, Chair
Nadir Ahmed
LaVerne A. Lovell
Michael Donovan, Associate Member
Nancy Greene, Associate Member

The Board of Appeals ("Board") serves as the Town of Dover's Zoning Board of Appeals. It consists of five members appointed by the Board of Selectmen, three of them as voting members and two as associate members. In 2024, attorney and long-time Chair, Alan Fryer, retired midyear, after which LaVerne A. Lovell served as Interim Chair until the appointment of attorney George L. Chimento and his election as Chair on August 1.

The Board is authorized to hear the appeals of decisions made by the Building Inspector, to grant variances in limited circumstances, and to issue Special Permits when authorized by Town of Dover Zoning Bylaws and Massachusetts General Laws (MGL). It also determines whether nonconforming uses and structures are grandfathered and thus not subject to current versions of the Zoning Bylaws. The Board also reviews requests to alter or construct within 150 feet of specified water bodies, most notably the Charles River. Importantly, the Board determines whether applications for affordable housing projects under MGL Chapter 40B (40B) should be granted and, if so, under what conditions. Any 40B decision is subject to the authority of the Massachusetts Housing Appeals Committee (HAC), including overrule if the HAC determines the decision to be unfairly "uneconomic" for the developer and inconsistent with state goals for affordable housing.

Most applications to the Board (other than for 40B projects) start with the Building Inspector's written denial of the proposed activity. Appeals to the Board must be timely, and applicants are cautioned that MGL Chapter 40A (Zoning) requires time limits not specified in the Zoning Bylaws. The Board will act on timely applications for Special Permits or Variances only after holding a public hearing, the notice of which is published in a local newspaper, posted on the Town website, and sent by mail to the applicants and other interested parties as defined by state law. The Board will file its written decisions with the Town Clerk, who then provides notice to applicants and other interested parties of their limited time (20 days) to appeal to a court of proper jurisdiction (not to the Board). Different procedures apply under state law for 40B affordable housing projects.

During 2024, the Board ruled on a wide range of matters: (a) the Town's Noanet Brook Culvert Replacement Project (Willow and Dedham

Streets); (b) the approval of Planning Board site approval and issuance of a Special Permit for an Accessory Dwelling Unit (3 Claybrook Road); (c) the approval of the reconstruction of two grandfathered unit dwellings (8 and 8A Farm Street); (d) the granting of a sideline variance for the construction of a new residence (62 Claybrook Road); and (e) the issuance of a Special Permit to allow short-term rentals of a residence through Airbnb (25 Dover Road). The Board's rejection of an application under MGL Chapter 40B to develop four housing units, one of them affordable, on noncontiguous parcels (Troutbrook Road, Chickering Drive, and Edgewater Drive) has been appealed to the HAC. The Board is presently conducting a multisession hearing for a 40B application to develop 42 rental units (11 of them affordable) on 81–85 Tisdale Drive.

Copies of the Zoning Bylaws and the Board's regulations and meeting minutes are available on the Town website (www.doverma.gov) or from Town Clerk's office during normal business hours. Status updates on current 40B projects are also on the Town website.

Applicants and aggrieved parties should not rely on the Board, Town employees, or Town officials for legal advice as to remedies or procedures. Seeking competent counsel familiar with state and local laws is always recommended.



Dover Town Center. Photo courtesy of the Police Department/Officer Ryan Menice.

Report of the **Department of Public Works**

Highway Division

Kevin McCabe, Director of Public Works

John Robert Tosi Jr., Operations Superintendent

James Gorman, Working Foreman

Maintenance

The Highway Division of the Department of Public Works (DPW) is responsible for maintaining and repairing the Town's roadway and sidewalk infrastructure, including pavement markings, granite and bituminous curbing, street and regulatory signage, stormwater utilities, and traffic islands. This year 5,480 feet of new berm and curbing was installed on Walpole Street, Centre Street, Yorkshire Road, Meadowbrook Road, Bridge Street, Haven Street, Knollwood Drive, Main Street, Strawberry Hill Street, and Wildwood Road, to control water runoff and erosion. DPW repaired and rebuilt approximately 70 catch basins and manholes town-wide and continues to remove silt, sand, and debris from the roadways and catch basins. In 2024, DPW cleaned out 1,200 catch basins, as required by Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) state and federal programs—such as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Stormwater Program—and hauled the material to approved disposal sites. DPW also contracted to line paint more than 400,000 linear feet of street markings. Dover's crew installed 85 feet of 12-inch drainage at the Town Garage. In addition, DPW replaced 295 feet of failed guardrail along Springdale Avenue, Farm Street, and Walpole Street with a new guardrail that complies with standards defined in the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.

Capital Projects

Over the past year, DPW completed two major capital projects. The Willow Street culvert was replaced and the roadway is now reopened. In addition, the winter material storage facility at the Town Garage was replaced.

Tarvia

In summer 2023, the Department conducted a comprehensive road study. We implemented a program that promotes a balanced approach to maintaining the Town's road network by keeping roads in good condition with less-expensive treatments. In keeping with this program, the DPW performed 1.788 miles of cold planning and bituminous concrete overlay, as well as completed 2.548 miles of pavement preservation consisting of crack sealing and micro-surfacing.

Preservation (Road Segment)	Treatment	Length (ft.)
Colonial Road	Micro-seal	1,750
Saddle Ridge Road	Micro-seal	3,000
Linnell Road	Micro-seal	155
Connick Road	Micro-seal	650
Draper Road	Micro-seal	3,900
Springdale Avenue (Church Street–Farm Street)	Micro-seal	4,000
Total		13,455

Mill and Overlay (Road Segment)	Length (ft.)
Haven Street	6,782
Wildwood Road	1,142
Bridge Street	1,516
Total	9,440

Solid Waste (Transfer Station)

In 2024, Dover residents threw away 1,178 tons of solid waste, which was transported mainly by contracted personnel to Wheelabrator Millbury, Inc. Please refer to the report of the Recycling Committee (page 203) for the tonnage and types of recycled materials collected. We are especially indebted to Wade Hayes and John Gerlach for keeping the Transfer Station open and operating with efficiency throughout the year.

Solid Waste Tonnage to Millbury

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1,327	1,247	1,233	1,348	1,311	1,198	1,127	1,178

Per-Ton Tipping Fee (\$)

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
66.00/	67.17/	68.18/	68.97/	69.82/	71.08/	75.52/	77.78/
67.17	68.18	68.97	69.82	71.08	75.52	77.78	79.92

Cost for Solid Waste Disposal at Wheelabrator (\$)

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
88,331	84,409	85,881	93,825	92,358	86,742	85,811	92,961

Streetlights

The Town owns and maintains 67 overhead streetlights.

State Aid (MGL Chapter 90)

This year DPW leveraged \$423,109 of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90 funding for the town-wide pavement preservation program. In addition, the town received \$169,140 of Fair Share funding, which was used towards the mill and overlay program. (See also “Tarvia” for street list).

Snow and Ice

Winter 2023–24 brought approximately 35 inches of snow. In addition to the plowable snow, there were approximately 10 occasions that our sanders went out to treat ice, which was most often caused by water runoff due to melting days and freezing nights. The following represents our responses to the season:

Date	Snow/Ice	Inches	Equipment Used
2023			
January 6–24	Snow/Ice	8	Plows/Sanders/Contractors
February 7–28	Snow/Ice	17	Plows/Sanders/Contractors
March 4–14	Snow/Ice	6	Plows/Sanders/Contractors
2024			
November 27	Ice		Sanders
December 4–21	Snow/Ice	4	Plows/Sanders/Contractors

Garage Operation

The Town Garage was built in 1998 and continues to serve the Town well. It is occupied by the Public Works, Highway, Cemetery, Town Engineer, and Water Departments, and is also providing temporary office space to the Parks and Recreation Department. DPW thanks Karl Warnick, Superintendent of Building Maintenance, and his staff for keeping the building in excellent condition. In August 2023 the building was flooded during several high-intensity rain events. All renovations have been completed, and all Departments moved back into the facility by April 2024.

Grants

In 2024, the Department put in several grant requests for various projects. The Town received a \$405,000 grant for flood relief from a state supplemental budget. The Town also received a grant of \$217,261 from the MassDOT Municipal Pavement Program, which supports pavement improvements of municipally owned state-numbered routes. The grant is funding the micro-surfacing and line painting of approximately 3,370 feet of roadway on County Street (Route 109).

Finally, an FY25 Community One Stop for Growth Award for \$40,000 from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Economic Development is funding the replacement of the Wilsondale Street culvert located over Powissett Brook, identified as a recommended mitigation measure in the Town of Dover’s Hazard Mitigation Plan. The project includes field investigation and data collection, engineering design, and regulatory permitting.

Report of the
**Parks and Recreation
Commission**

Chris Boland, Chair

Michael Gilio, Secretary

Eric Loeffler, Treasurer

Jennifer Daman, Commissioner

Mark Ghiloni, Director, Parks and Recreation

Nicole Wainwright, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation

Mattison Clements, Recreation Supervisor, Parks and Recreation

Tom Palmer, Groundskeeper/Heavy Equipment Operator

Mark Travers, Groundskeeper/Heavy Equipment Operator

The Parks and Recreation Department and its supervising Commission (collectively, P&R) provide Dover residents of all ages with positive recreational experiences through a variety of high-quality programs, activities, and services under the direction of a professional and hard-working staff that is responsive to the changing needs of the community. We are committed to preserving and protecting the natural resources and parkland while improving and enhancing all opportunities for future generations. Our recreational and athletic programs continue to benefit from public, private, and volunteer partnerships. Parental involvement and volunteerism are essential to sustaining our programs, as is collaboration with other Town departments. We thank everyone who assisted us throughout the past year.

Strengthening Our Team and Preparing for the Future

In 2024, P&R welcomed a new full-time Recreation Supervisor, Mattison Clements, a key addition to our team. Her position replaces the part-time Program Assistant role, which had served the Department for over 15 years. The decision to expand this role reflects P&R's tremendous growth over the past decade in its diverse offerings of programs and community events. The expanded responsibilities and dedicated time of a full-time Recreation Supervisor is integral to supporting the Department's mission of providing high-quality recreational opportunities and meeting the needs of our growing community.

It is also a timely addition as we prepare to move back to the renovated Caryl Community Center in 2025, the reopening of which will mark a significant milestone for the Department. The updated facility will allow us to fully deliver on our promise of serving the recreation needs of all

residents, offering enhanced programs, activities, and events in a modern, accessible space. We are excited about this new chapter and look forward to continuing to enrich the lives of our community members through recreation.

Multi-Season Program Highlights

Art Club: This very popular program, taught by Assistant Director Nicole Wainwright, continues to allow participants to showcase their many artistic talents. Sessions were held throughout the year with each attracting 12 students and consistently having waiting lists. Nicole continues to teach a weekly art class at the Center for the Development of Children (CDC) at its 30 Springdale Avenue location. This class for around 18 preschoolers is modified for younger artists.

Baseball: Families introduced their younger children to the baseball field throughout the year. Last spring, Coach Pete Sylvester ran two T-Ball and Baseball classes for 12 preschoolers and five K-2nd graders. The summer session hosted 16 students. In the fall, Coach Pete, helped by our Recreation Supervisor, taught two well-attended classes for children in PreK-grade 2, for a total of 23 participants.



*Summer T-ball, Chickering Field. Photo by Mattison Clements;
courtesy of the Parks and Recreation Department.*

Go Go Allegro Music Classes: Due to space constraints arising from the construction of the new Caryl Community Center, we were excited to continue partnering with Medfield Parks & Recreation and offer a few PreK music classes during fall, spring, and winter. Thirteen participants enjoyed the new classes.

Ice Skating Lessons: Our partnership with the Skating Club of Boston/Boston Skating Academy is ongoing, with September through June classes offered through P&R and held exclusively at the Norwood facility. The Micheli Center boasts three rinks, including an Olympic-sized arena. This great local program offers various levels and types of skating and helps participants learn and refine their skills. With more than 50 skaters participating in 2024, we are excited to see our attendance numbers continue to grow.

Musical Theater: Each season, Aly Pereira directs young musical theater students ages 6–11 in an abbreviated version of a Disney musical. In 2024, 30 talented kids enjoyed learning how to sing, act, and dance in the fall musical *Trolls 3*. Each class culminates in a fun, fresh performance where every child spends a few moments in the spotlight.

Right Brain Curriculum: Throughout the year, we continued our partnership with Right Brain Curriculum to offer several classes, including LEGO Adventures, Public Speaking, and Metrocraft. Thirty-nine participants enjoyed the classes, which were held at St. Dunstan's Church.



Miss Erin's School of Dance. Photo courtesy of the Parks and Recreation Department.

PROformance Soccer: Miles Alden Dunn continued this popular soccer program at Chickering Fields for the spring and fall outdoor sessions. Thirty-eight children participated in the spring session, 32 played in the fall, and 96 attended the winter indoor sessions held at Tenacre Country Day School in Wellesley.

Tennis Lessons and Clinics: Instructed by Peter Cooper, Tennis ran from April through October, with lessons held at the Caryl Park courts. More than 100 children and adults participated in early spring lessons and 13 students during the summer months. In the fall, 90 participants took lessons, and 26 students moved indoors for age-based clinics held at the Chickering Elementary School gym during the winter months. The Caryl Park courts remained busy throughout the summer as 189 children worked on their tennis skills with Peter during weeklong clinics that were divided into two age groups, six and under, as well as seven and older.

Hipstitch: This year, we began our partnership with Hipstitch in Wellesley, offering a variety of creative classes. In the spring, eight participants enjoyed the Fiber Arts class, while the fall saw eight participants in the Sewing Combo and six in Fashion Design. These creative sessions provided participants with valuable skills and a fun, hands-on experience.

Winter Program and Event Highlights

Erin's School of Dance: Approximately a dozen dancers ages 3–8 took classes with Erin McCann and performed in an intimate gathering for their families at St. Dunstan's Church.

D-S Middle School Ski Program: The DSMS Ski Program provided students in grades 6–8 with the opportunity to spend their Friday afternoons and nights skiing at Nashoba Valley Ski Area in Westford, MA. For six consecutive Fridays in January and February, more than 50 skiers and snowboarders traveled to the slopes to enjoy a few hours of skiing and camaraderie.

Intramural Basketball: The Intramural Basketball program offers players a great option to develop their skills while playing with friends. One hundred fifty-four players in K–grade 3 enjoyed the program, the success of which is attributable to the parents who volunteered as coaches. We thank them for their assistance.

Winter Ski and Snowboard Program: This ski and snowboard lesson program for students ages 7–12 returned to Blue Hills Ski Area in Canton, MA, for five consecutive Wednesdays. Close to 10 participants took advantage of the opportunity.

Spring Programs and Event Highlights

Eliot Hodgkins Fishing Derby: This annual fishing derby at Channing Pond was held on May 5 and featured lots of prizes and fun for close to 50 participants. Our volunteers helped make the day a success.

Safety Courses: Juanita Allen Kingsley again offered both Home Alone Safety and Babysitting Safety lessons, which included Red Cross CPR certification, for 16 participants. P&R also partnered with Dover-Sherborn Soccer to offer CPR training to more than 20 coaches. We thank Juanita for helping the coaches receive this training.

Egg Hunt and Arts Event: Welcome spring! Dover families filled the Town Common on March 30 for our annual hunt. This popular community event saw kids scramble in search of eggs, gathering them in a matter of minutes while parents snapped some great photos!

Satur-PLAY: The Department offered a family program on June 8, featuring a free springtime children's performance by Jeff from Jammin with You, games, and small crafts on the Town Common.



Fishing Derby winners, Channing Pond. Photo courtesy of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Summer Program and Event Highlights

Summer Club: We returned to Boston College's Connors Center in Dover for our most popular summer program that served 541 elementary-school-aged children who participated throughout the six-week program. In addition to the morning session, we saw strong attendance for our Extended Day program, which allowed participants to stay until 3 p.m. A big shout-out goes to the 35 staff members and volunteers who helped make it a memorable summer for so many attendees!

Summer Concerts and Knucklebones: On select Tuesday evenings in July and August, P&R partnered with the Town Library to hold free outdoor concerts on the Town Common, where bands entertained families as they enjoyed the summer weather. Kona Ice was in attendance for two of the dates to offer free flavored ice for attendees to cool down! Performers included the Beantown Swing Orchestra, Group Therapy Band, The Tear Downs, and Eddy's Shoe Band. The Stacey Peasley Band helped families celebrate back-to-school with a well-attended concert on August 21. Always a hit, Knucklebones offered fun family and kids' games during the concerts. Attendance ranged from 90 to 150 individuals per concert.

Fall Program and Event Highlights

Dover Days Fair (Dover Dash 5K, Fun Run): Dover Days 2024 was met with great anticipation by residents of all ages. Hundreds of townspeople came out to visit the 53 vendors that were set up along Dedham Street and the Town Library lawn. P&R programming covered the Town Common and included the return of a giant inflatable obstacle course and slide, free activities offered by Knucklebones and DJ Mike with games and music. The ninth annual Dover Dash 5K had a great turnout for both the 5K race and the Fun Run.

Flag Football Turkey Bowl: Coach Pete Sylvester and P&R held the fourth annual Turkey Bowl, which took place the day before Thanksgiving on November 27. Twenty-one children in the K-grade 2 division faced off on Chickering Fields, while the grades 3–5 division had 24 participants. Each player received a commemorative long sleeve shirt and looked forward to continuing this Thanksgiving tradition.

Hikes + Crafts Early Release Days: On early-release school days in the fall, Nicole Wainright led anywhere between 10 and 14 kids on various Dover trail hikes, each of which culminated in a seasonal nature-based craft activity.

Pumpkin Decorating Event: On October 26, the Saturday before Halloween, families gathered at Chickering Elementary School for the highly anticipated fifth-annual Pumpkin Decorating Event. A total of 32 excited, costumed participants joined in the fun, transforming their pumpkins into creative masterpieces. DJ Jim provided lively tunes and hosted games for the kids, ensuring a spirited atmosphere throughout the event. Everyone walked away with goody bags filled with treats and prizes from

P&R. We were thrilled to partner with Beau Newmarker again, a D-S High School student, to bring an extra layer of fun with a lively Trunk or Treat event.

Facilities and Parks

In addition to providing programming at more than 20 locations in and around Dover, P&R maintains park areas for the enjoyment of Dover residents and nonresidents alike. Caryl Park, Channing Pond, and the Riverside Drive boat landing are popular recreational destinations. Five smaller park parcels in Town are maintained by P&R, as are lands surrounding Chickering Elementary School, the Town Library, the Protective Agencies Building, and the Town House. The Department's vehicles and heavy equipment are located and maintained at the Town Garage.

Athletic Fields: P&R is committed to providing all youth athletic teams with safe, high-quality playing surfaces throughout their playing seasons. The Town's athletic fields are used for Department programs and by local youth sports clubs, which include Dover-Sherborn Soccer, Dover-Sherborn Youth Lacrosse, Dover-Sherborn Youth Field Hockey, and Dover-Sherborn Youth Baseball. We maintain three rectangular multipurpose sports fields—two at Chickering Fields and one at Caryl Park. There are also two baseball/softball diamonds—one at Chickering Fields and one at Caryl Park. The Department completed yearly maintenance tasks at the fields, including seeding, aerating, and topdressing.

Channing Pond: P&R will continue to open the pond for winter skating as often as weather and temperatures allow. Safety and ice conditions are our top priority. Every season we hope that temperatures cooperate and that we have long stretches of skating.

Parks: We continue to see substantial park, playground, and trail usage throughout the year. Dover community members, especially families, took advantage of Dover's open spaces for exercise and recreation.

Rail Trail Update: The Town of Dover is pleased to announce that it has received a \$184,760 grant from the MassTrails Grant Program. This grant supports the design and engineering of a potential recreational trail and shared-use pathway project in Dover. This new rail trail project is independent of previous initiatives and represents a fresh start in exploring the possibility of creating a trail to enhance community connectivity and promote outdoor recreation for healthier lifestyles. In the coming months, Town departments and committees will collaborate to develop a comprehensive plan for the trail's design. Public input will play a central role in shaping the project, with public meetings ensuring transparency and community involvement. Before any decisions are made, the design will be presented at a future Special Town Meeting. We are excited about the potential of this project to enrich the quality of life for Dover residents and look forward to working together with the community to explore its possibilities.

Intergovernmental Agreement: This year, the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Board of Selectmen entered into an intergovernmental agreement to transfer some of the parks staff duties to the Department of Public Works (DPW). This collaboration enables the DPW Director to oversee certain responsibilities traditionally handled by parks staff and will foster improved coordination on larger projects and increased efficiency with staff and equipment. The partnership reflects our commitment to optimizing resources and delivering superior service to the community.

P&R Revolving Fund

P&R's Revolving Fund report for Fiscal Year 2024 (ending June 30, 2024) was not available from the Town Accountant at the time of this report's publication. This financial information can be found on the Town of Dover's website (www.doverma.gov) when available.

Honoring a Legacy

We honor the memory of Kathy Weld, a beloved member of the Dover community who passed away in October 2024. Kathy worked tirelessly on the Caryl Community Center project, initiating the process over two decades ago. Her vision and dedication helped lay the foundation for the center, and her passion for improving Dover has shaped so much of what we see today. Kathy was not only a gifted pianist but also a passionate volunteer who dedicated countless years to our town. Her legacy includes serving as a longtime member and chair of the Board of Selectmen, chairing the CMAC Committee, and most recently, contributing as a valued member of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Kathy's tireless commitment to Dover inspired all who knew her. She sought to make a lasting difference in our community, and her contributions have left an indelible mark. Her wisdom, dedication, and passion for our town will be deeply missed, and we are forever grateful for the positive impact she made.

Our Team and Volunteers

We thank all members of the P&R Department for their dedication in coordinating programs, events, and playing fields. Our sincere thanks also go out to all the volunteers and staff members who help the Department. Our staff continues to maintain a high standard for outdoor spaces and quality programming, and our volunteers have been outstanding, as always, by providing children with the opportunity to learn and grow through our programs. The contributions of these individuals are greatly appreciated by the children and their families, and we add our own heartfelt thanks.

Report of the **Conservation Commission**

John Sullivan, Chair
Amey Moot, Secretary
Tim Holiner
Jim McLaughlin
Sarah Monaco
Anna Nagy

Janet Bowser, Consultant Agent
Lori Hagerty, Administrative Assistant

The Conservation Commission currently consists of six voting members, one open voting member position and two open associate member positions. The volunteer commissioners are supported by a contracted Agent and part-time Administrator. The Commission is responsible for safeguarding wetland resources under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, the Massachusetts Rivers Protection Act, the Dover Wetlands Protection Bylaw, and the Rules and Regulations for the Dover Wetlands Protection Bylaw. Wetlands are protected by a 100-foot buffer zone and within that, a 70-foot No Structure setback and a 50-foot No Disturb setback. Rivers and streams are protected by a 200-foot riverfront zone and vernal pools are protected by a 100-foot No Disturb setback. Wetlands and buffer zones offer flood control, prevention of storm damage, prevention of pollution, and preservation of groundwater, water supply, and wildlife habitat. Work performed in these and other areas requires a permit from the Conservation Commission and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Commission members and/or their Consultant Agent also serve on the Open Space Committee, Dover Land Conservation Trust, Hale Partnership Task Force, Housing Task Force, Tree Preservation Committee, and recently formed Sustainability Committee. The Commission is a member of the Charles River Climate Compact (CRCC), made up of communities in the Charles River Watershed that work on regional natural resource protection, climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, and other projects. In 2024, the Commission's Consultant Agent, Janet Bowser, assisted the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Tree Preservation Committee with the development and drafting of the Town's new Stormwater Management Bylaw, which was passed at the May 2024 Annual Town Meeting and included increased tree preservation to reduce soil erosion and water runoff. The Consultant Agent continues to work with the DPW and Tree Preservation Committee on drafting the new Stormwater Management Bylaw Regulations.

In 2024, the Commission held 23 public meetings, during which it reviewed and approved 14 Notices of Intent, one Permit Amendment, five Requests for Determination of Applicability (to decide if a permit is needed), four Permit Minor Modifications, four Permit Extensions, one Emergency Certification, two Permit Waivers to use herbicides to control invasive plant species, and one ANRAD (to confirm wetland lines and a vernal pool). In addition, the Consultant Agent reviewed Building Permits, Well Permits, and Septic System Permits to ensure compliance with all wetland protection regulatory requirements. The Commission entertained many informal discussions with homeowners regarding the disposition of their properties that lie in proximity to wetland resources. The Commission also issued 15 Certificates of Compliance (to close out permitted work), two Enforcement Orders (work related to clearing in violation of regulations), one Notice of Violation, and reviewed multiple ongoing Enforcement Orders (work related to clearing in violation of regulations).

In addition to safeguarding wetlands, streams, and rivers, the Commission is responsible for the stewardship of Dover-owned conservation lands totaling more than 600 acres. At the 2024, Annual Town Meeting, attendees voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to transfer nine parcels of land currently held for general municipal purposes, and to convey the land to the Conservation Commission for conservation purposes.

The Commission's Land Management Work Group continues to work on land management for its conservation properties, including work completed this year to replace a stream-crossing bridge and trail signs at Wylde Woods. (See photo page 25.) It is currently working with a consultant on developing a land management plan for Springdale Meadows (a conservation field across the street from Channing Pond). The Commission would like to thank the many volunteers who assist in keeping the trails clear and maintained for all to enjoy.

The Consultant Agent continues to monitor the status of the South Natick Charles River Dam Removal Project and has evaluated and reported on the project's potential impacts to natural resources and floodplain areas within Dover.

The Commission cordially invites you to attend its meetings, which are open to the public and held twice monthly on Wednesday evenings. Check the Town website at www.doverma.gov for meeting dates, times, and agendas. For questions about wetlands or projects on your property, please contact the Commission's office at 508-785-0032, extension 233, or email Lhagerty@doverma.gov.

Report of the Tree Warden

Kevin McCabe

Removals/Pruning

Forty dead or hazardous trees were removed under contract during 2024. The Public Works Department, contractors, and the Tree Warden responded to storm damage throughout the year. Eversource continued its energy vegetation management plan to remove hazardous trees and limbs from rights-of-way and private property to improve electric service reliability and ensure the safety of its customers and employees.

Inspection and Disease Problems

In 2024, the Tree Warden conducted more than 59 inspections for the health or safety of Town-owned trees. Dover has reported early signs of beech leaf disease, which is starting to spread in our area. Early detection is important, as heavily infested trees will not survive. Contact a tree specialist if an infestation is suspected or check the Department of Conservation & Recreation at www.mass.gov for tips on identifying disease.

Plantings

In 2024, 13 replacement trees were planted town-wide. For Arbor Day the Tree Warden supplied seedlings to the Chickering Elementary students. Contact the Tree Warden to request planting locations for 2025.



*Autumn sunrise, Springdale Avenue. Photo by Paul Hsi;
copyright © Paul Hsi Photography.*

Report of the Recycling Committee

Jennifer Luethy, Chair
Janit Greenwood
Matthew Hadge
Carol Lisbon
Wendy Muellers
Leesa Mullin
Catherine Piemonte

The Dover Recycling Committee (DRC) serves as the Town of Dover's focal point for all trash and recycling activities. Its mission is to preserve and protect the environment, reduce the Town's total solid waste, and promote the recycling, reuse, and reduction (the "3Rs") of all household refuse. The Committee does this by researching and recommending environmentally sound and cost-effective markets for all recyclable and reusable materials; reducing the generation of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and recommending cost-effective collection and environmentally sound disposal methods; and informing citizens of recycling issues, best practices, and legislation.

During 2024, the DRC focused on continuing progress made on the following recycling and reuse efforts:

Waste Disposal and Recycling

Waste disposal and recycling trends remain encouraging. Over the past 17 years, Dover has seen the solid waste trash generated per household decline dramatically, and recyclables as a percentage of total waste has remained in the low 30% range. This steady decline in absolute tonnage of refuse/bulky items, trash, and recyclables can be attributed to several behaviors: more efficient buying and consumption habits, increased use of alternative reuse disposal opportunities, and more households using private haulers. It is also worth noting that donations to the New Life Furniture Bank (NLFB) helped reduce solid waste by an additional 7 tons. As a new initiative, the Town has begun collecting data on usage of private haulers for trash and recycling, which will enable more accurate tracking of Transfer Station activity.

Transfer Station data for 2024 is based on 1,275 households, accounting for 874 reported households that use private haulers. It also includes overall solid waste and recycling tonnage diverted from the Transfer Station to private haulers, the data on which reflects 708 out of the 874 reported households using private haulers since, at the time of this report, not all of the private hauling companies had responded to our inquiry.

Unlike in past years, the total revenue generated for the Town from recyclables was slightly less (\$1,683) than the total cost paid to recycle items. Nearly all the difference was due to December pick-ups that did not occur until early January 2025.

Changes in the recycling industry's business model continue and have impacted Dover's operations as well. In 2025, the DRC and the Department of Public Works will continue to explore developing new relationships with other haulers for recyclables to address our volumes, costs, and revenues while focusing on proper end-stream recycling.

The private hauler regulations developed by the Board of Health in 2023 effective January 1, 2024, has provided much needed data on household recycling and trash disposal activities. It appears that approximately 41% of households now use private haulers. For detailed breakdowns on solid waste and recycled items, as well as comparisons across years, please see the Solid Waste and Recycling Data spreadsheet on page 208.

Transfer Station

In 2024, the DPW instituted a Transfer Station restickering program with the goal of having new stickers on all cars used by Transfer Station users by January 2025. Stickers were made available at the Town Garage, the Transfer Station, or online. The DRC participated with DPW personnel at its November Special Recycling Day to jumpstart the effort.

Food waste: A program begun for washing the food scrap collection totes on a biweekly basis has successfully reduced smells and insect infestation. For those who do not use the free service onsite, the DRC has communicated the availability of private pick-up services by Black Earth Composting should enough households to sign up.

Textile bins: Following a review of the two vendors who supply textile collection bins to the Transfer Station, the Red Cross bins (operated by Windward Trading Group, Ltd.) were removed and replaced with additional bins from Bay State Textiles. Unlike Windward Trading, Bay State Textiles pays the Town for its textile material based upon weight, which should increase revenue going into the new Transfer Station's \$35,000 Revolving Fund, approved at the May 2024 Annual Town Meeting.

Composting: With support from the DPW, the State of Massachusetts approved Dover's request to allow the disposal of invasive plants into its general trash rather than the compost pile, removing a risk of contamination of compost material offered to residents and, therefore, reduce the potential spread of invasive plants. Signage listing the most common invasives was also placed by the compost pile.

Deposit Shed: The Deposit Shed continues to be a success, with an estimated 13 tons (approximately 190,000 beverage containers) recycled and \$9,278 returned to the Town's General Fund. The Hyde Park Redemption Center began collection of the bottles and cans, freeing up DPW personnel and equipment from having to do the delivery.

Bins: Recycling bins, composters, and rain barrels are available for sale at the Transfer Station. A rain barrel was also connected to the Swap Shop gutter system to provide water and illustrate how the barrels can be used to collect rainwater.

New Life Furniture Bank: Our formal partnership with NLFB of Walpole, a nonprofit organization that provides gently used furniture and household goods to individuals and families transitioning out of homelessness, is now in its fourth year. In 2024, it served more than 757 families, and it thanks Dover residents for their generosity.

In 2024, the DRC organized 12 special drop-off days, staffed by DRC members and other volunteers, during which Dover residents donated more than 12 truckloads of furniture and household goods, translating to approximately 7 tons or more than 1,100 items that will be put to good use by the many people served by this initiative. We thank the residents who volunteered and everyone who donated desperately needed goods. Drop-off days are now scheduled for the third Saturday of every month. Residents who cannot bring items to the Transfer Station can contact NLFB directly to arrange for pick-up from their residence. To further reduce furniture drop-offs that end up in our trash, the DRC is working with a resident who works with several nonprofits to outfit apartments for refugees with items not accepted by NLFB. The NLFB program, combined with the Swap Shop and our new outreach efforts, has reduced the volume of items discarded in trash and refuse, thus lowering disposal fees paid by the Town.

Swap Shop: The DRC and Transfer Station employees urge Swap Shop users to respect its intent by leaving only truly useable items on its shelves, removing extraneous boxes and bags, and adhering to posted policies and procedures. Added to the Swap Shop this year were a display case for announcements and an event calendar, a permanent collection bin for paper and cloth bags to be donated to A Place to Turn, a collection bin for used sports cleats to support a Dover resident's project, and a bin for tennis ball collection. Latex paint collection was restarted and will be available May through October. The DRC works with various area nonprofits to donate Swap Shop items for reuse when not taken by Dover residents.

Eyeglass recycling: In 2024, more than 300 eyeglasses were recycled, thanks to an eyeglass recycling program implemented in partnership with the Sherborn Lions Club. Recycling boxes are available at the Transfer Station's Swap Shop, the Town Library, the Council on Aging, the Town Clerk's office at the Town House, and Dover Eyes on Whiting Road.

Grants

In December, Dover received a \$6,000 Recycling Dividends Program grant, the highest possible, from the Massachusetts of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) in recognition of the Town's programs and policies intended to maximize waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. This was the largest grant available to Dover and adds to the remaining grant funds from previous years. The DRC will work with the DPW to apply these funds in furtherance of our recycling efforts.

Community Activities

Dover's Special Recycling Weekends, held in May and October, continue to be very popular, with more than 2 tons of confidential documents shredded, 64 bikes donated to The Bike Connector in Lowell, and 161 tires recycled. The DRC thanks the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office and Dover Country Properties for sponsoring the shredding trucks, and it also thanks the Dover Mobil Station for subsidizing our tire recycling program. Continuing its practice of using these recycling weekends for targeted support of local charities, the DRC collected suitcases and backpacks for Generic Ministries in May, and reusable paper, plastic, and cloth bags for A Place To Turn in Natick in October. Due to a significant increase in the per-tire recycling cost, residents are limited to dropping off eight tires per collection weekend.

Another popular DRC event is the annual Spring Clean-Up, which was held throughout the month of April and engaged several hundred residents who picked up trash along all of Dover's roads. Once again, all our streets were cleaned up. The DRC thanks all the residents and groups who participated in 2024 and urges everyone to help keep Dover free of trash year-round by removing it from their property and streets.

The DRC provides Town residents with community education information and announcements through local newspapers, Facebook, Nextdoor.com, the Town of Dover's website, email alerts, the *Our Town* online monthly newsletter, and with strategically placed electronic signage. In September, the DRC participated in Dover Days, during which it promoted the Town Library's borrowing program (the Library of Things) provided information and brochures, and sold rain barrels and food scrap bins.

The DRC looks forward to working with the newly created Sustainability Committee in support of their mission, which addresses our goals as well.

Appreciation

We thank dedicated Town employees Wade Hayes and John Gerlach, who work tirelessly to maintain the Transfer Station and its various recycling areas. We also thank our MassDEP liaison, Missy Hollenback, for her support and appreciate her recognition of Dover's efforts as examples of what can be accomplished with Town and resident support.

Finally, the DRC thanks residents for their ongoing efforts to reuse items, reduce trash, and increase recyclables. You can find more information about the Transfer Station's trash and recycling services and programs via the "Trash and Recycling" quick link on the Town of Dover website (www.doverma.gov/184/Transfer-Station).



Photo courtesy of the Town Report Committee.

Solid Waste and Recycling Data

For the Calendar Year 2024

	2024	2023	2022	2019	2009
Solid Waste (tons)¹					
Refuse/Bulky Items	205	191	182	229	-
Trash	954	936	1,016	987	-
Total Solid Waste*	1,159	1,127	1,198	1,216	2,130
Recyclables (tons)					
Mixed Paper (all types) ¹	70	79	81	140	312
Cardboard	172	164	178	149	100
Glass	68	75	71	76	97
Single Stream ²	0	0	0	0	-
Metal (cans and scrap)	92	93	105	114	81
Plastic (non-deposit #1-#7)	46	50	53	62	37
Electronics	8	11	11	15	39
Textiles ³	24	20	15	13	10
Books	21	21	21	14	-
Comingled Containers ²	0	0	0	0	17
Mattresses and Box Springs	6	14	21	-	-
Special Events ⁴	7	11	11	20	-
Food Scraps ⁵	43	43	31	55	-
Deposit Trailer Containers ⁶	13	15	17	22	-
Other	0	0	0	0	-
Total Recyclables*	570	595	615	678	693
Total Solid Waste and Recyclables	1,729	1,722	1,813	1,894	2,823
Percentage (%) Recyclables to Total ¹	33.0	34.6	33.9	35.8	24.5
Households in Town (HHs) ^{7**}	1,302	2,149	2,142	2,144	-
Solid Waste (lb.) per HH	1,780	1,049	1,119	642	-
Deposit Shed Containers (~ units) ⁸	119,492	221,620	284,349	224,050	
Recycle Bins Sold (Town Garage/TS)	19	36	23	68	-
Motor Oil (gal.)	1,075	1,100	850	800	800
Misc. Fluorescent Bulbs (linear ft.)	4,200	6,160	9,100	6,925	1,376
Small Batteries (non-auto, lb.)	243	114	198	268	-
Propane Tanks (each)	-	0	74	-	73
Haulers Total Solid Waste (tons)	2,167	-	-	-	-
Hauler Total Recycling	192	-	-	-	-

Comparison (% Change)		
1-Year	5-Year	15-Year
7	(10)	n/a
2	(3)	n/a
3	(5)	(46)
(11)	(50)	(78)
5	15	72
9	(11)	(30)
0	0	0
(1)	(19)	14
(8)	(26)	24
(27)	(47)	(79)
20	85	140
0	50	n/a
0	0	(100)
(57)	n/a	n/a
(36)	(65)	n/a
0	(22)	n/a
(13)	(41)	n/a
0	0	n/a
(4)	(16)	(18)
0	(9)	(39)
(5)	(8)	35
(39)	(39)	n/a
70	177	n/a
(2)	34	34
(32)	(39)	205
113	(9)	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a
-	-	-
-	-	-

¹ 2003-16 Includes Dover Trucking (mixed paper only includes DT for 2003-12)

² 2013-16 Dover Trucking (started single stream in 2013, eliminating contributions to mixed paper and comingles)

³ Textile bins TS (Red Cross and Bay State), excluding DS High School and Middle School (Bay State Textiles)

⁴ Two recycling events, including private document shredding (5,000 lb.), tire recycling (30 lb./tire), and bicycle reuse (30 lb./bike)

⁵ Based on actual pounds from annual invoicing

⁶ Based on actual pounds from annual invoicing

⁷ Population/HHs per Town Report/census data

⁸ Estimated quantity based on proceeds

* Solid waste and recycling numbers have been rounded to the nearest ton.

** Not including households using private haulers.

Report of the Inspector of Buildings

Walter Avallone, Inspector of Buildings/Commissioner

Zoning Enforcement Officer

Floating Dock Inspector

Joseph Doyle, Local Building Inspector

Susan Young, Administrative Assistant

The Building Department is responsible for reviewing applications and plans to construct, alter, or demolish any building or structure in Dover for compliance with: applicable Dover Zoning Bylaws; Massachusetts State Gas, Plumbing, Electrical, and Building Codes; and Chapter 40A and the General Laws of the Commonwealth relating to construction and zoning.

Inspectors make field inspections of buildings at various stages of construction, as well as inspect all public buildings, churches, and public and private schools on a yearly basis. The Department also responds to inquiries from attorneys, land surveyors, banks, and the general public regarding zoning and building-code issues. It reviews and issues permits for floating docks as required by Chapter 91 (Waterways Permitting) of the Massachusetts General Laws.

More than 2,000 inspections were performed in 2024 by the Department for work performed in conjunction with building, wiring, plumbing, and gas permits. Of the 13 New House Permits issued, six were for the demolition of existing houses replaced by new construction, leaving a total of seven additional new residences in Dover. Inspectors completed 30 Annual Life and Fire Safety inspections for public buildings, churches, public and private schools, nurseries, churches, and private organizations. It also conducted three Common Victualler License inspections for food preparation businesses.

Department hours for the public are Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments with the Building Inspector are available by calling the office at 508-785-0032, extension 225. Building inspections for current permitted work are done Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Statistics for 2024

	Applications	Fees	Value
New Houses	7	\$142,327	\$15,474,025
Schools	0	0	0
Additions, Remodels, Other	437	295,144	26,326,905
Totals	444	\$437,471	\$41,800,930

Report of the Inspector of Wiring

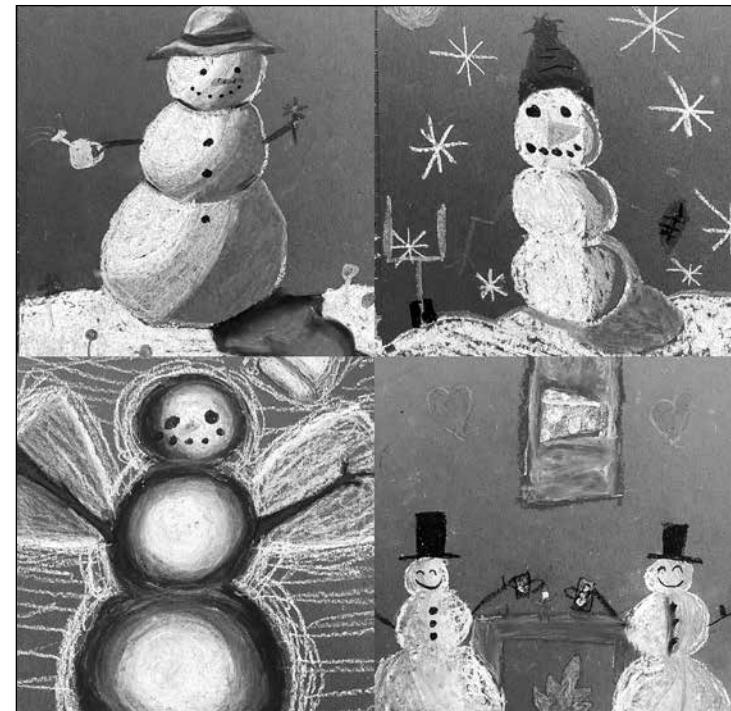
Kevin Malloy, Wiring Inspector

James Murphy, Alternate Inspector

During 2024 there were 279 Wiring Permits issued, many of which required multiple inspections. In some situations, violations were noted and corrections made.

The year 2024, brought a significant increase in solar and energy storage systems in the town.

The Wiring Inspector may be contacted at 508-785-0032, extension 245, for any concerns related to Wiring Permits, including registering a complaint or checking on an electrician's license.



Snowmen by Chickering students. Photo source: X/Twitter (Chickering School, @ChickeringDover, 2024); courtesy of Chickering Elementary School.

Report of the **Plumbing and Gas Inspector**

James Vaughan, Plumbing / Gas Inspector
Robert Piersiak, Alternate Inspector
Jeffrey Harris, Second Alternate Inspector

During 2024, a total of 142 Plumbing Permits and 134 Gas Permits were issued, many of which required multiple inspections. In some situations, violations were noted and corrections made. Any open permits from 2024 will be inspected and closed out in 2025.

The Plumbing and Gas Inspector can be contacted at 508-785-0032, extension 357, for any concerns related to plumbing and/or gas permits. You may also register a complaint or check on a plumber's license.



Powisset Farm pigs. Photo courtesy of the Town Report Committee.

Report of the **Open Space Committee**

Amey Moot, Chair
Mark Adamczyk
Jeff Behrens, from September 2024
Henry Faulkner
Boynton Glidden
Greg Kahoun
Justine Kent-Uritam
Carol Lisbon, Planning Board
Sarah Monaco, Conservation Commission
Rick Nagy
Tara Nolan
Connie Sullivan, through June 2024
John Jeffries, Board of Selectmen Liaison, through October 2024
Robyn Hunter, Board of Selectmen Liaison, from November 2024

The Open Space Committee (OSC) became a permanent Town government committee in 2001. Its primary purpose is to update the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) in accordance with Massachusetts laws and regulations. A revision is currently under way of the 2011 plan, which is available on the OSC's page of the Town website (www.doverma.gov). The OSC assists other Town boards in managing the recreation and conservation lands under its jurisdiction. It also strives to provide information on Dover's many open spaces and to encourage Dover residents to enjoy them.

The OSC membership purposefully represents the interests of the many governmental and nonprofit entities with lands under their control. For example, both the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board appoint members to the OSC. The Board of Selectmen (BOS) appoints the remaining members as well as its liaison. OSC members are often members of ad-hoc committees and subcommittees formed to assess projects or issues in Dover, such as the Hale Partnership Taskforce and the Planning Board's Tree Preservation Committee. OSC members are also active with local conservation groups, including The Trustees of Reservations (The Trustees), the Upper Charles Conservation Land Trust (UCCLT), the Dover Land Conservation Trust (DLCT), Hale Education (Hale), Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS), and the Norfolk Hunt Club (NHC).

Given this broad representation, discussions during OSC meetings cover many topics, from the desirability of preserving or acquiring particular properties to efforts that encourage the use of open space by Dover citizens. The OSC welcomes public attendance at its meetings, which are typically

held on the first Tuesday of the month, September to June, at 7:30 p.m., usually on Zoom. Please see the Town calendar at www.doverma.gov for meeting agendas and login or meeting room information.

Guided Walks on Conservation Lands

OSC members led guided walks through Dover conservation lands on the second Saturday morning of each month from April to December. These walks are free and open to all but require pre-registration for parking information. In 2024, the walks were often conducted in partnership with other organizations to enhance educational content. For example, the April vernal pool walk, featuring wetlands expert Paul McManus of EcoTech, was held in partnership with the Tree Preservation Committee's Arbor Day celebrations. The May stroll in Hale featured Dover Historical Society's Elisha Lee and Stuart Swiny taking participants to several of Hale's historic indigenous sites. OSC's October walk in DLCT's Bartlett Pines included the Charles River Watershed Association's (CRWA's) executive director, who spoke about the importance of Trout Brook to the Charles River and to the U.S. Army Corps' Charles River Natural Valley Storage Area (CRNVS) in preventing or mitigating the flooding of downstream urban communities.

OSC walks are publicized in the *Our Town* digital newsletter available on the Town's website, various social media (Dover MA Facebook group, Nextdoor.com, Eventbrite, Boston.com, WickedLocal.com, Patch.com), and through emails sent to interested citizens. Once the location is confirmed, walks are listed in the Eventbrite Saturday Strolls in Dover collection and via the link on the main OSC page on the Town website. The OSC will continue offering these guided monthly walks in 2025, and we hope you will join us!

Open Space and Recreation Plan

The OSC is in the process of updating the 2011 OSRP to reflect recently conserved lands, as well as the townspeople's opinions, use, and concerns regarding open space and recreation opportunities. A public forum presenting the updated plan will be scheduled in spring 2025.

Hale Conservation Restriction (CR)

Through early 2024, the OSC supported The Trustees' education and outreach efforts in anticipation of an eventual Special Town Meeting on the proposed Hale Conservation Restriction (CR). The difficulties of accommodating all of Westwood and Dover's desires and Hale's needs led Hale to pursue a 100% private fundraising, with no contribution from the two towns. Therefore, no Special Town Meeting was required and OSC's help was no longer needed.

Hale raised over \$38 million from private individuals and foundations to support placing a CR on over 1,100 acres. All of Hale's land in Dover will be protected, forever. The Hale CR, along with all the related monitoring and enforcement responsibilities, will be held solely by The Trustees. As part

of the agreement, Hale will be selling to The Trustees just over 100 wooded acres that abut Powisset Farm. To ensure protection, The Trustees are donating a CR on these acres to the DLCT. The Trustees have no near-term plans to clear and farm this land and the trails on it will remain open to the public. The Hale CRs are under review by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs (EEA) and are expected to be approved in summer 2025.

The Hale CR eliminates subdivision or residential development, confines Hale's programs to areas already in use, and guarantees public access to most trails year-round, in perpetuity. Hale's more than 1,200 contiguous acres of open space across Dover (725 acres) and Westwood (520 acres) provide unique and substantial connections with other protected lands and trails. The Hale CR significantly expands our permanently protected open space resources, improving our resilience to climate change and expanding the Town's recharge groundwater.



Channing Pond. Photo courtesy of the Police Department/Officer Ryan Menice.

Land Management Committee

The OSC partners with the Conservation Commission on the Land Management Work Group to coordinate and do maintenance on Town conservation properties. In addition to trail maintenance, the members built and replaced a bog bridge, and erected signs for Wylde Woods and Valley Farm. The working group is working on a land management plan for Springdale Meadows (the conserved field across the street from Channing Pond) and held its first trail workday for volunteers. If you would like to help with trail projects, please email us at trails@doverma.gov.

Conservation Support

The OSC provides ongoing support for and communication about various projects involving local conservation groups. For example, in 2024 the OSC:

- partnered with the Conservation Commission in the Land Management working group to help coordinate trail maintenance and improve stewardship of the Conservation Commission-owned properties; and
- organized an OSC booth at Dover Days that provided information and maps showing the open spaces and trails throughout Dover.

The OSC will continue working with the Conservation Commission, The Trustees, the DLCT, Hale, and other groups to improve access and walking experiences at properties throughout Dover.

Appreciation

The OSC would like to thank past Committee member Connie Sullivan for her valuable service. We are grateful that relatively new Dover resident Jeff Behrens will be finishing out her 2025 term. We thank all our members for continuing their generous service. We look forward to working with you in 2025!

DOVER

Other Town Reports

2024

