WHAT'S GOING ON IN

Dunstable?

WINTER EDITION | FEBRUARY 2026

FY27 Operating Budget Update

The Town of Dunstable continues to make progress toward balancing the FY27 operating budget while adhering to the community's financial policies and maintaining essential services.

Earlier this winter, the Town identified a projected FY27 budget deficit of approximately $804,000. At the present time, the Town has made a deliberate decision not to rely on additional Free Cash to close the gap, focusing instead on spending reductions and alternative revenue sources.

How the Deficit Is Being Addressed

To reduce the deficit, the Town Administrator worked with departments to identify targeted spending reductions across the operating budget. In total, $651,019 in reductions were proposed across all budget categories, including General Government, Public Safety, Public Works, Education, Human Services, and Insurance and Assessments.

In addition to expenditure reductions, the Town updated several revenue estimates based on more current information. These adjustments resulted in $92,783 in additional anticipated revenue, including increases in local receipts, new growth, state aid, and the addition of overlay surplus.

Relying on increased revenue estimates and additional cuts results in a lean operating budget with little margin for error. This approach limits the Town's ability to absorb unexpected costs and may require departments to scale back services, defer needs, or operate differently.

Department Impacts

Some of the more notable adjustments include:

- Public Safety: Reductions in police overtime and part-time wages reflect staffing changes and the reinstatement of the ninth officer position. In the Fire Department, reductions to training and call-in wages may result in the elimination of a newly created afternoon shift intended to improve emergency response coverage.
- Highway: Paving funds were reduced from the original request, though the state's FY26 Chapter 90 allocation is higher than prior fiscal years.
- Education: School assessments were adjusted based on updated estimates from Groton-Dunstable Regional School District and Greater Lowell Technical High School.

Other Areas: Reductions were made to library salaries, veterans' benefits, part-time highway wages, and the Town Engineer budget. Unfortunately, the planned ambulance partnership with Tyngsborough is not moving forward, resulting in a corresponding reduction in the Fire Department budget.

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Town of Dunstable

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Enterprise, Revolving, and CPA Funds

The Town has also begun work on allocating appropriate direct and indirect costs to Enterprise Funds, Revolving Funds, and Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds, as allowed under Massachusetts law. This approach helps ensure that programs pay their fair share of municipal support costs, such as accounting, IT, and facility expenses, and reduces pressure on the General Fund. Outreach and policy development are underway, though this work is not yet finalized.

Where Things Stand Now

As of February 11, 2026, these combined efforts have reduced the projected FY27 deficit to approximately $40,700. This figure is preliminary and will likely need to be adjusted. It also does not yet include potential additional allocations to Enterprise, Revolving, or CPA funds, which may further improve the overall financial picture.

What's Next

The Advisory Board and Select Board will continue reviewing revenue estimates, proposed reductions, and potential alternative funding sources in the coming weeks. Residents are encouraged to stay engaged and follow upcoming meetings and updates as this work continues.

Annual Town Election Information

For the Annual Town Election on May 19, 2026 here are some important dates and deadlines:

- Monday, February 9, 2026 - first day to obtain nomination papers
- Thursday, March 26, 2026 by 5:00PM - last day to obtain nomination papers
- Tuesday, March 31, 2026 by 5:00PM - last day to submit nomination papers
- Thursday, April 16, 2026 - last day for objections/withdrawals from the race

Seats available are as follows:

(2) Advisory Board – 3 year term
(1) Board of Assessors – 3 year term
(1) Board of Health – 3 year term
(1) Cemetery Commission – 3 year term
(1) Commissioners of Trust Fund – 3 year term
(2) Constable – each a 1 year term
(1) Library Trustee – 3 year term
(1) Planning Board – 5 year term
(1) Road Commissioner – 3 year term
(1) School Committee (GDRSD) – 3 year term
(1) School Committee (GLRTHS) – 3 year term
(1) Water Commissioner – 3 year term
(1) Select Board – 3 year term

Candidates must have twenty (25) certified voter's signatures on their nomination papers to have their name placed on the ballot.

THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION IS SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026.

YOU CAN REGISTER TO VOTE ONLINE OR IN THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE.

For the purpose of obtaining nomination papers or if you have any questions, please call 978-833-7162 or email townclerk@dunstable-ma.gov.

Special State Primary Election Results – February 3, 2026

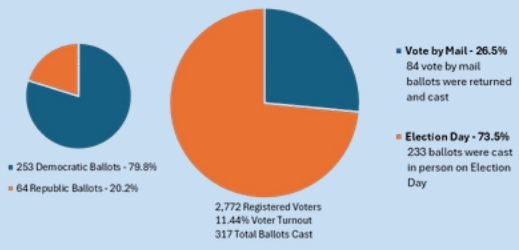
The Town of Dunstable conducted a Special State Primary Election on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, to nominate candidates for the office of State Senator for the First Middlesex District. We would like to thank all residents who participated, as well as the Town Clerk, election workers and town staff who ensured a smooth and well-run election.

A total of 317 ballots were cast, representing an overall voter turnout of approximately 11.44% of Dunstable's 2,772 registered voters. Of those ballots, 253 were Democratic ballots (79.8%) and 64 were Republican ballots (20.2%).

On the Democratic ballot, Vanna Howard received 154 votes, Rodney Michael Elliott received 98 votes, and there was one write-in vote, for a total of 253 ballots cast. On the Republican ballot, all votes were cast as write-ins, with 56 votes for Sam Meas and 5 scattered write-in votes, along with 3 blank ballots, for a total of 64 ballots cast.

Voting methods reflected a mix of in-person and vote-by-mail participation. Eighty-four ballots, or approximately 26.5% of all votes cast, were returned by mail. The remaining 233 ballots, or 73.5%, were cast in person on Election Day.

The Town appreciates the civic engagement shown by residents who took part in this special election and extends congratulations to the candidates who will advance to the general election. As a reminder, the Special General Election is on Tuesday, March 3, 2026.



Town Common Bandstand Repairs Completed

The Town of Dunstable is pleased to share that repairs to the Town Common Bandstand have been successfully completed, improving an important and well-loved community gathering space.

The project was funded through a $75,000 state budget earmark and addressed deferred maintenance issues with the bandstand. Improvements included replacement of the roof, select floorboards, stairs, railings, lattice, trim, skirting base, and lighting, as well as repairs to the electrical and wiring systems. The bandstand was also repainted, helping preserve both its appearance and longevity. Architectural services were utilized to assist with design and construction documents to ensure the work was completed properly.

The work was completed through a series of contracts totaling $73,913, coming in under the full earmark amount. One portion of the project - the replacement of the bandstand railings - was generously donated by a local resident, Jon Mousseau and Vanguard Construction, helping reduce overall costs.

The Town would like to thank everyone involved in bringing this project to completion and looks forward to seeing residents enjoy this improved public space.

FY26 Mid Year Financial Report Available

The Town has prepared its FY26 Mid Year Financial Report, covering the period from July 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. You can find the report here: https://www.dunstable-ma.gov/town-administrator/pages/financial-reporting.

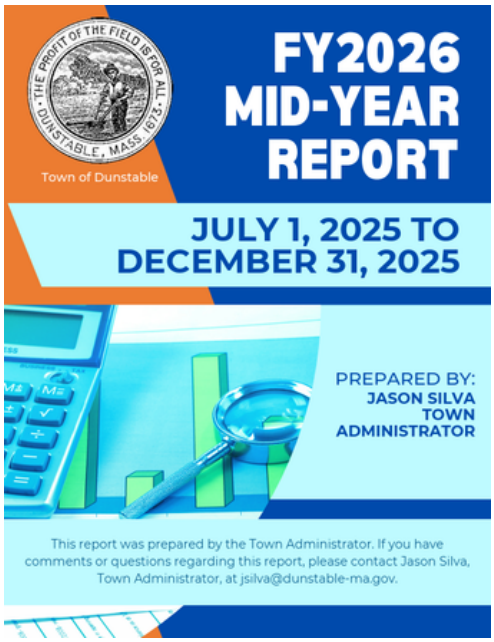
As we passed the halfway mark of FY26, the Town of Dunstable continues to maintain a stable financial position with revenues and expenditures tracking close to budget expectations.

Through December 31, total revenues collected were approximately $6.34 million, representing about 46% of the annual budgeted revenues. Collections from real estate property taxes, local receipts, and state aid are generally in line with expectations for the mid-year point. Town spending through six months was roughly 49.5% of the total adjusted FY26 budget, indicating departments are managing within their planned budgets overall. Many core service areas, including Education, Public Safety, and General Government, are tracking close to the expected spending pace.

There are several budget areas that are spending under budget at the mid-point of the fiscal year. Public Works continues to spend below budget largely due to snow/ice costs as of December 31 and the seasonal nature of many public works activities. Some programs and line items, such as the Technology, Town Hall, Town Counsel, and Dog Officer budget, among others, are trending higher than expected for this point in the year. The Town will continue to monitor these areas closely in the second half of the fiscal year.

Overall, revenues and expenditures are tracking in line with budget expectations as we approach the second half of FY26.

The Town will continue monitoring spending trends and revenue collections to ensure the budget remains balanced and adjust for unforeseen circumstances.



Join the Town Administrator for questions, conversation, and coffee!

We're moving conversations with the Town Administrator to Town Hall in February! This month you can join the Town Administrator for coffee and conversation at Dunstable Town Hall during evening hours from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM on Monday, February 23. This is a great opportunity to discuss any local issues and hear directly from the Town officials.

Jason looks forward to seeing you there! Mark your calendars and bring your questions and ideas!

2025 Annual Resident Survey Results

The Town of Dunstable would like to thank the 116 residents who participated in the 2025 Annual Resident Survey. Your feedback provides insight into what matters most to the community and plays an important role in shaping Town priorities, planning efforts, and decision-making.

Overall, residents continue to express strong satisfaction with Dunstable as a place to live and with the services provided by Town government. A clear theme throughout the survey was the high value residents place on Dunstable's rural character, quality of life, and sense of community. Many respondents also rated the quality of the regional school district as one of the Town's greatest strengths.

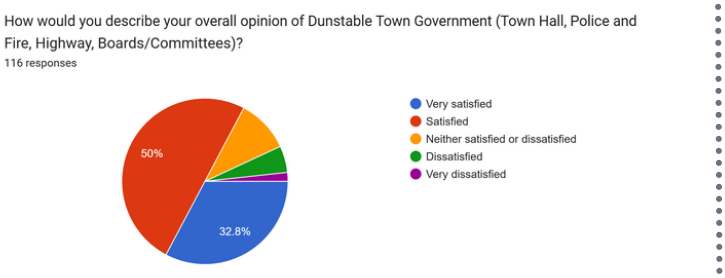
When asked about the challenges facing the community, residents most frequently cited school funding and overall Town finances. These concerns reflect the broader fiscal pressures facing many municipalities and highlight the importance of careful financial planning, transparency, and long-term sustainability.

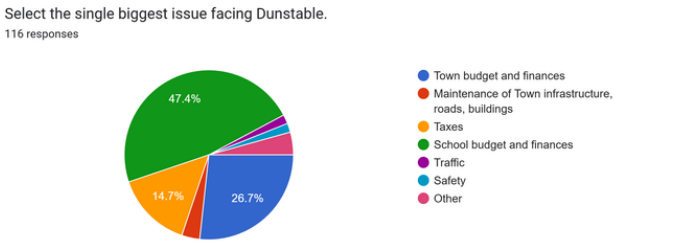
Public safety services, including police, fire, and emergency response, consistently ranked among the highest priorities for residents. Road maintenance and infrastructure were also frequently identified as important areas of focus. While services such as the library, recreation, and parks remain valued, they tended to be viewed as moderate priorities compared to core municipal services.

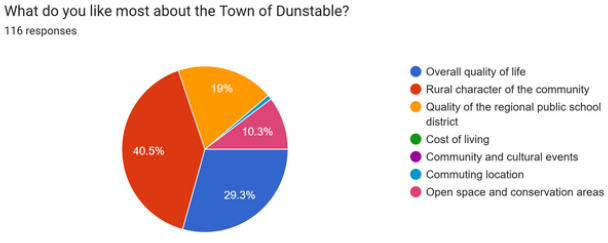
The survey also provided insight into how residents would prefer the Town address future budget challenges. There was strong support for attracting appropriate new development and growing the tax base, while reducing services was among the least favored options.

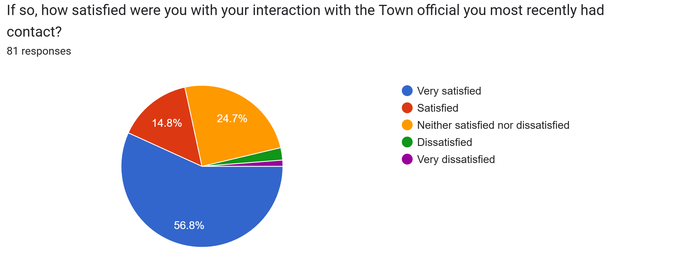
Most respondents indicated they would recommend Dunstable as a place to live, reinforcing the Town as a desirable community. At the same time, responses related to traffic, traffic congestion, and infrastructure maintenance suggest opportunities for continued improvement and long-term planning.

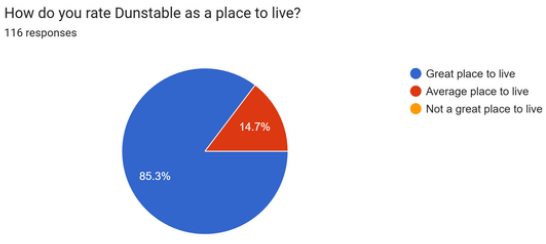
The Town is grateful to all who took the time to participate in the survey. Your input helps guide Town leadership as we balance fiscal responsibility with the services and quality of life residents expect. The full survey results are available on the Town website here: https://www.dunstable-ma.gov/town-administrator/files/2025-resident-survey-results. This feedback will continue to inform discussions and decisions in the year ahead.

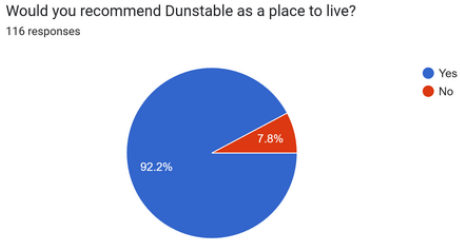












Town to Receive Regional Planning Assistance Through NMCOG

The Town of Dunstable will be receiving technical assistance support through the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments as part of its District Local Technical Assistance and Grant Assistance Program offerings. This assistance allows the Town to advance important planning and community projects without placing additional strain on the local budget.

One project supported through this assistance is the development of a townwide fishing brochure. This effort will help promote Dunstable's natural resources and recreational opportunities. Approximately 40 hours of technical assistance, valued at $4,000, will be dedicated to this project.

The Town will also receive support for the development of a master plan for Larter Field. This planning effort will involve approximately 150 hours of technical assistance, valued at $15,000, and will help guide future improvements and long-term use of this important community recreational asset.

In addition, NMCOG will provide grant assistance support to finalize plans for the Union School Building Reuse. Through the GAP program, $5,000 has been set aside to assist the Town with grant management if funding is awarded, or to help identify and pursue alternative funding opportunities should a grant not be successful. Additional technical assistance may also be available depending on the outcome of future grant awards.

Together, these services represent a significant investment in Dunstable's planning capacity and long-term community goals, while minimizing direct costs to taxpayers. The Town is grateful for its continued partnership with NMCOG and looks forward to advancing these projects in the coming months.

NORTHERN MIDDLESEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
SERVING THE REGION SINCE 1963

Results of November Special Town Meeting

On Monday, November 17, over one hundred Dunstable voters participated in the Town's Fall Special Town Meeting. The Special Town Meeting warrant included 13 warrant articles that will help shape town priorities in 2026.

Town Meeting members supported several initiatives funded in part through the Community Preservation Act to preserve and restore public facilities. Articles that were approved included funding to replace the HVAC system that serves the Special Collections area of the Dunstable Public Library, as well as a separate appropriation to digitize historic records to preserve them for future generations. Repair needs at Town Hall were also addressed, with funding approved to supplement previous CPA support for the chimney project and to upgrade the building's aging HVAC system.

Voters also supported funding to rehabilitate the Babe Ruth baseball field behind Swallow Union Elementary School, helping ensure safe, quality playing surfaces for youth and community sports. A new shade structure at the Swallow Union playground was also approved.

There were articles that related to public safety and transportation needs. Town Meeting approved the use of Town funds to secure the local match for a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant that will enable the Fire Department to acquire a new forestry truck, enhancing emergency response capabilities. Members also supported funding the local share of a $475,000 state grant to redesign Route 113, which is meant to enhance safety and accessibility for all road users. An update to the Town's official website was approved as well, a step toward modernizing communications and improving access to information for residents.

No action was taken on the proposal to appropriate funds for stabilizing and restoring Larter Family Memorial Field and matching a state PARC grant, indicating continued interest in the project but a desire for further discussion and planning before committing funds.

The meeting also included adjustments to the FY2026 budget to cover costs related to a Special Primary and General Election for the vacant State Senate seat, as well as a reallocation of funds to support an ongoing effort to finalize an intermunicipal agreement with neighboring Tyngsborough for the provision of Emergency Medical Services.

The Town extends its thanks to all who attended and participated, and looks forward to continued dialogue and action at the upcoming Annual Town Meeting scheduled for May 11, 2026.

Senior Exercise Classes being offered

Bone Builders Exercise Class is free to residents at the Dunstable Public Library on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM and Friday at 11:15 AM. Also, the Town is offering Fit Over 50 "Fitness Fusion Class" free of charge as part of a Wellness Grant received from AgeSpan. The class will be free through February and is offered on Monday mornings at 11:30 AM on the lower level of Town Hall. Fitness Fusion combines a variety of exercise styles to offer a low impact but powerful session targeting all areas of the body with great music, a fun atmosphere, and great instructor. This class is typically $10 per session so if you haven't tried it yet, come join in on Mondays while the cost is covered for you.

Attention Dunstable High School Seniors!

The Helene Morgan Babcock and Alfred Babcock Memorial Scholarship, a generous scholarship fund designed to support the educational pursuits of our Town's students is now available to apply. This scholarship honors the legacy of Helene Morgan Babcock, a local figure whose family was deeply impacted by the compassion and unity of our community.

The Babcock Memorial Scholarship provides substantial financial assistance to graduating seniors in Dunstable as they continue their education. The scholarship includes one $20,000 ($5,000 each year for four years of full-time study) scholarship for a deserving student and multiple $3,000 one-time awards to additional qualified applicants.

These awards can be applied toward expenses incurred in pursuit of education at two- or four-year institutions, vocational schools, or formal apprenticeship programs.

The scholarship has its roots in a memorable moment in our Town's history. During the winter of 1923, the Morgan family home was destroyed by fire. The citizens of Dunstable rallied together to support the family, welcoming their 17 children into their homes and assisting in rebuilding their home. Helene Morgan Babcock, one of the children, never forgot the kindness and generosity extended by the people of Dunstable. In honor of this spirit of giving, Helene established the Babcock Scholarship Fund, ensuring that future generations of Dunstable students would benefit from the same sense of community support.

In addition to the Babcock Memorial Scholarship, the Russell G. and Shirley L. Tobey Scholarship is also available. This one-time award of $2,000 will be given to a recipient selected from the pool of Babcock Scholarship applicants. No additional application is required for this scholarship, and all applicants will automatically be considered.

How to Apply:

Seniors wishing to apply for the Babcock Scholarship can visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScsTuejpyOVm5Ggbh-IlKt5_U43ncCSs21w1OVdlk4De8JGQQ/viewform to submit their applications.

Applications are also available at the Town Hall, Public Library, and School Guidance Officer, by request to babcockscholarshipfund@gmail.com. The deadline for submission is fast approaching on March 2, 2026, so be sure to apply soon!
Questions regarding the application process can be sent to babcockscholarshipfund@gmail.com.



Dunstable Community Power Continues to Deliver Lower Rates

Good news for Dunstable residents. Dunstable Community Power continues to offer a lower electricity supply rate than National Grid's new residential Basic Service price.

- Dunstable Community Power: 14.074¢/kWh
- National Grid Basic Service: 15.484¢/kWh (effective Feb. 1 – July 31)

Learn more about the program and your options at DunstableCommunityPower.com.

Get Involved! Join a Town Board or Committee

Dunstable needs YOU! Volunteer today!

The Select Board is preparing for annual board and committee appointments and reappointments. Now is the perfect time to step up and serve. We're looking to fill vacancies and welcome new voices across a wide range of committees.

Have a passion for the Town?
Want to help shape the future of Dunstable?
Ready to give back and make a difference?

We have opportunities for residents of all backgrounds and interests whether you have a few hours a month or more time to give, the town could benefit from your experience, expertise, insight and commitment.

Submit your interest now! Interested? Send an email to select-board@dunstable-ma.gov.

Recognizing our dedicated volunteers and employees

Making a Difference is a peer-to-peer employee and volunteer recognition program

The Town has created a program, Making a Difference, a peer-to-peer recognition program each month to recognize and acknowledge the amazing work taking place within the walls of Town Hall, and outside of Town Hall, to make a difference in our community.

Many volunteers and employees have been recognized through this program, nominated by a colleague, a volunteer member of a board or committee, or a supervisor to recognize the difference they are making in the community.

For the months of October, November, December, and January the following employees and volunteer have been celebrated through this program:



October
Highway Department
Matt McGovern and McGovern Auto

November
Maple Village Preschool Board of Directors
Jeff Fayne
Highway Department
The Sniezek Family

December
Mike and Peggy Lynch
Kristina Hooper
Jinglefest Committee
The Sniezek Family
Jackie and Dennis Maguire
Jeff Rosen
Jon Crandall and Family
Jason Silva
Fire Chief Farrell
Annika Selinger
Linda Scully

January
Chuck Raffoni
Highway Department

Town Implements updated Compensation and Classification Plan

At recent meetings, the Select Board and Advisory Board voted to move forward with the implementation of the Town's updated Compensation and Classification Plan, based on the recommendations of the Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management. The study, which was conducted over several months, reviewed job descriptions, position classifications, and compensation levels to ensure they are fair, consistent, and competitive with comparable communities.

As part of the implementation plan presented by the Town Administrator, the new compensation structure includes a 10-step salary schedule with 3% increases between steps, a wider salary range between minimum and maximum, and step advancements every two years. For this fiscal year, employees have been placed on the new schedule at the closest step above their current rate. These changes are intended to better reflect market conditions, support employee growth, and improve the Town's ability to attract and retain staff.

To support this effort, the Advisory Board also voted to use the Town's salary reserve fund to cover the initial salary adjustments associated with implementation. The Town budgeted this funding mechanism in FY26 for this purpose.

The Town expresses its sincere thanks to the state's Community Compact Grant Program for funding this project and to the Collins Center for their professional assistance in conducting the study.

UMASS BOSTON
EDWARD J. COLLINS, JR. CENTER FOR PUBLIC MANAGEMENT
JOHN W. McCORMACK GRADUATE SCHOOL OF POLICY AND GLOBAL STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON

2025 Year in Review

The Town of Dunstable has celebrated a productive 2025, filled with important projects, initiatives, and accomplishments made possible by the hard work of Town staff and dedicated volunteers. This collaborative spirit has led to a successful year, with contributions across various boards and committees. To learn more about the Town's achievements in 2025, check out the Year in Review at https://www.dunstable-ma.gov/town-administrator/pages/goals-objectives-and-accomplishments.



Update on Proposed Ambulance Partnership with Tyngsborough

At this time, the Town of Tyngsborough has decided not to move forward with the proposed partnership to provide Emergency Medical Services coverage for the Town of Dunstable. After several months of discussion, Tyngsborough officials determined that they are unable to advance the proposal at this point.

Town officials had been exploring a potential intermunicipal partnership with Tyngsborough as one option to improve ambulance response times and service reliability in Dunstable. At the Town's Special Town Meeting in November, Town Meeting approved funding to support this partnership for this current fiscal year. Under the proposal, Tyngsborough would have provided Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance services, with Advanced Life Support (ALS) provided through Lowell General. The partnership was designed to significantly reduce response times compared to current service levels and to do so in a cost-effective manner.

While this outcome is disappointing, the Town remains committed to identifying the best possible EMS solution for residents. Town officials will continue to evaluate alternative service models and providers to do all that it can to improve emergency medical care response times for the community. Updates will be shared as additional options are reviewed and next steps are identified.

Larter Field Stabilization and Master Planning Update

The Parks Commission recently completed an initial public workshop and charette for the Larter Field Stabilization and Master Planning process to plan for the long-term future of this community space. The workshop provided residents an opportunity to provide input on their opinions and potential concepts for improving the field while preserving its character and functionality.

The Town has also issued a survey as a way for residents to provide input on the future of Larter Field and the response rate has been terrific thus far.

Over the past several months, the Town's consultant team has been conducting a detailed site investigation at Larter Field. This work included wetlands delineation, performing test pits, and ground-penetrating radar to better understand subsurface conditions and areas contributing to the ongoing stability challenges at Larter. This technical review will assist in identifying feasible solutions and ensuring that future improvements are safe and stable.

The project will continue to move forward in phases. Upcoming work will focus on refining the master plan, advancing field stabilization design, pursuing the necessary permitting and engineering steps, and, ultimately, seeking funds for implementation. The current project schedule anticipates continued design and planning work with future phases dependent on funding, permitting, and community input.

The Parks Commission appreciates the feedback shared by residents during the workshop and survey and looks forward to continuing this collaborative process. Additional updates will be provided as the master plan is refined and next steps are identified.



New Police Officers Appointed by Select Board

At recent meetings, the Dunstable Select Board voted to appoint Michael Barry and Zachary Millett as part-time officers with the Dunstable Police Department.

Both officers bring commitment and a strong desire to serve our community. The Board and Police Chief expressed confidence that the appointments will enhance the department's ability to serve and protect Dunstable's residents.

The Select Board welcomes Officers Barry and Millett and looks forward to their contributions to the Town and Police Department in Dunstable.

Excise Taxes Due

Residents are reminded that motor vehicle excise tax payments are due on March 9, 2026. Payments received after the due date may be subject to interest and additional charges. Please plan accordingly to ensure timely payment. Residents can pay at Town Hall, drop payments off in the drop-boxes at Town Hall, via mail, or online at https://unipaygold.unibank.com/customerinfo.aspx.

Groton Dunstable Hosts Community Forum on Chapter 70 Funding

On November 20, 2025, residents, educators, parents, students, and local officials gathered at the Groton Dunstable Middle School Performing Arts Center for a community forum focused on the growing challenges surrounding school funding. The event, centered on Chapter 70 education aid, and provided an opportunity for dialogue about the sustainability of public education financing and its impact on communities.

The forum was hosted by State Representatives Margaret Scarsdale, Mike Kushmerek, Danillo Sena, and Senator John Cronin, with House Education Committee Chair Ken Gordon joining as a special guest. Panels of educators, community leaders, and local officials, including representatives from both Groton and Dunstable, lead discussions on how the current Chapter 70 funding formula no longer reflects the true costs of educating students.

Panelists highlighted that limited growth in state aid has increasingly shifted the financial burden to member communities. Participants noted that these pressures have contributed to difficult budget decisions, including staffing reductions on both the municipal and school sides, raising concerns about the long-term sustainability of these decisions.

Town and school officials discussed the need for closer coordination in budget planning with state officials, while community members shared perspectives on how funding challenges affect classrooms, teachers, families, and the community at-large.

The forum was one step in an ongoing effort to advocate for meaningful reform to the Chapter 70 formula and to ensure that state funding keeps pace with the realities faced by local school districts. Thank you to Representative Margaret Scarsdale and Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee Chair Lacey McCabe for their leadership and hard work in helping to organize this important discussion, and to all who participated and contributed.

Lowell Five Donates $1,500 to Town

At a recent meeting, the Select Board voted to accept a $1,500 donation from Lowell Five Bank to support food insecurity initiatives in Dunstable. As part of this action, the Board established a dedicated donation account for food assistance and authorized the acceptance of future donations consistent with this purpose.

In addition, the Select Board discussed the potential of utilizing the donation by partnering with a local food bank as a way to support Dunstable residents in need.

A big thank you to Lowell Five for their generous support of the Town of Dunstable and its most vulnerable residents.

LOWELL FIVE BANK

A Message from Groton Dunstable Regional School District

With the Governor's budget now in the hands of the Legislature, our community has a meaningful opportunity to advocate directly to lawmakers. We invite families, staff, and community members to consider taking a few moments to submit a letter or provide testimony urging lawmakers to recognize the critical need for increased state funding. Your voice can help ensure that Groton-Dunstable receives the support our students and schools deserve.

To make participation as easy as possible, and to ensure a consistent message to lawmakers, the School Committee has drafted two template letters: one intended for parents, students, and staff, and another for community members who may not have a direct connection to the schools but have been impacted by rising taxes and/or municipal budget cuts made to support rising school costs. Both letters are available for anyone to access and use. Additionally, if you prefer to write your own letter, we also have a blank template that just includes the specific requests that we are making.

For full instructions, as well as the links to the template letters please click the button below. Thank you for your time and support of the Groton-Dunstable Schools.

Throughout March, the Joint Committee on Ways and Means will hold a series of legislative hearings on the state budget. Once dates and locations are finalized, we will share that information along with any opportunities to submit virtual testimony. In the meantime, sending the letter referenced above, prior to the hearings, will be an important way to help underscore the need for increased funding.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1q64FAAqunj2kSdRMA--Do0LIouOUh7XV_4lA5vg5PnQ/edit?usp=sharing

Implementation of Digital Equity Initiatives has Begun

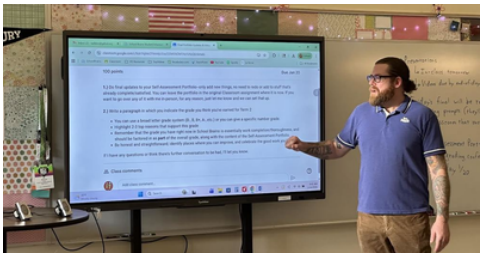
This fall, the Town of Dunstable received a Digital Equity Grant supporting the implementation of digital equity initiatives in Town and the Groton Dunstable Regional School District. At the Groton Dunstable High School, the grant supported the purchase and installation of six Ockers TouchView Interactive Teaching Panels, further advancing the district's commitment to equitable access to modern instructional technology.

The six TouchView interactive panels were configured and installed on mobile carts, enabling use across instructional spaces. This flexible deployment ensures immediate instructional impact while supporting a variety of teaching and learning environments.

The panels have been configured and teachers provided professional development to teachers to support effective classroom integration. Ongoing technical support and instructional guidance will continue to ensure the interactive panels create interactive, engaging learning experiences for students and staff.

The Dunstable Public Library is also preparing to host a laptop lending program for the Council on Aging making laptops available to seniors and interested residents. The Council on Aging is set to begin the creation of an intergenerational partnership that will pair high school students with older adults to provide one-on-one digital skills support. Students will receive stipends for their time and service, while seniors gain more confidence using technology.

Lastly, the Town has outfitted both meeting rooms at Town Hall with improved remote technology to improve access to public meetings, in particular, Select Board and Advisory Board meetings.



Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Close to Final

The public comment period for Dunstable's updated Open Space and Recreation Plan has now closed. The draft plan was developed following an extensive planning process and provides a comprehensive inventory and assessment of the Town's open space, natural resources, parks, and recreation facilities. It also outlines community-informed goals and objectives, along with a Ten-Year Action Plan to guide future priorities.

Both the Dunstable Planning Board and the Dunstable Select Board have received presentations on the draft OSRP from Northern Middlesex Council of Governments. A small number of final revisions are still being completed based on feedback received during the comment period and through board discussions.

Once these remaining changes are finalized, the draft OSRP will be brought forward for formal consideration and approval by both the Planning Board and the Select Board. Adoption of the updated plan will ensure the Town remains eligible for state grant funding opportunities to support open space preservation and recreational improvements.

Project Updates

The Town of Dunstable continues to advance several projects with a series of Invitations for Bids and Requests for Proposals currently out to bid or planned to be issued shortly.

Recently, the Town received proposals in response to the RFP for additional feasibility and conceptual design work for the Town Center Trail Loop project, a planning effort aimed at evaluating and conceptualizing a trail loop that will enhance connectivity, safety, and recreation in Town Center. In the coming weeks, the Town will evaluate proposals and recommend a consultant to the Select Board for their consideration. In addition to this, the Town expects to issue formal IFBs soon for repairs to the Town Hall chimney and Woodward's Mill Dam.

An RFP will also be released soon for the Route 113 redesign project, supporting long-range efforts to improve traffic flow, pedestrian safety, and streetscape enhancements. Lastly, the Parks Commission and Town have received bids for the Town's mowing and landscaping contract and HVAC replacement at Town Hall, respectively.

The Town is excited to have these projects moving forward and on track!

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Main Street and Oak Street Intersection Planning Underway

The Town of Dunstable has officially begun a transportation planning effort focused on the Main Street and Oak Street intersection in the Town Center, with support from the MassDOT through its Local Early Actionable Planning (LEAP) Program. This planning initiative is designed to take a closer look at existing conditions, identify safety and mobility challenges, and develop practical, implementable improvement concepts for the future.

Working with the Town and MassDOT, the engineering firm TEC, Inc. has been engaged to complete a planning-level evaluation of the intersection. The work includes reviewing prior studies, collecting new traffic data, conducting field investigations, and assessing how the intersection functions for drivers, pedestrians, and other users. This process started this month with a meeting of town and state officials with TEC. Potential improvements such as changes to intersection geometry, traffic control options, and enhanced pedestrian accommodations will be explored as part of this effort.

As part of the process, TEC will prepare conceptual improvement plans and a planning-level cost estimate. These materials will help the Town better understand potential solutions and position Dunstable to pursue future grant funding. A summary memorandum will also outline key findings, recommended next steps, and possible funding pathways.

Public engagement is an important component of the LEAP program. A public informational meeting will be held later in the process to share existing conditions, discuss needs and concerns, and review preliminary concepts with residents and stakeholders. Field work and analysis are expected to continue over the coming months, with the goal of completing the planning work by June 30, 2026.

This effort represents an important first step toward improving safety at this intersection while ensuring the Town is well positioned for future funding opportunities.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant Open

The Dunstable Select Board has opened the warrant for the 2026 Annual Town Meeting. The Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2026, at 7 PM and will be held at Swallow Union Elementary School.

The warrant will close on Monday, March 30, at 4 PM. Residents interested in submitting a citizen petition are encouraged to review the required forms and instructions, which are available on the Town of Dunstable website at: https://dunstable-ma.gov/townmeetinginformation.

Citizen participation is an important part of the Town Meeting process, and residents are encouraged to get involved.

Medium Laura Wooster Returns to Town Hall

The Recreation Commission is excited to welcome back Laura Wooster to Dunstable Town Hall on Sunday, March 29 at 1:30 PM. Laura's previous visit drew more than 80 attendees and provided an unforgettable afternoon of messages from spirit. Tickets are now available online at: https://unipaygold.unibank.com/transactioninfo.aspx.