



SELECT BOARD MEETING

Town of Dunstable

February 26, 2025
DUNSTABLE TOWN HALL
511 Main Street | Dunstable, MA

**OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF DUNSTABLE**
511 Main Street Dunstable, MA 01827
(978) 649-4514 | select-board@dunstable-ma.gov



BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION: Select Board
SUBMITTED TO TOWN CLERK: February 24, 2025 3:20pm
MEETING DATE: February 26, 2025
MEETING TIME: 5:00 PM
LOCATION: Town Hall - Upper Level

**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC
MEETING POSTED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE
PROVISIONS OF MGL 30A
§18 – 25**

Topics the Chair Reasonably Anticipates will or could be Discussed:

Note: All topic placements are estimated and may vary *tremendously* from projections

SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS

1.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment
3.	Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 29, 2025*
4.	86 Century Way – consideration of disposition
5.	Dunstable Conservation Commission Use of Wetland Protection Act Funds*
6.	Opening of Warrant for Annual Town Meeting May 12, 2025*
7.	Opt in Early Voting for Annual Town Election May 20, 2025*
8.	Town Administrator Report
9.	Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair
10.	Executive Session: Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a) pursuant to Purpose 2 to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, Jason Silva, Town Administrator and William Farrell, Fire Chief, and Dunstable Police Union, NEPBA, Local 7, and conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, Jason Silva, Town Administrator.*
11.	Meeting Adjournment

*Votes likely to be taken

Meeting will be streaming at: <https://www.youtube.com/@townofdunstable3179>

(Note: This listing of matters reflects those reasonably anticipated by the chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.)



MEETING MINUTES

Town of Dunstable

February 26, 2025
DUNSTABLE TOWN HALL
511 Main Street | Dunstable, MA

Town of Dunstable Select Board Meeting Minutes



Wednesday, January 29, 2025

In attendance: Chair Leah Basbanes, Vice Chair Kieran Meehan, Select Board Member Ron Mikol, Town Administrator Jason Silva; Executive Assistant Sue Fayne
Absent: Executive Assistant Sue Fayne

The meeting was called to order at 5 PM by Chair Basbanes.

Public Comment

Resident Bob Kennedy addressed the board regarding his concerns about speeding on High Street. He suggested painting the speed limit directly on the road surface to improve visibility and compliance. Mr. Kennedy provided a photo showing the current speed limit sign was difficult to see. He noted that other towns like Stow have implemented road painting of speed limits.

Chair Leah Basbanes said they would take the suggestion under consideration but expressed concern about its effectiveness without additional enforcement measures like speed bumps or police presence.

Vice Chair Kieran Meehan acknowledged speeding was an ongoing issue in town. He suggested the speed trailer could be deployed as a short-term solution but was unsure of long-term options for straightaways.

Member Ron Mikol noted that painting lines on roads is not unusual and is done in other towns like Cambridge. He recalled the issue had previously been referred to the road commissioners for review.

TA Jason Silva confirmed he had sent an email about the suggestion to the highway superintendent and believed it was discussed at a road commissioners meeting, though he was not present.

Chair Basbanes said she would follow up with Stow to see if they found painting speed limits on roads to be effective before reconsidering the conversation with Dunstable's road commissioners.

Joan Simmons asked about the legality of a resident painting the speed limit themselves out of frustration. The board did not have a clear answer but suggested it would likely not be allowed.

FY26 Preliminary Budget Presentation and Discussion

TA Silva gave a presentation on the preliminary FY26 budget.

Key points included:

- Estimated 2.5% increase in tax levy plus \$110,000 in new growth
- Significant reduction in excluded debt for FY26, mostly on school side
- Estimated 4% increase in state aid
- \$50,000 reduction in use of free cash compared to FY25



- Department requests resulted in 5.5% overall increase
- Schools assessment increased 9%, including capital and debt service reductions
- General government increasing significantly based on:
 - Municipal salaries increasing slightly over 4%
 - Insurance and assessments up almost 10%, largely due to 24% increase in pension assessment
 - \$22,000 total increase for police/fire communications in preparation for regional dispatch
- Three budget scenarios were presented:
 - Based on new revenue available (\$318,000):
 - Town Receives \$119,287 – creates deficit of \$110,242 based on TA Recommended Budget
 - GDRSD Receives \$205,085 – creates a deficit of \$546,464 based on level service budget.
 - GLVTS receives \$4,464 – creates deficit of \$3,013
 - Matching Groton assessment without override – creates a deficit of \$261,600
 - Level service budget for schools requiring override – creates a deficit of \$659,719

TA Silva noted the town would need a \$261,000 override to match Groton's assessment. A level service school budget would create a \$659,000 deficit for Dunstable.

The board discussed the challenges of balancing town and school needs within available revenue.

Concerns were raised about infrastructure needs, especially at the library. TA Silva explained they are pursuing grant opportunities and state funding to address some facility issues over time.

The board expressed openness to considering an override question but wanted more analysis of options. TA Silva said he would continue refining budget recommendations and awaiting final numbers from schools and insurance.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 29, 2025*

The meeting minutes were accepted as submitted.

On a **motion** by Member Mikol and **seconded** by Vice Chair Meehan, it was **voted to approve** the meeting minutes from January 29, 2025. **The vote was unanimous.**

Appointment: Bonnie Ricardelli as Interim Treasurer/Collector*

Bonnie has graciously agreed to take on the full time Treasurer/Collector role while the town continues it's search for Andrew Wall's replacement.

On a **motion** by Member Mikol and **seconded** by Vice Chair Meehan, it was **voted to appoint** Bonnie Ricardelli as interim Treasurer/Collector. **The vote was unanimous.**



NMCOG Presentation: At Home in Greater Lowell

Representatives from the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG) presented on their regional housing strategy "At Home in Greater Lowell."

Key points included:

- The plan aims to address housing affordability and accessibility challenges across the 9 communities in the region
- Data shows population growth is flat, but the number of households is increasing, creating need for different housing types
- Vacancy rates have declined significantly, correlating with increased housing cost burdens
- The plan proposes local and regional actions over a 5–10-year timeframe
- Strategies include zoning changes to allow more diverse housing types and reviewing inclusionary zoning policies
- NMCOG is seeking municipal support for advancing local actions aligned with the regional strategies

Board members raised questions and concerns about:

- Impacts on town infrastructure and services
- Balancing development with open space preservation
- Dunstable's unique position as a small town in the region
- How to incentivize appropriate development
- Aligning housing goals with other town priorities like walkability and conservation

NMCOG representatives emphasized the plan provides a framework for each town to implement in ways that fit local needs. They will incorporate feedback and return with more details on implementation.

Architectural Services Contract: Library and Bandstand Improvements*

TA Silva explained the proposed \$9,000 contract with Emerald Design for architectural services related to repairs at the library (\$6,300) and bandstand (\$2,700). The library portion would address issues with exterior doors, windows and trim using state grant funding.

Member Mikol expressed concerns about prioritizing doors and windows given more critical infrastructure needs at the library like the boiler and HVAC systems. TA Silva noted they are pursuing other grant opportunities to address those larger issues but wanted to utilize the available state funding for immediate needs.

On a **motion** by Member Mikol and **seconded** by Vice Chair Meehan, it was **voted to award** a professional services contract to Emerald Design Build for architectural and design services for repairs to the bandstand and repairs to the library in the total amount of \$9,000 - \$6,300 for the library and \$2,700 for the bandstand - and authorize the Chair to sign the contract on behalf of the Board. **The vote was unanimous.**



Textile Bin Relocation*

The board discussed relocating the textile recycling bins back to the original location, located on Pleasant Street next to the Post Office. This move will be temporary, however MCO Associates did give permission for the Board of Health to relocate them until further notice.

On a **motion** by Member Mikol and **seconded** by Vice Chair Meehan, it was **voted to relocate** the textile recycling bins to the municipal site in the location as discussed, being parallel to the driveway and perpendicular to the road. **The vote was unanimous.**

Building Improvement Contract: Police Station Window and Door Replacement*

On a **motion** by Member Mikol and **seconded** by Vice Chair Meehan, it was **voted to award** a contract to FRG Contractor Corp for the repair and replacement of the windows and doors at the Police Station in the amount of \$44,235 and authorize the Chair to sign the contract on behalf of the Board.

Ron Mikol moved to award a contract to T&T Contractors for the repair and replacement of the windows and doors at the police station in the amount of \$44,235 and authorize the chair of the board to sign the contract on behalf of the board. Kieran Meehan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

TA Silva noted the \$44,235 cost would be fully covered by state grant funding. An additional \$20,000 previously allocated for the project from town funds would now be available for other uses.

Member Mikol reminded that the police station is in a historic district, so window replacements may need approval. TA Silva said he would ensure the contractor submits plans to the Historical Commission for review. **The vote was unanimous.**

Annual Report Discussion*

The board briefly discussed potential changes to the format of the annual town report. After reviewing examples from other towns, they decided to maintain the current format for this year given other priorities and budget constraints. They agreed to revisit potential updates for next year's report.

On a **motion** by Member Mikol and **seconded** by Vice Chair Meehan, it was **voted that the Select Board enter into Executive Session** pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21(a), Purpose 2, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, specifically Jason Silva, the Town Administrator, and to conduct contract

negotiations with nonunion personnel, Jason Silva, the Town Administrator. The Board will not reconvene in open session following Executive Session. **The vote was unanimous.**



The meeting was adjourned at 7:20PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Sue Fayne
Executive Assistant**

DRAFT



86 CENTURY WAY

Town of Dunstable

February 26, 2025
DUNSTABLE TOWN HALL
511 Main Street | Dunstable, MA

Land Use committee recommendation #1

86 Century way lot background

This property is a town owned house lot consisting of 2.12 acres, there are no conservation restrictions and is located in a residential neighborhood with an R1 zoning. There are some questions as to its suitability as a building lot.

Committee's recommendation

We the Land use committee recommend the town owned parcel addressed 86 century way be sold, preferably as a buildable lot. However, if not suitable as a building lot we still recommended that the town sell, allowing the town to collect some level of taxes on the land. Additionally, we would like to recommend the funds be allocated to help facilitate leases of town land, and one-time capital projects and funding an events committee. This recommendation can be set in motion immediately.

Final wording voted on and approved- 2/25/2025

Unofficial Property Record Card - Dunstable, MA

General Property Data

Parcel ID	10 18 0	Account Number	
Prior Parcel ID	8 --	Property Location	86 CENTURY WY
Property Owner	DUNSTABLE TOWN OF	Property Use	VAC MUNIC
Mailing Address	511 MAIN ST	Most Recent Sale Date	12/19/2000
City	DUNSTABLE	Legal Reference	11240-37
Mailing State	MA	Grantor	TAX TAKING
Zip	01827	Sale Price	0
ParcelZoning		Land Area	2.120 acres

Current Property Assessment

Card 1 Value	Building Value	0	Xtra Features Value	0	Land Value	222,100	Total Value	222,100
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Building Description

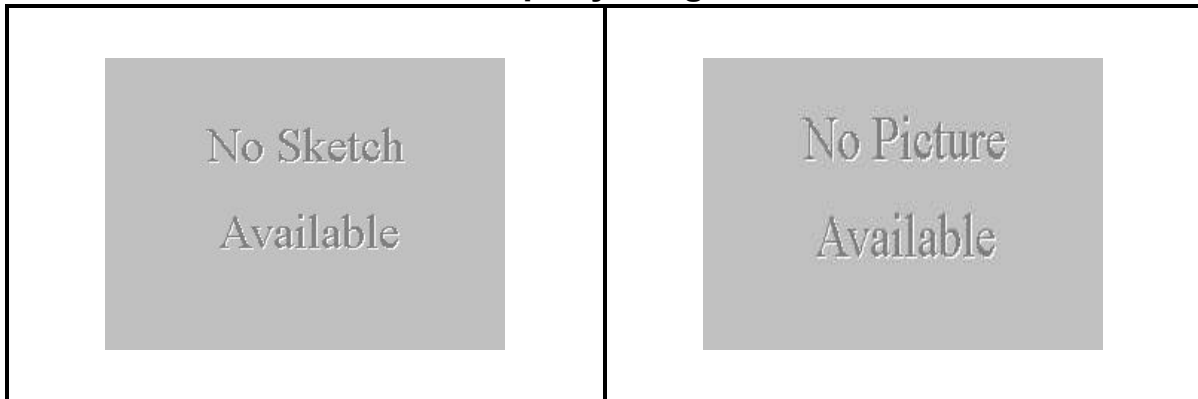
Building Style	Foundation Type	Flooring Type	N/A
# of Living Units	0	Basement Floor	N/A
Year Built	N/A	Heating Type	N/A
Building Grade	Roof Structure	Heating Fuel	N/A
Building Condition	N/A	Air Conditioning	0%
Finished Area (SF)	N/A	# of Bsmt Garages	0
Number Rooms	0	# of Full Baths	0
# of 3/4 Baths	0	# of Other Fixtures	0

Legal Description

Narrative Description of Property

This property contains 2.120 acres of land mainly classified as VAC MUNIC with a(n) style building, built about N/A , having exterior and roof cover, with 0 unit(s), 0 room(s), 0 bedroom(s), 0 bath(s), 0 half bath(s).

Property Images



Disclaimer: This information is believed to be correct but is subject to change and is not warranted.

[View Details](#)[View Images](#)[Add to Basket](#)[Print Do](#)

Doc. #	Rec Date	Rec Time	Type Desc.	# of Pgs.	Book/Page	Consideration	Doc. Status
50941	10/03/1996	11:38:20.000	TAKING	1	08244/221	0.00	Verified/Certified

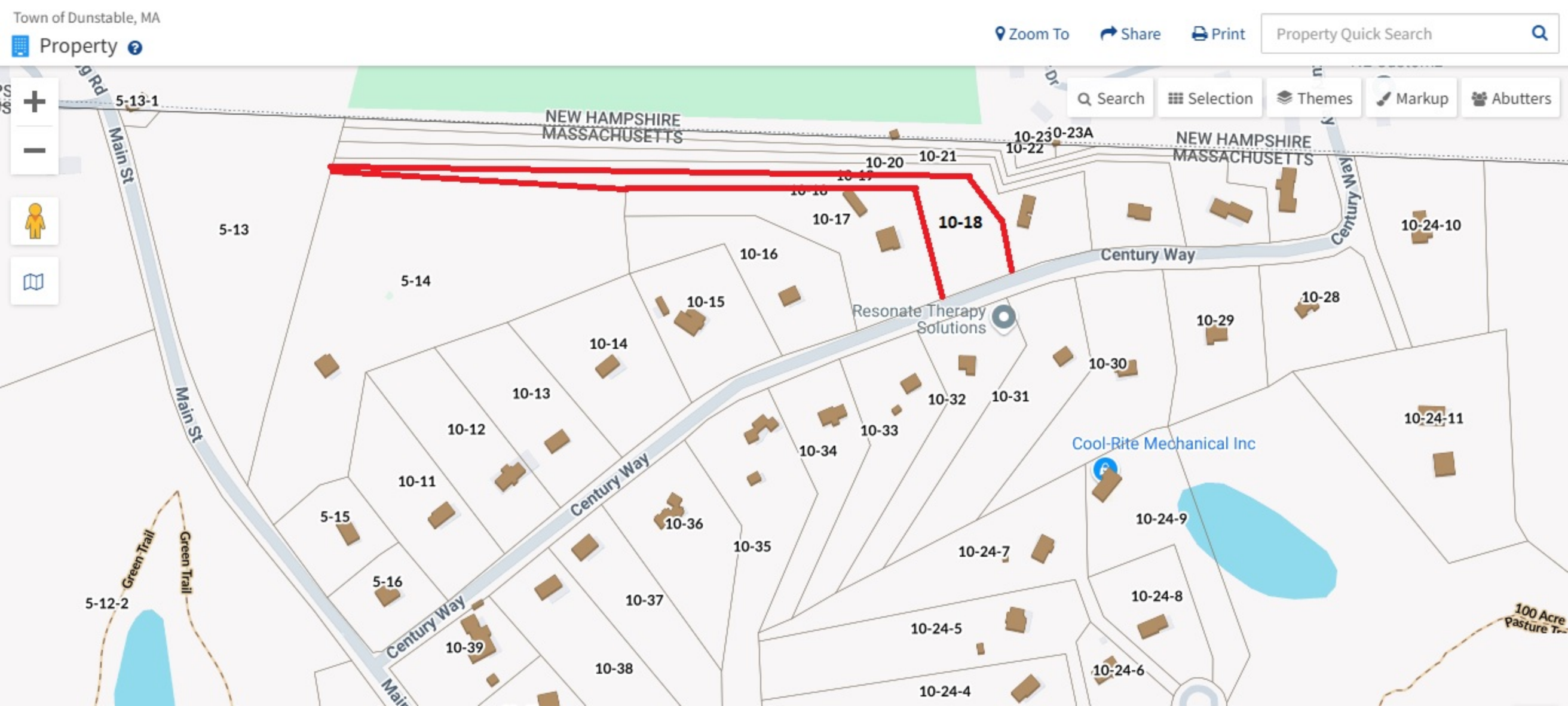
Street #	Street Name	Description
	CENTURY WAY	TAKING FOR TAX FOR 1996

Grantor/Grantee-4

DUNSTABLE COLLECTOR OF	Grantor
FAIRLEY RICHARD /COLL O	Grantor
FAIRLEY JANICE /COLL O	Grantor
DUNSTABLE TOWN OF	Grantee

References -2

10157/103	NOTICE	1999
11240/37	JUDGMENT	2000



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Dunstable
NAME OF CITY OR TOWN

OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES

I, Bonnie S. Ricardelli, Collector of Taxes for
the ~~City~~ Town of Dunstable, pursuant and subject to the provisions
of General Laws, Chapter 60, Sections 53 and 54, hereby take for said ~~city~~ town the following
described land:

DESCRIPTION OF LAND

[The description must be sufficiently accurate to identify the premises and must agree with the notice of taking. In the case of
registered land, the Certificate of Title Number and the Registry Volume and Page must be given.]

Richard and Janice Fairley. Land in said Dunstable on Century Way,

shown as parcel 18 on Assessors map 10, described in Mx. No. District

Deeds, Bk. 2701, Pg. 557.

Said land is taken for non-payment of taxes as defined in Section 43 of said Chapter 60
assessed thereon to Richard and Janice Fairley

for the year 19⁹⁶, which were not paid within fourteen days after demand therefor made upon
Richard and Janice Fairley on May 3, 19⁹⁶, and now
remain unpaid together with interest and incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking in the
amounts hereinafter specified, after notice of intention to take said land given as required by law.

19 ⁹⁶ TAXES REMAINING UNPAID	\$ 1,121.98
INTEREST TO THE DATE OF TAKING	112.44
INCIDENTAL EXPENSES AND COSTS TO THE DAY OF TAKING	40.73
SUM FOR WHICH LAND IS TAKEN	\$ 1,275.15

WITNESS my hand and seal this Tewntieth day of September, 19⁹⁶
* (DATE OF TAKING)

Bonnie S. Ricardelli, Collector of Taxes for the ~~City~~ Town of Dunstable

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Middlesex, ss.

September 20, 19⁹⁶

Then personally appeared the above named Bonnie S. Ricardelli
and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his free act and deed as Collector of Taxes,
before me, [Signature]

My commission expires April 13, 2001

[Signature] Notary Public, Justice of the Peace

Received and entered with 19, at o'clock and minutes M.
Book , Page Document No. Certificate of Title No.

Attest: Register

No. 119888 T.L.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

LAND COURT

DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Town of Dunstable

hereby gives notice that, on the 13th day of May 1999, it
 filed in said Court a petition against* Richard E. Fairley and Janice Geist Fairley

to foreclose a tax lien acquired under a certain tax deed (or deeds) from the Collector of Taxes for the
~~City~~ (or Town) of Dunstable, in the County of Middlesex and
 said Commonwealth, to ^{it} ~~was~~ dated Sept. 20, 1996 and recorded with Middlesex No. Dist. Reg. of Deeds
 in Book 8244 Page 221 said deed (or deeds) covers a certain parcel of land
 situated in Dunstable in the County of Middlesex and said
 Commonwealth, which is described as follows:

Land in said Dunstable on Century Way, shown as parcel 18
 on Assessors map 10, described in Mx. No. District Deeds,
 Bk. 2701, Pg. 557.

TOWN OF DUNSTABLE

By Bonnie S. Ricardelli
 Bonnie S. Ricardelli
 Town Treasurer

*Name all respondents as in petition.



WETLANDS PROTECTION ACT FUNDS REQUEST

Town of Dunstable

February 26, 2025
DUNSTABLE TOWN HALL
511 Main Street | Dunstable, MA



**OFFICE OF THE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET
DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313
(978) 649-4514 FAX (978) 649-8893
mailto:conscom@dunstable-ma.gov**

TO: Select Board

FROM: Conservation Commission

DATE: February 19, 2025

RE: Wetlands Protection Act Fund Request for Use

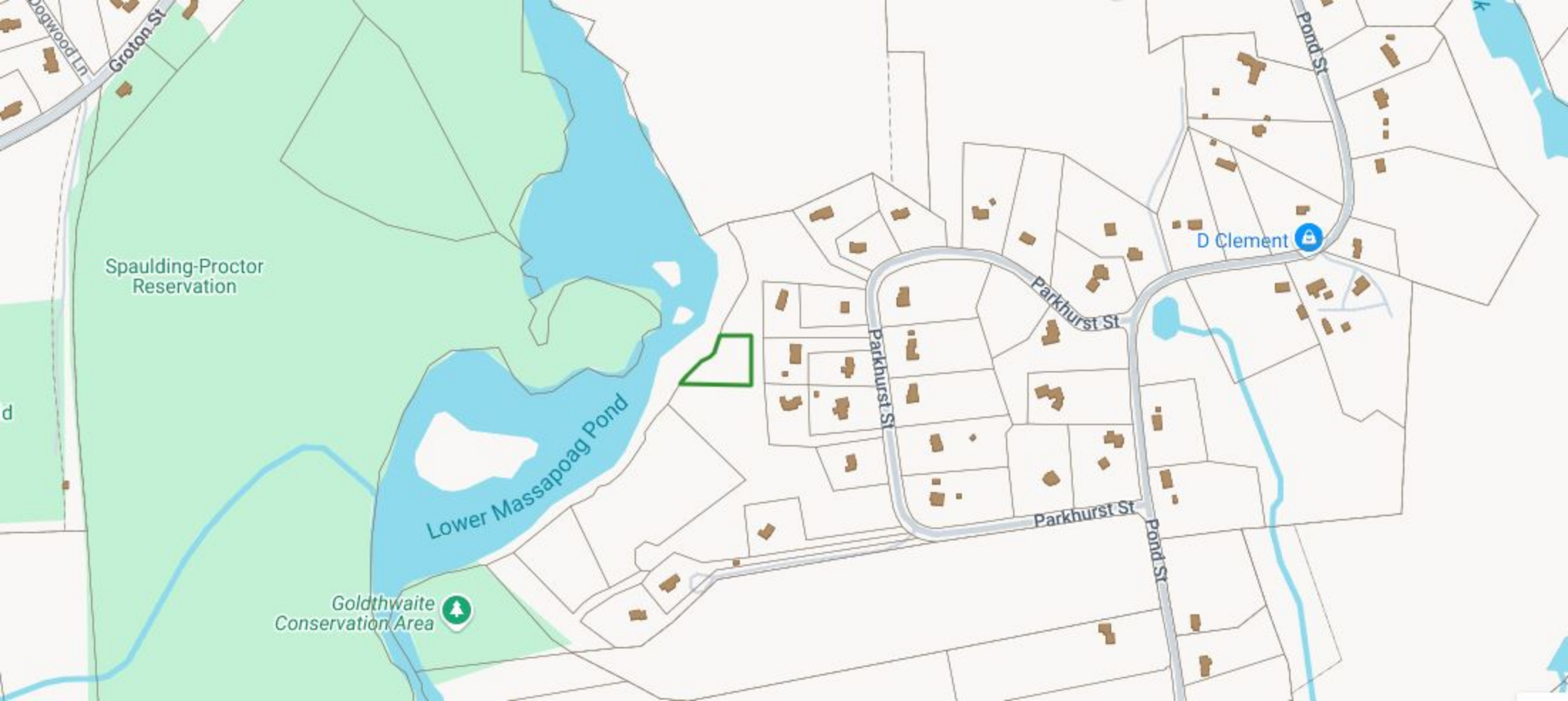
As explained in the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions Environmental Handbook, Section 3.3.3/Wetland Filing Fees, the Dunstable Conservation Commission is requesting written approval to spend \$2,000.00 from the Wetlands Protection Act Fund for legal fee expenses associated with certification of title searches required for acquisition of the Kennedy Conservation Restriction on High Street, and a 1.3-acre lot 13 67 0 on Lower Massapoag.

In the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) handbook, it states that one of the functions of Conservation Commissions is: **Preservation. Assuring the permanent protection of important local land and water resources...** The Kennedy CR abuts Salmon Brook and is within the North Salmon Brook Protective Zone and in proximity to the Town of Dunstable wells. The 1.3-acre lot abuts lower Massapoag and is surrounded by the existing Parkhurst Conservation Area. Protecting land, including public, private and ground water supply as well as protection of wildlife habitat is part of the Conservation Commission's duties under the WPA. A title search for both these properties is needed to protect the Town.

If you have any questions, please contact the office.

Respectfully,

DUNSTABLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION



Spaulding-Proctor
Reservation

Lower Massapoag Pond

Goldthwaite
Conservation Area

D Clement

Parkhurst St

Parkhurst St

Pond St

Pond St



EARLY VOTING 2025

Town of Dunstable

February 26, 2025
DUNSTABLE TOWN HALL
511 Main Street | Dunstable, MA

Vote by Mail & Early Voting Options

Make Sure You Are Registered To Vote

- To vote early or on Election Day you must be a registered voter. Not sure if you're registered? [Find out your voter registration status.](#)
- Not registered to vote? [You can register online](#) if you are a United States citizen, a resident of Massachusetts, and will be 18 on or before Election Day.

Vote by Mail

- Fill out the vote by mail application and mail back to the Town Clerk's office or drop off to one of the drop boxes at Town Hall.

Early Voting Location and Hours

- Early Voting will take place at the Dunstable Town Hall, 511 Main Street, and is accessible to voters with disabilities. The AutoMark machine is available for all voters who need assistance marking their ballots.

Early voting dates for the Annual Town Election are as follows:

Day	Date	Times
Saturday	May 10, 2025	9am-12pm
Monday	May 12, 2025	9am-1pm
Tuesday	May 13, 2025	9am-1pm
Wednesday	May 14, 2025	9am-1pm
Thursday	May 15, 2025	9am-1pm



TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Town of Dunstable

February 26, 2025
DUNSTABLE TOWN HALL
511 Main Street | Dunstable, MA

Town Administrator's Report February 26, 2025

Municipal Aggregation Plan

The Town received notice last week, on February 20, that the Department of Public Utilities has approved the Town's Municipal Aggregation Plan following the public hearing held on the plan on January 22. I have had a meeting with our consultants to review next steps, including starting to plan for the bidding process. In March, I expect our consultants to meet with the Board to review the process.

Chapter 70 correspondence to the legislature

Last week, I sent a letter to the Chair of the House and Senate Ways and Means Committee regarding the historic inadequacies of the Chapter 70 funding formula and the impacts of the lack of appropriate funding increases.

Free Cash and Water Retained Earnings

The Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services has certified Dunstable's free cash at \$791,942, slightly less than our estimate of \$800,000 but essentially what was expected. This is the largest free cash certification since 2018. Water retained earnings was certified at \$68,532.

FY25-FY30 Capital Plan

The Town's Capital Plan was reviewed and approved, with modifications, by the Capital Planning Committee on February 11. It has been posted to the website and shared on social media. We'll now work to determine what and how to fund the recommended capital investments in FY26.

Municipal Cybersecurity Grant

The Town has once again has been selected to participate in the 2025 Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program! With cybersecurity threats on the rise across the Commonwealth, this program will help strengthen our Town's defenses by providing cybersecurity awareness training, threat simulations (including phishing campaigns), and initial and final assessments to measure progress. Administered by EOTSS's Office of Municipal and School Technology, this initiative is important in protecting and ensuring a safer digital environment for our local government.

Volunteer Appreciation Event

This year's volunteer appreciation event is planned for Friday, March 14 starting at 6 PM. Mark your calendars!

Blue Textile Recycling Bins

The blue textile recycling bins have been relocated back to their original location on Pleasant Street near the post office at the MUD District. This location is temporary, however, while planning and permitting approvals are sought by MCO for the affordable housing development.

MCO Affordable Housing Project Update

The affordable housing project planned for the Mixed Use District (MUD) on Pleasant Street is progressing. Leah and I met with MCO Associates and they are on track to file an application with the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for a Comprehensive Permit within the next couple of months. Last week, Leah and I also visited a similar MCO-developed project in Lancaster, MA, to see

firsthand how their work integrates into a community. The visit and discussions with MCO on site provided helpful insights as we move forward with the Dunstable project.

Mid-Year Finance Report

The FY25 mid-year finance report has been completed and is posted. In general, our budget performance is consistent with last year. Revenues are slightly lower, and expenses in Town Hall and IT budgets are trending higher than budget. In addition, with the recent snow, I expect the snow and ice budget to be spent significantly more than it has been in recent years.

Police Station Windows and Doors Replacement

We have finalized the contract with FRG Contractor Corporation and some work has begun. The Police Chief has been in touch with the Chair of the Historical Commission, and they are in discussions.

Library Repairs

We have also engaged the architectural firm, Emerald Design Build, to assist with preparing the scope of work for the library building repairs. The cost estimate of the work is more than the Town has secured through the budget earmark so we may need to utilize FY25 capital funds. These funds are available because the police station windows and doors replacement bid came in under estimates and we received a Green Communities grant to offset some costs of the hybrid police cruiser purchase.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Approval

FEMA and MEMA have approved the Town's updated Hazard Mitigation Plan. As you know, the HMP was updated at the same time we prepared our Municipal Vulnerability Plan, which was also approved by the state. The updated plan has been posted to the Town's website.

Opioid Settlement Funds

Thus far, the Town has received \$4,877.87 of opioid settlement funds. I have reached out to neighboring communities, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health, Greater Lowell Health Alliance, and others, to determine if our funds could be better utilized by working with others and pooling resources. I have heard back from several communities, some that have already committed funds, and others who are in the process to do so. I'll be sure to bring back all information gathered once I have it.

Annual Town Report

The Town is currently in the process of finalizing the FY24 Annual Town Report.

Town Center Trail Loop

As you know, we have entered a contract with NMCOG to assist the Town with additional stakeholder outreach and feasibility work on the Town Center Trail Loop project. Most recently, the Town held a meeting with residents on Highland Street, High Street, and abutters to the emergency access between High and Highland Street. The Town also once again submitted a MassTrails Grant to advance design plans.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

The Town held its first public meeting as part of the update to our Open Space and Recreation Plan. It has also issued a survey soliciting feedback on the plan and community priorities. NMCOG has

approved the use of technical assistance funding to assist the Town moving forward which we expect to run through June 30.

Treasurer/Collector regional position

The Towns of Dunstable and Pepperell have re-posted the position of Treasurer/Collector. It will remain advertised until the position is filled. I am in discussions with the Town Administrator in Pepperell to develop an interim plan in the meantime. I cannot stress to you how fortunate the Town is to have Bonnie Ricardelli as interim, and I want to emphasize how skilled and dedicated she is to the Town. This said, the Town needs to have a long-term plan to stabilize the Treasurer/Collector's office.

Insurance Advisory Committee

The Town's IAC met this week with MIIA to review health insurance trends, health care market conditions, and to discuss what's driving health insurance increases. For FY26, MIIA has quoted slightly over a 14% increase.

MVP and MassWorks Grant Applications

I am currently working with NMCOG and Hoyle Tanner to develop project ideas for both the MVP and MassWorks grant programs. I will share more information as plans progress.

Joint Meeting on FY26 Budget

As a reminder, the Towns of Dunstable and Groton Select Boards, Dunstable Advisory Board, Groton Finance Committee, and the Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee are meeting Monday, March 3 to discuss the FY26 budget and to hopefully develop a consensus path forward.

Town Administrator's Public Safety Facilities Working Group

I have created a working group to develop a plan for our public safety facilities. It is critical for the Town to have a plan to either invest in our public safety facilities, build a new facility or facilities, or a combination of these. If we don't plan long-term, we have the potential of not investing funds in the most effective and efficient manner. I will inform you as discussions progress.

Collins Center – Community Compact Grant Projects

The Collins Center has mostly wrapped up its work on the review of the regional Treasurer/Collector position, its operations, and how it functions. A finalized report will be shared soon. While I had hoped this would assist the Towns in improving operational outcomes with the former Treasurer/Collector, Andrew Wall, I have no doubt that the document will assist the Town in the future. In addition, the Compensation and Classification review is progressing. Next step in that project is to coordinate employee interviews, which is taking place now.

Best Triangle Parcels

The Affordable Housing Committee and Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board of Trustees met this week to discuss the potential use of the Best Triangle parcels for affordable housing. As a result, they've decided to reach out to Habitat for Humanity for a preliminary discussion on potential development options and to determine if Habitat may be interested in developing the site. As you likely know, these parcels were purchased using CPA funds at a Special Town Meeting in 2012. Out of the 5 total parcels, 3 of them are potentially available for affordable housing development.

Block Party Planning

As you know, the Town has received a \$2,500 Mass Cultural Grant to support organizing a block party event. We have tentatively planned to hold the event on Saturday, June 7 from 12 PM - 3 PM. The event will take place on Common Lane, High Street, and in front/back of Town Hall. We expect the event to include music, arts/craft, food/food trucks, theatrical contributions, and other live entertainment. We will keep you informed as planning for the event progresses.