

## What's Going on in Dunstable?

*The goal of this newsletter is to share information from the town's municipal departments as well as volunteer boards & Committees. Please note, that some information could be subject to changes.*

### Fall 2021

1. 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
  - a. Many residents of Dunstable have volunteered to begin planning for the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dunstable. The Committee has been formed and started meeting for the celebration(s). We look forward to the exciting events this group has planned for our town's historic year!
2. Route 113 Transportation Improvements Project
  - a. This project is continuing to move forward (though at a slower than desired pace). We are hopeful the project will have a solidified state approval and bid timeline determined by the end of December 2021.
3. Governance Committee – Town Charter draft
  - a. The Governance Committee completed their draft of the town charter. It is currently being reviewed by the BOS and town departments. A copy is available on website: [file:///C:/Users/TOWNAD~1/AppData/Local/Temp/dunstable\\_draft\\_charter\\_-\\_rev16\\_10-1-21.pdf](file:///C:/Users/TOWNAD~1/AppData/Local/Temp/dunstable_draft_charter_-_rev16_10-1-21.pdf) . The Governance Committee will be presenting the concept at a public hearing in the coming months.
4. Wildlife and Passive Trail usage:
  - a. There have been many bear sightings throughout the town. Bears are eagerly in search of food to fatten up for their winter hibernation. Be careful about leaving food and trash out in the yard.
  - b. Publicly town owned land is utilized for passive activities walking, jogging, skiing, sharing time with friends, and exercising animals. Motorized vehicles found operating on town owned land are breaking the law and punishable by the Dunstable Police.
5. Screening of Etched in Glass: The Legacy of Steve Ross
  - a. November 9 at the Middle School. Visit <https://grotoninterfaith.org/kristallnacht-program/> for more information. An extraordinary film about a holocaust survivor, Steve Ross, who endured Nazi concentration camps as a child and who later went on to become the founder of the New England Holocaust Memorial and its accompanying museum in Boston. He is also a Korean War veteran and a former youth worker and counselor in Boston's public school system.
6. The Groton-Dunstable School District
  - a. The school system will need a Proposition 2.5 Override to support their budget for the next Fiscal Year (FY23) and ensuing years based on their projections. The Advisory Board will begin meeting with these officials soon to assess their needs and make a recommendation to the Selectmen.

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7. Water Rate Increase:
  - a. Earlier this year, the Board of Water Commissioners implemented a rate increase (following a rate hearing) to pay for the Town's recently completed water system improvements. Water bills that include that rate increase will be going out later in November.
  
8. Fire Department/Fire Chief:
  - a. Fire Chief Murray's last day with the Town is November 12<sup>th</sup>. The Town has hired Paul Zbikowski (retired Ashburnham Chief) to fill in as Interim Fire Chief until the end of June 2022 while it continues to evaluate securing Ambulance Service from Pepperell and/or complete a regionalization study with the Town of Groton. The Board thanks Chief Murray for his service over the past two years. We also appreciate the continued service of the all the people in the department who continue to assist the community.