

**Town of Dover**  
**Fiscal 2014**  
**Initial Budget Request vs. Blue Book**  
**March 16, 2013**

(updated for 3/16/13 Chickering, Region, & Capital Budget)

<u>Department</u>	<u>2014 Budget</u>	<u>Blue Book 2013 Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>% Difference</u>
Selectman	\$321,796	\$314,596	\$7,200	2.3%
Copying and Postage	\$29,000	\$30,886	(\$1,886)	-6.1%
Warrant	\$5,180	\$4,976	\$204	4.1%
Town Accountant	\$178,911	\$171,748	\$7,163	4.2%
Assessors	\$155,062	\$155,814	(\$752)	-0.5%
Treasurer Collector	\$201,525	\$194,329	\$7,196	3.7%
Law	\$190,000	\$190,000	\$0	0.0%
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Data Processing	\$127,802	\$113,947	\$13,855	12.2%
Town Clerk	\$72,485	\$71,027	\$1,458	2.1%
Elections	\$47,204	\$52,722	(\$5,518)	-10.5%
Conservation	\$63,025	\$61,624	\$1,401	2.3%
Planning Board	\$68,876	\$67,420	\$1,456	2.2%
Board of Appeals	\$3,573	\$4,592	(\$1,019)	-22.2%
Dover Housing Ptnship	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Whiting Road	\$4,629	\$4,336	\$293	100.0%
Town House	\$63,217	\$63,567	(\$350)	-0.6%
Caryl Cmmt Center	\$118,677	\$111,332	\$7,345	6.6%
Energy Coordinator	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Town Report	\$11,509	\$11,509	\$0	0.0%
Building Maintenance	\$296,753	\$294,168	\$2,585	0.9%
Police	\$1,844,775	\$1,855,344	(\$10,569)	-0.6%
Fire	\$431,657	\$422,256	\$9,401	2.2%
Ambulance	\$167,571	\$165,254	\$2,317	1.4%
Building Inspector	\$71,781	\$89,228	(\$17,447)	-19.6%
Emergency Management	\$3,604	\$3,557	\$47	1.3%
Dog Control	\$28,229	\$27,903	\$326	1.2%
Care of Trees	\$123,033	\$122,872	\$161	0.1%
Tree Commt	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	0.0%
Protective Agency Building	\$98,102	\$92,234	\$5,868	6.4%
Engineering	\$58,617	\$70,155	(\$11,538)	-16.4%
Highway	\$663,554	\$632,732	\$30,822	4.9%
Snow and Ice	\$320,000	\$290,000	\$30,000	10.3%
Street Lighting	\$11,936	\$11,806	\$130	1.1%
Town Garage	\$84,303	\$84,276	\$27	0.0%
Tarvia	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0	0.0%
Garbage Disposal	\$18,700	\$18,700	\$0	0.0%
Solid Waste Disposal	\$382,893	\$372,787	\$10,106	2.7%
Water Department	\$22,304	\$22,160	\$144	0.6%
Cemetery	\$107,032	\$104,878	\$2,154	2.1%
Board of Health	\$70,644	\$63,346	\$7,298	11.5%
Council on Aging	\$122,029	\$117,745	\$4,284	3.6%
Veterans	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	0.0%
Chickering School	\$9,102,492	\$8,355,454	\$747,038	8.9%
Dover Share of Regional Schools				
<i>Operating Assessment</i>	\$9,189,754	\$9,035,226	\$154,528	1.7%
<i>Debt Assessment</i>	\$870,873	\$775,027	\$95,846	12.4%
Total	\$10,060,627	\$9,810,253	\$250,374	2.6%
Minuteman Vocational	\$67,530	\$60,573	\$6,957	11.5%
Norfolk Cty Agricultural HS	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000	
Library	\$547,632	\$530,565	\$17,067	3.2%
Park and Rec	\$391,470	\$368,538	\$22,932	6.2%
Historical Comm	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$0	0.0%
Memorial Day	\$2,700	\$2,600	\$100	3.8%
Maturing Debt Principal	\$1,180,401	\$1,160,401	\$20,000	1.7%

Town of Dover

(updated for 3/16/13 Chickering, Region, & Capital Budget)

Fiscal 2014

Initial Budget Request vs. Blue Book

March 16, 2013

<u>Department</u>	<u>2014 Budget</u>	<u>Blue Book 2013 Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>% Difference</u>
Maturing Debt Interest	\$292,000	\$456,207	(\$164,207)	-36.0%
Bank Charges	\$4,000	\$5,000	(\$1,000)	-20.0%
Norfolk Cty Retirement	\$857,028	\$821,017	\$36,011	4.4%
Workers Compensation	\$60,000	\$66,053	(\$6,053)	-9.2%
Group Health Insurance	\$2,006,503	\$1,986,138	\$20,365	1.0%
Medicare/Fica	\$147,832	\$140,792	\$7,040	5.0%
Other Insurance	\$179,721	\$175,920	\$3,801	2.2%
	<u>\$31,751,674</u>	<u>\$30,681,087</u>	<u>\$1,070,587</u>	<u>3.5%</u>
Capital Budget requests	\$646,534	\$417,152	\$229,382	55.0%
Special Articles	\$95,000	\$136,323	(\$41,323)	-30.3%
Special Articles - Other	\$0	\$774,617	(\$774,617)	-100.0%
Reserve Fund account	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0	0.0%
Additions to Overlay	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0	0.0%
State charges - Cherry Sheet	\$293,978	\$298,713	(\$4,735)	-1.6%
Recap Appropriations	\$24,000	\$20,000	\$4,000	20.0%
Prior year snow and ice	\$125,000	\$0	\$125,000	
subtotal - other	<u>\$1,684,512</u>	<u>\$2,146,805</u>	<u>(\$462,293)</u>	<u>-21.5%</u>
Total	<u>\$33,436,186</u>	<u>\$32,827,892</u>	<u>\$608,294</u>	<u>1.9%</u>

## REVENUE SOURCES AND EXPENDITURES

	Recap FY11	Recap FY12	Recap FY2013	%Change FY13/14	Projected FY2014
<b>Revenue Sources</b>					
Tax Levy	\$23,836,519	\$24,723,243	\$25,678,414	3.84%	\$26,664,674
Debt Service Exclusions					
Dover	1,123,028	1,073,403	1,028,650	-9.59%	930,017
Regional School	749,519	722,790	650,284	7.82%	701,139
New Growth	283,718	328,868	335,902	-25.57%	250,000
Free Cash	1,605,189	1,375,002	1,997,933	-17.52%	1,647,973
State Aid (Receipts)	841,364	826,617	859,555	-1.11%	850,000 est
SBA Reimbursements	577,556 (b)	577,556 (b)	531,983 (c)	0.00%	531,983
Local Receipts	1,720,600	1,857,000	1,971,050	-8.68%	1,800,000
Overlay Surplus	50,000	50,000	50,000	0.00%	50,000
Other	189,267	10,400	10,400	0.00%	10,400
Capital Exclusion Override	0	0	0	0.00%	0
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$30,976,760</b>	<b>\$31,544,879</b>	<b>\$33,114,171</b>	<b>0.97%</b>	<b>33,436,186</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Article 4	29,163,987	29,690,611	30,681,087	3.49%	31,751,674
Additions to Overlay	252,336	243,539	250,489	(0.20%)	250,000
Article 5	313,800	291,783	417,152	54.99%	646,534
Special Articles	143,250	212,900	819,617	(88.41%)	95,000
Special Articles - Other	178,867	0	46,828	(100.00%)	-
Reserve Fund	250,000	250,000	250,000	0.00%	250,000
State Charges	272,954	282,572	290,402	1.23%	293,978 (a)
Recap Appropriations	46,806	18,014	24,636	(2.58%)	24,000
Prior Year Snow & Ice Deficit	148,257	187,495	0		125,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$30,770,257</b>	<b>\$31,176,914</b>	<b>\$32,780,211</b>	<b>2.00%</b>	<b>33,436,186</b>
Excess Levy Capacity	\$206,503	\$367,965	\$333,960		0

(a) State Aid & Charges estimates based upon Governor's proposal (H1) January 25, 2013 (H1 Receipts = \$1,064,720)

(b) SBA (State Reimbursement for Chickering after Final Audit)

(c) SBA (State Reimbursement for Chickering after Refunding)

Open Meeting Draft,  
March 18, 2013

Town of Dover Capital Requests		DRAFT - FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY				
FY 2014 - 2018		FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
Open Hearing						
<b>Department:</b>						
John Deere XUV 655D Utility Vehicle		\$22,825	\$35,000	\$0	\$45,000	\$0
Hearse House Renovation					\$45,000	
Ford F350 with Plow					\$45,000	
<b>Cemetery Total</b>		<b>\$22,825</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Fire Department/Ambulance:</b>						
Squad 2 Truck		\$75,000				
SCBA Bottles		\$71,000				
Turn Out Gear						
Ambulance - Radio Equipment				\$7,000		
<b>Fire Department/Ambulance Total</b>		<b>\$86,000</b>	<b>\$28,000</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>\$26,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Highway Department:</b>						
Street Sweeper (H-3)		\$172,885				
One-Ton Dump Truck with Plow (H-4)			\$50,000			
Slide-In Sander (H-3)			\$20,000			
Sidewalk Plow, Sander, Brush Machine (H-23)			\$130,000			
One-Ton Dump Truck (H-16)				\$50,000		
10-Wheel Dump Truck with Plow (H-15)					\$185,000	
6-Wheel Dump Truck with Plow (H-3)						\$120,000
<b>Highway Department Total</b>		<b>\$172,885</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$165,000</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>
<b>Library:</b>						
Children's Room Furnishings		\$15,000	\$2,000		\$7,000	
Technology Upgrades			\$7,000	\$0	\$7,000	\$0
<b>Library Total</b>		<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation:</b>						
Large Tractor Mower		\$0				
Department Vehicle		\$24,860				
Retubulin Caryl Community Center Gym Floor		\$4,200				
Chickering Fields Wall			\$25,000			
Office Upgrade			\$25,000			
Large Tractor Mower				\$31,000		
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation Total</b>		<b>\$29,060</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$31,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Police Department/Animal Control:</b>						
Patrol Vehicles		\$70,000	\$35,000	\$70,000	\$35,000	\$70,000
DSRHS Radio Receiver		\$30,000				
Mobile Computer Interface		\$17,000		\$18,600		
Livscan Fingerprint Machine				\$17,250		
Message/Speed Board				\$16,000		
Dress Uniforms					\$18,500	
Defibrillators		\$35,000				\$16,000
Animal Control Vehicle		\$152,000	\$53,600	\$103,250	\$53,600	\$86,000
<b>Police Department/Animal Control Total</b>		<b>\$152,000</b>	<b>\$53,600</b>	<b>\$103,250</b>	<b>\$53,600</b>	<b>\$86,000</b>
<b>School (Chickering):</b>						
Drainage Improvement/Fire Road Widening		\$27,500				
Library Carpet Replacement		\$20,155				
Sidewalk Light Pole Upgrade to LED		\$5,427				
Caterina Power Straps High Windows		\$6,882				
Pedestrian Walk Repairing, Front			\$12,618			
LED Upgrade - Sidewalks leading to playground/fields			\$9,038		\$9,309	
Boiler Controls			\$4,635			
Boiler Controls			\$30,385			

Town of Dover Capital Requests		DRAFT - FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY				
FY 2014 - 2018						
Open Hearing						
Department		FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
Recommission Building System Equipment			\$30,900			
Security System Upgrade			\$12,360			
Building Exterior- Brick Masonry			\$24,558			
CMU Block Wall Painting			\$24,855			
Gym Floor - Refinish			\$19,364			
Floor Scrubber				\$12,731		
Floor Burnisher				\$6,896		
Window Replacement (over 3 years)				\$9,389	\$9,671	\$9,961
Cold Water Booster System Upgrade					\$14,752	
Elevator Upgrades					\$7,103	
Air-conditioning Update					\$9,835	
Cafeteria Floors					\$17,628	
Cafeteria Sound System and Lights					\$21,855	
Gym Curtain Divider					\$21,581	
Restroom Walk Repairing, Rear						\$25,955
Basketball Court Repairing						\$8,785
Building Exterior Expansion Joints						\$31,824
Technology - Hardware		\$24,800	\$59,000	\$33,700	\$28,400	\$20,400
Grades 2 & 3 Device Implementation		\$14,000				
School (Chickering) Total		\$98,764	\$56,000	\$56,000	\$56,000	\$56,000
			\$281,713	\$128,025	\$186,825	\$152,905
<b>Selectmen:</b>						
Town House: Roof Repairs		\$15,000				
Library: Replacement of Children's Area Carpeting		\$10,000				
Town House: Painting of the Clock Tower/Cupola		\$30,000				
Town House: Painting of Gutters & Fasciae		\$15,000				
Library: Replacement of Upper Level Carpeting			\$30,000			
Prot. Agencies Bldg.: Dispatch Reconfig/Construction			\$400,000			
Library: Re-Roof Flat Roof			\$60,000			
Canyl Community Center: Expansion of Parking Lot				\$25,000		
Library: Interior Painting				\$30,000		
Canyl Community Center: Boiler Plants				\$450,000		
Prot. Agencies Bldg.: Repair, Painting of Apparatus Floor				\$115,000		
Building Maintenance Truck					\$19,000	
Police Station: Holding Cell Retrofit & Booking Area					\$20,000	
Prot. Agencies Bldg.: Painting of Apparatus Ceiling					\$6,500	
Canyl Community Ctr.: Repair/Replace Outside Stairway					\$30,000	
Police Station: Replacement of Carpeting (7 Offices)						\$8,000
Town House: Replacement of Telephone System						\$5,000
Town House: Re-roofing						\$600,000
Town House: Copier						\$9,000
Selectmen Total:		\$70,000	\$490,000	\$620,000	\$74,500	\$623,000
TOTAL		\$646,534	\$1,145,313	\$939,275	\$557,825	\$981,905
Large Items (>\$100,000)		\$172,885	\$530,000	\$450,000	\$166,000	\$720,000
NET TOTAL (Excluding Large Items)		\$473,649	\$615,313	\$489,275	\$392,825	\$261,905
		<b>DRAFT - FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY</b>				

# DOVER/SHERBORN REGIONAL SCHOOLS FY14 BUDGET

Member Assessments	\$18,622,416
Excess and Deficiency	\$750,000
Revenues	\$1,683,914
Revolving Account Offsets/ Transfers in	\$341,500
<b>Total Budget Appropriations</b>	<b>\$21,397,830</b>

## Projected Revenues

## Assessments

	FY13	FY14	Difference	% increase	Notes:
<b>Operating</b>					
Dover	\$9,035,226	\$9,189,754	\$154,528	1.71%	
Sherborn	\$7,626,356	\$7,842,898	\$216,542	2.84%	
	\$16,661,582	\$17,032,652	\$371,070	2.23%	
<b>Debt</b>					
Dover	\$775,027	\$870,873	\$95,846	12.37%	
Sherborn	\$629,771	\$718,891	\$89,120	14.15%	
	\$1,404,798	\$1,589,764	\$184,966	13.17%	Includes two warrant articles FY14
<b>Total Operating and Debt</b>					
Dover	\$9,810,253	\$10,060,627	\$250,374	2.55%	
Sherborn	\$8,256,127	\$8,561,789	\$305,662	3.70%	Sherborn: \$108.5K is due to student population shift; \$73K is Sherborn's increase in health rate
	\$18,066,380	\$18,622,416	\$556,036	3.08%	
<b>Budgets % Increase</b>					
Operating	\$19,186,997	\$19,808,066	\$621,069	3.24%	
Debt	\$1,404,798	\$1,589,764	\$184,966	13.17%	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$20,591,795</b>	<b>\$21,397,830</b>	<b>\$806,035</b>	<b>3.91%</b>	

## **Middle School Air Conditioning (AC) Project: Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What's the problem?**

On days when the outside temperature is high, especially when we have several hot and humid days in a row, many classrooms in the middle school become too hot for effective learning. Individual, hourly classroom temperature readings, collected over two years, show that temperatures in many classrooms reach the 80s, and in some cases, the 90s, for approximately 15-20% of the academic year (35+ days). Teachers have described physical symptoms such as headaches, dizziness, inability to concentrate, breathing difficulties, and excessive thirst. Learning is impaired at those temperatures, and student and teacher health may suffer as well.

### **What is the proposed solution?**

After extensive study and consultation with independent engineering firms, the Regional School Committee (RSC) proposes to install rooftop air conditioning units to service those classrooms and common areas that are not currently air-conditioned. The proposed AC units are designed to provide effective cooling to the classrooms during the late spring and early fall, when school is in session.

### **Many schools aren't air-conditioned. Why do we need this?**

Older schools were designed with much larger windows to allow for ventilation, but also resulted in much larger heating bills. Newer schools, like ours, have smaller window openings that aren't meant to provide significant ventilation, and tend to have similar problems. The building retains heat due to many factors, including its structural design, window design, number of people during the day, and fire codes that require doors to be kept closed. A beautiful atrium, the core of the building, retains heat, impacting hallways and adjacent classrooms such as the choral room. The RSC believes we need this in order to provide an environment in which learning can take place every day school is in session.

### **How much will this cost to install, and to run?**

Our consulting engineer has estimated the project will cost approximately \$800,000 to complete. Energy costs are likely to be approximately \$11,000 per year. The project is being put out to bid to determine exact installation costs; firm costs will be available in December, 2012. The Region's facilities manager will be able to control temperatures in individual classrooms and common areas.

### **Wasn't the middle school supposed to have AC?**

AC was part of the original plan for the middle school. It was removed from the design in order to keep costs down. It was recognized at the time that there would likely be some days that were uncomfortable. The expectation was that these would amount to only a few days per year. There were no changes to the building design following this decision.

### **What other solutions have been considered?**

To attempt to mitigate high temperatures in the building, a fresh air purge system was installed in 2007 to pull indoor air out of the building and replace it with outdoor air. It works well when the outside air is dry and cool compared to the inside, but is not designed to cool or dry incoming air. When it is hot and humid outside, the interior of the school remains hot as well.

The RSC has considered a large number of additional options, hoping that one or a combination might solve the problem and avoid the installation of an air conditioning system. We found that those that might contribute the most are also those that are most expensive. Data also revealed that the problem is not confined to a small cohort of classrooms, due for instance to southern exposure or absence of windows; instead, the majority of the classrooms become excessively hot. **We believe the magnitude of the problem requires a definitive solution.** After much investigation and consultation with experts, we have concluded that none of the other options will allow us to solve this problem definitively.

#### **Other solutions that have been considered:**

##### **What about replacing or tinting the windows?**

The cost of replacing windows with ones that are larger and open more widely would be several hundred thousand dollars and offer no guarantee that temperatures would drop the necessary 5-10+ degrees. The closed, interior hallways have no window ventilation options. Partial window replacement of the atrium was estimated at \$35,000 but provided no guarantee of success in reducing temperatures more than a couple of degrees.

Window tinting or blinds may reduce classroom temperature slightly where there is solar gain from direct sunlight during certain hours of the day, but it will not counter the high temperatures recorded in the classrooms and common areas. Furthermore, tinted windows were installed in the Dover Chickering School but later removed because the benefit was not sufficient to justify the suboptimal learning environment of darkened classrooms.

##### **What about painting the roof white to reduce solar gain or other roof options?**

A white reflective roof system has the potential to reduce interior temperatures several degrees. However, the best coatings involve considerable expense (estimated at \$250,000), and would reduce winter solar gain, likely increasing winter heating costs. A green roof system was rejected due to cost, increased maintenance costs, poor roof accessibility, and structural considerations.

##### **What about installing solar panels on the roof?**

This has the potential to shade the roof, cooling it somewhat, while also generating electricity to reduce utility costs. This option is initially very expensive, and is unlikely to solve the overheating problem by itself.

##### **What about opening windows at night?**

The current ventilation system does purge hot air during the evening when the outside air is cooler and drier. However, when the outside air remains humid, less air is exchanged, to prevent a build-up of humidity in the school. Nonetheless, to experiment with opening the windows when outside temperatures were cooler, we were given approval by the fire department to permit a custodian to open windows at 5 a.m. It provided some modest benefit in the initial hours of the school day. We do not consider it a long-term, effective solution.

##### **What about exhaust fans in the atrium?**

In 2009, an estimate (\$35,000) was obtained to ventilate and destratify the air in the atrium using a roof mounted exhaust fan and three ceiling mounted fans. The solution was not pursued because it did not solve excessive heat issues in the majority of the classrooms. Similarly, an option was considered to replace some of the atrium windows with ones that could open but it was rejected because it did nothing to reduce heat temperatures in learning spaces.

Installation of a cooling unit for the atrium is part of the plan to keep the atrium itself cooler, as well as to cool the halls and thus lower the cooling burden within the classrooms.

**What about ceiling fans?**

Ceiling fans can reduce the need for mechanical cooling by increasing evaporative cooling from the skin. In 2009, ceiling fans were installed in two classrooms to determine whether they would be effective enough to avoid the need for AC. Unfortunately, they did not provide enough of a cooling effect to make the critical difference. In addition, it was reported that the fans were problematic due to noise and moving air blowing papers.

**What about moving the students to cooler spaces on exceptionally hot days?**

Data has shown that exceptionally hot days constitute almost one fifth of the academic year, depending on the classroom. As most of the middle school classrooms are involved, public spaces are too few, shuffling hundreds of students to other campus locations means lost learning time, and instruction and learning tools are not portable. Relocating students has been tried and will continue to be used until a long-term solution is in place.

**What type of air conditioning system is proposed?**

Our engineering firm evaluated several AC options. The system chosen is the least expensive yet provides the best combination of effectiveness, cost, and practicality. A series of rooftop units can be installed without costly ductwork or additional roof engineering, and will provide great flexibility in scheduling installation. The summer construction timetable anticipates no loss of classroom learning time.

**When would the AC be installed and completed?**

If the project is approved at the Dover and Sherborn 2013 Town Meetings (and, depending on the funding formula, at the polls), air conditioning would be installed during the summer and be completed in time for the start of the 2013 school year. In consideration of funding issues, a second option is to install air conditioning to part of the building during the summer of 2013 (second floor and atrium) and the remainder of the school (first floor) the following summer of 2014.

**How effective is the heating system in the winter?**

An outside consultant was recently hired to complete a thorough capital assessment plan of the Dover and Sherborn schools which included an assessment of the current heating system. The mechanical systems and temperature data indicate that the system is working well during the cooler months.

**How is the project being bid?**

The "base bid" is for the installation of AC units in all second-floor classrooms plus the atrium. The "first alternate" bid is for installation of AC units in the first floor classrooms, plus the library, with the work performed at the same time as the base bid. The "second alternate" bid is for any additional cost to do the first-floor work one year later.

**Why has the Regional School Committee structured the bid in this way?**

Based on several years of study and evaluation, it is the recommendation of the RSC to install air conditioning throughout the middle school building. The intent of the proposed bid structure is to provide options for consideration among towns' finance committees prior to creating a warrant article for town meetings.

**Will air conditioning on the second floor be enough to also solve the problem on the first floor?**

Our engineer has indicated that while there will be some benefit felt on the first floor from cooling the second floor alone, it is unlikely to be sufficient. The cost to air condition the first floor is less because areas of it are already air conditioned.

**Where can I get more information?**

The Regional School Committee website contains the full Powerpoint presentation outlining the problem and the rationale for solving it. We have also posted our engineer's cost estimates and design notes.

<http://www.doversherborn.org/index.cfm/page/Regional-School-Committee-/pid/10228>

Please feel free to get in touch with a school committee member:

Richard Robinson, chair of the MS AC subcommittee [rrobinson@nasw.org](mailto:rrobinson@nasw.org) 508-653-5421

Shelley Poulsen, RSC chair <[shelleypoulsen@gmail.com](mailto:shelleypoulsen@gmail.com)>

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## Rail Trail Committee

As of 3/18/13

The Dover Rail Trail Committee is an ad-hoc committee formed by the Dover Board of Selectmen in 2011 to develop a recommendation for the conversion of the Dover section of the Bay Colony rail bed into a recreational trail. At the May 2012 Town Meeting, voters approved up to five thousand dollars (\$5000) for miscellaneous expenses related to the Feasibility Study.

The Committee has developed an eighty-plus point outline for the Feasibility Study. Based on the research of these topics and the information gathered, the committee has established:

- **Surfaces** – the committee has spent considerable effort researching the types of surfaces used in existing trails and the pros & cons of each. The committee has identified recycled asphalt and stone dust as having the qualities most appropriate for a trail in Dover. These qualities include rustic appearance, maintenance and cost to install. By choosing to not use a smooth pavement surface we expect limited if any use by high-speed cyclists.
- **Usage** – a flat linear recreational path with a packed surface will provide a trail for individuals and families to walk, run and bike. The trail will provide a safe alternative to the roadways given the limited sidewalks in town and will provide an alternative to the rustic construction of our existing trails.
- **Maintenance** – the committee does not predict significant maintenance issues. There will be coordinated efforts through the friends group to conduct weekly and seasonal clean ups, there will be limited path repair due to proposed surfaces and no trash receptacles to empty.
- **Awareness and outreach** – the committee has initiated extensive outreach to abutters and Dover residents through mailings to abutters, email alerts, development of a webpage, five informal community meetings and encouraging public participation at our committee meetings. The publishing of the Feasibility Study (this week) will go one step further in this process.
- **Public Safety** – committee members have researched the impact of trails on public safety. Research to date has shown no negative/quantifiable impact on communities since the development of a recreational trail.
- **Rules** – the committee has developed a list of suggested rules and guidelines including open during daytime only, banning of motorized vehicles, allowing for horse crossing. A full list is included in the Feasibility Study.
- **Governance** – the committee has developed guidelines for governance in keeping with Dover policy and procedures.
- **Parking** – an audit conducted by the committee determined that there are a sufficient number of parking spaces available in the center of town that allows for a short walk to trail access points. The committee does not believe there will be a need for additional parking.
- **Partnership with “Friends of” Group** – an independent group of Dover residents supporting the development of the rail trail has been established. The Friends group will be conducting fundraising drives, trail maintenance duties and community outreach.