



October 14, 2011

PLANNING BOARD
DOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

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DOVER MASTER PLAN
2011 RESIDENT SURVEY

INTRODUCTION

April 2011

State law requires Dover to have a Master Plan. The Planning Board is updating the current Master Plan, last updated in 2004. A copy of the Master Plan is available on the Town website at www.doverma.org/planningboard. The updated Master Plan is scheduled for release in 2012. Its recommendations will rely, in part, on the results of this survey, which will be published in the appendix to the Master Plan. A similar survey has not been taken since 1993, so your response is very important to the updated Master Plan.

RESULTS

October 2011

This version of the Survey shows the results of each question, both in number and in percentage terms. The results reflect all responses received in hard copy and online as of the stated deadline of June 30, 2011. By September 30, 2011, the Planning Board office compiled all of the responses. This document presents the results. The same results, and the underlying raw responses, are available in a working spreadsheet (Excel) format on the Town website at <http://www.doverma.org/surveyresults.xlsx>.

The Planning Board thanks all Dover residents who responded to the Survey, as well as the members of all Town boards and committees that participated in developing the Survey, especially the Long Range Planning Committee for its assistance throughout.

Planning Board

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Mark Sarro (Planning Board)
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Some questions in this survey refer to Town expenditures. For context, increases in FY 2011 Town spending would have had the following approximate impact on a median-valued property of \$825,000 and the Town's current property tax rate of \$11.70 per thousand.

<u>Additional Expenditure</u>	<u>New Tax Rate</u>	<u>Tax Rate Impact</u>	<u>Dollar Impact</u>
\$100,000	\$11.75	+ \$0.05	\$38/year
\$1,000,000	\$12.16	+ \$0.46	\$380/year

1. How many years have you lived in Dover? < 5 5-10 11-20 > 20
13% (89) 18% (119) 25% (69) 44% (297)
2. What are your likely future plans to live in Dover?
 Am retired / will retire here **47% (312)** Will leave when kids are out of school **11% (75)**
 Will leave when I retire **18% (118)** Other (specify) **23% (155)**
3. Are property tax increases a determining factor in your future plans to live in Dover? Yes **55% (343)** No **45% (281)**

For questions 4-7, rank in order of importance from 1 to 6 (1 being most important and 6 being least important) each of the following:

	Most important			Least important		
	1	2	3	4	5	6
4. Why you moved to Dover:						
Prestigious address	3% (17)	3% (18)	6% (35)	11% (55)	19% (94)	59% (295)
Proximity to Boston	11% (70)	14% (84)	24% (137)	25% (127)	20% (100)	5% (25)
Rural character	36% (233)	24% (145)	15% (82)	15% (79)	8% (41)	3% (16)
School system	36% (234)	21% (125)	12% (67)	10% (53)	11% (56)	6% (32)
Spacious lot size	9% (60)	25% (148)	27% (154)	18% (93)	15% (77)	5% (25)
Tax rate	5% (32)	12% (72)	16% (89)	21% (108)	26% (129)	21% (103)
5. The most important long-term planning issues facing Dover:						
Affordable / elderly housing	6% (42)	3% (18)	5% (26)	12% (63)	27% (139)	79% (251)
Caryl building / Town center	2% (10)	6% (36)	8% (46)	19% (97)	37% (192)	29% (151)
Holding down tax rates	22% (146)	17% (99)	23% (131)	25% (129)	9% (47)	8% (40)
Maintaining school quality	36% (237)	19% (116)	18% (100)	13% (70)	7% (35)	4% (23)
Preserving rural character	26% (172)	35% (206)	19% (106)	10% (50)	6% (32)	4% (20)
Protecting groundwater	8% (55)	20% (122)	28% (162)	22% (113)	13% (68)	5% (28)
6. Dover's most important physical assets:						
Agricultural / farm land	7% (46)	13% (73)	21% (119)	27% (135)	21% (107)	11% (58)
Aquifers, wells, wetlands	12% (80)	15% (90)	16% (90)	20% (103)	24% (118)	11% (54)
Charles River / waterways	5% (34)	13% (77)	24% (136)	21% (108)	24% (120)	10% (52)
Open / undeveloped space	54% (341)	25% (148)	9% (51)	6% (31)	3% (14)	1% (5)
Scenic roads and views	19% (125)	30% (173)	18% (101)	15% (78)	16% (78)	4% (19)
Small business district	2% (10)	4% (22)	11% (61)	10% (53)	13% (65)	63% (318)

7. Physical assets you are willing to fund with additional tax dollars:

	Most important			Least important		
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Community center	13% (87)	20% (96)	18% (75)	27% (100)	17% (61)	8% (25)
Conservation land	32% (207)	26% (124)	21% (86)	11% (43)	6% (22)	2% (5)
Hiking, skiing, horse trails	7% (43)	26% (126)	25% (105)	23% (87)	13% (48)	7% (21)
Senior center	6% (42)	11% (53)	17% (70)	18% (69)	39% (138)	16% (47)
Sports playing fields	14% (91)	13% (63)	16% (65)	17% (63)	21% (74)	21% (64)
None	28% (180)	5% (22)	4% (16)	4% (14)	4% (14)	47% (141)

8. Would you favor more or less of the following in Dover:

	More	Less	No Change
Agricultural activity	47% (309)	1% (9)	52% (346)
Crosswalks	22% (143)	13% (85)	65% (425)
Equestrian activity	20% (134)	8% (50)	72% (473)
Playing fields	30% (195)	9% (62)	61% (402)
Police presence	8% (51)	10% (65)	82% (539)
Street lights	13% (87)	14% (92)	73% (477)
Traffic signage	8% (55)	18% (116)	74% (477)
Walking trails	48% (315)	1% (5)	51% (337)

9. Have you held elected or appointed office in Dover? Yes 26% (173) No 74% (499)

10. Are you registered to vote and do you vote? Yes, Yes 96% (643) Yes, No 2% (13) No 2% (13)

11. How do you participate in the annual Town Meeting? In person 53% (352) On TV 12% (81) Neither 35% (235)

12. Dover's current property tax rate is \$11.70 per thousand of assessed value (e.g., the taxes on a \$1 million property are 11.70 x 1000, or \$11,700 per year). This tax rate is:

Appropriate 63% (417) Too high 35% (231) Too low 2% (11)

13. Dover's current budget is approximately \$30 million per year. Using the following expenditures from Town's FY 2011 budget, rate the value you think the Town receives for the cost it incurs.

	Amount (dollars)	Budget Share	High Value	Some Value	Low Value
Education	17,760,164	59.1%	82% (505)	16% (97)	2% (15)
Insurance and Benefits	2,995,100	10.0%	19% (104)	56% (304)	25% (137)
Public Safety	2,743,557	9.1%	61% (365)	35% (208)	4% (23)
General Government	1,765,799	5.9%	31% (176)	59% (338)	11% (63)
Debt Service	1,728,385	5.8%	24% (127)	55% (296)	22% (116)
Highways and Bridges	1,204,374	4.0%	49% (284)	45% (259)	6% (36)
Library	503,387	1.7%	66% (401)	26% (160)	7% (43)
Health and Sanitation	465,272	1.5%	37% (210)	51% (288)	12% (67)
Parks and Recreation	383,961	1.3%	48% (280)	41% (242)	11% (64)
Cemetery	110,577	0.4%	27% (153)	53% (297)	20% (115)
Council on Aging	107,494	0.4%	27% (153)	53% (297)	20% (112)

14. Have your children attended Dover's public school system?

Currently **34% (226)** In last 5 years **8% (54)** In last 10 years **9% (62)** > 10 years ago **23% (153)** Never **25% (163)**

15. Have your children transferred from public school in Dover to a private school? Yes **24% (148)** No **76% (480)**

If so, why (select all that apply)?

Academic opportunities	68% (108)	Reputation	27% (43)	Sports programs	18% (29)
Class size	40% (64)	Special programs	11% (17)	Teacher quality	37% (59)
College admissions	30% (48)	Special needs	11% (18)	Other (specify)	24% (38)

16. If you can, grade the quality of each school:

	A	B	C	D	F
a) Chickering School	55% (218)	34% (135)	9% (37)	2% (6)	0% (0)
b) Dover-Sherborn Middle School	53% (168)	38% (122)	8% (24)	1% (2)	0% (1)
c) Dover-Sherborn High School	63% (187)	32% (97)	4% (12)	1% (2)	0% (1)

	Relative to Nearby Towns		
	Better	Same	Worse
a) Chickering School	65% (257)	27% (109)	8% (31)
b) Dover-Sherborn Middle School	70% (232)	26% (86)	4% (12)
c) Dover-Sherborn High School	81% (263)	17% (55)	2% (7)

17. Would you or your family use senior housing if it were available in Dover? Yes **28% (183)** No **72% (472)**

If so: For whom?	Self/spouse	76% (141)	Parents	22% (40)	Other	3% (5)
When?	< 2 years	21% (35)	2-5 years	21% (35)	5-10 years	57% (94)
What type?	House	14% (22)	Condo	64% (104)	Apartment	22% (36)
Price (purchase)?	< \$500k	60% (90)	\$500k-\$750k	33% (50)	\$750k-1MM	5% (8)
Rent (\$/month)?	< \$1k	32% (41)	\$1k-\$2k	50% (65)	\$2k-3k	14% (18)
					> \$3k	4% (5)

18. What form(s) of public transportation, if any, should Dover have (select any/all)?

None **50% (330)** Commuter rail **29% (193)** Bus to T stations **23% (149)** Shuttle to shopping **13% (82)**

19. If such public transportation were available, how often would you use it?

Daily **10% (65)** Occasionally **38% (239)** Seldom **17% (106)** Never **36% (227)**

20. If you commute to work, what is your destination?

Boston **30% (187)** Route 128 **16% (101)** Within/to I-495 **7% (42)** Varies **14% (88)** No commute **33% (203)**

21. In the past, the Board of Selectmen has studied, and is again studying, Dover's use of road salt relative to other towns. Would you like the Town to reduce the amount of road salt used during icy conditions in favor of a more environmentally-friendly option?

Yes, but only if the alternative to road salt does not compromise safety.	41% (271)
Yes, but only if the alternative to road salt is not significantly more costly.	18% (123)
Yes, even if the alternative is significantly more costly than road salt.	10% (64)
No, the Town's current use of road salt seems appropriate.	31% (208)

22. Would you favor converting the unused rail line passing through Needham, Dover, and Medfield into a “rail trail” for walking and biking across the three towns?

- No **24% (159)**
- Yes, if private property can be adequately protected **40% (263)**
- Yes, if construction and maintenance are funded privately and/or with grants **36% (240)**

23. The Parks and Recreation Commission is considering plans to substantially reconfigure Dover’s playing fields, including the addition of artificial turf fields and the conversion of existing wooded area to playing fields and parking areas.

- Would you favor the use of tax dollars for such a project? Yes **32% (209)** No **68% (448)**
- Is it important that a significant share of the cost be privately-funded? Yes **77% (456)** No **23% (137)**
- At what cost to the Town would you favor such a project?
 - No cost **63% (368)**
 - \$1-3 million **31% (179)**
 - > \$3 million **7% (39)**

24. Does Dover have adequate off-road parking for all of its playing fields? Yes **52% (333)** No **19% (125)** N/A **29% (187)**

25. Does Dover have adequate indoor recreational facilities (e.g., basketball)? Yes **39% (245)** No **28% (179)** N/A **33% (205)**

26. How often, on average, do you and your family use the Dover Library?

- Never **7% (50)**
- Once per year **18% (122)**
- Once per month **36% (239)**
- Weekly **29% (193)**
- More than once per week **10% (66)**

27. Rank in order of importance from 1-8 (1 being most important and 8 being least important) each of the following library services:

	Most important				Least important			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Books and periodicals	73% (422)	12% (63)	5% (27)	4% (16)	2% (7)	2% (6)	1% (5)	0% (1)
Expanded hours	5% (29)	18% (97)	14% (67)	15% (69)	13% (53)	13% (52)	14% (55)	8% (17)
Meeting space	4% (23)	12% (62)	14% (68)	15% (67)	18% (74)	22% (84)	16% (60)	9% (19)
More/different events	1% (6)	7% (35)	12% (60)	14% (63)	20% (81)	23% (91)	25% (96)	6% (13)
Multimedia (computers, CDs, DVDs)	5% (30)	28% (148)	21% (105)	16% (72)	15% (62)	9% (34)	5% (18)	3% (7)
Online access	6% (35)	13% (71)	18% (91)	15% (70)	15% (60)	14% (56)	14% (55)	4% (8)
Tickets/passes (e.g., museums)	3% (18)	10% (55)	15% (74)	19% (88)	16% (67)	14% (56)	21% (82)	9% (18)
Other (specify)	2% (12)	1% (7)	1% (3)	2% (8)	1% (5)	3% (10)	3% (11)	60% (124)

28. Does the library need major improvements or renovation to meet future needs? Yes **14% (85)** No **86% (535)**

If so, how much would you favor spending?

- No cost **59% (170)**
- < \$50k **13% (38)**
- < \$100k **11% (31)**
- < \$250k **8% (24)**
- > \$500k **9% (26)**

29. Dover’s Board of Health reports widespread incidence of Lyme Disease and its exponential growth in Town over the last 10 years. In 2010, Dover implemented a Deer Management Plan to cull the Town’s deer population from 25 deer per square mile to 6-8 deer per square mile, considered a healthy level.

Do you support this Plan? Yes **86% (570)** No **14% (94)**

30. Are ticks and/or the risk of Lyme Disease inhibiting your use of open space? Yes **62% (412)** No **38% (253)**

31. Are animals (e.g., coyote, deer, turkeys) inhibiting your use of open space? Yes **31% (204)** No **69% (459)**

32. In the past, the Planning Board has proposed “open-space” zoning bylaws. Would you favor a bylaw amendment to permit development where the total land area required for a given number of houses does not change, but where the dimensional requirements of each lot is reduced, so that the rest of the parcel can become permanently-protected open space?
 No **38% (229)** Yes, for parcels > 5 acres **34% (204)** Yes, for parcels > 10 acres **28% (169)**
33. What size is your property? < 1 acre **17% (111)** 1-3 acres **67% (442)** 3-5 acres **4% (24)** > 5 acres **13% (85)**
34. The Community Preservation Act would allow the Town to add a surcharge of up to 3% to property tax bills, and receive some state matching funds, to fund the acquisition or preservation of open space, affordable housing, and historic buildings and landscapes. Currently, approximately 44% of cities and towns in Massachusetts have adopted the CPA. In 2002, Dover voted not to adopt it.
 Should Dover adopt the Community Preservation Act? Yes **33% (210)** No **67% (431)**
35. Would you favor a bylaw change to permit approval of shared driveways in Dover to reduce curb cuts provided the bylaw would not increase the number of houses that could be built? Yes **59% (373)** No **41% (263)**
36. Would you favor more sidewalks linked to the existing sidewalk network in the Town center?
 No **41% (274)** Yes **37% (246)** Yes, if privately-funded **21% (141)**
37. Would you favor more sidewalks outside of the Town center?
 No **55% (361)** Yes **27% (178)** Yes, if privately-funded **18% (120)**
38. Is there adequate parking in the Town center? Yes **87% (582)** No **13% (86)**
39. Should the Town attract more businesses to the Town center? Yes **43% (267)** No **57% (359)**
 If so, how? Public funds **2% (7)** Public/private partnerships **38% (114)** Privately funded **59% (177)**
40. Should the Town attract (more of) the following commercial services to the Town center?

ATM	Yes 24% (137)	No 76% (423)	Grocery store	Yes 16% (93)	No 84% (472)
Coffee shop	Yes 44% (260)	No 56% (328)	Restaurant (full)	Yes 45% (274)	No 55% (333)
Farmers market	Yes 70% (429)	No 30% (186)	Restaurant (take-out)	Yes 36% (203)	No 64% (365)
Health club / gym	Yes 22% (125)	No 78% (439)	Other (specify)	Yes 23% (49)	No 77% (160)
41. Does your household recycle its waste?
 No **5% (33)** Yes, at the Transfer Station **81% (543)** Yes, using a private hauler **14% (93)**
42. Would you recycle more if it were easier to do at the Transfer Station, despite the likelihood that co-mingling recyclables would increase the Town’s annual waste disposal costs? Yes **22% (137)** No **78% (492)**
43. How important to you are the issues of energy efficiency and energy conservation by the Town?
 Very important **52% (342)** Somewhat important **41% (269)** Not important **7% (48)**

44. What steps, if any, should Dover take to manage its energy use, even at some short-run cost?

	Yes	No	Maybe
Perform an energy audit / track energy use	67% (419)	9% (59)	23% (144)
Purchase fuel-efficient Town vehicles when possible	69% (437)	10% (61)	22% (138)
Adopt energy-efficient building codes	62% (388)	16% (103)	22% (137)
Become a “Green Community” to earn state grants	46% (286)	21% (132)	32% (200)

45. What is your current age group? < 40 **7% (46)** 40-55 **43% (281)** 55-65 **24% (159)** > 65 **26% (174)**

[END OF RESULTS]