

What is happening 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.

❖ Summer 2021

1. The Town of Dunstable held its 2nd ever town meeting on Larter Field this past May. The meeting was well attended and participation in the various town articles was strong. After much discussion and deliberation all articles were passed including town budget, an override for an additional police officer, a new Fire Rescue Truck, new Highway Department loader, along with the approval of several by-law changes. For those interested in receiving a summary of the town meeting please visit the town website (<https://www.dunstable-ma.gov/board-selectmen/pages/annual-town-reports>).

2. MUD Housing Project

- The town purchased the 28.5 acres MUD property at 170 Pleasant St. (behind the Post Office) in 1999 for \$390,000 to be used as a location for senior and/or affordable housing.
- For the past 8 years at least, the Affordable Housing Committee has been working to develop the property with a town-initiated 40B housing project.
 - This past spring the Board of Selectmen and Affordable Housing Committee had been in recent negotiations with a developer for the parcel. Unfortunately, the developer and town were not able to come to an agreement on the plan. Some specific aspects of the deal were not to the satisfaction of the various representatives of the town. The Town of Dunstable and developer have decided to not move forward with the proposal.
- The Affordable Housing Committee will be reconvening to prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP) over the summer to advertise the project in hopes of soliciting bids.
- For more information, visit the town website <https://www.dunstable-ma.gov/affordable-housing-committee> or review the minutes of the Select Board form 2020 and 2021.

3. The Town of Dunstable approved the necessary parts of the Route 113 Highway Project at the May town meeting. This approval was required to address the road layout and mitigate certain environmental impacts. The Town is sending offer letters to acquire the necessary rights-of-way and easements to support the project and may be required to take these by eminent domain. The State Department of Transportation's goal remains to put this project out to bid at the end of August 2021 with construction commencing the following year.

4. Town Hall return to "normal" hours with the exception of Fridays, which will remain remote until after Labor Day.. Most Town staff are still part time employees and only work certain hours. If you need to see a town staff person about an issue, it strongly encouraged that you make arrangements in advance to ensure the official you need to see is available. Face masks and social distancing should be practiced in the building for those who have not been vaccinated pursuant to CDC guidance.

5. During the months of May, June, and July we see a high amount of turtle nesting activity. The town of Dunstable has a wide variety of turtles that you may see in the waters, on walk paths, in your yard, or trying to cross streets. If you come across a turtle while walking, please be mindful to step around them, avoid with machinery, and encourage pets to ignore them. Furthermore, turtles found crossing the road should be assisted across the road in the

direction in which they are facing. Many turtles are nesting across from sources of water and work tirelessly to follow their historical paths to nesting territory.

6. During the warmer month's public town owned land is utilized for walking, jogging, sharing time with friends, and exercising animals. While the town is lucky to have so many miles of paths, we do have to be mindful that motorized vehicles are not allowed on town owned land. Motorized vehicles found operating on town owned land is breaking the law and punishable by the Dunstable Police. Violators will be ticketed and fined by the Dunstable Police.

7. The Groton-Dunstable School District 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 in the near future to assess their needs and make a recommendation to the Selectmen.

Questions? Email bos@dunstable-ma.gov