

Dunstable?

SPRING EDITION | APRIL 2024

Annual Town Meeting - May 13

Annual Town Meeting Warrant will be available at the end of April

Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2024 at 7 PM at Swallow Union Elementary School. The warrant will include a variety of projects, programs, and a revised FY25 operating budget.

Many of the projects included on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant are planned to be funded through Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds. CPA funds can be used for 3 purposes: affordable housing, historic preservation, and open space/recreation. The CPA projects being proposed at Annual Town Meeting, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee are as follows:

- Removal of Invasive Weeds at Lake Massapoag
- Renovation of Wells at Larter Field
- Town Center Trail Loop Feasibility Study
- Union School Building Restoration and Rehabilitation
- Town Hall Chimney and Roof Repairs
- Tennis Courts at Larter Field
- High Street Property

Conservation Restriction Purchase

The warrant will also include a revised FY25 operating budget. The FY25 budget has been modified from the previously approved budget at the Special Town Meeting held on March 26, 2024 due to the general fund override request failing at the ballot on April 2. You can find more information on the FY25 budget at <https://www.dunstable-ma.gov/budget>.

Also on the warrant are capital projects requested to be funded through the tax levy. Lastly, the Town is requesting permission to consider a Municipal Electricity Aggregation program for residents and establish an Elderly and Disabled Taxation Fund for the purpose of defraying real estate taxes of elderly and disabled persons of low income. The latter would allow residents to make voluntary donations to a fund administered by a Trust Fund Board to offset tax increases to seniors and disabled residents.



Town of Dunstable

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Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan process wrapping up

Listening Session held on April 11; resident survey on draft plan closed April 19

For close to a year, Town staff and stakeholders have worked with the community to develop a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Plan and also to update the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), made possible thanks to a \$37,000 grant from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA). This work has included completing a community resiliency and hazard mitigation planning process and examining the community's vulnerabilities and strengths and identifying priority actions to build resilience as the climate changes.

Communities that complete the MVP

program become certified as an MVP community and are eligible for MVP Action Grant funding and other opportunities to address vulnerabilities identified through this process.

The draft MVP and HMP Report can be found on the Town's website at <https://www.dunstable-ma.gov/mvp> for your review - please feel free to share your feedback! In addition, if you weren't able to attend the Listening Session on April 11, you can view the [presentation](#) provided at the Listening Session at this same webpage.

Dunstable Housing Production Plan approved by state

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) has approved the Dunstable Housing Production Plan (HPP) pursuant to 760 CMR 56.03(4). The effective date for the HPP is April 1, 2024, the date that EOHLC received a complete (revised) plan submission based on comments received from the state. The HPP has a five-year term and will expire on March 31, 2029.

Great job by the Town's Affordable Housing Committee for all of their hard work ushering the HPP to the finish line.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT Susan Bresnick



Assistant Town Accountant
Administrative Assessor
Water Department Assistant

How long have you worked for the Town of Dunstable? 12 years

What inspired you to join the team at Dunstable Town Hall? I've always loved working with numbers. I started as a part time employee.

What's one thing people don't know about you that they would be surprised to find out? I worked in the Tax Collectors office in Townsend for 5 years while working here as well.

What is one thing you wish people knew about your job? That my job involves three separate roles. I am also willing to help any other department when needed.

What do you like to do when you're not working on your off time? Traveling, hiking with my dogs.

What's your favorite Boston sports team? Patriots

What's your favorite thing about working for the Town of Dunstable? The people I work with.

Thank you, Susan, for wearing so many hats at Town Hall and always being willing to help your colleagues!

Dunstable and Pepperell issue RFP for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Proposals due May 9, 2024

The Towns of Dunstable and Pepperell, with the help of Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG), have issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the purchase and installation of electric vehicle charging stations to enhance public charging infrastructure and accessibility in both communities.

Responses to the RFP are due May 9, 2024.

In Dunstable, the Town is seeking to install two EV Charging Stations at Town Hall, 511 Main Street. This project is made possible thanks to a regional transportation grant in the amount of \$42,000.



Stay updated on what's happening in Town

Stay updated on what's happening in the Town of Dunstable and the work of your local government! There are many ways to stay informed:

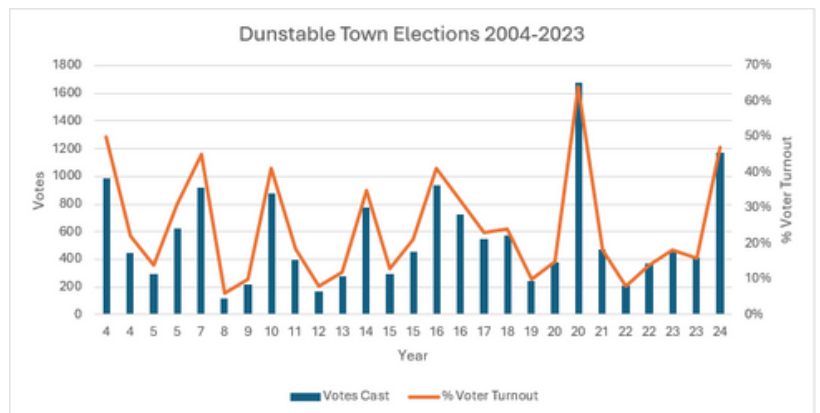
- Sign-up to receive email notification on our website, www.dunstable-ma.gov/subscribe, provide your email in the appropriate fields, and check off any notices you would like to receive.
- Follow us on Facebook: @dunstablema and Instagram: @townofdunstable
- Subscribe to our Youtube Channel: @townofdunstable3179
- Follow us on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/town-of-dunstable/>

SPECIAL ELECTION RESULTS

Special Election voter turnout - 47%

On April 2, Dunstable residents voted against a 3-year general override request for just shy of \$2.1 million, 648 against and 520 in favor. Thank you to all Dunstable voters for voting in large numbers - 47% turnout!

Due to the override failing at the polls, Town officials will present a modified FY25 budget at Annual Town Meeting on May 13, 2024.



Annual Town Election - May 21

Information on vote by mail, in-person early voting, and Election Day

Office	Term Length	First Name	Last Name	Incumbent or Candidate
Advisory Board	3 years	Timothy	Stewart	Incumbent
Advisory Board	3 years	Matthew	Naughton	Incumbent
Advisory Board	2 years	Leo	Tometich	Candidate
Board of Assessors	3 years	Robert	Ricardelli	Incumbent
Board of Assessors	2 years	Robert	Pointbriand	Incumbent
Board of Health	3 years	Robert	Parkin	Incumbent
Cemetery Commissioner	3 years	Susan	Tully	Incumbent
Commissioners of Trust Fund	3 years	Nicole	Tully	Candidate
Constable	1 year	Steven	Tully	Incumbent
Constable	1 year	Jon	Crandall	Incumbent
Library Trustee	3 years	Robyn	DeAngelis	Incumbent
Planning Board	5 years	Jeffrey	Pallis	Incumbent
Road Commissioner	3 years	Michael	Martin	Incumbent
School Committee (GDRSD)	3 years	Rafael	Glod	Incumbent
School Committee (GDRSD)	3 years	Christina	Andriole	Candidate
Water Commissioner	3 years	--	--	--
Water Commissioner	1 years	--	--	--
Select Board	3 years	Ronald	Mikol	Incumbent
Town Moderator	3 years	Rafael	Glod	Incumbent

The Annual Town Election will be held on May 21, 2024. Things you need to know:

- If you are not currently registered to vote, the last day to register is May 10, 2024.
- Vote by Mail applications are due by Thursday, May 16.
- Vote by Mail ballots must be returned to the Dunstable Town Hall by 8 PM on May 21, 2024. There is a locked ballot box available 24x7 outside of the side entrance.
- Early voting will be held at Town Hall on the following days and times:
 - Saturday, May 11 - 9 AM - 3 PM
 - Monday, May 13 - 9 AM - 5 PM
 - Tuesday, May 14 - 9 AM - 5 PM
 - Wednesday, May 15 - 9AM - 5 PM
 - Thursday, May 16 - 9 AM - 5 PM
- Polls will be open from 12 PM - 8 PM on May 21, 2024. All voters will vote at the Dunstable Public Library.

Annual Report available at end of month

The Annual Town Report will be available in the next couple of weeks. The Town will have hard copies available at Town Hall and Library, and it will also be posted on the Town's website - www.dunstable-ma.gov.

Town awarded Green Communities Grant



The Town was awarded a \$5,000 Green Communities Grant to support the purchase of a new hybrid police cruiser in FY25.

Police Station Floor Replacement Complete

This month, work to replace the Police Station floor was completed. The work included the installation of heavy-duty vinyl tile in the lobby, kitchen, and bathroom areas. The main area of the station floor was replaced with carpet tile which will make for easier maintenance and repair in the future. The total cost of the project was \$13,855 substantially less than the estimated \$23,000.

Congratulations to Dunstable Boston Marathon Participants

Congratulations to all who participated in the Boston Marathon on Patriots' Day, especially the three on the entry list from Dunstable - Andrew Downey, Andrew Gambrell, and Pete Wasylak!



Pepperell receives grant for regional PFAS mitigation project

The Town of Pepperell has been awarded a \$5.175 million grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to support the regional PFAS Mitigation Project. This funding is anticipated to be primarily used to offset the costs associated with "Phase 2 West", which includes the connection in Pepperell at Jersey Street, to the Pepperell/Groton town line, and from North Street in Groton to Kemp Street in Dunstable.

The Phase 2 cost portion of the project was originally estimated in excess of \$3.1 million. The Town of Dunstable was responsible for covering 50% of the total cost or \$1.55 million. Based upon this preliminary cost, Dunstable's portion of the project would cost the Town \$51,667 annually over the term of the loan (30 years) which was estimated to increase the average single family tax bill by \$41.44. If the estimated project cost holds for this portion of the project, this grant will likely remove this cost to the Town of Dunstable entirely.

As a reminder, Phase 1 of this project connects Chicopee Row in Groton to the Groton Dunstable Regional School District, continues on Chicopee Row to Groton Street in Dunstable, then connects Groton Street to Kemp Street in Dunstable to North Street in Groton. This portion of the project is estimated to cost \$12.8 million, with the Town of Dunstable covering \$1,863,000 or 14.6%. The impact of the Phase 1 portion of the project, costing the Town an estimated \$62,100 annually, increasing the average single family tax bill by \$47.36, would remain.

The collaboration and regional approach between the Towns of Dunstable, Pepperell, and Groton, as well as the partnership with MassDEP, made this possible. Great work to all involved!

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 January, February, March, and April, the following employees have been celebrated through this program:



January

Brynn Durno, Town Clerk (2)
Carol Rock, Conservation Commission & Planning Board Administrator (2)
Jason Silva, Town Administrator (2)
Susan Bresnick, Assistant Town Accountant, Administrative Assessor, and Water Department Assistant
Jon Crandall, Emergency Management Director, and family
Sue Fayne, Executive Assistant to the Select Board and Town Administrator, Assistant Town Clerk, Assistant Treasurer/Collector
Jake Lewon, Chair Advisory Board,
Jason Silva, Town Administrator, and Advisory Board
Brian Locapo, Recreation

February

Erik Hoar, Police Chief
Bonnie Ricardelli, Treasurer/Collector's Office

March

Leah Basbanes, Select Board, Conservation Commission
Karen DeBreceni, Library
Anne Fenochetti, Senior Center Director
Patrick Kerrigan, Captain, Fire Department
Alice Sniezek
Town Administrator's Office



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@dunstablema

Join the Town Administrator for coffee and conversation

Join Jason Silva, Dunstable's Town Administrator for coffee at Farmhouse Cafe on Pleasant Street! He'll be there on Thursday, April 25 at 10 AM available to discuss any issues on your mind - from the FY25 operating budget to the upcoming Annual Town Meeting, and everything in between. He hopes to see you there and, don't forget, he's buying!



Participate in this year's Dunstable Grange #31 spring roadside clean up

Dunstable Grange #31 is once again sponsoring its annual spring roadside clean up from April 19 - April 27. This is a great way to celebrate Earth Day, which is on Monday, April 22. As you fill your bags during this timeframe, please leave them on the side of the road. The Town's Highway Department will be picking them up. We appreciate your continued support in keeping Dunstable clean and beautiful.

Bags are currently available at Dunstable Town Hall and Tully Farm Store!

Cybersecurity Awareness Grant and employee training

Thank you to the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security for accepting the Town of Dunstable into the 2024 Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program. This program will ensure our employees and volunteers know the latest techniques cyber criminals are using, how to identify phishing emails, and how to keep the Town safe from cyber attacks.



Union Building re-use planning process update

The Union Building Rehabilitation Committee is close to completing its work to determine viable re-use options for the Union School Building.

To determine re-use options, over the last several months, the Committee has worked with Northern Middlesex Council of Governments and architects, Spencer Preservation Group. As a result of their work, the Committee is finalizing a report which

will evaluate potential uses, necessary repairs and upgrades, grant and funding opportunities for supporting viable adaptive re-use options of the building, and makes recommendations.

The Committee led an extensive public engagement process with public meetings and a survey, the results of which will help inform the final report and its recommendations.



Memorial Day Parade - Volunteers Needed

Memorial Day Parade planned for Sunday, May 26 at 1 PM

The Dunstable Memorial Parade Committee is in need of volunteers to help with the set-up and break down of the Memorial Day parade and ceremony in Town Center on Sunday, May 26. Volunteers are needed to set up chairs, speakers, and microphones in preparation for the parade and the speaking program.

Volunteer support is also needed to assist with the set up and break

down of tables and chairs for the post-parade refreshments served at the Dunstable Church.

If you have a couple of hours to spare, please reach out to Joe Dean at vso@dunstable-ma.gov and he will sign you up. Thanks in advance for helping create a special day in our town to honor those who lost their lives defending our country and freedoms.

Monday Morning Walks with the Dunstable Rural Land Trust

Walks scheduled on May 6, 13, and 20

This year is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Dunstable Rural Land Trust (DRLT). While the amount of land it has preserved can be calculated, the success of the DRLT is truly immeasurable in the value it brings to the town and its residents. So come join a morning walk to visit these lovely places! Each week a different DRLT or Town of Dunstable Conservation Area will be explored. Meet at the Town Hall promptly to leave at 9 AM.

Dunstable Theater Collaborative's Moon Over Buffalo

The Dunstable Theater Collaborative is in full swing with rehearsals for their upcoming performance of Moon Over Buffalo. You won't want to miss it! For more information on their show, visit <https://www.dunstabletheater.org/>.

FRIDAY, MAY 17 AT 7PM
SATURDAY, MAY 18 AT 7PM
SUNDAY, MAY 19 AT 2PM
DUNSTABLE TOWN HALL - 511 MAIN ST DUNSTABLE MA
TICKETS AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.DUNSTABLETHEATER.ORG

Turtles Crossing

Don't forget! As the weather gets warmer, turtles are coming out of hibernation. Many of our brook area roadways have turtles trying to safely cross the pavement. Please be alert and aware as you drive around Town!

Visit the Dunstable Public Library!

Did you know that the Dunstable Public Library is open 5 days a week? Haven't been in a while (or ever)? Head on over and start saving some money - there is a whole lot they offer to our community!

Library Hours:

Tuesday: 3 PM to 8 PM

Wednesday: 10 AM to 2 PM

Thursday: 10 AM to 6 PM

Friday: 10 AM to 2 PM

Saturday: 10 AM to 2 PM

What can you save Using the Dunstable Library?

\$24.99 for 1 bookstore book
\$7.99 audio book subscription
\$6.99 Netflix subscription
\$9.99 Disney + subscription
\$11.99 Kindle Unlimited subscription
\$2.50 Real Simple subscription
\$2.50 Times subscription
\$7.58 People subscription
\$20/hour tutoring (4 hours a month)

\$154/month savings!

Town of Dunstable
511 Main Street
Dunstable, MA 01827

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Community Preservation Act in Dunstable

Dunstable voted to adopt the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in 2006 allowing the addition of a 3% surcharge on local property taxes. When combined with annual matching funds, at variable rates, from the statewide Community Preservation Trust Fund, this dedicated fund is only used for recreation & open space, local affordable housing and historic buildings/resources preservation purposes.

The CPA has allowed the town to complete 51 projects thus far, the first being the purchase of Flat Rock Hill, aka Ferrari Farm. Others include the new playground, restoration of the Town Hall roof, MUD District infrastructure/development,

Middle School track, National Register Project for Town Center, Central Cemetery monuments restoration, purchase of land (Howards Brook, Best Triangle, Kendal Cranberry Bog) and of Conservation Restrictions (Frye, Emory, Tully, Miller) to name a few. Without the availability of CPA funds, these projects, and many others, would not have been possible.

For a complete list of projects visit www.communitypreservation.org. You can click the databank tab and go to CPA Project Database to view all the CPA-funded projects in Dunstable. For every dollar contributed by the town, the state has matched approximately 72 cents.

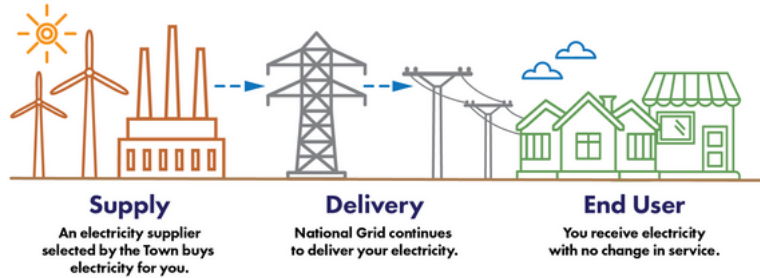
Planning to replace the Joint Grass Brook Culvert underway

The Town has engaged Hoyle Tanner to assist in the design, engineering, and permitting of a new culvert at Joint Grass Brook on Main Street. This work is being funded through a state earmark in the amount of \$250,000.



Municipal Electricity Aggregation currently being considered

The Town is currently considering asking Town Meeting to allow Dunstable to pursue the creation of a Municipal Electricity Aggregation program for its residents.



Town creates mid-year financial report

In an effort to keep the community and oversight boards informed, the Town created a mid-year financial report for FY24 evaluating revenue and expenditure trends. You can view the report [here](#).

Interested in serving on a board or committee? Let us know.

If you're interested in serving on a Town board or committee, let us know! Please email the Select Board at bos@dunstable-ma.gov. Currently, there are openings on the Economic Development Committee, Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board of Trustees, Agricultural Commission, Capital Planning Committee, and more!