

# Dunstable?

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## FY26 budget season is in full swing

As the Town of Dunstable moves through the budgeting process for FY26, strategic decision-making are guiding efforts and difficult decisions will be necessary to balance the operating budget. The budget process began in the summer of 2024, when the Select Board and Town Administrator identified key priorities for the coming year. In the months that followed, departments submitted their funding requests, joint discussions were held with the Town of Groton and the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District (GDRSD), financial forecasts were developed, financial policies were adopted, and preliminary revenue and expenditure estimates were developed.

For FY26, the Town anticipates total revenues of approximately \$13.58 million, with the majority, about 89%, coming from real estate taxes. The tax levy includes the standard 2.5% increase allowed under Proposition 2½, along with an estimated \$110,000 in new growth.

Other revenue sources include state aid, local receipts, and free cash, the latter of which the Town is working to reduce reliance on for operating expenses. The use of free cash in the FY26 budget is projected to decrease by \$50,000 from the previous year, reflecting the Town's commitment to sustainable financial planning. In addition, excluded debt is decreasing significantly by \$117,860.

On the expenditure side, overall initial budget requests equaled a 5.8% increase in Town spending compared to FY25. The Groton-Dunstable Regional School District's initial assessment request was projected to rise by 9.19%.

Since initial requests, the Town Administrator and GDRSD officials have worked to refine budget numbers to reduce expenditures where possible. At present, the overall Town side of the operating budget is projected to increase by 4.76% based on current recommendations of the Town Administrator. The GDRSD assessment is currently planned to increase by 7.99% based on most recent recommendations by School Administration.

These most recent increases cause an estimated deficit of \$561,629 and would require an override in both Dunstable and Groton. The Town of Groton has said that they are able to afford an increase of approximately \$1.35 million without an override. In this scenario, the Town of Dunstable would require an override in the amount of \$261,600.

As officials continue to refine the budget, efforts remain focused on maintaining financial stability while ensuring that town services and infrastructure needs are met. The Town is working closely with the school district and the Town of Groton to finalize assessments and identify any necessary adjustments. Transparency and community engagement are key aspects of this process, and residents are encouraged to stay informed and participate in upcoming budget discussions leading up to Town Meeting.

Dunstable remains committed to responsible financial management, and the FY26 budget reflects ongoing efforts to plan for the Town's future while keeping taxpayers' needs in mind. More information, including detailed budget can be found here: [www.dunstable-ma.gov/budget](http://www.dunstable-ma.gov/budget).



**Town of  
Dunstable**

## CONTENTS

- 2 Capital Improvement Plan Ready for Review**
- 3 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update**
- 5 Town Center Trail Loop Project Moves Forward**
- 8 Annual Resident Survey Results**
- 9 Fire Department Secures Grants**

# Capital Plan Ready for Review

## Capital Planning Committee and Town Administrator Finalizing capital priorities

The Town of Dunstable has prepared its Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2030. This document outlines the Town's approach to maintaining and enhancing its infrastructure, facilities, and assets over the next six years.

The CIP serves as a roadmap for planning and prioritizing significant capital expenditures. By identifying and scheduling necessary projects, the town can allocate resources effectively, ensuring that essential services and facilities are maintained and improved in a timely manner.

In FY25, this current fiscal year, the Town has purchased new public safety vehicles, made facility improvements, and replaced aging equipment. In addition, HVAC improvements have been made at Town Hall and the Highway Garage. The new tennis courts are close to complete at Larter Field and building repairs at the library are planned. Highway has paved streets and purchased a new plow truck.

The CIP for FY26 encompasses a variety of projects aimed at

addressing the Town's needs. Key areas include:

- **Public Safety Enhancements:** A new police cruiser and tasers replacement and mobile radios and PPE for the Fire Department, ensuring the safety and well-being of residents.
- **Infrastructure Improvements:** Paving roads, Joint Grass Brook Culvert Replacement Design, Woodward's Mill Dam Repairs, Phase 1 of the PFAS Mitigation Project, and a spreader/sander, to enhance safety.
- **Facility Upgrades:** Union Building exterior restoration to better serve the community and preserve this historic building in Town Center.

By following the CIP as a roadmap, the Town aims to proactively manage its assets and plan for the future.

For more detailed information, residents are encouraged to review the full Capital Improvement Plan available on the town's website; [dunstable-ma.gov/capital-planning-committee](https://dunstable-ma.gov/capital-planning-committee).

## Update on 41 Lowell Street: LIP Application Submitted and State Site Visit Conducted

Recently, the Town and owner of 41 Lowell Street jointly submitted a Local Initiative Program (LIP) application to the state for review. This is the next step in the process for the project, which seeks to create affordable housing under the state's Chapter 40B program. As a reminder, the project includes 156, 55+ age restricted housing units with 25% or 39 affordable units.

As part of the review process, representatives from the state recently visited Dunstable for a site inspection. This visit allowed them to assess the location and hear from the project team firsthand, review project details, and gain a better understanding of the site's characteristics.

Residents will be kept informed as the state reviews the application and provides further guidance. If the state finds the project eligible under the LIP program, the next step will be for the owner to file an application for a comprehensive permit with the Zoning Board of Appeals.

For information on the project, please visit the Select Board's webpage: [dunstable-ma.gov/41lowellstreet](https://dunstable-ma.gov/41lowellstreet).

## Town Receives Technical Assistance Grants

The Town has recently been awarded technical assistance grants from our regional planning agency, the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG).

These grants will allow the Town to update its Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). The Town's OSRP expires in March of 2025. This update is important so that the Town remains eligible for state grant funding, protects its open space and natural resources, and meets the

needs of our residents.

We have also received a grant for a Route 113 Corridor Visioning project, designed to craft a comprehensive vision plan for Route 113 and its future. This initial phase focuses on assessing current land use and zoning.

Additionally, NMCOG is assisting Dunstable in updating its Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) bylaws to comply with recent state amendments, promoting housing flexibility within the town.



# Open Space & Recreation Plan Update: Get Involved!

The Town is in the process of updating its Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP), an important document that will help guide the Town's conservation and recreation priorities for the next several years. Updating this plan ensures that Dunstable remains eligible for state grants that support land preservation, park improvements, and outdoor recreation opportunities.

Public participation is essential to creating a plan that reflects the needs and priorities of our residents. Early in February, we hosted a public meeting to discuss the Town's open space and recreation needs, gather input, and outline the next steps in the planning process. We appreciate the thoughtful feedback from residents who

attended and shared their ideas.

To further engage the community, we also issued a public survey to gather additional perspectives on how Dunstable's open spaces, trails, parks, and recreational facilities should be preserved and improved. The survey results, along with the presentation from the public meeting, are now available on the town website for review.

An updated OSRP helps the town:

- Secure grant funding for land conservation, park upgrades, and trail improvements.
- Plan for future needs by understanding how residents use

open spaces and what improvements they would like to see.

- Protect natural resources and maintain the Town's rural charm.

We encourage all residents to review the survey results and stay engaged in this process. Your feedback will help shape the Town's priorities and ensure that our open spaces and recreational resources meet the needs of our community for years to come.

- For more information, to view the presentation, or to access survey results, please visit [dunstable-ma.gov/osrp-update2025](https://dunstable-ma.gov/osrp-update2025).

## Union Building Restoration Continues to Move Forward

The Town of Dunstable has taken another step forward in the restoration of the historic Union Building by selecting Gienapp Architects to lead the design process for the exterior restoration. This project, funded through Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds, is a key investment in preserving the building's historic character while ensuring its long-term structural integrity.

Gienapp Architects has already begun their design work, collaborating closely with the Union Building Rehabilitation Committee to develop plans that meet both preservation standards and the functional needs of the

community. The goal is to finalize the design in the coming months so that construction can take place during the summer of 2025. This timeline is intended to minimize disruption, particularly to the nearby school, ensuring a smooth and efficient restoration process.

As the project progresses, the town will continue working with the architects and committee members to refine the restoration plans, secure necessary approvals, and prepare for the upcoming construction phase. Stay tuned for more details as the project advances.



## Join the Town Administrator for coffee and conversation!

Join Dunstable Town Administrator Jason Silva for a casual coffee at Farmhouse Cafe on Pleasant Street! This month, Jason will be joined by the Superintendent of Groton Dunstable Regional Schools Dr. Geoff Bruno and the School Committee Chair Lacey McCabe. This is a great opportunity to discuss any local issues and hear directly from the Town officials.

This month's coffee will take place on Thursday, February 27 at 10 AM. Jason looks forward to seeing you there and don't forget, he's buying! Mark your calendars and bring your questions and ideas!



# Upcoming Recreation Programs

## Town expanding recreational opportunities for residents

### Fit Over 50 Yoga Begins February 13

Looking to improve flexibility, balance, and mindfulness in a fun and welcoming environment? Join us for Fit Over 50 Yoga at the Dunstable Public Library every Thursday at 4 p.m., starting February 13th! Led by the renowned instructor Sherida "Rara" this chair-based yoga session incorporates movement, music, and meditation to promote vitality, especially for those over 50.

All are welcome, regardless of age! Wear comfortable clothing, bring water, and arrive a few minutes early.

Cost: \$10 cash upon sign-up

### An Afternoon of Spirit & Connection with Laura Wooster: Mediumship Event

Join Intuitive Medium Laura Wooster for an uplifting afternoon of mediumship! Laura will deliver messages and connect some audience members with their loved ones in spirit. She'll also share valuable insights to help strengthen your own spiritual connection.

Date: Sunday, March 16, 2025

Location: Dunstable Town Hall

Time: 1:30 PM

Cost: \$35 in advance / \$40 (cash) at the door (if space allows)

Tickets are transferable but non-refundable.

### Exciting News: The Dunstable 5K is Coming Back!

Mark your calendars! Dunstable Recreation is bringing back the Dunstable 5K on June 14, 2025. We're looking for volunteers, especially experienced runners, to help plan the event and provide insight into what makes a great race experience. Want to get involved? Reach out to Chuck at [CRaffoni@dunstable-ma.gov](mailto:CRaffoni@dunstable-ma.gov) or call 978-649-4514 ext. 223.

We hope to see you at these upcoming events! Stay engaged, stay active, and enjoy all that our wonderful town has to offer.

## Reminder: Dog License Registration Due by March 31, 2025

Please submit your dog license registration form before March 31, 2025. Any registrations received after this date will be subject to a \$10 late fee. The form is included with your Census mailing, but you can also download an application and pay online at [www.dunstable-ma.gov/dogs](http://www.dunstable-ma.gov/dogs).

## An update from Groton Dunstable Regional Schools



The Groton Dunstable Regional School District made approximately \$2.7 million of budget reductions for the FY25 budget, resulting in the elimination of 27 full-time employees. These reductions have been felt in every department, and at every level this year.

At the Elementary levels, math and reading interventionist positions were reduced, resulting in changes to the way tier 2 instruction is delivered. Instead of having students pulled out of class in small groups to receive support, they are now receiving this instruction in the classroom with their classroom teacher, or being pulled out, but in larger groups. All remaining interventionists' caseloads have drastically increased over last year. Additionally, the Librarian and Digital Literacy positions at both elementary schools were replaced with paraprofessionals, which changed the type of instruction that the students can receive during these classes.

At the Middle School, classroom teachers were eliminated as was a counselor and a nurse. This has resulted in increased class sizes, less individualized attention for students, and an increased caseload for the remaining counselors. Additionally, since only one Middle School building has a nurse, if students in the other building need medical attention or support, they must walk, or be transported from one building, to the other.

At the High School, the Science, Social Studies and ELA departments all had staff reductions. This has led to increased class sizes and a decrease in the electives and opportunities available to students. In addition, a school nurse position was eliminated, putting an increased burden on the remaining nurse. During the FY24 budget cycle, the High School had made another round of reductions, resulting in the elimination of an Assistant Principal position, as well as a Guidance Counselor and a Foreign Language full-time employee.

The District-wide positions that were eliminated include 2 Team Chair positions, a Board Certified Behavior Analyst position, and the K-8 Literacy Coordinator position. This has led to increased caseloads for the remaining Team Chairs and Board Certified Behavior Analyst positions. The Literacy Coordinator had been in charge of coordinating necessary professional development for our English Language Arts teachers, as well as reviewing our internal English Language Arts assessment data and planning for any necessary adjustments to our curriculum.

Across the District, the reductions to the FY24 and FY25 budgets have put a tremendous strain on our remaining educators and staff members. Everyone is doing the best they can to continue to provide for the needs of their students, but with limited resources available, the overall quality of education is being threatened.



## Massachusetts Inspector General Visits Dunstable

The Massachusetts Inspector General, Jeffrey Shapiro, recently visited Dunstable to discuss key issues facing our community. His visit was part of a broader effort to engage directly with municipalities across the Commonwealth, ensuring that state oversight agencies remain informed about local challenges and priorities.

During the visit, we had a productive conversation about the Town's governance, oversight, and the importance of maintaining uniform procedures.

Inspector General Shapiro expressed his appreciation for the work being done to improve Dunstable's government, acknowledging both the challenges and the creative solutions being explored. He specifically recognized the Town's efforts in seeking shared professional services and identifying new resources to address pressing needs. Additionally, we discussed the need for state-level support in procurement, infrastructure improvements, and guidance on regional partnerships issues that are critical to the future of our small rural community.

As a follow-up, the Inspector General's Office (OIG) will remain a resource for Dunstable, offering education, training, and collaboration opportunities to help improve municipal operations. The town will also take advantage of the One Free Designee (OFD) program, which covers tuition for required courses to earn or renew the Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official (MCPPO) designation. This program will save the town money while ensuring continued best practices in procurement and financial management.

We appreciate Inspector General Shapiro and his team for taking the time to visit, listen, and provide valuable insights. His commitment to direct engagement with local governments is appreciated.

## Town Center Trail Loop Project Progresses

The Town is making progress on the Town Center Trail Loop project, an initiative aimed at expanding safety and walkability in our community. The Town has entered a contract with the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG) to conduct additional stakeholder outreach and feasibility work. This important step is being funded with \$20,000 in Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds, which were approved for the project.

Through this partnership, NMCOG will assist the Town to engage with stakeholders, including residents, landowners, and local boards and committees, to refine the trail concept and ensure it aligns with community needs. The feasibility work

will help assess potential routes, environmental considerations, and connectivity with existing trails and open spaces while taking into consideration resident feedback.

Additionally, the Town has re-applied for grant funding through the MassTrails program to further support the project. If awarded, these funds would help advance the next phases of planning, design and potential construction.

The Town Center Trail Loop is envisioned as a scenic, accessible pathway that will provide new opportunities for walking, biking, and enjoying Dunstable's Town Center. More information: [dunstable-ma.gov/town-administrator/pages/walk-dunstable](https://dunstable-ma.gov/town-administrator/pages/walk-dunstable).



## DPU Reviews Municipal Aggregation Plan at Public Hearing

On January 22, 2025, the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) conducted a virtual public hearing to review Dunstable's proposed Municipal Aggregation Plan. This plan, submitted on November 7, 2024, aims to leverage the town's collective purchasing power to secure competitive electricity rates

and increase renewable energy options for residents.

During the hearing, the Town Administrator provided input on the plan's potential benefits and implementation strategies. The DPU is now considering all feedback received as part of its evaluation process.

If approved, the Town will then pursue the procurement of an electricity source for the Town hoping to offer more stable electricity prices with an option of cleaner energy sources.



# FY25 Mid Year Financial Report Available

The Town of Dunstable has posted its mid-year financial report for Fiscal Year 2025, covering the period from July 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. The report indicates that the Town's financial performance is generally aligned with budgetary expectations.

## Revenue Overview

As of December 31, 2024, Dunstable has collected \$5,937,750.92 in revenues, representing 45.78% of the total budgeted revenue of \$12,970,754 for FY25. The primary sources of revenue include:

- Real Estate Property Taxes: \$5,574,047.63 collected, accounting for 47.09% of the budgeted \$11,836,078.
- Local Receipts: \$175,777.29 collected, which is 23.44% of the anticipated \$750,000.
- State Aid: \$187,926.00 received, equating to 48.85% of the projected \$384,676.

## Expenditure Overview

By the fiscal year's midpoint, total expenditures stood at \$6,497,014.07, which is 49.16% of the adjusted budget

of \$13,217,164.13. This spending pattern is typical, considering that significant financial obligations, such as the town's retirement assessment and general liability insurance, are paid in full early in the fiscal year. The breakdown of expenditures is as follows:

- General Government: \$266,751.58 spent (42.01% of budget)
- Public Safety: \$685,105.68 spent (40.55% of budget)
- Education: \$4,195,933.00 spent (50.21% of budget)
- Public Works: \$327,520.62 spent (33.36% of budget)
- Human Services: \$24,136.29 spent (30.23% of budget)
- Culture and Recreation: \$158,805.86 spent (51.15% of budget)
- Debt Service: \$138,842.91 spent (77.30% of budget)
- Assessments: \$699,918.13 spent (71.08% of budget)

Dunstable's financial health at the mid-year mark is stable, with revenues and expenditures largely in line with projections. The town remains vigilant in monitoring specific areas to ensure fiscal responsibility throughout the remainder of FY25.

# 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](http://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/>
- Follow us on NextDoor at Town of Dunstable

# Woodward's Mill Dam Phase 2 Report Complete

The Town is in possession of the Final Phase 2 Assessment and Evaluation Report of Woodward's Mill Dam. There are a number of findings, most importantly:

- A large void (hole) in the top of the raceway near the downstream end, which jeopardizes support for the Dam crest and road, creating a potential safety hazard for vehicles if not repaired soon;
- Deterioration of the upstream stone masonry face with voids between stones resulting in ground loss

(erosion) between stones causing sinkholes in the crest behind the stone masonry;

- Significant deterioration of the downstream concrete walls, including cracking, significant spalling and delamination, exposed rebar, etc. on top and downstream faces.

The Town is currently working with relevant boards, committees, and departments to review the findings, prioritizing repairs, and determining

funding sources to take action as expediently as possible.



# 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 have been celebrated through this program:



### October

Sue Fayne  
Mary Dow  
Chuck Raffoni  
Joe Dean  
Snizek Family  
Brynn Durno  
Alan Chaney  
Oktoberfest Crew  
Patti Starbird  
Molly Kenney  
Highway Department  
Jean Haight  
Kap Siddall

### December

Mike and Peggy  
Lynch  
Neighbor to  
Neighbor  
Our Town Employees

### January

Bonnie Ricardelli

# Town Advances Improvement Projects

The Town of Dunstable is making significant progress on several key infrastructure improvements, focusing on the Police Station, Library, and Town Common Bandstand.

The Select Board recently approved a contract with FRG Contractor Corp. to proceed with the replacement of windows and exterior doors at the Police Station. This project is set to move forward in the coming months.

In support of building repairs at the Dunstable Public Library and repairs at the Town Common Bandstand, the town has hired Emerald Build Design to assist with the planning and design of the necessary upgrades. This will help ensure that the repairs are done properly and that we're prioritizing our work appropriately.

All of these projects are being funded by state budget earmarks, allowing the Town to make these improvements while minimizing local costs.



# PFAS Mitigation Project Phase 1 Construction Update

## Work to start in Dunstable mid to late April

Construction for Phase 1 of the PFAS Mitigation Project began in January in the Town of Groton. Work hours are Monday through Friday, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, with a break from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM to accommodate school bus traffic on

Chicopee Row.

Completed work includes installing erosion controls along the water main alignment, connecting to Groton's existing water main on Hollis Street, and installing

approximately 4,000 linear feet of water main.

Work in Dunstable is expected to begin mid to late April 2025.

For more information, visit [Grotonma.gov/grotonwaterproject](http://Grotonma.gov/grotonwaterproject).



# 2024 Resident Survey Results: A Snapshot of Community Priorities

The Town of Dunstable has released the results of its 2024 Resident Survey, which provides feedback on various aspects of town governance, services, and quality of life. A total of 125 residents participated, offering a broad range of perspectives on key issues facing the community.

## Key Findings:

- Public Safety and Infrastructure emerged as top priorities for residents. The survey found strong support for maintaining core services like police, fire, and infrastructure maintenance, with the majority of respondents ranking these as essential to the Town's well-being.
- Budget Concerns were also highlighted, with a large portion of participants identifying school funding and the town budget as the most pressing issues. There was a notable division regarding the importance of education relative to the Town's

financial constraints.

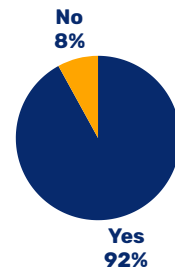
- Quality of Life and Rural Character remain significant draws for residents. Dunstable was consistently rated as a "great place to live" with many residents emphasizing the Town's rural charm and strong sense of community.

In terms of communication, email and social media were the most preferred methods for receiving updates from the town. The survey indicated that residents appreciate regular communication and prefer digital outreach as the primary means of staying informed.

For a full breakdown of the survey results, including specific satisfaction ratings for town services and additional insights, please visit the official report: [dunstable-ma.gov/town-administrator/files/town-dunstable-2024-resident-survey-results](https://dunstable-ma.gov/town-administrator/files/town-dunstable-2024-resident-survey-results).

Thank you to all who participated in the survey. Your feedback plays an important role in helping to shape Dunstable's future.

## Would you recommend Dunstable as a place to live?



## How do you rate Dunstable as a place to live?

Average place to live  
16%



## Helene Morgan Babcock and Alfred Babcock Memorial Scholarship: Attention Dunstable's Class of 2025!

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 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 [dunstable-ma.gov/babcockscholarship2025](https://dunstable-ma.gov/babcockscholarship2025) for more information and to submit their applications. The deadline for submission is fast approaching on March 3, 2025, so be sure to apply soon!



## Dunstable, Neighboring Towns Awarded Grant to Support Regional Energy Manager

The Town of Dunstable, in partnership with Pepperell, Townsend, and Littleton, has been awarded an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) to support the hiring of a Regional Energy Manager through Department of Energy Resources via United States Department of Energy. This collaborative effort will bring dedicated expertise to our communities, helping to advance energy efficiency, sustainability initiatives, and cost-saving measures. Pepperell is the lead community for this grant and funds were awarded to the Town in 2024.

The new Regional Energy Manager will be an employee of the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG), our regional planning agency. This position will provide professional support to each of the four towns, identifying and implementing energy conservation projects, seeking additional grant funding, and assisting with energy programs.

The EECBG program is designed to support local governments in reducing energy use, cutting emissions, and improving sustainability. By pooling resources and working together, Dunstable, Pepperell, Townsend, and

Littleton are trying to demonstrate a proactive approach to managing municipal energy needs in a cost-effective manner.

The Regional Energy Manager will help the towns:

- Conduct energy audits of municipal buildings and facilities
- Identify and implement energy efficiency improvements
- Pursue additional grant opportunities for clean energy projects
- Support participation in programs such as Green Communities
- Assist in long-term energy and sustainability planning

This regional approach allows our small towns to benefit from shared expertise and cost savings while working toward a more energy-efficient future. The hiring process for the Regional Energy Manager has been managed by NMCOG, with participation and input from all four communities.



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

The Town of Dunstable is seeking residents interested in serving on various local boards and committees. If you're passionate about contributing to your community, there are several opportunities available to get involved. Openings currently exist on the Agricultural Commission, Economic Development Committee, Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board of Trustees, Land Use Committee, Capital Planning Committee, and Cultural Council.

To express your interest or learn more about these positions, please reach out to the Select Board by emailing [select-board@dunstable-ma.gov](mailto:select-board@dunstable-ma.gov). Serving on a town board is a great way to make a meaningful impact and help shape the future of Dunstable.

## Fire Department Secures Grant Funding for Safety Equipment

The Dunstable Fire Department has recently been awarded two grants that will enhance emergency response capabilities and improve firefighter safety. These grants, totaling over \$12,000, will provide essential new equipment without impacting the Town's budget.

The first award, a Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, totals \$12,407.89 and will fund several key upgrades:

- Mobile Radio for Tanker 1: This new radio will enhance communication by improving reception and meeting state P25 interoperability standards, ensuring seamless coordination with other emergency responders.
- Three Four-Gas Meters: These meters replace outdated, unserviceable equipment and will allow firefighters to detect hazardous gases more effectively, ensuring their safety in dangerous environments.
- Electric Vehicle Emergency Plug: As electric vehicles become more common, this device will allow firefighters to safely disable an EV during an emergency. This is the first of several EV safety tools the department plans to acquire through future grant funding.

The second award, an Emergency Management Preparedness Grant through the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), will provide the department with a NRS Inflatable Rescue Boat.

This specialized boat is designed for both open water and ice rescues. Because it is inflatable and portable, using the department's existing SCBA cylinders, firefighters will be able to transport and deploy it quickly in difficult-to-reach areas, even with minimal staffing.

By pursuing grant opportunities, the department continues to enhance its equipment and preparedness without placing additional financial burdens on the town.

The Town extends their gratitude to the Department of Fire Services and MEMA for their support. These grants will help ensure that Dunstable's first responders have the tools they need to keep the community safe.

Town of Dunstable  
511 Main Street  
Dunstable, MA 01827

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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LOCAL  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

# Upcoming Annual Town Election: May 20, 2025

The Annual Town Election will be held on May 20, 2025. Here's everything you need to know to participate:

- Voter Registration Deadline: If you are not yet registered to vote, the last day to register is Saturday, May 10, 2025.
- Vote by Mail:
  - Applications for Vote by Mail ballots are due by Thursday, May 15, 2025.
  - Completed ballots must be returned to Dunstable Town Hall by 8pm on May 20, 2025. A locked ballot box is available 24/7 at the side entrance for your convenience.
- Early Voting at Town Hall:
  - Saturday, May 10, 2025: 9 AM -12 PM
  - Monday, May 12, 2025: 9 AM -1 PM
  - Tuesday, May 13, 2025: 9 AM -1 PM
  - Wednesday, May 14, 2025: 9 AM -1 PM
  - Thursday, May 15, 2025: 9 AM -1 PM
- Election Day Voting: Polls will be open from 12 PM – 8 PM on May 20, 2025. All voters will cast their ballots at the Dunstable Public Library.

- Important Dates for Candidates:
  - Monday, February 10, 2025: First day to obtain nomination papers.
  - Friday, March 28, 2025 by 5:00 PM: Last day to obtain nomination papers.
  - Thursday, April 1, 2025 by 5:00 PM: Last day to submit nomination papers. A minimum of 25 signatures from registered voters of the town are required.
  - Thursday, April 17, 2025: Last day for objections/withdrawals from the race.

- Open Positions:
  - Advisory Board (2): 3-year terms
  - Board of Assessors: 3-year term
  - Board of Health: 3-year term
  - Cemetery Commissioner: 3-year term
  - Commissioners of Trust Fund: 3-year term
  - Constable (2): 1-year term
  - Library Trustee: 3-year term
  - Planning Board: 5-year term
  - Road Commissioner: 3-year term
  - Water Commissioner: 3-year term
  - Select Board: 3-year term

# 2024 Year in Review

The Town of Dunstable has celebrated a productive 2024, filled with key 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 2024, visit the Year in Review at <https://www.dunstable-ma.gov/yearinreview2024>.

