

Dunstable?

SUMMER EDITION | JULY 2024

State approves project eligibility of MUD District housing project

Next step is for developer to file application for a comprehensive permit with the Zoning Board of Appeals

In 2022, the Town of Dunstable issued a Request for Proposals for an affordable housing development on town-owned land on Pleasant Street. The Select Board and Affordable Housing Committee ranked proposals and selected a developer. Soon after, the Town submitted a joint application with the developer, MCO & Associates, for project eligibility under the Local Initiative Program (LIP). The project includes 44 cottage-style rental units with 25% or 11 of them being affordable.

Most recently, the application for project eligibility was approved by the state's Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities.

As part of the LIP process, the next

step is to file an application for a Comprehensive Permit with Dunstable's Zoning Board of Appeals, the permit granting authority under M.G.L. Chapter 40B.

Currently, the Town has no affordable units in its subsidized housing inventory. This project is an example of a community using town-owned property and thoughtful planning to increase its housing stock, housing diversity and affordable housing in an appropriate manner, consistent with the community's character.

To learn more about the project visit here: https://www.dunstable-ma.gov/MCO_cottages.



**Town of
Dunstable**

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Dunstable Fire Department Earns \$1,062 Risk Management Grant from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association

Funding used to purchase and install fire truck backup cameras

The Dunstable Fire Department was awarded a \$1,062 grant from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA), the department's property and casualty insurance provider, to fund risk management activities and equipment. The department used the grant funds to purchase and install fire truck backup cameras.

Backup cameras on the Town's fire trucks not only protects members of the department but also the town's citizens. With limited staffing, being able to see behind the apparatus is crucial – particularly at night and on busy roadways. The MIIA grant helps us expand on our commitment to safety and lowering risk to the town.

For the 2024 fiscal year, MIIA awarded \$1 million to fund over 150 grant requests from members for public safety activities and equipment. Municipalities were able to conduct safety training, procure equipment,

purchase infrared cameras and security equipment for schools and public works departments, among many other initiatives.

MIIA's Risk Management Grants helps communities mitigate risk, protect property and people, and prevent financial losses.

The Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association is the non-profit insurance arm of the Massachusetts Municipal Association. As a member-based organization, MIIA's focus is to provide excellent service and quality risk management solutions to nearly 400 cities, towns, and other public entities in Massachusetts. For more information please visit <https://www.emiia.org/> and www.mma.org.



What can SHINE do for you?

SHINE is an acronym: Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone, on or eligible for Medicare. SHINE counselors are highly trained and will assist you with learning about Medicare and Medicare Savings Programs, whether you are exploring Medicare or are already enrolled.

A SHINE counselor will help you determine eligibility, based on income and/or assets for all potential cost saving programs, including MassHealth Standard and other programs associated with it. The recent elimination of asset guidelines for MSPs may mean that you are eligible now, when you may not have

been eligible before.

If you are not eligible, a SHINE counselor can review your Medicare coverage to help determine if you are in the most cost-effective plan and will help determine opportunity for change if appropriate.

Call for an appointment with a certified SHINE Counselor: (978) 743-6340, or 978-946-1374.

SHINE is a federally funded program helping you navigate Medicare.



Town to offer Municipal Citizens Academy to residents

The Town of Dunstable invites you to participate in the first annual Municipal Citizens Academy. This program will provide opportunities for residents to learn more about town government and how it operates by attending a variety of classes and other activities.

The Municipal Citizens Academy will include a 6-week class schedule, 1 class per week, each class expected to run for between 1 and 2 hours. The program seeks to educate residents on the general workings of municipal government.

This program will provide an opportunity for residents to hear directly from Department Heads, staff, and board and committee leadership on their roles and responsibilities, and also interact directly with town leadership, gain a better understanding of town government, and build stronger relationships with town staff, boards, and committees.

Residents can apply by sending an email expressing interest to jsilva@dunstable-ma.gov or visiting Town Hall. If you have any questions please call the Selectmen's office at (978) 743-6340.

Union School Building Rehabilitation and Reuse Plan completed

Over the course of the last year, the Union Building Rehabilitation Committee has collaborated with the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG) and Spencer Preservation Group to identify a viable reuse for the Union Building, potential funding sources for rehabilitation, and to complete an adaptive reuse feasibility study and restoration plan for the building.

The Committee undertook a robust community engagement and outreach process and the report details the results of the study. The overwhelming takeaway from community members, both at public workshops and through a survey with nearly 200 responses, is that the Union Building is a beloved structure that should be

preserved. In addition, using the building for a mix of community focused uses and private revenue-generating uses is ideal. This study notes several cases of other historical buildings in Massachusetts that were renovated and adaptively reused for this sort of mix and shares the lessons those cases impart. Finally, the team's analysis concludes that the Union Building is still very structurally sound, but exterior improvements should be made as soon as possible to avoid cost escalation and further degradation to critical features.

You can view the final report and an executive summary below or by visiting the link <https://www.dunstable-ma.gov/unionbuildingreport>.

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/>

STATE PRIMARY ELECTION

State Primary Election important dates

The State Primary Election is Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

The last day to register to vote or change your party affiliation is Saturday, August 24.

Early voting will begin on Saturday, August 24, 2024 and continue through the week until Thursday, August 29, 2024.

Vote by Mail Applications are due by 5 PM on Monday, August 26, 2024.

Offices on Ballot:

- U.S. Senator
- U.S. Representative
- Governor's Councillor
- State Senator
- State Representative
- Register of Deeds
- Clerk of Courts

Polls will be open from 7 AM to 8 PM on Primary Day.

Town projects out to bid

The Town currently has two projects out to bid with due dates approaching.

First, the Parks and Recreation Commission received Community Preservation Act funding to replace two irrigation wells at Larter Field. Once complete, this will complete the renovation and replacement of each of the seven irrigation wells at Larter Field. This project is estimated to cost just shy of \$12,000.

Second, replacement of the railing at the Town Common bandstand is planned thanks to state funding secured in FY24. This follows improvements to the bandstand including roof and stairs replacement, repair of floor boards, and painting which were completed last fiscal year. This project is estimated to cost \$25,000.

Proposals are due July 19 for both projects.

Financial Policy Guidelines being developed for Town

Advisory Board adopts formal financial policies, Select Board to review

The Advisory Board has developed and adopted formal financial policies for the Town establishing a set of written financial management guidelines for the Town's general operating budget. These policies and guidelines will help guide and direct the town in making financial management decisions. They will be structured with the flexibility necessary to address the complexities of municipal finance that often include unique, unexpected, or extraordinary circumstances. Financial management policies and guidelines are established to support approaches and strategies as they are created or evolve to address ever-changing challenges that face municipalities in the Commonwealth.

The Town's hope is that this document will (1) provide the public with continued high levels of confidence in their local government's financial decision-making processes and (2) demonstrate to rating agencies and the financial markets that the Town has thoughtfully prepared for its future. These policy guidelines are tools that may be amended by the responsible public bodies, unless otherwise governed by MGL or local bylaws. These policy guidelines will be annually reviewed by the Town Administrator, Advisory Board, and Select Board.

The objectives of the Financial Policy

Guidelines are as follows:

- To guide the Board of Selectmen, Advisory Board, Town Administrator, School Committee, School Administration, and other key Oversight Boards in making decisions that have significant financial impacts on the Town.
- To set forth planning and operating principles which require that the cost of government be clearly identified, and that financial risk be minimized.
- To regularly evaluate the Town's financial capacity to meet present and future needs.
- To promote credible and sound financial management by providing accurate and timely information on the Town's financial condition to elected officials, staff, the public, and external stakeholders.
- To ensure that current and future capital needs are addressed in a comprehensive and financially sound manner.
- To promote improvement in the Town's credit rating and provide financial resources sufficient to meet the Town's obligations on all municipal debt and other long-term obligations.

Fire Station Repairs Complete

The Town recently completed repairs to the Fire Station to stabilize the exterior walls of the building. The project included the installation of temporary rafter ties/braces in the attic to minimize additional rafter thrust and, also installation of temporary posts beneath the roof ridge to reduce further sagging and rafter thrust. The project cost a total of \$9,800.



Dunstable is a certified MVP community

The Town of Dunstable recently received notice that it is now a certified MVP community and eligible to apply for MVP Action Grants. This is a result of the Town's work to prepare a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan creating an action roadmap to reduce the impacts of natural hazards and climate change within the community. The Town continues to work with MEMA/FEMA to gain approval on the update of its Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was also part of this project's work.



MVP
Municipal Vulnerability
Preparedness

HOYLE
TANNER



Weston & Sampson

Town seeks proposals to install cell tower on water tank

In an effort to raise additional local revenues and improve cell service, the Town, through its Board of Water Commissioners, is seeking proposals to install a cell tower on the Town's water tank located on Pleasant Street. Proposals are due August 6, 2024 at 4 PM.

As a result of the RFP, a lease agreement will be awarded to the responsive and responsible proposer whose proposal is deemed by the Town to be the most advantageous, taking into consideration price and the evaluation criteria set forth in the RFP. Any proposed and recommended award will need to be approved by Town Meeting with the execution of a lease agreement requiring approval of the Board of Water Commissioners. The cell tower is also subject to the requirements of the Town's Commercial Telecommunication Towers Bylaw.

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 April, May, and

June, the following employees have been celebrated through this program:

April

Anne Fenochetti
Lacey McCabe
Jason Silva
Advisory Board
Brian O'Donnell
Linda Gill
Kevin Dumont
Highway Department

May

Alan Chaney
Anne Fenochetti
Jason Silva
Joan Simmons
David Winkowski

June

Carol Rock



Town receives Fire Chief's new emergency response vehicle



An FY24 earmark in the state budget along with additional public safety grant funding was utilized to purchase a new command vehicle for the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief's old vehicle was a 2015 Ford Explorer police interceptor with over 64,000 miles. The transmission had already been replaced once and the vehicle had experienced significant wear and tear, and was well passed its useful life.

The vehicle is used as the command vehicle for all incidents within the Town and in any of our mutual aid communities, as needed. The vehicle carries the Chief's personal protective equipment and emergency communications radios as well as the command board. The command board allows the Department to organize tactical priorities and most importantly track where firefighters are operating while on scene. The vehicle also carries a self-contained breathing apparatus, two fire extinguishers and a full complement of emergency medical equipment including an AED so the Chief can handle minor fire and medical emergencies either before the arrival of Fire Department personnel or if there are simultaneous calls at once.

Meet our Police and Fire Chiefs

Employee Spotlights



Police Chief Erik Hoar

Erik Hoar, the Dunstable Police Chief, started as a reserve officer in 1999, became a full-time police officer in 2003, and rose through the ranks, being appointed as Police Chief in 2023. A Dunstable native, Chief Hoar has been protecting and serving our community for 25 years, consistently showing his commitment to ensuring the Town remains a safe place to live. A great leader for the Police Department and the Town of Dunstable, we couldn't be prouder to have Erik as Chief of Police.

How long have you worked for the Town of Dunstable?

I began working for the Police Department as a reserve officer in 1999 and started full time in 2003.

What's one thing people don't know about you that they would be surprised to find out?

I enjoy cooking and trying new foods.

What do you like to do when you're not working on your off time?

During the summer months I enjoy time on my boat.

What's your favorite thing about working for the Town of Dunstable?

Being able to serve the community where I grew up.

What is one thing you wish people knew about your job?

Being a police officer is not a Monday through Friday, 9 to 5 job. The phone rings at all hours and days of the week. People who chose this profession often miss special occasions and holidays with there families.

What's your favorite Boston sports team?

Go PATS!



Fire Chief Will Farrell

Chief Farrell has been a career firefighter for the last 18 years following the footsteps of several family members in the fire service obtaining the rank of Lieutenant before being appointed to Dunstable. He holds an associate's degree in Fire Science from Southern Maine Community College and is currently enrolled in a bachelor's degree program in Fire Administration. Chief Farrell is also an emergency medical technician, a hazardous materials technician, safety officer and holds several other fire service leadership certifications from the National Fire Academy. He has received two

lifesaving commendations including a medal of valor in 2021.

How long have you worked for the Town of Dunstable?

Since August of 2022.

What's one thing people don't know about you that they would be surprised to find out?

I have a great interest history especially early American history.

What do you like to do when you're not working on your off time?

I enjoy spending time at the beach with my family in the summer and Hockey in the Winter.

What's your favorite thing about working for the Town of Dunstable?

I love the history in this town and learning about it's past. I'm also motivated by my co-workers love for their jobs and this community.

What inspired you to join the team at Dunstable Town Hall?

I like the tight knit feel of the community and your ability to play a key role in solving issues.

What is one thing you wish people knew about your job?

The fire department does much more than put out fires. We perform fire safety inspections as well as public education, we participate in many hours of in house as well as state and national level training. Members spend countless hours taking care of the apparatus and equipment the taxpayers provide.

What's your favorite Boston sports team?

Boston Bruins

Select Board joins suit against PFAS manufacturers

Town part of class action against major PFAS manufacturers

The Dunstable Select Board recently retained the services of Napoli Shkolnik entering a legal services agreement for the purposes of investigating and assessing potential claims arising out of the presence of PFAS contaminants in the Town's drinking water and to provide representation of the Town in any civil action that may be filed in one or more state or federal courts.

The Town is working directly with the firm to provide the necessary forms and information in order to participate

in the PFAS Cost Recovery Program and 3M, DuPont, Tyco Settlements.

Given the impacts of PFAS on the Groton-Dunstable School District, in particular the high school, as well as private wells throughout the community and our public water system, the Town will be working closely with Napoli Shkolnik to maximize the ability to recover costs to the Town associated with PFAS remediation.

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, July 25 at 10 AM available to discuss any issues on your mind. He hopes to see you there and, don't forget, he's buying!



Cemetery Superintendent and Senior Services and Recreation Program Director positions filled

Two long-time, dedicated Town employees are stepping down from their positions. The Cemetery Commission has appointed Susan Conant to the position of Cemetery Superintendent replacing Alan Chaney, who is retiring from the position. The Select Board has appointed Chuck Raffoni as Senior Services and Recreation Program Director. Anne Fenochetti had previously served as Senior Services Director. The Town thanks both Alan and Anne for their service to the Town and welcomes both Susan and Chuck to their new roles.

DUNSTABLE PARKS AND RECREATION PRESENTS

Food Truck Fridays



AT LARTER FAMILY MEMORIAL
FIELD IN DUNSTABLE 4-7PM

JUNE 14TH. JULY 26TH
JUNE 28TH. AUGUST 9TH
JULY 12TH. AUGUST 23RD

26th Annual Dunstable Summer Concerts 2024

Wednesdays - 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

July 17 - Bush League

July 24 - Dirty Water Brass Band

July 31 - Monadnock Bluegrass

August 7 - Band From U.N.C.L.E.

Thursday Rain Dates

To volunteer or for more information email
dunstablesummerconcerts@gmail.com or visit
[Facebook.com/DunstableSummerConcerts](https://www.facebook.com/DunstableSummerConcerts)

Town of Dunstable
511 Main Street
Dunstable, MA 01827

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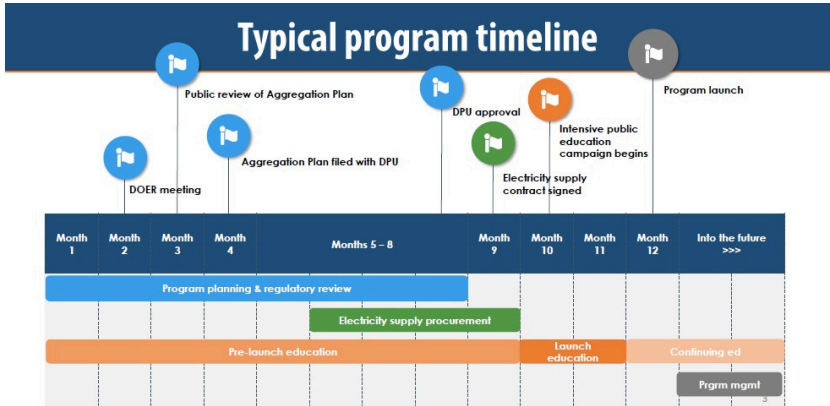
LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Select Board approves contract with municipal aggregation consultant

The Town has entered a contract with MassPowerChoice for consulting services to assist the Town with the process of creating a Municipal Electricity Aggregation Program.

The next step is for the Town to develop a Municipal Aggregation Plan for the state’s Department of Public Utilities review and approval. Once approved, the Town will then need to competitively procure energy from a supplier, develop an education program for residents, and launch the program. The process is anticipated to take at least a year to complete. More than 170 communities already have a aggregation program.

As a reminder, municipal aggregation is a form of group buying for electricity in which a municipality secures an electricity supply for its residents and businesses. Some potential program benefits include stable pricing with a potential for savings, new choices, and clear electricity.



Stormwater Pollution Education: Fertilizing the Lawn

When you fertilize the lawn, remember - you're not just fertilizing the lawn. It's hard to imagine that a green, flourishing lawn could pose a threat to the environment, but the fertilizers you apply to your lawn are potential pollutants! If applied improperly or in excess, fertilizer can be washed off your property and end up in lakes and streams. This causes algae to grow, which uses up oxygen that fish need to survive. So if you fertilize, please follow directions and use sparingly.

Patriot Regional Emergency Communications Center Transition Complete

The Town successfully transitioned to Patriot Regional Dispatch in early June. The Patriot RECC is comprised of the Towns of Dunstable, Groton, Pepperell, Townsend, and Ashby.



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 Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board of Trustees, Agricultural Commission, Council on Aging Board, Cultural Council, Economic Development Committee, and more!