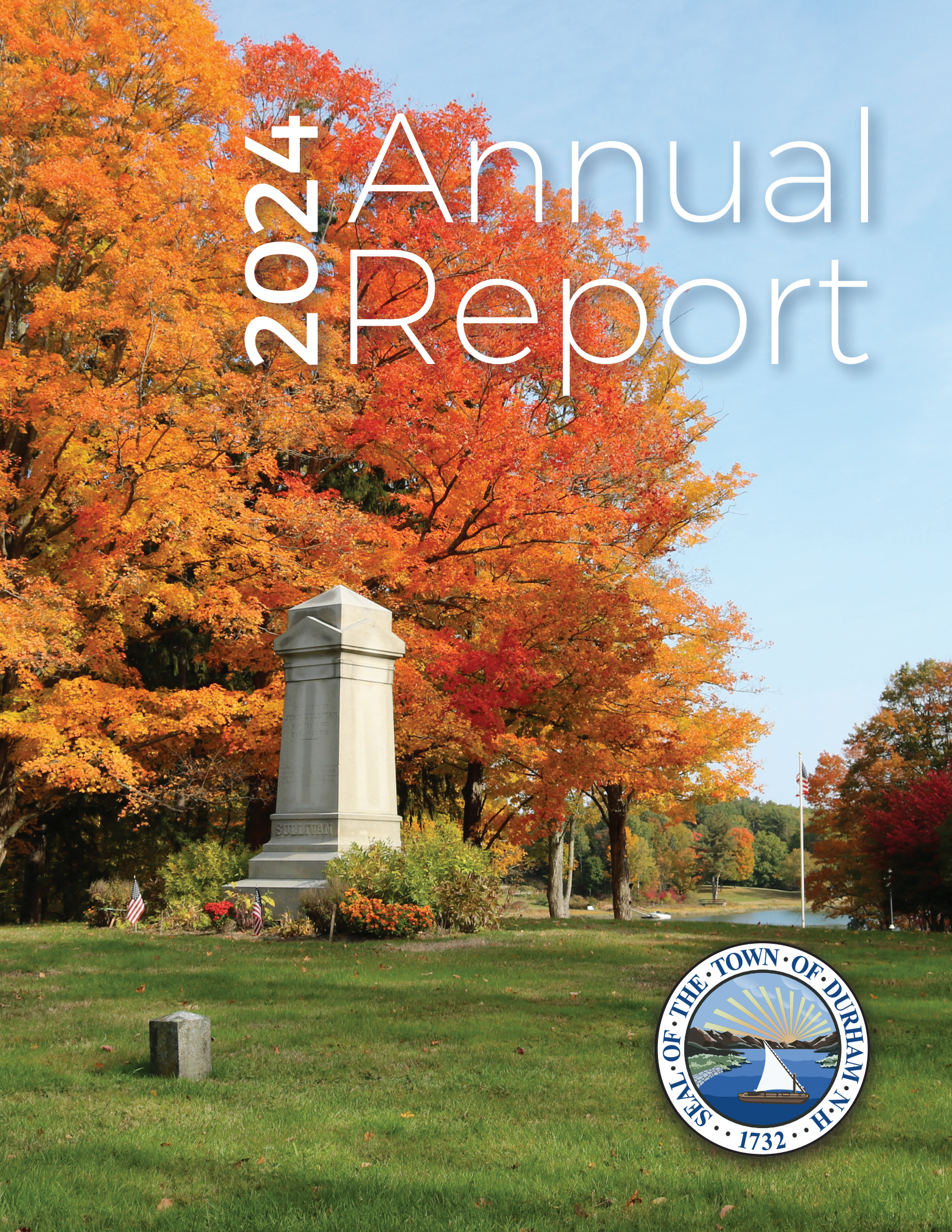


2024 Annual Report





Annual Report 2024

Durham, New Hampshire



For Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024

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Honorable Mentions

In 2024, many town citizens volunteered their time, talents, and efforts to serve on various elected and appointed boards, commissions and committees. We would like to take this opportunity to thank and recognize the following individuals for the important contributions they made to the community.

Town Council

Charles (Chuck) Hotchkiss
Jim Lawson
Eleanor (Ellie) Lonske
Carden Welsh

Library Board of Trustees

Randall O'Brien

Trustee of the Trust Funds

Michael Everngam

Agricultural Commission

Eleanor (Ellie) Lonske, Council Rep.

Cemetery Committee

Michael Everngam
James Lawson, Council Rep.
Eleanor (Ellie) Lonske, Council Rep.

Conservation Commission

Jake Kritzer
Carden Welsh, Council Rep.

Downtown TIF District Advisory Board

Tom Elliott
Roger Hayden
Sean O'Connell

Energy Committee

Nat Balch
Wayne Burton, Council Rep.

Historic District/Heritage Commission

William McGowan, Planning Board Rep.

Housing Task Force

Charlotte Hitchcock
Charles (Chuck) Hotchkiss, Council Rep.

Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee

Heather Grant, Planning Board Rep.
Sally Needell
Carden Welsh, Council Rep.

Land Stewardship Subcommittee

Larry Brickner-Wood, HDC Rep.
Jim Lawson, Council Rep.

Parks & Recreation Committee

Genevieve Brown
Michael Drooker
Brian Keegan

Planning Board

Charles (Chuck) Hotchkiss, Council Rep.
Chris McClain
William McGowan

Strafford Regional Planning Commission

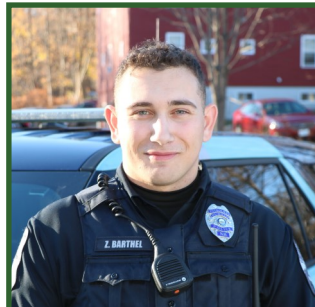
Wayne Burton
Leslie Schwartz

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Leslie Schwartz



New Faces in 2024



Zachary Barthel
Police Officer
Hire Date: 6/3/24



Joshua Boldebook
Firefighter/EMT
Hire Date: 10/21/24



Finnegan Brown
Firefighter/EMT
Hire Date: 3/25/24



Darcy Freer
Assessor
Hire Date: 6/28/24



Jessica Landry
Benefits/Payroll Specialist
Hire Date: 6/28/24



Keith Letourneau
Police Officer
Hire Date: 4/1/24



Katherine Nadeau
Library Assistant
Hire Date: 8/27/24

Officers, Boards, Commissions And Committees



ELECTED OFFICIALS

OFFICIAL/BOARD	ADDRESS	PHONE	EMAIL	TERM	EX-PIRES	APPT. AUTH.
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DURHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Sally Needell, Chair	36 Bagdad Rd.	603-868-1552	sneedelltc@gmail.com	3 Yrs	3/26	Elected
Joe Friedman, Pro Tem	24 Woodman Road	603-957-1600	Joe.Friedman42@gmail.com	3 Yrs	3/25	Elected
James Bubar	4 Old Piscataqua Rd.	603-343-7890	jamesabubar@gmail.com	3 Yrs	3/25	Elected
Wayne Burton	106 Madbury Rd.	508-517-7188	wburton@northshore.edu	3 Yrs	3/26	Elected
Darrell Ford	26 Perley Lane	603-973-6883	dford.council@yahoo.com	3 Yrs	3/27	Elected
Emily Friedrichs	18 Garden Lane	603-706-8174	emilyfriedrichs@gmail.com	3 Yrs	3/26	Elected
Heather Grant	7 Emerson Rd.	603-285-2913	hcgrantdb@gmail.com	3 Yrs	3/27	Elected
Eric Lund	31 Faculty Road	603-969-0966	ejlund@myfairpoint.net	3 Yrs	3/25	Elected
Curtis Register	6 Rocky Lane	919-525-4383	curtis.register2024@gmail.com	3 Yrs	3/27	Elected

DURHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Robin Glasser, Chair	1 Roysann Way	508-530-2933	durhamplglasser@gmail.com	3 Yrs	3/26	Elected
Callie Langton	14 Ross Road	925-579-4020	callie.langton@gmail.com	3 Yrs	3/27	Council
Charlotte Ramsay	3 Sophie Lane	315-854-1997	charlotte_ramsay@yahoo.com	3 Yrs	3/25	Elected
Andrew Sharp	20 Cowell Dr.	814-404-0691	asharp100@gmail.com	3 Yrs	3/25	Elected
Kimberly Sweetman	6 Morgan Way	646-408-9831	kimberly.sweetman@mac.com	3 Yrs	3/26	Elected
Erik Waddell	8 Sumac Ln.	617-894-4042	erik@athousandmoments.com	3 Yrs	3/25	Elected
Susan Wagner	10 Edendale Lane	978-499-1831	susanwagner31@icloud.com	3 Yrs	3/27	Elected
Martha (Martie) Gooze, Alt.	9 Meadow Rd.	603-781-1111	mtgooze@gmail.com	1 Yr	4/25	Council
Elizabeth Newkirk, Alt.	40 Mill Pond Road	603-969-1148	bethnewkirk48@gmail.com	1 Yr	4/25	Council
Katharine Gatcomb, Alt.	22A Simons Lane	603-512-3020	katharinegatcomb@gmail.com	1 Yr	4/25	Council

MODERATOR

Christopher T. Regan	16 Littlehale Rd.	603-868-2293	chrisregan@durhamnhlaw.com	2 Yrs	3/26	Elected
Lee Skinner, Deputy	14 Stone Quarry Dr.	603-590-9197	lwskinner@comcast.net	2 Yrs	3/26	Moderator

SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST

Ann Shump, Chair	10 Fogg Dr.	603-868-1342	shump@comcast.net	6 Yrs	3/26	Elected
Deborah Hirsch Mayer	19 Garden Ln.	603-868-7150	hirschmayer2@gmail.com	6 Yrs	3/28	Elected
Christian N. Kuhn	3 Razorbill Circle	603-841-0895	christian.n.kuhn@gmail.com	6 Yrs	3/30	Elected

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR

Rachel Deane	8 Newmarket Rd.	603-868-5577	rdeane@ci.durham.nh.us	3 Yrs	3/26	Elected
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TOWN TREASURER

Karl Van Asselt	17 Fairchild Dr.	603-868-6353	vanasselt@aol.com	3 Yrs	3/26	Elected
Catherine Leach, Deputy	14 Fairchild Dr.	603-868-5992	leachfam@comcast.net	3 Yrs	3/26	Treasurer

ELECTED OFFICIALS (CONTINUED)

OFFICIAL/BOARD	ADDRESS	PHONE	EMAIL	TERM	EX-PIRES	APPT. AUTH.
TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUNDS						
Theodore Howard, Chair	12 Burnham Ave.	603-868-1152	ted.howard@unh.edu	3 Yrs	3/26	Elected
Alberto Manalo, Sec.	11 Sumac Lane	603-502-0539	alberto.manalo@comcast.net	3 Yrs	3/25	Elected
Tom Bebbington	25 Park Court	603-498-5881	tpbebbington@mac.com	3 Yrs	3/27	Elected
Victor Sosa, Alt	45 Edgewood Road	603-498-9114	vgsosa@yahoo.com	1 Yr	3/25	Council
VACANT, Alt				1 Yr	3/25	Council

BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Tom Bebbington, Chair	25 Park Court	603-498-5881	tpbebbington@mac.com	3 Yrs	3/27	Elected
Theodore Howard	12 Burnham Ave.	603-868-1152	ted.howard@unh.edu	3 Yrs	3/26	Elected
Alberto Manalo	11 Sumac Lane	603-502-0539	alberto.manalo@comcast.net	3 Yrs	3/25	Elected
Darrell Ford, Cncl Rep	26 Perley Lane	603-973-6883	dford.council@yahoo.com	1 Yr	3/25	Council
Eric Lund, Cncl Rep	31 Faculty Road	603-969-0966	ejlund@myfairpoint.net	1 Yr	3/25	Council
Curtis Register, Cncl Rep	6 Rocky Lane	919-525-4383	curtis.register2024@gmail.com	1Yr	3/25	Council

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Dwight Trueblood, Chair	11 Tall Pines Road	603-205-1775	dwright.trueblood@comcast.net	3 Yrs	4/27	Council
Erin Hardie Hale, V. Chair	74 Mill Road	603-957-7233	ehardiehale@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/25	Council
Nicholas Lanzer	12 Ambler Way	603-391-1978	nicholaslanzer@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/25	Council
John Nachilly	260 Packers Falls Rd.	603-953-3638	nachilly@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/25	Council
Neil Slepian	12 Fairchild Drive	781-690-7625	neil.slepian@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/26	Council
Jacob Cragg, Alt.	127 Durham Point Rd	501-860-3398	jacobcragg@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/27	Council
Anne Lightbody, Alt.	95 Madbury Road	Private	annelightbody@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/25	Council
Steve Moyer, Alt.	13 Fellows Lane	571-274-0593	stevemoyer13@outlook.com	3 Yrs	4/26	Council
Wayne Burton, Cncl Rep	106 Madbury Rd.	508-517-7188	wburton@northshore.edu	1 Yr	4/25	Council
Richard Kelley PB Rep	5 Garden Ln.	603-767-9795	richard.kelley@hdrinc.com	1 Yr	4/25	Council

LAND STEWARDSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE

Ann Welsh, Chair	3 Fairchild Dr.	-----	annwelsh@mac.com	N/A	N/A	At-large Mem.
Veronique Ludington		603-479-8824	vludington@ci.durham.nh.us	N/A	N/A	Contract staff
Carolyn Singer	5 Woodridge Rd.	603-498-6570	nhgrantwriter@aol.com	N/A	N/A	HDC
Gale Carey	49 Oyster River Road	603-969-4165	gale.carey@comcast.net	N/A	N/A	At large Mem.
John Carroll	54 Canney Rd.	603-868-2935	john.carroll@unh.edu	N/A	N/A	Ag Comm
Myrta Janosz	23 Durham Pt. Rd.	603-493-8497	janosz.myrta@gmail.com	N/A	N/A	Parks & Rec
Theodore Howard	12 Burnham Ave.	603-868-1152	ted.howard@unh.edu	N/A	N/A	Trustees of the Trust Fund
John Nachilly	260 Packers Falls Rd	603-953-3638	nachilly@gmail.com	N/A	N/A	Con. Comm.
Marty Gorham	11 Burnham Ave	-----	marty.gorham@gmail.com	N/A	N/A	At large Mem.
Darrell Ford, Cncl Rep	26 Perley Lane	603-973-6883	dford.council@yahoo.com	1 Yr	4/25	Council
Sara Callaghan, Alt.	4 Fogg Drive	603-686-4679	fireflystewardship@gmail.com	N/A	N/A	Alternate
VACANT, Alt.				N/A	N/A	Alternate

HISTORIC DISTRICT/HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Larry Brickner-Wood, Chair	1 Colony Cove Rd.	603-988-4470	revlarry77@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/27	Council
Charlotte Hitchcock, V. Chair	14 Stone Quarry Dr. Apt. 104	603-590-9164	charlotte.rose.hitchcock@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/26	Council
Michael Hoffman	300 Durham Pt. Rd.	603-817-8071	mhoffman33@comcast.net	3 Yrs	4/26	Council
Carolyn Singer	5 Woodridge Rd.	603-498-6570	nhgrantwriter@aol.com	3 Yrs	4/27	Council
Aaron Wolfson-Slepian	47 Newmarket Rd.	603-767-0348	aaron.slepian@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/25	Council

BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES (CONTINUED)

OFFICIAL/BOARD	ADDRESS	PHONE	EMAIL	TERM	EX-PIRES	APPT. AUTH.
<u>HISTORIC DISTRICT/HERITAGE COMMITTEE (Cont.)</u>						
Jennifer Becker, Alt.	2 Bartlett Road	603-953-6465	dayhoofj@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/26	Council
Thomas Janosz, Alt.	23 Durham Point Rd	603-623-5439	tomjano@comcast.net	3 Yrs	4/25	Council
VACANT, Alt.				3 Yrs	4/27	Council
Eric Lund, Cncl Rep	31 Faculty Road	603-969-0966	ejlund@myfairpoint.net	1 Yr	3/25	Council
Sally Tobias, PB Rep	107 Madbury Road	603-397-0802	sally.tobias@me.com	1 Yr	4/25	Plan Board
<u>PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE</u>						
Cathy Leach, Chair	14 Fairchild Dr.	603-969-0785	leachfam@comcast.net	3 Yrs	4/26	Council
Al Howland, Vice Chair	32 Ffrost Drive	603-868-5928	thehowl@comcast.net	3 Yrs	4/25	Council
Chris Gowland	28 Newmarket Road	978-649-9222	cjgowland@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/25	Council
Erin Guyotte	14 Old Landing Road	603-312-8717	ering257@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/26	Council
Tracy Schroeder	18 Bagdad Road	603-868-7575	tlsinnh@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/27	Council
Matthew Swiesz	17 Sumac Lane	603-817-7536	drswiesz@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/27	Council
Myrta Janosz, Alt.	23 Durham Pt. Rd.	603-493-8497	janosz.myrta@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/26	Council
VACANT, Alt.				3 Yrs	4/27	Council
VACANT, Alt.				3 Yrs	4/25	Council
Joe Friedman, Cncl Rep	24 Woodman Road	603-957-1600	joe.friedman42@gmail.com	1 Yr	3/25	Council
<u>PLANNING BOARD</u>						
Paul Rasmussen, Chair	5 Glassford Lane	603-397-5359	pnrasmus@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/26	Council
Sally Tobias, V. Chair	107 Madbury Road	603-397-0802	sally.tobias@me.com	3 Yrs	4/26	Council
Peyton McManus, Sec.	54 Ross Road	603-479-3764	peyton_mcmanus@yahoo.com	3 Yrs	4/25	Council
Richard Kelley	5 Garden Ln.	603-767-9795	richard.kelley@hdrinc.com	3 Yrs	4/25	Council
Robert Sullivan,	193 Packers Falls Rd	603-502-3670	robert.sullivan@icloud.com	3 Yrs	4/27	Council
Gary Whittington	6 Old Piscataqua Rd	319-573-2972	whittington10@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/27	Council
Tom DeCapo, Alt.	315 Durham Point Rd	917-859-4848	tdc.decapo@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/27	Council
Erika Naumann Gaillat, Alt.	14 Schoolhouse Lane	269-903-6801	enaumanngaillat@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/25	Council
VACANT, Alt.				3 Yrs	4/26	Council
VACANT, Alt.				3 Yrs	4/26	Council
VACANT, Alt.				3 Yrs	4/25	Council
Emily Friedrichs, Cncl Rep	18 Garden Lane	603-706-8174	emilyfriedrichs@gmail.com	1 Yr	3/25	Council
Heather Grant, Alt Cncl Rep	7 Emerson Rd.	603-285-2913	hcgrantdb@gmail.com	1 Yr	3/25	Council
<u>ZONING BOARD</u>						
Micah Warnock, Chair	45 Woodman Rd.	540-421-3705	warnockmr@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/27	Council
Neil Niman, Vice Chair	10 Cold Sprint Road	603-659-8853	neil.niman@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/25	Council
Kevin Lemieux, Sec.	11 Bartlett Road	617-999-4489	lemieux_kevin@hotmail.com	3 Yrs	4/27	Council
James Bubar	4 Old Piscataqua Rd	603-343-7890	jamesabubar@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/26	Council
Mark Morong	21 Emerson Rd.	603-661-1296	mduffm@comast.net	3 Yrs	4/25	Council
Joseph Warzin, Alt.	102 Madbury Road	586-933-6336	warzin@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/25	Council
VACANT, Alt.				3 Yrs	4/27	Council
VACANT, Alt.				3 Yrs	4/26	Council

TOWN WORKING COMMITTEES

OFFICIAL/BOARD	ADDRESS	PHONE	EMAIL	TERM	EX-PIRES	APPT. AUTH.
<u>AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION</u>						
Theresa Walker, Chair	62 Bennett Rd.	603-659-7226	theresawalker@comcast.net	3 Yrs	4/25	Council
Raymond LaRoche Jr., V. Chair	41 Bennett Rd.	603-292-5563	larochefarmdurham@aol.com	3 Yrs	4/26	Council
Anton Bekkerman	2 Stonewall Way	406-589-0079	anton.bekkerman@unh.edu	3 Yrs	4/25	Council
John Carroll	54 Canney Rd.	603-868-2935	carroll@unh.edu	3 Yrs	4/27	Council
Alberto Manalo	11 Sumac Dr.	603-868-9883	alberto.manalo@comcast.net	3 Yrs	4/26	Council
Holly Philbrick	35 Cedar Point Road	603-997-1781	holly@emeryfarm.com	3 Yrs	4/27	Council
Lee Alexander, Alt.	32 Dover Rd.	603-868-5822	leelaine-alex@comcast.net	3 Yrs	4/27	Council
Bryan Cassidy, Alt.	342 Dame Rd.	603-819-1397	bryancassidy77@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/26	Council
Ellen Karelitz, Alt.	113 Madbury Rd.	603-868-6070	ellenkare51@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/26	Council
David Langley, Alt.	234 Longmarsh Rd.	603-793-9331	davelangleydesign@comcast.net	3 Yrs	4/25	Council
Daniel Winans, Alt.	109 Madbury Rd.	603-834-5523	dan.winans@unh.edu	3 Yrs	4/25	Council
Curtis Register, Cncl Rep	6 Rocky Lane	919-525-4383	curtis.register2024@gmail.com	1 Yr	3/25	Council
Tom DeCapo, PB Rep	315 Durham Pt. Rd.	917-859-4848	tdc.decapo@gmail.com	1 Yr	4/25	Planning Board
<u>ENERGY COMMITTEE</u>						
Matthias Dean Carpentier, Chair	265 Packers Falls Rd.	678-907-1837	matthiasdeancarpentier@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/26	Council
Thomas (Ti) Crossman	26 Coe Drive	603-868-5655	tcrossman26@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/25	Council
Charles Forcey	12 Thompson Lane	603-781-1189	cforcey@me.com	3 Yrs	4/27	Council
Steve Holmgren	20 Perley Lane	732-977-6142	sholmgren2@outlook.com	3 Yrs	4/26	Council
Michael Klein	28 Sumac Lane	603-401-2914	mike@pwiconsulting.net	3 Yrs	4/25	Council
Michal Konopko	31 Young Drive	603-948-9540	konopko89@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/27	Council
John Lannamann	156 Packers Falls Rd.	603-659-6145	John.lannamann@unh.edu	3 Yrs	4/25	Council
Michael Lehrman	20 Cedar Pt. Rd.	603-560-5024	mdlwindham@comcast.net	3 Yrs	4/26	Council
Eric Lund, Cncl Rep	31 Faculty Road	603-969-0966	ejlund@myfairpoint.net	1 Yr	3/25	Council
Matthew Davis UNH Rep.	James Hall Rm. 230	603-862-1718	matt.davis@unh.edu	N/A	N/A	UNH President
Emily Friedrichs, PB Rep.	18 Garden Lane	603-706-8174	emilyfriedrichs@gmail.com	1 Yr	4/25	Plan Board
<u>HOUSING TASK FORCE</u>						
Sally Tobias, Chair	107 Madbury Road	603-397-0802	sally.tobias@me.com	N/A	N/A	Council
Al Howland, Citizen Rep	32 Frost Drive	603-868-5928	al.howland.13@gmail.com	N/A	N/A	Council
Michael Mulhern, Citizen Rep	91 Bagdad Road	603-234-3189	mmulhern@servicecu.org	N/A	N/A	Council
Eileen E. Murphy, Citizen Rep	9 Bayview Road	443-626-7203	eemurphy.5@gmail.com	N/A	N/A	Council
Michael Saputo, Citizen Rep	5 Rocky Lane	603-817-0234	msaputo5@gmail.com	N/A	N/A	Council
Judith Spang, Citizen Rep	55 Wiswall Road	603-828-6419	judith@kestrelnet.net	N/A	N/A	Council
VACANT, Citizen Rep				N/A	N/A	Council
VACANT, Citizen Rep				N/A	N/A	Council
Nick Taylor, Advisor			director@seacoastwhc.org	N/A	N/A	
Mimi Kell, Advisor			mkell@madburyproperties.com	N/A	N/A	
Heather Grant, Cncl Rep	7 Emerson Rd.	603-285-2913	hcgrantdb@gmail.com	1 Yr	3/25	Council
Paul Rasmussen, PB Rep	5 Glassford Lane	603-397-5359	pnasmus@gmail.com	1 Yr	4/25	Planning Board

TOWN WORKING COMMITTEES (CONTINUED)

OFFICIAL/BOARD	ADDRESS	PHONE	EMAIL	TERM	EX-PIRES	APPT. AUTH.
<u>HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION</u>						
Sally Needell, Council Rep., Chair	38 Bagdad Road	603-868-1552	sneedelltc@gmail.com	1 Yr	3/25	Council
Todd Selig, Administrator	8 Newmarket Rd.	603-868-5571	tselig@ci.durham.nh.us	N/A	N/A	Council
Richard Belshaw, Citizen Rep.	2 Cutts Road	603-498-4935	rwbelshaw@earthlink.net	3 Yrs.	4/26	Council
Kathy Collins, Citizen Rep.	31 Oyster River Road	603-502-8436	kcollins15@mac.com	3 Yrs.	4/27	Council
Deborah Hirsch Mayer, Citizen Rep.	19 Garden Lane	603-397-7730	hirschmayer2@gmail.com	3 Yrs.	4/25	Council
Janet Perkins-Howland, Citizen Rep.	32 Ffrost Dr.	603-234-5905	thehowl@comcast.net	3 Yrs.	4/26	Council
Leslie Schwartz, Citizen Rep	P.O. Box 799	Private	totographs@comcast.net	3 Yrs.	4/27	Council
<u>INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMITTEE</u>						
Nell Neal, Chair	11 Riverview Rd.	603-866-2153	Nellneal3@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/25	Council
Julie Kelley, Vice Chair	5 Garden Ln.	603-767-9796	Riejulkelley@comcast.net	3 Yrs	4/25	Council
Naomi Kornhauser	27 Edgewood Road	603-868-6698	naomi.kornhauser@comcast.net	3 Yrs	4/26	Council
Mike Pazdon	163 Dame Road	603-770-9414	mpazdon@comcast.net	3 Yrs	4/27	Council
Janet Perkins-Howland	32 Ffrost Drive	603-234-5905	jperkinshowland@mgb.org	3 Yrs	4/27	Council
Peter Yost	32 Worthen Road	802-380-4744	payost@comcast.net	3 Yrs	4/25	Council
Susan Richman, Alt.	16 Cowell Drive	603-868-2758	susan7richman@gmail.com	3 Yrs	4/26	Council
James Bubar, Cncl Rep	4 Old Piscataqua Rd	603-343-7890	jamesabubar@gmail.com	1 Yr	3/25	Council
Paul Rasmussen, PB Rep	5 Glassford Lane	603-397-5359	pnrasmus@gmail.com	1 Yr	4/25	Planning Board
<u>LAMPREY RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE</u>						
Richard Lord	85 Bennett Rd.	603-659-2721	rhlord@comcast.net	3 Yrs	7/29/25	State-NHDES
David Steinberg	271 Packers Falls Rd.	215-262-0214	steinbds@gmail.com	3 Yrs	3/9/26	State-NHDES
VACANT						
VACANT						
<u>OYSTER RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE</u>						
Catherine Ashcraft	14 Stevens Way	603-397-5186		3 Yrs	5/16/25	State-NHDES
Jim Hornbeck	19 Woodridge Rd.	603-868-5419	jnhornbeck@comcast.net	3 Yrs	5/11/25	State-NHDES
Michael Sullivan	UNH Ritzman Lab	603-862-1437	Michael.sullivan@unh.edu	3 Yrs	2/14/26	State-NHDES
VACANT						
<u>PEASE AIRPORT NOISE COMPATIBILITY STUDY COMMITTEE</u>						
Michael Lehrman	20 Cedar Point Road	603-560-5024	mdlwindham@comcast.net	3 Yrs	4/27	Council
<u>STRAFFORD REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION</u>						
Michael Lehrman	20 Cedar Point Road	603-560-5024	mdlwindham@comcast.net	4 Yrs	4/26	Council
VACANT						
VACANT						
VACANT						



Retirements



Lisa Beaudoin, Administrative Assistant in the Business Office, retired on July 31, 2024 after 24½ years of service to the Town of Durham.

Lisa started working for the Town on January 17, 2000. It happened to be Martin Luther King Jr. Day and the Town Hall was closed. But there was a lot of work waiting for her, so she was in the office. That was an early indication of Lisa's unusual dedication.

Lisa helped Gail Jablonski, the Business Manager, provide human resource services for the Town. Lisa also handled benefits for active employees and retirees, processing payroll, and doing intake for welfare applicants.

There are many things that Lisa wants to do after she retires, such as traveling and spending time with her many nieces and nephews.

We wish Lisa a very happy retirement!



Jason Best retired from the Durham Fire Department on December 31, 2024. Jason was hired as a full-time firefighter at the Durham Fire Department on June 26, 1999.

Jason was promoted to fire captain in 2011 and served on the Executive Boards of the Durham Professional Firefighters Association as well as the Durham Professional Municipal Managers Association.

He also served as the department's coordinator for small engines and rescue equipment. Jason's strong dedication and commitment to service, combined with his knowledge, skills, and abilities, have been a tremendous asset to the fire department and to the Durham/UNH community.

We wish Jason a very happy retirement!



Retirements



Lisa Kleinmann was hired as a part-time Library employee on October 6, 2009 and was hired full-time on January 1, 2014. She retired on February 9, 2024.

For 15 years, Lisa served as the heart and soul of the Youth Services Department, weaving magic with her storytelling, fostering curiosity with wonder-filled displays, and nurturing a love for books, stories, and songs that have transcended the library's walls.

Lisa was key in facilitating the move to the new library building in 2013 and growing library services to the youth of Durham. Lisa's ability to discern the needs of her patrons and our community and deliver quality materials and programming to our youngest patrons in creative and innovative ways was incomparable. For her talents, she was awarded Children's Librarian of the year in 2016.

We wish Lisa a very happy retirement!



Jim Rice began working for Durham as a contract assessor in 2009 and was hired full time in 2013. He retired on February 29, 2024.

As Town Assessor, Jim oversaw three Town revaluations and worked with a consultant to fully update Durham's tax maps in 2022.

Jim was a leader in the assessing industry in the state, having served as president of the New Hampshire Association of Assessing Officers (NHAAO) and chair of four NHAAO committees – the Education, Ethics, Finance, and Conference Committees. He received a number of awards for his service: the *Sherry Vermilya Award* from the Northeast Regional Association of Assessing Officers, the *Lawton B. Chandler Award*, and the *NHAAO President's Choice Award*. Jim will continue serving as a member of the Board of Assessors in Laconia, where he lives with his wife Donna.

We wish Jim a very happy retirement!



Town Election Results

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

ARTICLE 1:

TOWN COUNCILOR (Three, 3-year terms)

Heather Grant – 597
Curtis Clayton Register – 619
Harry Tobias – 289
Darrell Ford – 489

TOWN COUNCILOR (One, 1-year term)

James Bubar – 673

PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEE (Two, 3-year terms)

Callie Langton – 652
Susan Wagner – 653

TOWN MODERATOR (One, 2-year term)

Chris Regan – 703

SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST (One, 6-year term)

Christian Kuhn – 682

TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUND (One, 3-year term)

Thomas P. Bebbington – 686

TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUND (One, 1-year term)

Alberto B. Manalo - 682

Total regular ballots:	752
Total absentee ballots:	48
Total ballots cast:	800

Town Warrant



Election, Tuesday, March 11, 2025

To the inhabitants of the Town of Durham, the County of Strafford, New Hampshire.

You are hereby notified to meet at the Oyster River High School, Multipurpose Room, located on Coe Drive in said Durham, New Hampshire, on Tuesday, the 11th day of March 2025 (the polls will be open between the hours of 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM) to act upon the following subjects:

ARTICLE 1:

To bring in your votes for three (3) Councilors (3-year terms); three (3) Durham Public Library Board of Trustees (3-year terms) and one (1) Trustee of the Trust Fund (3-year term)

Given under our hands and seal this 2nd day of DECEMBER in the year of TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-FOUR (2024)

Sally Needell, *Chair*

Joe Friedman, *Chair Pro Tem*

James Bubar

Wayne Burton

Darrell Ford

Emily Friedrichs

Heather Grant

Eric Lund

Curtis Register

COUNCILORS OF DURHAM



Administrative Summary

ADMINISTRATOR



Todd Selig, Administrator

2024 was another solid year for the Town of Durham. Town staff, as well as Elected and appointed officials, worked diligently to address the community's needs and maintain transparency, integrity, respect for one another, a welcoming atmosphere, free and fair elections, a high quality of life for residents, outstanding service delivery, and improvement in sustainable practices across the organization. Despite competing pressures, we also managed to maintain the municipality's fiscal position and ensure long-term resilience for the community.

Our Independent Auditor's most recent year-end audit (FY 2023) prepared by Plodzik and Sanderson indicates strong financial health with no adverse findings. Moody's Investors Services indicates that the credit position for Durham is very high quality. Our Aa2 bond rating is a little stronger than the US cities median of Aa3. The Town's unassigned fund balance of the General Fund has increased to \$7,757,790, which is at long last after more than twenty years of effort, in line with Town goals and industry best practices. These metrics are all indicative of measured success in realizing the Town's fiscal goals.

After holding the municipal portion of the tax rate unchanged for the last two years, the FY 2025 general fund budget, which was approved by the Town Council on December 16, is projected to keep the local portion of the rate in line with the rate of inflation for the Boston-Cambridge-Newton-MA-NH region at 3.4%. Due to a development boom in the early 2010's, we held the municipal tax rate constant for 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 despite significant capital investment in municipal infrastructure (i.e., new Library, new Town Hall, and renovation/addition to the Police Department). Unfortunately, there is no significant new development on the near-term horizon to broaden the tax base and offset the cost of local services. This should be an area of focus for 2025 as the cost of providing municipal services will continue to grow.

The Town Council approved moving forward with Phase III of the Madbury Road Complete Streets Project as part of the FY 2025 capital budget, which at full buildout will reconstruct the 8,200 lineal foot Madbury Road corridor, connecting Main Street to Route 4 utilizing a "complete streets" framework. The Town was successful in obtaining substantial American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding totaling over \$608,000 to address culvert and drainage improvements associated with the project and we continue to pursue external funding for project components.

The Town Council adopted several notable resolutions in 2024:

- Res. #2024-02 recognizing Assessor Jim Rice upon his retirement following 11 years of service.
- Res. #2024-04 accepting \$286,600 in grant funds from LCHIP to support the rehabilitation of the Bickford-Chesley House at Wagon Hill Farm.
- Res. #2024-05 recognizing Michael Everngam for his many years of dedicated volunteer service to the Town of Durham since 1994.
- Res. #2024-06 opposing House Bill 1281, which sought to prohibit a zoning ordinance or regulation from restricting the number of occupants in a residential rental property to less than 2 occupants per bedroom.
- Res. #2024-07 renewing the employment contract with Administrator Todd I. Selig for an additional 7 seven years through 12/31/30.
- Res. #2024-09 recognizing those whose steadfast efforts resulted in the historic 1974 Town vote to prohibit construction of an oil refinery along the shore of Great Bay on the 50th anniversary of the event.
- Res. #2024-10 acknowledging the impact of the Israel-Hamas conflict on residents of the Town, affirming the Town's stance against hate, bigotry, and discrimination, and calling for an immediate ceasefire, the safe release of all hostages,

the provision of humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza, and a durable bilateral ceasefire among the parties to the Israel-Hamas conflict.

- Res. 2024-12 accepting \$1,994,539 in grant funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for shoreline restoration work at Wagon Hill Farm.
- Res. 2024-14 accepting up to \$2,040,000 in funding from the US EPA for the Bennett Road Stormwater and Flood Resiliency Project.
- Res. 2024-15 affirming Juneteenth Independence Day as a recognized holiday in Durham and reaffirming the Town’s opposition to oppression.
- Res. 2024-17 expressing Durham’s interest in partnering with UNH to ensure that the constitutional right to freedom of speech for residents and visitors remains unimpeded and to emphasize de-escalation in all conflicts.
- Res. 2024-23 recognizing Durham Fire and DPW for their quick response to the Town Hall major water leak, and recognizing employees in the Planning, Zoning, Assessing, Business, IT, and Town Clerk/Tax Collector’s Office for their patience and flexibility during the clean-up and subsequent rehabilitation efforts.

Durham’s weekly “Friday Updates” continue to keep the Town Council and members of the community informed of news and happenings in Durham. Nearly 4,300 individuals (up 600 from last year alone) subscribe to this weekly publication, which doubles as a part of our local emergency broadcast system. The goal is to keep residents informed of local affairs so they may become engaged when issues are of interest/ importance to them. Durham also continues to utilize its web site, Twitter (X), and Facebook presence in order to meet the demands of residents’ varying preferences for information distribution. A complete refresh of the Town’s web site is planned in 2025.

Years of planning paid off in late-2023 when Durham representatives went to the State House to receive a Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) award from Gov. Chris Sununu. The \$286,000 grant is intended to help pay for rehabilitation of the historic Bickford-Chesley House at

Wagon Hill Farm. Local resident historians Carolyn Singer, Janet Mackie, Nancy Sandberg, and Charlotte Hitchcock have been working diligently with Public Works Director Rich Reine to plan for improvements to the building since that time, navigating market-driven cost increases and project complications with the historic structure. Exterior and interior restoration and renovation are needed to return the building to a fully usable condition including ADA accessibility. The improvements will accommodate the building’s adaptive reuse, which with supplemental funding totaling \$1,173,425 allocated by the Council as part of the FY 2025 budget process, will ultimately create a caretaker’s apartment on the second floor and public uses including an exhibit gallery and meeting rooms on the first floor, as well as allowing for three-season use of the barn, which is currently unusable for anything but dry storage due to code requirements. The Bickford-Chesley House Gallery will house temporary exhibits on Durham’s history as well as the work of local artists. Wagon Hill Farm is on land originally occupied by the Indigenous Abenaki, and it became one of the first farms in the area to be settled by English colonists. It remained in continuous agricultural use for nearly 300 years. In addition to the LCHIP grant, the Town has received a Moose Plate Grant in the amount of \$20,000 for a total of \$306,600 in external capital funding. Work on the Bickford-Chesley House is expected to begin in late Spring 2025.

Durham received a top-ranking score in NH by the



l-r: Administrator Todd Selig and Administrative Assistant Karen Edwards

Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equity Index (MEI) in 2024 relative to addressing LGBTQ inclusive practices – 93 out of 100 points.

As part of the 2021 budget, the Council approved \$1,385,000 to replace Durham's public safety Land and Mobile Radio (LMR) communication infrastructure because it exceeded its scheduled end of life. We were subsequently notified by the US Department of Justice in 2022 that \$900,000 was awarded to Durham under the COPS Technology and Equipment Program to offset the cost of the project. After substantial planning and numerous delays outside of the Town's control, the LMR project became fully operational in 2024.

Staffing headwinds impacted our fire and police departments this year. Several employees, after many years of dedicated service, chose to move on, some through retirement and others in pursuit of different job opportunities or vocations, and we have struggled to attract new prospects. There were long-term medical issues/injuries at the Fire Department driving up overtime costs. Increased competition for fire/police personnel across NH emerged providing alternatives for staff in terms of where to work for increasingly competitive pay. Fewer people across society appear to be moving into emergency service professions, making it harder to fill vacancies. In response, we made several adjustments within the existing firefighters contract to address the issue of compensation as a stopgap measure, yet formal collective bargaining contract negotiations will commence in 2025. A new contract for Durham's police officers was negotiated and ratified in 2024, which we believe will allow the Town to compete in current market conditions. The topic of compensation will demand additional focus in 2025 as three collective bargaining agreements are set to expire – fire, middle managers, and public works.

The team at the fire department has submitted a grant application totaling \$562,120.00 for replacement SCBA equipment that would provide Durham firefighters with the safest available PPE that meets modern standards consisting of a SCBA harness/backpack, face piece, and two cylinders.

The Durham Police Department is certified as part of a professional external accreditation process through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). This provides the Town with an assurance that our department is engaged in providing best practices in policing services to citizens as evidenced by ongoing inspections by an outside independent entity. A review by

external examiners of 25% of the department's policies took place in July 2024. In 2025, a full CALEA review will occur involving opportunities for public engagement/feedback.

It was a productive year for Durham Parks & Recreation. We estimate that 19.25% of Durham households participated in Parks & Rec. programming in 2024. This calculation does not include community-wide programming undertaken such as: Memorial Day; Frost Fest; Durham Day; Halloween Downtown Trick-or-Treating; Turkey Trot; Durham Day Dash 5K; Trot In the Trees 5K; Sweetheart Skate; Drop In Adult Basketball; Drop in Adult Volleyball; Knitting; Vacation week drop in open gym sessions; and Open Play Pickleball at Woodridge.

Through the efforts of Sara Callaghan, our former part-time contract Land Stewardship Coordinator, and the Land Stewardship Subcommittee of the Conservation Commission, the Town continues to make significant in-roads in sustainably managing the numerous lands and easements under the Town's stewardship. Sara departed to take a full time position with UNH Cooperative Extension in October, and the Town was able to hire Veronique Ludington to take her place in December.

The Town works to maintain a positive and cooperative relationship with the Oyster River School District. With the impending retirement of former School Superintendent James Morse in June, Administrator Selig was asked by the School Board to participate as part of the Superintendent selection process, which resulted in the hiring of Robert Shaps as of July 1, 2024. Superintendent Shaps and Administrator Selig remain in regular communication with one another regarding issues of mutual interest. He will provide the Council with an update on the district's budget process in early-2025.

We completed Durham's first Climate Action Plan (CAP) in 2022, a requirement of the Town's membership with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. This plan outlines mitigation and adaptation actions, measures how much each action will contribute to Durham meeting its mitigation and adaptation goals, and includes a plan for implementing the identified tasks. It establishes a course of action for local efforts toward a reduction in GHG emissions of 2019 levels by 42.8% by 2030, and achieving zero emissions by 2050. In 2023, our UNH Sustainability Fellow updated a Greenhouse Gas Inventory for Durham utilizing 2021 and 2022 data. In 2024, our Sustainability Fellow has been working to update the Town's CAP for use over the course of the next five years.

The Energy Committee and staff have made numerous strides in local sustainability efforts, in particular shepherding an initiative for the Town to join the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) to work toward providing wider accessibility of green energy for our community's residential and business electric utility customers, at a price equal to or less than Eversource, and working to assist Durham residents and business owners make the built environment more energy efficient, thereby reducing overall emissions. As part of this work, Durham officially launched Durham Community Power, offered through CPCNH, in February 2024!

As part of our planned DPW solid waste collection vehicle replacement program in 2024/25, the Town is moving ahead with a volume-based collection system in which each household will be issued a standard size solid waste collection toter for trash and another for recycling. DPW will then accept solid waste, limiting trash materials collected curbside to what can fit within the issued standard-size receptacles, utilizing new collection vehicles equipped with hydraulic arms to grab and dump each container, thereby encouraging less solid waste per household generation, enhancing recycling, and reducing employee exposure to potential lift, poke, and strain injuries. DPW was able to secure external state grant funds to offset 45% of the purchase price of an electric (EV) collection vehicle, which if secured, we understand would be the first EV municipal collection truck in NH.

The Town obtained \$20,000 in grant funds to pay for the cost of a Housing Needs Assessment by RKG Associates dated May 2024. As a college town that is home to UNH's main campus, the report concludes that Durham has disproportionately higher shares of non-family renter households. With its rental housing market driven by the college student population, we have a relatively expensive housing market, which makes it difficult to develop workforce housing that is affordable for homeowners. Though Durham's recent housing market trends show some positive signs as development interest has been shifting to higher-density residential developments, its housing market has not been delivering new housing that either meets the workforce housing affordability requirement or is affordable to a broader section of the population beyond student renters in recent years. To meet its housing objectives over the next 16 years, the report concludes Durham will have to encourage diverse types of housing, smaller housing, and higher densities to reduce its average development cost. The RKG report concludes that Durham should also consider

zoning changes to lower the minimum usable area requirement for Conservation Subdivisions, and to allow multi-unit development in more areas that are deemed suitable for workforce housing development. Following two years of work by numerous boards, the Town Council adopted a new Attainable Housing Overlay District on December 16. Additional initiatives are in process at the present time through the Housing Task Force and Planning Board.

Durham and UNH have been in active conversations concerning future development of The Edge at West End and also of Durham's 66 Main St. parcel. A RFP for a Master Developer for the project was issued by UNH in December 2024. The EDGE Innovation District is envisioned to create a research-based live-work-play community on the UNH Durham Campus. By leveraging 43 acres of available land, The EDGE could become a hub for innovation, technology transfer, and entrepreneurship that capitalizes on UNH's strengths and expands industry collaboration while providing expanded tax base for Durham and potential new customers to support our downtown. If successful, entrepreneurs, researchers, students, and professionals will mingle and collaborate in a lively new district, but with connectivity to downtown Durham.

The Town Council voted on September 13, 2021, to award a Final Design Contract to Vanasse Hagen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) for removal of the Mill Pond Dam. Subsequent to a Town-wide referendum vote on the issue, staff began pursuing external grant funding opportunities to support the cost of dam removal, working with the US Army Corps of Engineers and the NH Division of Historic Resources, as part of a Section 106 historic mitigation review, and planning engineering for the project. The historic mitigation, design, and wetland permitting have all been in process since 2023 with permitting envisioned to be in hand for 2025 with dam removal commencing in 2025, depending upon timing of the various detailed steps involved.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced a November 2023 round of funding for National Coastal Resilience Fund projects. \$1.9 million in funding was earmarked to create a living shoreline to stabilize an additional 1,835 linear feet of tidal shoreline and restore both 4,060 square feet of salt marsh habitat and 2,810 square feet of tidal buffer at Wagon Hill Farm. The project underwent extensive permitting in 2024 and is slated to begin in 2025. It will stabilize severe erosion while

protecting and increasing the adaptive capacity of critical conservation and community spaces. This is a continuation of our living shoreline project at WHF dating back to 2019.

Durham worked closely with the City of Portsmouth in 2024 to ensure Portsmouth’s access across Wagon Hill Farm to repair their water line at the shore of Little Bay was undertaken with as little disruption as possible to the property and the quiet enjoyment thereof by our residents. The project was a success.

We have painstakingly worked over many years to create a municipal water system that is inherently resilient in order to reliably provide approximately 1.2 million gals/day of water to both Town and the UNH campus. Together, Durham/UNH operate four water sources, one of which utilizes an artificial recharge system pumping raw water from the Lamprey River to our Spruce Hole Aquifer in Lee during times of plentiful flow, increasing our reserves for drought conditions. This, combined with a new state of the art \$20 million Water Treatment Plant on the UNH campus (funded 100% by UNH), places the combined Durham/UNH

community in a very sustainable position in the face of anticipated climate change.

Durham and UNH, through the joint administrative Water, Wastewater, Stormwater, and Roads Committee, continue to cooperatively address a multitude of Town/Gown items to include efficient operation of our combined water system as described above, focusing attention on water quality deficiencies within the Great Bay Estuary as identified by the NHDES and the EPA, meeting EPA wastewater and stormwater MS-4 mandates under our EPA Total Nitrogen General Permit, maintaining a required NHDES backflow prevention program, general water/sewer infrastructure, our Lee water line to address MBTE contamination at the Lee Traffic Circle, and more. On the front lines of our utility infrastructure both on and off campus, the Town and UNH are joined at the hip and work seamlessly together.

We refreshed signage at the train trestle adjacent to the Durham/UNH Train Station this fall. Modeled on advertisements utilized in the London Underground, the Town installed several vertical billboard-type advertising panels years ago intended at the time to combat recurring graffiti in this location. The effort was a success, eliminating the graffiti problem entirely and allowing for several of the Town's then business establishments to advertise their wares, as well as for UNH to promote some of its offerings to travelers. Two decades later, the panels were faded with many of the businesses no longer in operation. As such, over the course of more than a year, the Town and UNH worked together to redesign the panels, moving away from a business advertising approach to instead focus on positive/interesting attributes of both Durham and UNH. Cost for the effort was shared equally between Durham and UNH.

I wish to acknowledge our modest but mighty team of employees within public works, police, fire, planning, zoning, town clerk/tax collector’s office, informational technology, DCAT, and more. These are outstanding people, working hard with finite resources to meet the needs of a demanding citizenry with high expectations for exceptional service delivery. Our Town Council is comprised of thoughtful, hard-working, and dedicated individuals with varied backgrounds and perspectives. The Council, along with the benefit of ongoing public feedback and active involvement by dedicated citizens on local boards, committees, and commissions, all contribute to ensuring Durham remains a strong, vibrant, and welcoming community.



Heron overlooking Great Bay. Courtesy, Alan Bennett

BUSINESS OFFICE



Gail Jablonski, Manager

The Business Office provides the accounting, purchasing, payroll, accounts payable, assessing, accounts receivable billing and collection and cash management services for the town, as well as support services to all town departments. In addition, the Business Office provides Human Resources services and handles employee relations, payroll and benefits. The Business Manager serves as the Welfare Director for the Town. Our goal is to provide timely and reliable information by which department managers, the Town Administrator and ultimately the Town Council can make informed decisions in the best interest of the Town.

Support was provided to the Town Administrator and Town Council in preparation and review of the annual operating budget and the ten-year capital improvement plan. On December 16, 2024, the 2025 Operating Budgets and Capital Improvement Plan was approved by the Durham Town Council. The 2025 budget, as approved, is projected to increase the current municipal tax rate of \$5.75 to \$5.95, a 3.4% increase.

The Town Council approved a two-year collective bargaining agreement with the Durham Police Officers' Union, New England Police Benevolent Association Local #21 (DPOU) on October 21,

2024. The DPOU represents the 13 Officers and 5 Sergeants at the Durham Police Department. Negotiations began in March of 2024 and focus was centered on bringing the pay and benefits for the Durham Officers and Sergeants to a competitive level with respect to other communities. This agreement will become effective January 1, 2025.

In 2025, the Town will begin negotiations with the Durham Public Works AFSCME Council 93 Local 863, the Durham Professional Municipal Managers Association and the Durham Professional Firefighters' Association Local #2253. All three of these union contracts are set to expire December 31, 2025.

The firm of Plodzik & Sanderson presented the Town's 2023 audit to the Durham Town Council on November 4, 2024. There were no significant issues noted, and the Town received a "clean" audit. The 2023 Independent Auditors' Report for the year ended December 31, 2023, shows the Town's General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance is currently \$7,757,790 or 13.42% of the total appropriations and tax commitments including the Town, School and County Appropriations. The Town of Durham's General Fund - Fund Balance policy requires a minimum target balance of 5% with the goal of attaining an 8% fund balance level.

Lisa Beaudoin, Administrative Assistant, retired in July after 24 years of service. We greatly appreciate her dedication and commitment to the Town over the years. Dina Gosselin was hired full-time in July as the Staff Accountant and Jessica Landry was hired in August as the Benefits/Payroll Specialist (previously the Administrative Assistant position). These two individuals, along with myself and Debroah Ahlstrom, Financial Analyst, work together to ensure the functions of the Business Office are completed on a daily basis in a professional manner.



l-r: Accounting Clerk Dina Gosselin, Benefits/Payroll Specialist Jessica Landry, Business Manager Gail Jablonski, Financial Analyst Deborah Ahlstrom

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



Luke Vincent, Manager

2024 saw the Durham IT department build on several initiatives that had been brewing over the last few years. This work involved replacing aging systems, rethinking how new technologies are implemented, and responding to ever-growing security threats as they became apparent. Undoubtedly, 2025 will bring new challenges and Durham IT will be there to meet them.

2024 Accomplishments:

- We've fully deployed a new platform for core applications throughout Town. JumpCloud provides a focus on secure default policies and ensures identity management throughout the many facets of IT management. Whether it is directory sync, building single sign-on (SSO) into application distributions, implementing strong MFA, or even applying conditional access, JumpCloud has it covered. In addition, we've been able to centralize the platform for our desktop and mobile device management needs, freeing up staff time to address resource issues. While we are still working to implement some of the idiosyncrasies of unifying our diverse IT ecosystem under a single tool, we've already seen gains through the elimination of redundant products.
- We've deployed updated Microsoft licensing, adding the vast benefits of Microsoft Defender as our primary endpoint protection (EDR). By replacing two other products with Microsoft's security flagship, tracking at the organization level (hosted in the government community compliance program) has provided a clear window into our current threat landscape. This has allowed IT to respond, when necessary, to the most egregious threat actors.

2025 Goals:

- As we continue to tease out a plan for our website migration/refresh project, the content management system (CMS) on which we operate currently will reach its end of life. Our current vendor, who has struggled with the overwhelming task of migrating hundreds of current websites, has assured us that the current platform will not be abandoned anytime soon. However, reality dictates that our "sell by date" is either here or already fast approaching. As such, we are looking at alternatives in moving forward as to not lose functionality from the site.
- We can look forward to the replacement of key wireless hardware around Town both to implement new standards and improve capacity over our current offerings. Look for improved coverage and device-specific enhancements in the first half of 2025 at many of our Town facilities.
- 2025 marks the end of support for many of the VoIP components implemented as part of a hosted PBX migration over ten years ago. Durham IT will be exploring new avenues to achieve the same or better coverage in-building using technologies and services we already have access to at a lower total cost to the Town.



l-r: Volunteer Jay Gooze, Assist. Manager Michael Rohr, Manager Luke Vincent, GIS Program Administrator Steve Lutterman, DCAT Coordinator Craig Stevens

ORDINANCES 2024

Ordinance #	Description	Pass or Deny	Date
2024-01	Amending Chapter 4 “Administrative Code”, Article VI “Procurement” of the Durham Town Code to Increase the Threshold Amounts for Competitive Purchasing, Professional Services; Including an Exception for Work on Historic Properties; and Allowing Sale of Surplus Property through Online Marketplaces.	Passed	2/19/24
2024-02	Amending Chapter 175, “Zoning Ordinance,” Articles I, IV, VII and XVII to change the process for noticing public hearings for zoning amendments, conditional uses, historic district reviews, and UNH projects from publishing notices in a local newspaper to posting notices on the Town website, and to change the process for Notices for conditional use hearings to be sent by verified mail rather than certified mail.	Passed	4/1/24
2024-03	Amending Chapter 68 “Fire Prevention” of the Durham Town Code to repeal Article III “Sprinkler Code.”	Passed	5/20/24
2024-04	An Ordinance Amending Chapter 175 “Zoning,” Article II, “Definitions,” Article XII.1, “Use and Dimensional Standards,” Article XV, “Flood Hazard Overlay District,” Article XVI, “Aquifer Protection Overlay District,” Article XVII, “Durham Historic Overlay District,” Article XVIII, “Personal Wireless Service Facilities Overlay District,” Article XX.1, “Standards for Agricultural Uses,” and Article XXIII, “Signs and Communications Devices.”	Deny	6/24/24
2024-05	Amending Chapter 175 “Zoning,” Article XVII, “Durham Historic Overlay District,” Section 175-93 “Identification of the Historic Overlay District” to Update the Map & Lot Numbers of the Historic District	Passed	8/12/24
2024-06	Amending Chapter 132 “Tax Exemptions and Credits,” Section 132-4, “Service-Connected Total Disability tax credit,” of the Durham Town Code	Passed	8/12/24
2024-07	Amending Chapter 132 “Tax Exemptions and Credits,” Adding Section 132-8, “All Veterans’ Tax Credit,” to the Durham Town Code	Passed	8/12/24
2024-08	Amending Chapter 118 “Solid Waste” of the Durham Town Code, reflecting current operating plans to accommodate Planned Solid Waste Program Changes	Passed	11/4/24
2024-09	Amending Chapter 175 “Zoning,” Article II, “Definitions,” Article XII.1, “Use and Dimensional Standards,” Article XVIII, “Personal Wireless Service Facilities Overlay District,” Article XIX, “Conservation Subdivisions,” and the Zoning Map; and adding a new Article XVIII.1, “Workforce Housing Overlay District.”	Passed	12/16/24
2024-10	Amending Chapter 175 “Zoning,” Article III, “Administration and Enforcement,” Article VI, “Zoning Board of Adjustment,” Article XII.1, “Use and Dimensional Standards,” Article XX, “Standards for Principal Uses,” and Article XX.1, “Standards for Agricultural Uses.”	Passed	11/18/24

RESOLUTIONS 2024

Resolution #	Description	Pass or Deny	Date
2024-01	Authorizing the Acceptance and Expenditure of Private Donation Funds from an Anonymous Donor in an Amount up to \$45,119 To Be Used for the Purchase of a New Utility Task Vehicle with Medical Skid Package and Authorizing the Administrator to Sign and Submit all Necessary Paperwork on Behalf of the Town of Durham.	Passed	1/8/24
2024-02	Recognizing Jim Rice for his Dedicated Service Upon his Retirement After Serving 11 Years as a Full-Time Assessor with the Town of Durham.	Passed	2/5/24
2024-03	Authorizing the Acceptance and Expenditure of Unanticipated Revenues from the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation in the amount of \$76,180.91 for Road Improvement/ Maintenance and \$72,364.92 for Bridge Maintenance.	Passed	2/19/24
2024-04	Resolution #2024-04 Authorizing the Acceptance and Expenditure of \$286,600 in Unanticipated Revenue From the NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) to Support the Rehabilitation of the 1804 Bickford-Chesley House at Wagon Hill Farm and Authorizing the Administrator to Sign Associated Documents.	Passed	2/19/24
2024-05	Recognizing Michael Everngam for his Many Years of Dedicated Community Service to the Town of Durham.	Passed	2/19/24
2024-06	A Resolution Opposing House Bill 1281 which prohibits a zoning ordinance or regulation from restricting the number of occupants in a residential rental property to less than 2 occupants per bedroom.	Passed	2/19/24
2024-07	Amending the Employment Agreement approved on April 3, 2017 between the Town of Durham and Administrator Todd I. Selig by renewing the term of the Agreement for a period of seven (7) years extending from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2030, updating certain terms within the Employment Agreement, and authorizing the Council Chair to sign said agreement on behalf of the Town Council.	Passed	2/19/24
2024-08	Recognizing Outgoing Elected Officials for their dedicated services to the Town of Durham.	Passed	3/4/24
2024-09	Recognizing Those Whose Steadfast Efforts Resulted in the Historic 1974 Town Vote To Prohibit Construction of an Oil Refinery Along the Shore of Great Bay at Durham Point, on the 50th Anniversary of the Event	Passed	3/4/24
2024-10	A Resolution Acknowledging the Impact of the Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza and Israel on Residents of the Town of Durham, New Hampshire; Affirming the Town’s Stance Against Hate, Bigotry, and Discrimination; and Calling for the immediate: Safe Release of All Hostages, the Provision of Humanitarian aid to Civilians in Gaza, and a Durable Bilateral Ceasefire Among the Parties to the Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza and Israel.	Passed	3/4/24

RESOLUTIONS 2024

Resolution #	Description	Pass or Deny	Date
2024-11	Establishing Regular Town Council Meeting Dates for April 2024 through March 2025.	Passed	3/18/24
2024-12	Authorizing the Acceptance and Expenditure of Funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) For The Construction Improvements, Engineering Services, Monitoring and Inspection of the Phase 2 Wagon Hill Farm Living Shoreline Improvements In the Amount \$1,994,539 and Authorize the Administrator to Sign and Submit Grant Paperwork on Behalf of the Town of Durham.	Passed	4/15/24
2024-13	Authorizing the Acceptance and Expenditure of Funding from the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), NH Clean Diesel Grant Program, Funded Through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Diesel Emission’s Reduction Act (DERA) for Up to Two (2) Battery Electric Refuse Collection Trucks and Up to Two (2) Direct Current Fast Charging Stations (DCFC) That will Operate in Durham, New Hampshire to Reduce Diesel Emissions. Funding shall Equal an amount not to exceed 45% of the Cost of Each Eligible Vehicle and Charger Or a Total Not to Exceed \$723,681, Whichever is Less, and Authorize the Administrator to Sign and Submit Grant Paperwork on Behalf of the Town of Durham.	Passed	4/15/24
2024-14	Authorizing the Acceptance and Expenditure of Funding from the FY23 Congressionally Mandated Projects Program from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, for the Bennett Road Stormwater and Flood Resiliency Project, In the Amount of up to \$2,040,000, with a Required 20% Match of \$510,000, for a Total Grant and Match Amount of \$2,550,000, and Authorize the Administrator to Sign and Submit Grant Paperwork on Behalf of the Town of Durham.	Passed	4/15/24
2024-15	Reaffirming Juneteenth Independence Day as a Legally Recognized Holiday and Reaffirming Durham’s Opposition to Any Form of Oppression.	Passed	6/3/24
2024-16	Authorizing the Administrator to Submit a Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Application to the NHDES and Execute all Necessary Documents in Accordance With New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Chapter Env-Wq for the Completion of a Wastewater Treatment Plant Biosolids Dryer Feasibility Study; and Authorizing the Borrowing, Issuance, and Incurrence of Debt of Not More Than \$100,000 (With Funds to Come From a Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan, with 100% Principal FORGIVENESS) in Long-term Bonds or Notes in Accordance With the Provision of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33) for Completion of a Wastewater Treatment Plant Biosolids Dryer Feasibility Study.	Passed	7/15/24
2024-17	Expressing the Town of Durham’s interest in partnering with the University of New Hampshire to ensure that our constitutional right to freedom of speech for Durham residents and visitors within the community remains unimpeded and to emphasize de-escalation in all conflicts .	Passed	8/12/24

RESOLUTIONS 2024

Resolution #	Description	Pass or Deny	Date
2024-18	Amending Resolution #2007-14 “Creating the Energy Committee Steering Committee” (Later Renamed Durham Energy Committee) to Establish 3-Year Terms for Members.	Passed	9/9/24
2024-19	Amending Resolution #2001-13 “Renaming the Recycling Committee to the Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee” to Establish 3-Year Terms for Members .	Passed	9/9/24
2024-20	Authorizing the Acceptance and Expenditure of Private Donations, Unanticipated Revenues, and Grant Funds Totaling \$18,690.41 Received by the Town of Durham Between January 1 and December 31, 2023	Passed	10/7/24
2024-21	Committing Future Revenue from the Municipal Transportation Improvement Fee for Net Zero Transportation Initiatives	Tabled	10/7/24
2024-22	Recognizing CEH Day and Acknowledging the #BusesBikesandBrooms Challenge and National Week Without Driving.	Passed	10/7/24
2024-23	Recognizing Durham Fire and Public Works for their quick response to the Town Hall Water leak and Recognizing the Employees of the Planning, Zoning, Assessing, IT, Business and Town Clerk/Tax Collector’s Departments for their patience and flexibility during the clean-up and renovation efforts	Passed	10/21/24
2024-24	Amending Resolution #2013-14 to Change the Membership Composition on the Human Rights Commission to be as follows – Five (5) citizens who are residents of Durham, One (1) Council Representative with a one-year term as an Advisory, Non-Voting Member, and the Administrator as an Advisory, Non-Voting Member.	Passed	11/4/24
2024-25	Proclaiming Saturday, November 30, 2024, as “Small Business Saturday” in Durham, NH	Passed	11/4/24
2024-26	Town Council Approval of the FY 2025 General Operating Budgets, the Capital Fund Budget and the 2025-2034 Capital Improvement Plan	Passed	12/16/24



TOWN COUNCIL

Sally Needell, Chair



The Town Council has been busy this year. The Council members have diverse backgrounds and thus bring diverse perspectives to our discussions and decision making. The public has also contributed to our deliberations by sharing their comments and concerns through speaking at Council meetings and sending emails for our consideration.

Two major issues for the Council to tackle this year have been our request for a ceasefire in response to the Israeli-Hamas Conflict and our support of free speech and conflict de-escalation in response to the Pro-Palestinian protest on the UNH campus. The Council has also addressed ordinance amendments and resolutions that support those in need, with disabilities, and who have served in our military, as well as items that raise awareness of environmental health issues and sustainable transportation options.

An ongoing focus for the Town Planner and Planning Board has been how to encourage development of housing in Durham that will be affordable and welcome people seeking workforce housing into Durham. This multi-year process has produced a Workforce Overlay District as part of the Town's Zoning Ordinance that is currently being reviewed by the Town Council.

Each year the Council's stated goals include the property tax rate targeted for the following year. Funding to retain the staffing for the fire and police departments, and fairly and responsibly responding to all employee contracts, while also keeping Durham's property taxes as low as possible, led to

challenging conversations and decisions. The Council is indebted to our Town Administrator,

Todd Selig, and Business Manager, Gail Jablonski for their thorough study of the town's expenses and the budget that they presented to the Council.

Each Town Board, Commission, and Committee has a Town Councilor as a member. Councilors report to the rest of the Council to keep us informed of actions being taken throughout our community.

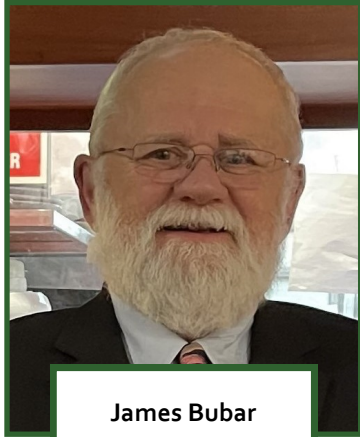
Durham is fortunate to have a very engaged citizenry that contribute their time and energy for the benefit of the Town. The UNH Student Senate External Affairs Chair reports to the Council as well.

Town Council Resolutions include:

- Recognizing the many contributions of volunteers, retiring employees, outgoing elected officials, and town employees involved in the aftermath of the Town Hall flooding incident.
- Updating our Town Administrator's employment agreement
- Supporting the establishment of Juneteenth as a paid town employee holiday.
- Increasing the threshold amounts for competitive purchasing, professional services; including an exception for work on Historic Properties; and allowing sale of surplus material through online marketplaces.
- Responding to the Israeli-Hamas conflict with a Ceasefire Resolution, and to the UNH Pro-Palestinian protest with a Free Speech and De-escalation Resolution.

Ordinances amended by the Town Council include

- Changing the process for noticing public hearings for zoning amendments, conditional uses, historic district reviews, and UNH projects
- Repealing Article III "Sprinkler Code" of the Fire Code.
- Amending Zoning Ordinance articles involving definitions, dimensional standards, for the Flood Hazard, Aquifer Protection, Durham Historic, and Personal Wireless Service Facilities Overlay Districts and Standards for Agricultural Uses and Signs and Communications Devices.
- Changing tax exemptions and credits for individuals with service-connected total disability and an All Veterans' Tax Credit.
- Operating Plans to accommodate Solid Waste Program changes.



James Bubar
Term 3/24—3/25



Wayne Burton
Term: 3/23—3/26

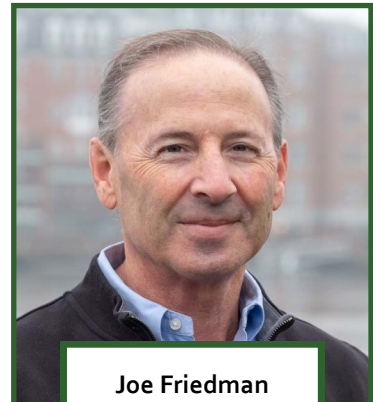


Darrell Ford
Term 3/24—3/27

**TOWN
COUNCIL
MEMBERS**



Emily Friedrichs
Term 3/23—3/26



Joe Friedman
Term 3/22—3/25



Heather Grant
Term 3/24—3/27



Eric Lund
Term 3/22—3/25



Curtis Register
Term 3/24—3/27

Culture & Recreation



CHURCHILL RINK



Bill Page, Manager

As the 2023-2024 skating season nears the halfway point at the time of this writing, the 50th season of skating is behind us, and we're working on plans for a major renovation, to ensure the longevity of ice skating, and an expansion to create new space for other recreation and leisure activities at Churchill Rink at Jackson's Landing Park.

This past off-season work to keep Churchill Rink operating and enjoyable included:

- Replacing 50 LED lights failing due to moisture overlaying surface at no cost due to warranty.
- New LED lights were added in all changing rooms.
- Replaced old lights in refrigeration room with surplus LED fixtures.
- Rink board faces cleaned.
- Concession/office area counters replaced.
- Many areas painted.
- Purchased 25' manlift for use working on high areas.
- Added lights and a spinning mirror ball for Fun Skate.
- Rusty, leaking piping was replaced in refrigeration room.
- Failed heat-exchanger valves (2) replaced in refrigeration room.
- Compressor cooling water valves replaced on each of 2 compressors.
- With help of IT Dept., purchased and installed hi-volume Wi-Fi antennae for guest use.

Churchill Rink has been funded by revenue generated at the facility, not tax dollars, since management was passed from Oyster River Youth Association to the town in 2006. The revenue generated comes from 2 primary sources: "Group Rentals" to various youth, high school & adult groups who practice and play games weekly. And, what we call "weekly

receipts" which include fees collected for public skating & hockey sessions, concessions, skate sharpening, and other ancillary sales.

Since 2019, apart from Covid times, Group Rental revenue has remained fairly flat at approximately \$200-\$225,000 per Fiscal Year. Weekly receipts, on the other hand, have seen exponential growth from about \$70,000 in 2019 to a projected \$200,000 by years end of December 31, 2024. This increase in revenue represents increased use by the public who have apparently decided Churchill Rink is their go-to facility for ice skating! Projections indicate FY 2024 will be the first year ever with over \$400,000 in revenue generated and projected YE expenses of just under \$300,000.

In addition to the many upgrades and improvements we've made over the years, I must recognize our amazing staff who all play a role in recent accomplishments. Our core group of dedicated employees (all of whom are part-time) include Jim Chambers, Derek Swenson, Stephanie Morgan, Sadie Wright-Ward, and Keegan Horne. We also have a group who work fewer hours as needed including Grif Richard, Rori Coomey, Sydney Page, Katherine Page, Susan Page, Kayla Wozny, Sam Archey, Charlie Kell, and Grady Gault. When recruiting staff, emphasis is placed on happy, outgoing, smiling individuals whose skills interacting with the public are second to none. I am super proud, grateful for, and appreciative of all of them!

Much off-season time was spent working with the architect and construction management company we've engaged to develop preliminary plans and cost estimates for potential renovation of the rink. During the process, it was decided we should try and squeeze in the Recreation Department offices, which have long been in the old courthouse. Adding a small section to the developing plans for the offices at the front end of the rink's footprint wasn't too difficult. After that, we felt the 2 multi-purpose rooms, which were primarily intended to be dressing rooms for our very busy public skating sessions, would not be of much use to the recreation department. Once this was recognized, we went back to the drawing board and came up with what we

believe is a viable plan for the addition of a major recreation space at the rear of the building. Although our ideas are currently in the hands of the architect, we believe the space we have to work with could be large enough to include not one, but two pickleball courts!

Other features of the developing plans include a front lobby, 4 hockey changing rooms with dedicated restroom and shower areas for each, 2 varsity level team rooms, a coach’s room, referee room, new skate rental and concession space, changing rooms for public skating guests, new and relocated refrigeration and Zamboni room away from spectators and participants, enclosure of the building envelope, dehumidification, and a new refrigeration system with new concrete refrigerated slab and rink boards. Yes, it is a lot! But, those close to the situation feel we can do it, should do it, and will do it!

There is much work to be done on this potential project, but if we are successful, Churchill Rink will be transformed into a community recreation center offering a full 12 months of recreation opportunities for the Oyster River community. *Churchill Rink and Recreation Center* is one idea for a new name which would better represent the new and improved

facility with its expanded offerings for recreation and leisure activities.

2024 Accomplishments:

- Spent much time and made excellent progress on planning for a potential renovation.
- Again, this year, increased public session attendance & related revenue by continuing to offer a fun, enjoyable experience for our guests.
- Continued making off-season improvements with a goal toward keeping cost low and improving facility appearance and efficiency.
- Held season end Slush Cup Tournament.
- Took over and now operate Learn To Skate lessons previously managed by ORYA.

2025 Goals:

- Continue with planning and preparation for major renovation and finalize.
- Complete financial feasibility study with help of outside agency.
- Develop a plan for funding.
- Continue to make noticeable, pleasing improvements to further enhance participant experience.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Dwight Trueblood, Chair



The Conservation Commission continues to work towards aligning its annual work planning process with the release of the Town goals. To this end the Commission’s 2024 accomplishments are presented below in relation to the Town’s 2024 goals. In 2025, the Commission plans to prioritize some of its core activities to reflect the Town’s goals.

2024 Accomplishments:

- *Pursue long-term environmental sustainability and resiliency* - This goal encapsulates a lot of what the Commission did in 2024. Accomplishments included regular formal review of development applications and advice to the Planning Board; input as requested to NHDES and other Town bodies; management of Town conservation properties and support for the Land Stewardship Subcommittee and Coordinator; public education efforts through public events,

the Friday Updates, and other channels; and providing feedback and input about Durham’s Climate Action Plan to Durham’s Sustainability Fellow, Sophie Goodwin.

- The Commission endorsed Phase 2 of the shoreland restoration project at Wagon Hill Farm for which the Town has applied to NHDES for a wetland permit. Phase 2 of this project builds on the shoreline restoration conducted in Phase 1 by stabilizing an additional 1,800 feet of shoreline, restoring 4,057 square feet of tidal buffer habitat, and relocating portions of the trail along the shoreline to reduce shoreline erosion.
- *Leverage town committees and subcommittees to develop tactical plans* - The Commission is implementing a new annual work planning cycle timed to the spring release of Town goals so that our work can more directly contribute to the goals. As part of that process, we have discussed over the course of 2024 how to best align our work with the Town goals, as well as the Master Plan.

2024 Accomplishments (Continued)

- *Facilitate continued optimal funding of Town government* - The Commission continued to support the Wetland-Shoreland Subcommittee in 2024, which was composed of members from the Town Council, Planning Board, and Conservation Commission. This subcommittee completed its work producing a draft ordinance for a Wetland and Shoreland Overlay District that combines and streamlines the Town's existing ordinances related to wetlands and shorelands. The Commission is also discussing potential updates to the list of invasive plant species for use in the Site Plan Regulations.
- *Continue cooperative and collaborative efforts with UNH* - There were no significant activities in direct support of this goal in the past year.
- *Protect public health and provide ongoing service continuity* - The Commission provided a letter of support to the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire for the Langley Conservation Easement project. Approximately 44.5 acres of land at the confluence of the Oyster River and Little Bay would be protected along Durham Point Road from development by this easement should the funding be secured. Additionally, the Commission is in discussion with the Newmarket Conservation Commission about submitting a joint project proposal to map the vernal pools in both Newmarket and Durham, providing the Town with a better understanding of how much of this type of sensitive habitat exists. Community engagement would also be a component of this project with one idea being starting up a Town "salamander brigade."
- *Pursue long-term economic strength and resiliency* – The Commissioners provided their individual perspectives on the development of workforce housing to Sally Tobias, chair of the Durham Housing Task Force.

The Conservation Commission's 2024 activities support the following goals of the Town's 2015 Natural Resources Master Plan:

Wetland Protection

- Continue comprehensive protection of wetlands and shorelands through regulatory, educational and voluntary efforts.

- Protect and, where appropriate, restore salt water and other important wetlands.

Forest Land and Open Space

- Continue the efforts of the Durham Land Protection Working Group and Land Stewardship Committee to identify future conservation projects, enhance coordination among Town commissions and committees, and support ongoing stewardship and maintenance of the Town's open spaces and properties.
- Reduce the trend of continued loss of forested and other natural areas, and increase the quantity and quality of existing forest cover in developed areas.

Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

- Increase landowner awareness of the potential presence of sensitive species on their property to ensure that development projects are designed in such a way as to protect these species.
- Continue to partner with national, regional and local agencies and groups to leverage conservation dollars to protect lands with conservation values through a variety of funding mechanisms.

Climate Change and Sea Level Rise

- Minimize the ecological impacts of climate change.

2025 Goals:

- Complete first full cycle of new annual work planning process tied to Town goals and the Master Plan.
- Expand public education activities through public events, seminars, the Friday Updates, and more, linked with priority issues identified by the Commission, other Town bodies, and public input.
- Finalize the review of the Wetland and Shoreland Overlay District and present it to the Planning Board for their consideration and review.
- Increase community engagement related to environmental protection and what homeowners can do to help the Town preserve our natural environment.

LAND STEWARDSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION



Ann Welsh, Chair

The Land Stewardship Subcommittee was established in 2010 to help guide and coordinate the stewardship of the town's conservation areas, parks and other lands. It is made up of representatives from the Conservation Commission, Agricultural Commission, Heritage Commission, Parks and Recreation, Trustees of the Trust Fund, Town Council and at-large town residents, as well as non-voting members, including the Administrator, the DPW Director, Stewardship Coordinator and Recreation Director.

2024 Accomplishments:

- Oversaw the work of the Land Stewardship Coordinator, who among other things managed a number of volunteer workdays to control invasives and maintain town trails.
- Printed and distributed a concise two-page summary of the town's conservation areas and parks. The summary is available online on the town's website, under *Conservation Lands and Parks*.
- Approved a lichen survey involving site work at Longmarsh by Jeremy Howland.
- Approved the contract for a boundary survey of

Jackson's Landing by Stales and Stones Land Surveying, LLC.

- Approved a trail accessibility study of several Durham properties by Enoch Glidden.
- Reviewed the proposed budget for Land Stewardship in 2025.
- Added alternate positions to the committee to decrease the number of meetings cancelled due to lack of a quorum.

The major capital focus this year has been the repair of several bridges in the Longmarsh Preserve. There were four wooden bridges that needed repair, as well as a stone ford that was partly under water. Two of the wooden bridges, the long bog bridges that parallel beaver dams, need to be re-designed. Because the design will likely be costly, and the bridges were dangerous in their existing state, the committee decided to replace the damaged boards once more, with volunteers, which will give us several years to plan and finance the new design.

The two smaller bridges, on the yellow trail, were repaired by volunteers. We decided to leave the stone ford, (which connects the Longmarsh Preserve Trail to the Sweet Trail) as is, and instead reroute the trail to cross the water further up the stream. The town has signed a contract to have this done by Martin Forestry Consulting.

HISTORIC DISTRICT & HERITAGE COMMISSION



Larry Brickner-Wood, Chair

First and foremost, we want to thank the members of the Town staff for their outstanding support and guidance to the HDC/HC. We sincerely appreciate the outstanding work of Town Planner Michael Behrendt, as our professional staff and primary point of contact for the public on historic preservation matters. Likewise, we receive the excellent support and expertise of Administrator Todd Selig, Public Works Director Rich Reine, Assistant DPW Director Sam Hewitt, Administrative Assistants Karen Edwards and Tracey Cutler, Minute Takers Lucy Bryar and Jen Berry, and the DCAT Team who record and stream our meetings.

In this capacity we especially thank Craig Stevens, DCAT Coordinator and Rachel Stevens, our primary DCAT Technician. Our work would not be possible without our wonderful Town staff.

I also want to thank the HDC/HC members. We are all volunteers, care deeply about our community and spend hours on HDC/HC business and projects. They are a pleasure to serve with and make a great team. A special thank you to the Durham Historic Association who are invaluable resources and advocates for historic and cultural preservation in our community. Lastly, a heartfelt appreciation to the citizens of our community, for whom we serve.

We also want to recognize former HDC Planning Board representative Bill McGowan, who served as liaison to the HDC so capably and so well for many

years. And we welcome a wonderful new Planning Board representative, Sally Tobias. We are quite fortunate to have such talented citizens willing to serve our community.

The Historic District Commission/Heritage Commission, the same body with two roles, has broad responsibility to preserve and promote the historic, architectural, and cultural resources in the designated Durham Historic District and in the larger community. The Historic District, under the purview of the Historic District Commission (HDC), starts at the intersection of Main Street and Madbury Road and proceeds southeasterly along Main Street to Newmarket Road as far as Laurel Lane. The commission reviews applications covering residential, commercial, and Town properties.

The Heritage Commission advocates for preservation outside the district, but it does not have regulatory authority to formally review and approve projects. The commission advises and educates property owners, Town departments, boards and commissions, and others about our important historic and cultural resources.

2024 Accomplishments:

The HDC reviewed several applications for proposals within the Historic District, including several for window replacement and/or restoration. We also awarded an Historic Preservation Appreciation recognition to Scott and Karen Letourneau, owners and managers of the Tideline Eatery and Mercantile.

We also worked on several important initiatives in 2024. These are highlighted below:

- **Chesley-Bickford House at Wagon Hill Farm.** Led by a talented planning team of Carolyn Singer, Charlotte Hitchcock, Nancy Sandberg and Janet Mackie of the HDA, Public Works Director Rich Reine, and Administrator Todd Selig, we have been completing the planning work for the renovation and restoration of this historic house. Utilizing a NH Mooseplate Grant for planning and a NH LCHIP to assist in the renovation, work will begin in 2025 to stabilize the structure, restore and revitalize the building for an apartment on the second floor, exhibit and meeting space on the first floor and functioning bathrooms. Many thanks to Carolyn Singer for her amazing work on securing successful grants and managing this

complex project. We are very excited for this amazing and long overdue project!

- **Oyster River Raid Sign.** Starting in December 2023, the HDC/HC coordinated a process of stakeholders coming together around a table to develop a consensus of new language for the sign formerly referred to as “Oyster River Massacre.” Artfully facilitated by Charlotte Bacon and Barbara Will of Montgomery Will Associates, representatives of the HDC/HC, the NH Commission on Native American Issues, the Durham Historic Association, The NH Division of Historic Resources, and the NH Department of Transportation, a consensus was developed and submitted to the State of NH for approval. The language was approved, and we are working with the Department of Transportation on the exact location of the sign.
- **Revolution 1774** The Historic District Commission co-sponsored this event with Joan Osborn marking the 250th anniversary of Durham’s role in the raid on Fort William and Mary in Newcastle, NH—the very beginnings of the American Revolution. On June 15, 2024 there was a day of celebration including a re-enactment parade of soldiers, cannon fire, and displays showing life as it looked in 1774.



Wentworth Cheswell (portrayed by Durham resident Toluwase Afolayan) leads a band of patriots during the Revolution: 1774 parade. Courtesy, Todd Selig

2024 Accomplishments (Continued)

- **Plaque/Sign at the Old Town Hall.** Under the guidance of Vice-Chair Charlotte Hitchcock, Town Planner Michael Behrendt, and the HDC Public History Committee, we designed a historic marker for this historic building that will be placed in early 2025. We will continue to work on at least one new or revised historic building or event marker per year.
- **Historic District Boundary Signs.** We are in the process of examining our Historic District

boundary signs, designing new and more visible signs, and adding ones at borders of the Historic District that are not currently marked.

Historic District/Heritage Commission meetings are usually the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. We welcome all to join us in person or via Zoom using the DCAT and the meeting registration process. It is an honor and privilege to be serving our community. Thank you for the opportunity.

PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR

Rachel Gasowski, Director
Kellie DeSimone, Assistant Director



Durham Parks & Recreation (DPR) continues to focus on offering a broad range of outdoor and indoor recreational activities that are available to town residents of all ages, abilities, and interests. Residents can count on programs and events that bring the community together in our parks, facilities and throughout our vibrant downtown that are welcoming and safe.

2024 was another busy and successful year for DPR with a variety of 180+ program opportunities offered for youth-adult community members. The department also hosted 9 special events, which included three large community events (Downtown Durham Day, Downtown Trick or Treat and Frost Fest) that were held on Main Street, bringing hundreds of people to our Downtown. Summer camps ran out of the Middle School for a second summer, and the space couldn't be more perfect for our growing and dynamic summer camps. We hosted 9.5 unique weeks of summer camps, including three weeks of STEM based camps, four weeks of REACH Summer camp (in partnership with ORCSD), a mini field trip week, and three weeks of outdoor adventure-based camps, including a new Surf Camp in partnership with Summer Sessions.

The department and the P&R Committee continued our work with UNH Applied Recreation Research Collaborative (ARRC) to obtain the playgrounds needs assessment and visitor management study for Jackson's Landing & Woodridge Park. The study is scheduled to be completed in the Spring of 2025 with a final report that will include community input and research supported data that will help guide future improvements and renovation



l-r Director Rachel Gasowski, Assistant Director Kellie DeSimone

recommendations at Jackson's Landing and Woodridge Park.

In 2024 DPR and our after-school program partner, Seven Rivers, revamped our after-school program after being ask by Growing Place to take over their longstanding after school program. We were successful in creating a robust program that has offered families the ability to customize their child's after school schedule with a combination of outdoor enrichment opportunities, projects, activities and games that teach skills and build community. Participation in the program has exceeded our expectations and we are excited to continue to develop this program in years to come.

2024 Accomplishments:

- Successfully hosted a variety of 9 community events, including three large events that took place on Main Street, bring hundreds of people to our Downtown.

2024 Accomplishments (Continued)

- Expanded our adult program offerings and offered 180+ program opportunities for youth-adults.
- Installed 4 outdoor pickleball courts at Woodridge Park.
- Worked with members from the Conservation Commission and the Land Stewardship Coordinator to bring back Discover Durham's Trails. Three fall educational guided walks were offered with strong community participation.
- Worked closely with our Parks & Recreation Committee Members and UNH Applied Recreation Research Collaborative (ARRC) to get the needs assessment and visitor management study underway for Jackson's Landing and Woodridge Park.
- Redeveloped our after-school program to blend the longstanding after-school program previously offered by Growing Places out of the Moharimet Elementary school with our after-school outdoor enrichment style programs in partnership with Seven Rivers.
- Offered three new camp opportunities, including February Vacation Week Trip and Travel Camp, Mini Field Trip Week and Surf Camp. Each of these new camps had full enrollment.
- Offered twenty-two summer camp opportunities for grades K-8 over 9.5 weeks.
- Successfully hosted a variety of outdoor nature and adventure based after-school programs (in partnership with Seven Rivers Enrichment).

2025 Goals:

- Continue to work with ARRC and the P&R Committee to complete parks & playground needs assessment and visitor management study.
- Use the completed parks and playground assessment and visitor management study to develop the next course of action for future park renovations at Woodridge and Jackson's Landing.
- Continue to offer specialty camps over February and April school vacation weeks.
- Continue to foster positive partnerships that have been established with UNH, various community organizations and businesses, Town departments, ORCSD, the Town of Lee and the Town of Madbury.



Summer Camp Rock Wall Climb Courtesy, Parks & Rec Dept.

- Support Churchill Rink with upcoming renovation plans and off-season program opportunities.
- Continue to support local businesses through community events that take place downtown and at other recreation spaces such as Wagon Hill Farm, Jackson's Landing and Woodridge Park.
- Foster new partnerships that will help develop new program and event opportunities.

We are extremely grateful for the positive working relationships that DPR has with our other town departments. It would also be impossible to accomplish all that we do without the help, support, and hard work from our small but mighty, dedicated Parks & Rec. Staff.

Special thanks to the members of the Parks and Recreation Committee who have helped to guide and support the department throughout the year through a variety of initiatives, evaluations and involvement in DPR events and happenings.

Lastly, we appreciate the support and trust that the community has exhibited towards our department over the years. We will continue to work hard and be creative to roll out new recreation opportunities for our amazing community that brings us together. The benefits of recreation are endless!

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE



Cathy Leach, Chair

The purpose of the Parks & Recreation Committee is to serve in an advisory role to the Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) and its director. The committee's overlying goal is to support the DPR to strengthen recreational opportunities for the community through a broad range of recreational, healthy, fun and enriching opportunities. Municipal Parks and Recreation plays an essential role in fostering a cohesive and vibrant community.

2024 Accomplishments:

- **UNH ARRC Project:** Collaborated with UNH ARRC (Applied Recreation Research Collaborative) to conduct a Community Needs Assessment and Visitor Use Management Study. The project is intended to inform future impacts, resources, and investments as it relates to recreation. The project focuses primarily on Jackson's Landing and Woodridge Parks. The committee assisted ARRC with forming three focus groups and developing a comprehensive community survey. Thank you to all community members who completed the survey.
- **Resident Fees & Registration Analysis:** A committee subgroup gathered data from similar towns specific to questions relating to priority resident registration and user fees. The information from other towns aligned with Durham

Parks & Rec procedures in these two areas, so no additional recommendations were made.

- **Town Trails Awareness:** A committee subgroup & the DPR staff worked with the Land Stewardship Subcommittee to facilitate three 'Discover Durham Trails' events.
- **Monthly Meetings:** included updates from the Parks & Recreation director, and we heard an annual report from the director of Churchill Rink. Committee members assisted with community events organized by DPR. In 2024, we also heard presentations from a rep of the Durham Business Association, the Town's Land Stewardship Coordinator, and a member of the Housing Task Force.

2025 Goals:

- Continue collaboration with ARRC during Final Report Preparation & Outreach.
- Assist DPR director in utilizing ARRC survey data, research, and recommendations to develop next steps for potential Jackson's Landing and Woodridge Park improvements, based on the expressed needs of the community.
- Continue to raise awareness of Durham's trails.
- Support the Parks & Recreation director by assisting in community events and advising on any challenges brought forward.
- Remain updated and support the Churchill Rink director with current and future needs, including potential facility upgrades.

- Report on the impact of parks and recreation in the community.

The committee is proud to support the Parks & Recreation department. It is an energetic and committed staff that continually impresses us with their ability to balance daily tasks while providing many programs and events with a constant focus on how to best serve Durham's residents. The department is an important community resource.



Surf Camp Courtesy, Parks & Rec Dept.

PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Robin Glasser, Chair

The mission of the Durham Public Library is to enhance the quality of life in Durham through open access to ideas and information, to encourage exploration and learning in people of all ages, and to support cultural enrichment by establishing the library as a center of our community. The Trustee's email: BoardofTrusteesDPL@gmail.com

2024 Accomplishments:

- Implemented Year Three of the Strategic Plan which sets the course for the Library over the next several years. Implementation of the Plan began immediately upon adoption in 2022 with a variety of activities to meet the Priorities. Identified through community input, the four priorities are: Community Connections; Access for All; Literacy and Lifelong Learning; and Focus on the Future.
- Continued its work reviewing, revising, and implementing new policies and job descriptions.
- Conducted a successful Annual Appeal which raised \$24,824.05. Funds raised from the Annual Appeal were used to supplement the operating budget that is allocated by the Town and for special projects not covered in the library budget. The Trustees are grateful for the generosity of individual citizens who give so faithfully to the Annual Appeal.

Benefactors: James Bass, Steven Fellows, Shirley (Kate) Glanz, Jay & Martie Gooze, Callie & J. Asher Langton, Tom & Beth Newkirk, Charlotte Ramsay, Riverwoods at Durham, Jenna Roberts & Tom Bebbington, and Susan Wagner & Willem deVries.

Collectors: John & Lynn Aber, Lorna Ellis & Mark Chutter, Carol & Jay Ehlen, Amanda Merrill & Ken Fuld, David & Carolyn Harney, Larry & AnnMarie Harris, Katherine a& David Hewitt, James Lewis, David & Hadassah Ramsay, Joann Buonomano & Thomas Reichheld, Judith & Carl Spang, Katherine Wells Wheeler, Margaret Reeves, Peggy Thrasher, Robin & Alan Glasser, Ronald & Ann Rodgers, Kimberly & Peter Sweetman, Joe Moore, Kurk & Marion Dorsey, Martin Lee & Nancy Lambert, Michael & Penelope Drooker, Roberta Arbree, Ruth Moore, and Tracy Schroeder.

Patrons: Alice & Lee Seidel, Carolyn & Sam Shore, Donna Shuman, Dr. Monica E. Chiu & Mr. Brian Locke, James & Janet Dean, Jay Wilson, John & Jean Parsons, Kelly Warren, Doug & Mary Bencks, Mical Allopenna, Ray & Joanne Celentano, Sheryl Bass & Paula Goff, Amy Woodrow, Bob & Christine Moynihan, Charlotte Hitchcock, Fred & Karen Schnur, Alan and Susan Bennett, Anne Knight, Audra Lewis, Bob and Janet Doty, Brenda Sargent, Carol S. Tuveson, Carol VanDerMeid, Dianne Thompson, Donna & Thomas Pistole, Dorothy Smith, Dr. Sharyn J. Zunz, Eleanor Lonske, Elizabeth Larocca, Emily Smith, Erik & Kate Waddell, Gerald & Patricia Mouser, Harriet Forkey, Jane & Lawrence O'Connell, John & Diana Carroll, John Mince, Juddie Barrett, Judith Austin, Judith Parks, Julia Rodriguez and Charles Forcey, Kathryn and Stephen Brunet, Leslie Pasternack & Paul Runcy, Linda Johnson, Lisa Beaudoin, Lowell Berry, Malcolm & Nancy Sandberg, Marcia Comer, Maria Niswonger & Wilfred Wollheim, Mary-Lou & Bruce Campbell, Mildred Shields, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Bothner, Mrs. Beryl Harper, Peter K. Hepler, Robert & Cathy Brown, Robert & Sylvia Russell, Robert Kline & Megan Ryan Kline, Susan Roman & Chris Regan, William & Jean Dale, and William & Malin Clyde.

Donors: Jean Richards, Dwight Trueblood & Elizabeth Turner, Kathryn Ellis & Thomas Crossman, Henry Smith, Bill & Yoma Ingraham, David & Lynn Holmes, Eve Kornhauser, Randall O'Brien, Stephanie Bradley-Swift and Dan Swift, Stephen and Kimberly Nadeau, William & Cynthia Cote, Allen Sweet, Ann Joslin Williams, Bill and Susan Tanguay, Carolyn & Steve Jenks, Catherine & Robert Kyle, Chris & Sara Wilson, David & Catherine O'Leary, David & Susan Richman, Dawn & Theodore Meredith, Deborah Forster, Diane Foos, Doug Ramsay, Giovanna & Carmelo Filippone, Howard & Joan Gross, Ingeborg Judge, James & Carly Hellen, Jim & Janice Griffin, Jim & Nancy Hornbeck, Joan Friel, Joseph Hollweg, Judith & John Rystar, Kathleen Northrop, Louise Buckley, Marjorie Wolfson & Neil Slepian, Mary & Steven Spielman, Myla & Arthur Mathieson, Nancy Schieb & Alfred Ackerman, Patricia Haarr, Philip & Nancy Johnson, Phyllis Heilbronner, Richard & Olivia Breton, Richard Dawson & Linda Hunter, Robert & Sarah Truslow, Stephen & Donna Hardy, Susan Deese, Susan Long, Suzanne Loder, Thomas & Karin Mullin, Tony & Joyce Wold, Vicky Barrette, William & Jill Lockhardt, Cathy Frierson, Ruth Bobick, Robin Cross, Nancy

Neville, Kay Morgan, KJ Meline, Stephanie Comtois, Brenda Murray, David & Martha Smith, Diane & Chet Riley, Marian Stanton, Raymond & Helen Goodman, Wolfgang & Cecilia Nauck, Barbara Flynn & Carl Starr, Dwight & Barbara Baldwin, John & Joanne Connolly, Ronald & Margaret Kolbe, John Burke, Erin Kilkenny, Carol Levine, Joan Hart, and Kimberley Ladue.

Friends of the Durham Public Library: The Trustees of the Durham Public Library greatly value the support of the Friends of Library. The Friends raise funds for the library through their membership drive and by operating the Library

Bookstore, hosting periodic book sales, and selling cookies at the circulation desk. They enhance Library services by funding museum passes, a children’s literacy program and nature activities, and summer concerts on the library lawn. They have also donated funds for the purchase of additional large print books for the library.

The trustees are grateful for the steadfast support from the Town of Durham, for the generosity of individual citizens who give so faithfully to the Annual Appeal, and for the support of the Friends of the Library.

Funds held by the Trustees as of end of FY2023		
Accounts	Balance	Description
FACILITIES FUND	\$58,559.61	Restricted to items or services needed to modify, improve, maintain the facility.
UNRESTRICTED OPERATIONS	\$64,101.51	For items needed to run the library's operations (ex. Special purchases or projects that are approved above the Town appropriation.)
RESTRICTED GENERAL FUND	\$29,035.02	For restricted purchases designated by donors for specific items.
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	\$15,867.89	Donated funds restricted to professional development activities of staff and/or Trustees
ENDOWMENT	\$6,478.05	Interest earned from restricted Endowment CD.
PRIOR YEAR ANNUAL APPEALS	\$20,556.49	From prior year annual appeals and used for purchases and projects designated therein.
CURRENT ANNUAL APPEAL	\$13,382.52	Funds being actively collected during the current year annual appeal.
RESTRICTED EQUIPMENT	\$31,103.39	Funds restricted to replacing, replenishing, repairing items that produce revenue (copier/copies, K-cups, lost books)
Total accounts	\$239,084.48	
CDs as of 12/29/23		
CD 1 Facilities Fund	\$207,704.48	Restricted funds for special facilities-related projects in addition to the DPW's budgeted funds for library upkeep.
CD 2 Restricted Endowment	\$51,926.12	Restricted funds from the original Milne endowment to the library. The library may only spend the interest earned on these funds.
TOTAL Investment funds	\$259,630.60	
Total All Funds	\$498,715.08	
Revenues		
Town-appropriated operating budget	\$577,400.00	
Trustees contribution to library operations	\$30,743.06	
Donations/grants received by the Town on behalf of the Library	\$4,800.00	
Friends of the Library contribution	\$9,560.66	
TOTAL Revenue	\$622,503.72	
Expenditures		
Library operational expenditures	\$602,257.07	
Additional expenditures paid by the Trustees	\$10,685.99	
Expenses paid by the Library Friends	\$9,560.66	
TOTAL Expenditures	\$622,503.72	
Balance	\$0.00	

PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTOR



Sheryl Bass, Director

With great pride, I present to you, on behalf of the library and staff, the Durham Public Library Annual Report for 2024. The library continues to thrive as a hub of knowledge, culture, and connection for our community. In 2024, we upheld our mission of providing access for all, fostering lifelong learning, creating meaningful community connections, and maintaining a forward-looking approach. Through expanded programming, strategic collaborations, and enhanced facilities, the library solidified its role as an indispensable resource and community anchor.

Access for All

Our commitment to accessibility remains central to our mission. Highlights from this year include:

- **Enhanced Accessibility Features:** To address concerns about elevator lighting, brighter fixtures and high-contrast decals were installed, ensuring a safer and more inclusive experience for all patrons. Additionally, the library increased its offerings of large print materials and continued efforts to mitigate noise interference in the upstairs meeting rooms to enhance usability.
- **Transportation Accessibility:** The addition of a UNH bus stop directly in front of the library has made our facilities more reachable for students and residents alike. We continue to make planned stops at both Riverwoods and Bagdad Woods to serve patrons with mobility concerns.
- **Digital Expansion:** The library acquired, through the generous support of our Library Friends, a subscription to the Access World News Research Collection, also known as Newsbank, providing remote access to an extensive array of news resources for patrons.
- **Facility Improvements:** Improvements completed by the Department of Public Works, including new exterior paint and an expanded art display space, created a more welcoming and engaging environment for visitors.

Lifelong Learning

Promoting lifelong learning is at the core of our services. This year, we offered diverse opportunities for intellectual and creative growth:

- **Adult Programming:** Programs ranged from meditative yoga sessions and cybersecurity

workshops to lectures on genealogy, climate change, and Appalachian culture.

- **Youth Programming:** Innovation Station Saturdays introduced children to STEAM concepts through hands-on activities. Other popular events included Pajama Storytimes, Lego Club, and Teen Advisory Board activities.
- **Community Reads:** In partnership with the Oyster River Community Reads program, the library hosted book discussions and related events exploring themes from Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead* and Matthew Desmond's *Poverty, by America*.
- **Artist and Author Engagements:** The library hosted exhibitions by local artists like Naomi Kornheiser, author talks including Durham's own Andrew Merton, and a Taylor Swift-themed party that included friendship bracelet making and her music. Additionally, the library featured an artist-in-residence program with papercutting artist Susan Throckmorton, including an engaging art class and an insightful artist talk. The library also featured the celebrated work of local gingerbread house artist, Trudy Brown.

Community Connections

The library's role as a community connector in Durham grew through collaborations and events:

- **Community Partnerships:** The library partnered with organizations such as the Oyster River Parents of Preschoolers (ORPP), Oyster River Schools, Durham Parks and Recreation, Fire Department, Growing Places Daycare, and UNH's Cat Trax bike-share program to extend its reach and impact.



PJ Storytime at the Durham Public Library Courtesy, Durham Public Library

- **Intergenerational Storytimes:** New programming at Harmony Homes fostered connections between young children and senior residents.
- **Cultural Celebrations:** Events like the Latino Poetry Celebration and Abenaki Storytelling showcased the library’s commitment to cultural inclusivity and education.
- **Volunteer Engagement:** Collaborations with groups like Liberty Mutual and Alpha Tau Omega, student volunteers from UNH and the Oyster River High School helped with library programs.

Maintaining a Focus on the Future

Strategic planning and innovation positioned the library for continued relevance and success:

- **Technological Advancements:** The library’s new credit card payment system streamlined services. Upgraded Youth Services computers supported tech-driven learning.
- **Facility Expansion:** Efforts to clear and re-organize basement spaces pave the way for expanding the Bill Schoonmaker Library of Things.
- **Sustainability Initiatives:** Plans for a pollinator garden and raised sensory garden reflect a commitment to environmental stewardship and innovative programming.
- **Future-Oriented Planning:** The formation of

2024 Durham Public Library Statistics	
Circulation	
Adult Physical Items Circulated	28,864
Juvenile/ YA Physical Items Circulated	43,149
Total Physical Circulation	72,013
Total Digital Circulation	31,905
Total Library Visits	69,089
Total Library Cardholders	5,631
Total Interloan Transactions	4,765
Total Outreach Materials Delivered	1,560
Library Programs	678
Program Attendance	9,687

committees for the 2025-2027 Strategic Plan and Technology Plan ensures the library’s alignment with evolving community needs.

Looking Ahead

As we approach 2025, the Durham Public Library remains dedicated to enriching lives through accessible, innovative, and inclusive services, programs, and resources. Next year we look to focus even more on promoting and communicating our services, introducing a new web platform to the community, and creating a sensory, mud, and pollinator garden outdoors on the library grounds.

We would like to thank our patrons, the Town of Durham & Departments, and our wonderful Library Friends for their continued support. We would

also like to say thank you to our dear colleague Lisa Kleinmann who retired after over a decade of service to the Oyster River Community. We can’t wait to see what her next chapter is!



*l-r back: Director Sheryl Bass, Debbie Jarvis, Kelly Montagano, Kevin Maier, Mel Graykin
l-r front: Audra Lewis, Susan King, Margo LaPerle, Katie Nadeau Courtesy, Durham Public Library*

General Government



ASSESSOR

Darcy Freer, CNHA



The assessor's office is responsible for ensuring equitable assessments, which distribute the Town's tax burden in accordance with NH State Statutes. Assessments are based on fair market value of property and are applied in a fair, equitable and consistent manner. Your assessing office strives to provide the best possible customer service. Information regarding assessments, tax exemptions, tax credits, tax deferrals, current use assessments, conservation restriction assessments, discretionary easements, abatement requests, and timber tax are available through this office. Information regarding your assessment as well as deed and property ownership information can be found in this office, or on the Town's website at www.ci.durham.nh.us/assessing. Assessment information can be viewed on-line at www.visionappraisal.com.

2024 Accomplishments:

- **New Assessor.** Long-time assessor Jim Rice officially retired from the Town of Durham after 11 years as the full-time Assessor. Jim was hard-working, dedicated, and devoted to the Town during his time as the assessor. After some transition within the office, the new Assessor, Darcy Freer, was hired. She comes to Durham with approximately 11 years of experience in the assessing field and is eager and excited to begin her tenure with the Town.
- **Current Use Property.** Land that was disqualified from the Current Use program (per RSA 79-A), primarily due to new construction generated \$59,600 in land use change taxes, all of which were deposited into Durham's Conservation Fund.
- **Updating Exemption & Credit files.** During 2024, the assessing office has begun reviewing the files of all properties that are receiving an exemption or credit. This review is to ensure that all the necessary paperwork is within the file and it is updated, current, and relative to the current property owner. The office will begin a formal review process starting in 2025,

including mailing notifications to properties owners whose records need updating. Property owners' cooperation is greatly appreciated in this State mandated process.

- **2024 Sales Data.** The sales period used for the 2024 equalization process began on October 1, 2023 and ended on September 30, 2024. During this period there were 62 valid property sales, which are reflective of market value. Market value is the most probable price a property would bring in an open and competitive market. Both 2023 and 2024 have been relatively slow years for the number of sales in comparison to 2022 and 2021. For 2024, the average sale price for a single-family home was \$764,100. In comparison, the average sale price for a single-family home in 2023 was \$645,512.

2025 Goals:

- Review and inspect properties that have had new or on-going construction and/or demolition.
- Review qualified exemptions and credits and process new applicants. Continue updating Exemption and Credit files.
- Review all abatement requests and make recommendations to the Town Council.
- Review Board of Tax and Land Appeals and Superior Court appeals.
- Measure and inspect all properties that have transferred between October 1, 2024, through September 31, 2025. The purpose for this process is to ensure that the information on the assessment record cards was correct at the time of transfer, and for the study which is used to determine Durham's 2025 equalization ratio.
- **Potential Statistical Update** (2025 budget dependent). Part 2, Article 6 of the New Hampshire Constitution states "there shall be a valuation of the estates within the State taken anew once in every five years, at least, and as much oftener as the general court shall order."

Residents are welcome to contact the assessor's office at (603) 868-8064 with any questions regarding assessments and/or concerns.

2024 Statistics:

The following is a breakdown of the 2024 assessments and exemptions used to calculate the net taxable valuation which is used to compute the municipal, county and local tax rates.

Summary Inventory of Valuation:

Residential (land & buildings):	\$1,267,253,484
Commercial/Industrial (land & buildings)	\$ 511,475,100
Current Use Land (per RSA 79-A):	\$ 868,844
Utilities:	<u>\$ 103,311,500</u>
Valuation <i>before</i> exemptions:	\$1,882,910,391

<u>Exemption</u>	<u>Exemption Amount</u>	<u>Total Granted</u>	<u>Assessed Valuation</u>
Blind	\$37,000	3	\$111,000
Elderly			
65-74	\$175,000	4	\$700,000
75-79	\$225,000	2	\$438,100
80+	\$275,000	12	\$3,162,500
Disabled	\$175,000	1	\$175,000
Improvements to Assist Disabled		1	\$8,000
Solar	Varies	145	<u>\$3,607,403</u>
Total Exemptions			\$8,203,003

<u>Veteran's Tax Credit</u>	<u>Tax Credit Limits</u>	<u>No. Veteran's Approved</u>	<u>Total Tax Credit</u>
Standard Veteran's Credit	\$500	196	\$98,000
Surviving Spouse	\$2,000	0	0
Service Connected Disability	\$2,500	24	<u>\$60,000</u>
Total Veteran's Tax Credit			\$158,000

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Tom Bebbington, Chair



Year-to-date we have had fourteen burials in the cemetery, six full-body (43%) and eight cremains (57%). Three were veterans. There were eleven sales, comprised of thirteen full-body graves and three cremains plots. Total revenue from plot sales was \$10,850, split between the Cemetery Trust and the Cemetery Improvement Fund.

The Cemetery Care Trust – into which 50% of grave sale proceeds are deposited – had a fund balance of \$303,008.10 as of November 30, 2024.

The Cemetery Improvement Trust – into which the other 50% of grave sale proceeds are deposited for non-routine improvements to roads, grounds, plantings, structures etc. – had a balance of \$46,120.97 as of November 30, 2024.

The Cemetery Special Project Trust – created to accept donations by private individuals, groups or organizations for maintenance and improvements in the Town Cemetery – had a balance of \$1,320.28 as of November 30, 2024.

The late-season snow that fell on April 4 brought down two large trees in the northeast corner of the Cemetery, thankfully missing the storage shed, but destroying the compost/trash container and two sections of the privacy fence. The fence is the property of the abutting landowner and our agreement with them stipulates that they must keep it in good repair. We expect that all work will be completed by the end of the year, and that new compost and trash containers will be placed in the spring.

The Department of Public Works continues to do a great job maintaining the grounds and roads, and I received several positive comments about the overall appearance of the cemetery. A special word of

thanks to Ken Mitchell and the Scouts, who placed flags on veterans' graves in time for Memorial Day this spring and put them all away again after Veterans Day.

In addition to the day-to-day work of coordinating plot sales and burials, and the maintenance of cemetery records, in the coming year I plan to explore partnering with the New Hampshire Old Graveyards Association to conduct a workshop on historic grave marker maintenance and restoration, and to

update cemetery regulations regarding the maintenance of plantings. I will also need to work closely with DPW on repairs to the stone wall along Main Street, which has started to collapse.

It has been a privilege to continue serve the Town of Durham as Cemetery Committee Chair this past year, and to help ensure that the Durham Cemetery remains an affordable, well-maintained place of rest, honoring the deceased members of our community.

DOWNTOWN TAX INCREMENT FINANCE (TIF) DISTRICT

Todd Selig, TIF Administrator



On September 24, 2012, the Town Council adopted a Development Program and Financing Plan for the establishment of the Downtown Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District pursuant to Revised Statutes Annotated (RSA) 162-K:5 to Fund Improvements that Enhance the Economic Vitality of the Downtown Area, effective April 1, 2013. That document was then amended on March 2, 2015, with a new effective date of April 1, 2015.

The objectives of this Downtown Durham Development Program and TIF Plan are to:

- Create new or improved infrastructure including, but not limited to, roads, traffic patterns, utilities, power distribution, water distribution, sewer, stormwater management, lighting, sidewalks and parking;
- Resurface existing roadways that service properties within the district;
- Improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety;
- Create traffic calming and improve traffic management and safety;
- Stimulate development or redevelopment of commercial property that will provide new commercial and office space, cultural and performance venues, professional services, conference and hotel services, restaurants, or other businesses consistent with a vibrant downtown;
- Expand the property tax base;
- Expand and enhance employment and earning opportunities for Durham and area residents;
- Create green space, community meeting areas and an improved sense of community to help

attract Durham residents and consumers from outside the community that will patronize existing and new businesses in the downtown as well as in other areas of the community; and

- Stimulate other businesses to locate or expand within the community.

The Development Program and TIF Plan included five projects focused on the downtown that were consistent with Durham's Master Plan and the recommendations of the 2009 Durham Commercial Core Strategic Plan:

- Traffic calming and streetscape improvements to the Pettee Brook Lane Corridor - \$75,000;
- Deploying parking Kiosks or other technologies to manage parking resources - \$118,080;
- Planning, engineering and implementation of two-way traffic patterns along Main Street, lower Madbury Road and Pettee Brook Lane, and related intersection improvements - \$651,875;
- Planning, design, and construction of structured parking to support the TIF district - \$3,500,000; and
- Resurfacing of Pettee Brook Lane and Main Street (East) - 1" Overlay on Pettee Brook Lane (1,100 feet) - \$26,121; 1" Overlay on Main Street (East) (4,230 feet) - \$116,041.

Subsequent projects are to be developed in cooperation with current and future property owners, developers, and other stakeholders and may include:

- Parking facilities including structured parking;
- Road construction or improvements;
- Sidewalk construction or improvements;
- Bicycle lanes;
- Street lighting and landscaping;

- Improvements to utilities and power distribution;
- Improvements to water and sewer capacity; and
- Traffic calming and vehicular safety.

The proposed TIF district contains approximately thirty-four and a half (34.5) acres, which represents approximately 0.24% of the 14,336-acre land area in the Town of Durham. The maximum area percentage allowed under the statute is 5%. As of the date the initial Downtown TIF District was approved by the Town Council on September 24, 2012, the assessed value of all property in the district excluding tax exempt was \$58,627,900 or 6.39% of the total assessed value of taxable property in the town (\$917,477,049). The maximum allowable value allowed under the statute is 8%. Thus, the district complies with the size and value standards of RSA 162-K: 5.2. Values for 2012 were used for illustrative purposes at the time the District was originally approved by the Town Council on September 24, 2012 because 2013 values were not yet available. The District went into effect on April 1, 2013.

The assessed value of the Downtown TIF District as of April 1, 2013 was \$61,432,700, or 6.44% of the total assessed value of taxable property in the town at that time (\$906,003,460).

The total estimated capital cost to implement the five proposed projects was approximately \$4,487,117. This number excluded annual maintenance and operations costs. The Town Council must ultimately determine priority of funding with input from the District Administrator and Advisory Board. Future projects as recommended by the District Administrator and Advisory Board and approved by the Town Council will be funded with grants, private investment, accumulated captured increment, public borrowing or a combination thereof as determined appropriate by vote of the Town Council. A TIF Downtown District Advisory Board was established in late-fall 2015, and the first meeting took place in January 2016. Additional meetings have taken place infrequently but on an as-needed basis due to relative inaction within the TIF.

The Town of Durham generally intends to use multiple funding sources to complete the proposed development program as indicated above. A combination of private investment, state, federal & foundation grants, municipal appropriations and betterment/special assessments may be utilized along with any other funding sources that may be

identified and successfully pursued during the life of this District.

Uses of Captured Incremental Tax Revenues

Pursuant to RSA 162-K, II (a), the full captured assessed value (100%) for tax year 2014 was designated for development within the Downtown TIF District. However, effective April 1, 2015 and all subsequent years, the Town of Durham shall designate seven percent (7%) of the captured assessed value for the retirement of bonds, notes and the operation and further development of the tax increment financing district. The remaining 93% of captured assessed value shall be deemed excess captured assessed value and shall be returned to the tax lists (general fund) per RSA 162-K:10, II (b).

The Downtown TIF District will exist until any debt issued and borrowing initiated to fund the development program is retired and all improvements anticipated within the Plan for the District as originally adopted or subsequently amended by action of the Town Council have been completed.

The captured assessed value as of 4/1/2024 was estimated to be \$122,606,000 by the Assessor.

The *retained* captured assessed value is estimated to be \$8,582,420.

Actual tax dollars received (7% of Captured Assessed Value) within the Downtown TIF since its inception have totaled as follows:

2014 - \$	95,491
2015 - \$	47,294
2016 - \$	105,613
2017 - \$	109,165
2018 - \$	142,894
2019 - \$	147,176
2020 - \$	169,108
2021 - \$	171,403
2022 - \$	180,647
2023 - \$	174,443
<u>2024 - \$</u>	<u>174,481</u>
Total:	\$1,517,715

Projects undertaken within the Downtown TIF in 2015 (and from the district's inception) through 2022 were as follows: Resurfacing of Pettee Brook Lane and Main Street (East) with a budget of \$142,162. Of this, \$45,422 was expended on shimming the designated roadways in 2015, and the balance was spent in 2016 to apply a finish coat of pavement.

On May 3, 2021, the District Administrator, after consulting with the TIF Advisory Committee recommended to the Town Council that the Town of Durham purchase the vacant lot located at 66 Main Street for the assessed price of \$2,045,000. The recommendation for this purchase stemmed from months of research, discussion and analysis as seen in the document, “Recommendation that the Town of Durham Acquire 66 Main Street” that was provided as part of the April 19, 2021 Town Council packet.

The property, owned by the University of New Hampshire, had languished for years with no expressed plans for development. The property provided an excellent opportunity for public parking and commercial development, which will generate new tax revenue. The town had been in discussions with a developer (Elliott Sidewalk Communities) and the University about a plan that would bring desirable commercial development to the site, yet those discussions were ultimately unsuccessful in 2021 and came to a close.

The 1.18-acre lot at 66 Main Street is the last remaining undeveloped parcel in the downtown.

Currently, future redevelopment in the downtown is limited by the lack of available parking. Public parking on this site will enable future redevelopment of underutilized buildings elsewhere in the downtown adding to the local Durham tax base.

The purchase of 66 Main Street by the Town of Durham on June 1, 2021 was funded using parking impact fees (\$714,194), TIF funds (\$674,578), and a 20-year TIF bond (\$740,000). The financing therefore did not impact the budget or future town tax rate. Additionally, the parking impact fees that were utilized to help purchase the site were to begin to expire starting in August 2021 and would have had to be returned to the developers if they had not been used. The Council ultimately authorized moving forward with the acquisition of 66 Main Street and the construction of municipal surface parking in that location.

In 2024 the total principal and interest payment will be approximately \$59,923.

As of December 31, 2023, the unaudited net balance remaining in the TIF is \$458,712.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE OFFICER



Gail Jablonski, General Assistance Officer

New Hampshire RSA 165 requires that each City and Town in the State of NH provide for any persons who are poor and unable to provide for themselves and that the Governing Body of each City and Town establish written guidelines relative to general assistance. Section 4-10 A-7 of the Administrative Code of the Town of Durham identifies the Business Management Department, headed by the Business Manager, as being responsible for overseeing Welfare services.

The Town of Durham is dedicated to providing for those in need without regard to age, race, sex or national origin. The Business Office is compassionate towards all those seeking assistance. We work with everyone who applies, whether the applications are approved or denied, to assist them towards self-sufficiency in the future.

In 2024 the Business Office received and processed fourteen new applications with requests for assistance in such areas as rent, electricity, and heating oil. Over the past year we also had numerous people contact our office for information concerning assistance but never submit a formal application. As we move into 2025 we currently have two active cases of public assistance open.

The Business Office works closely with several non-profit service providers in the area, the Strafford County Community Action Program in Dover, NH, and the NH Local Welfare Administrator’s Association for advice and guidance on the more difficult cases.

Our welfare regulations and the application for public assistance can be located on the Town’s website at: <http://www.ci.durham.nh.us/businessoffice/welfare-assistance>

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Michael Behrendt, Planner

Michael Behrendt has served as the Durham Town Planner since 2012. He oversees development and long-term planning but his larger role is helping to make Durham a stronger, healthier, and more beautiful community.

Michael serves as staff to the Planning Board, Historic District Commission, Conservation Commission, and Housing Task Force and provides assistance to the Town Council and other boards as needed. Please see our section on the website at <https://www.ci.durham.nh.us/planningandzoning> and feel free to contact Michael any time.

2024 Accomplishments:

- **Attainable Housing Ordinance.** The Housing Task Force and Planning Board developed a new ordinance to promote the creation of affordable and workforce housing. The proposal, now before the Town Council, would allow for higher density residential projects in areas off Route 44 and Main Street West, with the goal of providing more housing opportunities for people with moderate incomes.
- **The Edge.** The Town is working closely with UNH on plans to convert the underutilized West Edge - the triangle bound by Main Street, Mast Road, and The Lodges - into a high-technology village. Much of the site will be subject to local zoning and taxation so the Town is coordinating closely with UNH in developing a Planned Unit Development ordinance which will set the parameters for the project.
- **Planning Board.** The Planning Board reviewed numerous project applications for site developments, two-lot subdivisions, and lot line adjustments; prepared several amendments to the Zoning Ordinance and the Site Plan Regulations; and continued its multi-year project of rewriting the Zoning Ordinance.
- **Historic District Commission.** The HDC is planning for the rehabilitation of the Wagon Hill Farmhouse. The commission organized a series of roundtable discussions to develop new inclusive language for the former “Oyster River Massacre” sign. The HDC designed a plaque for the Old Brick Town Hall which is now on order. The commission supported the

extraordinary work of Joan Bigwood Osborn who organized a commemoration of the 1774 Raid on Fort William and Mary, an event led by Durham’s own General John Sullivan. The commission reviewed applications in the Historic District for changes to sites and buildings.

- **Conservation Commission.** The commission reviewed numerous applications for activity and structures to be located within the Wetland and Shoreland Overlay Districts and applications to New Hampshire Division of Environmental Resources. The commission is currently overseeing a complete rewrite of the Wetland and Shoreland ordinances. The commission is continuing its efforts with the Durham Land Protection Working Group and Land Stewardship Committee to identify future conservation projects on Town lands.
- **Housing Task Force.** The task force is engaged in finding strategies to increase housing opportunities in the community. The task force has held numerous meetings with Town boards and others to educate the public about housing issues in general and to listen to the public about what kinds of zoning initiatives the community would support. The task force appointed a zoning committee to explore strategies to support downtown businesses.

2025 Goals:

- **Zoning Rewrite.** Make substantial progress with the rewrite of the Durham Zoning Ordinance. Complete the new Wetland and Shoreland Overlay District.
- **Planned Unit Development.** Adopt the Planned Unit Development ordinance to facilitate development of The Edge.
- **Subdivision Regulations.** Prepare a new draft of the subdivision regulations.
- **Master Plan Implementation.** Continue work on implementing the many recommended actions included in the 12 chapters of the master plan that were adopted in 2015 and subsequent years.
- **Housing.** Prepare a set of zoning amendments to promote housing opportunities.



l-r: Code Enforcement Officer Andrea Seledee, Mechanical Inspector Dick Kearney, Administrative Assistant Tracey Cutler, Zoning, Code Enforcer & Health Officer Audrey Cline, Planner Michael Behrendt, Assessor Darcy Freer, Electrical Inspector Tom Richardson

PLANNING BOARD

Paul Rasmussen, Chair



2024 Accomplishments:

The past year was slow for application work. This allowed the Board to focus on amendments to the zoning ordinance and site plan regulations.

Applications consisted of:

- three lot-line adjustments/subdivisions
- two conditional use applications for erosion control and wetland buffer management in backyards
- a condominium approval
- solar panel approval on Park Court
- approval for the underutilized parking lot at 9 Dover Road to provide shared parking

The Historic District Committee submitted two minor changes to their ordinance, one is still in progress and the other is approved.

The Planning Board adopted two changes to the Site Plan Regulations that allow greater use of shared solar energy and a reduction of parking requirements throughout Durham.

The majority of the Board's time was spent on the more difficult task of major zoning ordinance amendments. This was split primarily between Workforce/Affordable Housing and a complete review of our definitions.

For housing, several options were considered and much public input was presented. We also scheduled a special presentation by the outgoing School Superintendent Morse to receive Oyster River School data on school enrollments and school capacity. Mr. Morse shared his data which showed capacity at all levels, although a rebalancing between the elementary schools will be necessary at some point. He also shared that his two greatest concerns are housing for his new hires. Starting salaries in the school district do not allow teachers and assistants to live within the school district, and this provides a negative influence on hiring. The second concern was with a dramatic increase of houseless children within the school district over the last few years.

Finally, two in-town projects approved during prior years were completed during 2024 and the results were very satisfying. The housing project at 32 Madbury Road and the fraternity at 18 Garrison Avenue both improve the streetscape. The parking areas at 18 Garrison utilize permeable pavement to help protect the wetlands along Pettee Brook.

2025 Goals

- Planned Unit Development ordinance to support development of The Edge.
- Review of downtown regulations for the purpose of promoting economic and residential rejuvenation. Separation of the Mill Plaza property into its own zone is a possibility. This would allow it to be a true transition zone between Main Street and the Faculty Road.
- Examination of ideas for infill housing in the residential areas RA and RB. A potential for a second overlay zone or for zone-wide dimensional or zoning changes.

COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF APPLICATION APPROVALS 2022-2024

Application Type	2024	2023	2022
Subdivision	2	0	4
Site Review/Conditional Use	4	12	7
Boundary Line Adjustment/ Subdivision Modification/Voluntary Lot Merger	2	3	3
Other*	9	4	7
Total	17	19	21

**Includes Conceptual Consultations, Design Reviews, Modifications and Amendments to Previous Approvals, Government Projects Public Hearings, and Scenic Road Public Hearings.*

SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST

Ann Shump, Chair



The primary task of the Supervisors of the Checklist is to keep the Voter Checklist updated. This is an arduous task during and after certain elections.

A Leap Year means 4 elections! The Supervisors have been very busy in 2024. We started with the Presidential Primary in January, followed by the Town Election in March. We had a slight reprieve for a couple of months before we had to begin organizing for the State Primary in September, and then NO reprieve as we slid right into General Election (Presidential this year) season.

We had many wonderful volunteers ready to lend a hand for the bigger elections. Durham is very lucky that it has so many people who are willing to step up to help with these jobs.

Since the election, the Supervisors have been extremely busy with entering the information from nearly 2,500 new voters into the online Checklist. This is taking its toll on all of us. As of this writing, we are still a long way from the end.

2024 Accomplishments:

- The Presidential Primary landed on the first day that UNH students started classes. As a result, we did not have as many new voters as we prepared for. In 2020 we had over 1,400 new voters. This year we only had 344.



Ann Shump, Chair Supervisors of the Checklist. Ann has served as a supervisor for 22 years and has been chair since 2004.

- The Town/School Election was almost relaxing, with only 3 new voters registering.
- The State Primary in September brought us 110 new voters.
- We are still working on entering all of the new voters from the Presidential Election from November. The count that night was 2,484. However, we are finding that some of those were already registered, so that count will be a little lower. This is not a record. In 2012 and in 2016, we registered over 3,000 new voters on Election Day.

2024 Accomplishments (Continued)

- Between 2023 and 2024 there have been many changes to what Supervisors of the Checklist are expected to do. Most of these changes have added more work, which we are still trying to understand.
- A new Statewide Voter Checklist System (SVRS) has been developed this year for producing the Checklist that we use at elections. There was some training during the summer, but we have primarily learned how to use it by using it.
- Recently HB1569 was passed and signed into law by Governor Sununu. As of a week after the election, applicants for voter registration **must** show proofs of identification, age, domicile, and citizenship without the possibility of being allowed to submit an affidavit if those proofs are not available. Even the registration

form has been changed. It will be interesting to see how these changes affect voter registration across the state.

2025 Goals:

- To better understand what some of the new election laws and regulations are, and how to work with them.
- To educate residents who hope to register to vote as to what the new election laws are.
- To effectively help set up the town/school election in March.
- To finish filing, and to clean up the vault that houses all of our things.
- To keep the Checklist as updated as possible to be ready for another busy year in 2026.
- To rest!

TOWN CLERK-TAX COLLECTOR



Rachel Deane, Certified Town Clerk
Tax Collector

The Town Clerk-Tax Collector's Office is responsible for registering and managing all election events and records within the Town of Durham. In 2024, the Town Clerk-Tax Collector managed four elections and processed over \$42 million in collections for property taxes, utility bills, motor vehicle registrations, vital records requests, and dog license fees.

On September 5, 2024, a burst water pipe from a kitchenette in the town hall building caused water to leak into the Town Clerk-Tax Collector's office, damaging equipment, ceiling tiles, pipe insulation, flooring, and subflooring. All the town's historical records and permanent files remained intact and did not sustain any water damage. The Clerk's office space was shut down to the public and relocated to the town hall's first-floor conference room, allowing staff to operate during reconstruction. The Clerk's office reopened to the public in their original, newly renovated office on November 12, 2024.

2024 Accomplishments:

- **Elections** The Clerk's office managed a busy election year, with four major elections occurring between January and November. The season kicked off with the NH Presidential "First in the Nation" Primary on January 23, 2024, and ended with the General/Presidential Election on November 5, 2024.

The General/Presidential election presented many challenges for Durham in 2024. In addition to the normal increase in voter participation, the town received a larger than normal



l-r: Assistant Town Clerk-Tax Collector Lorrie Pitt, Deputy Town Clerk-Tax Collector Audrey MacKenzie, Town Clerk-Tax Collector Rachel Deane

2024 Accomplishments (Continued)

amount of absentee ballot requests. Additionally, a petition filed by 11 residents of Durham postponed the processing of over 1,060 absentee ballots until after the closure of the polls at 7 p.m. This delayed Durham's overall count of votes. The petitioners cited RSA 659:49 II, which states that "upon the written challenges of 10 or more voters who are present at the polls no later than 1:00 p.m., the moderator shall postpone the process of all absentee ballots until after the polls close and prior to the counting of all ballots cast in the election."

While the General/Presidential election was a safe and secure voting experience for all Durham residents, the volume of voter participation and the delay in absentee ballot processing caused many election volunteers to work multiple jobs and longer shifts, and several volunteers and employees stayed late into the evening and early morning hours. The heroic efforts of volunteers and staff allowed the town to count all eligible absentee ballots and produce election results in a safe and organized manner.

- **Right-to-Know Requests** The Clerk's office received four Right-To-Know requests between October 17, 2024, and November 17, 2024. The requests included:

All new voter registration forms for the calendar year 2024.

All new voter registration forms and affidavits to determine the accuracy of all qualified voter affidavits.

All new voter registration forms and qualified voter affidavits for 136 specifically identified voters.

All absentee ballot applications for approximately 1,060 voters.

The Town Clerk, Administrator, Town Moderator, and Supervisor of the Voter Checklist consulted with the NH Secretary of State's Office, NH Attorney General's Office, and the Town's Attorney before responding to these requests. During that time, it was determined that the requests were exempt from the Right to Know law, and the four requests were denied.

- **Conferences/Training** Deputy Town Clerk-Tax Collector Audrey Mackenzie completed the first year of a four-year certification process. Staff attended both annual meetings for the NH Tax

Collector's Association in September 2024 and the NH City and Town Clerk's Association in October 2024. Durham hosted the Strafford County Tax Collectors for their annual meeting in August 2024.

- **Retirements/New Hires** New faces and old friends returned to the Clerk's office to assist in 2024. Retired Town Clerk-Tax Collector Lorrie Pitt accepted a part-time position to replace outgoing Assistant Town Clerk-Tax Collector Cheryl Hildreth. Ms. Hildreth left her part-time position with the Town of Durham to transition to a full-time position with the Town of Hampton. Retired Deputy Town Clerk-Tax Collector Barbara Landgraf and retired Durham Town Councilor Katherine Marple also returned to assist the Clerk's office during the busy November election season. Georgia Butor, the former Deputy Town Clerk-Tax Collector from the Town of Lee, also assisted the Clerk's office during October 2024.
- **General Office** The Town's online payment system continued to be a popular way for residents to conduct their business with the Clerk's office. Increases in online transactions for utility and property tax payments were reported in 2024, with the most significant increase during the month of November.

Durham's 2024 Top Dog winner was the Demarest family and their ten-year-old Golden Retriever, Lily. The Top Dog gift basket raffle will continue in 2025. The Clerk's office licensed a total of 1,050 dogs in as of December 5, 2024.

2025 Goals:

Continued excellence in customer service, ease of access, and efficiency with transactions will be a top focus for the Clerk's office in 2025. The Clerk's office will also take charge of the following:

- Investigate reducing hours for in-person transactions as residents increase their use of the town's online payment system. Residents will still be able to conduct business through the town's website 24 hours a day, seven days per week, but the clerk's office may adjust hours for in-person transactions like new vehicle registrations or marriage licenses.
- Track legislation in the NH House and Senate that will impact voter registration, absentee ballot processing, and other clerk and collector functions.

2025 Goals (Continued)

- Monitor Right-to-Know requests and challenges.
- Continue to foster strong partnerships with the NH Attorney General’s Office, NH-Secretary of State’s Office-Election Division, and NH-DMV partners.
- Manage the increased demand for clerk involvement and resident advocacy on motor vehicle transactions, as the NH-DOT continues to experience staff shortages and rolls out new initiatives for boat and vehicle registrations.

ONLINE TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN 1/1/2024-12/31/24

Title	Trans Count	Amount
Renewals	1,844	\$ 443,068.94
License Renewals	346	\$ 2,664.00
Vital Record Request	44	\$ 920.00
Property Tax and Utility Billing	1,943	\$ 2,778,351.16
Duplicate Registration	5	\$90.00
Replacement Decals	1	\$ 4.00
New Licenses	33	\$ 255.00
Total	4,216	\$ 3,225,353.10

Property Tax Collection January 1 Thru December 31, 2024

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Uncollected Taxes As Of 01/01/24				
Property Taxes		\$ 667,121.71	\$ 39.49	\$ 286.83
Utilities				
Yield Taxes				
Elderly Deferral Tax Credits				
Taxes Committed To Collector				
Property Taxes	\$ 37,838,891.00			
Yield Taxes				
Land Use Change Tax	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 4,600.00		
Elderly Deferral Tax Credits				
Miscellaneous				
Overpayments Made During Year				
Property Taxes	\$ 47,459.71	\$ 130,449.00		
Interest	\$ 8,520.12	\$ 15,898.16	\$ 3.61	
Other Charges	(\$ 10,170)	\$ 854.50		
Yield Taxes				
Total Debits	\$ 37,939,700.83	\$ 818,923.37	\$ 43.10	\$ 286.83
Remitted To Treasurer				
Prepayments		(\$ 27,221.00)		
Property Taxes	\$ 37,097,004.68	\$ 672,164.69	\$ 39.49	
Yield Taxes				
Land Use Change	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 4,600.00		
Interest Collected	\$ 8,520.12	\$ 15,898.16	\$ 3.61	
Other Charges	\$ 10,170.00	\$854.50		
Elderly Deferrals				
Bills Deeded	\$ 1,892.00			\$ 286.83
Abatements Made During Year				
Yield Taxes				
Property Tax	\$ 5,748.00	\$ 125,120.02		
Carry-Over		\$ 27,507.00		
Uncollected Taxes 12-31-24	\$ 779,883.83			
Property Taxes				
Total Credits	\$ 37,937,878.63	\$ 818,923.37	\$ 43.10	\$ 286.83

Tax Lien Report (January 1 Thru December 14, 2024)

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Unredeemed Liens		\$ 45,912.93	\$ 6,443.96	\$ 10,013.69
Liens executed During Year	\$ 119,275.46			
Interest & Costs After Lien	\$ 783.04	\$ 2,522.54	\$ 1,283.07	\$ 634.19
Total Debits	\$ 120,058.50	\$ 48,435.47	\$ 7,727.03	\$ 10,647.88
Remitted to Treasurer				
Tax Lien Redemptions	\$ 28,853.11	\$ 22,254.63	\$ 5,760.07	\$ 1,891.24
Interest and Costs after Liens	\$ 783.04	\$ 2,522.54	\$ 1,283.07	\$ 634.19
Abatements Made During Year				
Liens Deeded to Municipality During Year	\$ 4,130.86	\$ 3,808.14	\$ 683.89	\$ 8,122.45
Unredeemed Liens	\$ 88,291.49	\$ 19,850.16		
Total Credits	\$120,058.50	\$ 48,435.47	\$ 7,727.03	\$ 10,647.88

Water & Sewer Collection 1/1/2024-12/31/2024

Committed To Tax Collector	
1st Quarter Warrant	\$ 754,474.27
2nd Quarter Warrant	\$ 691,712.59
3rd Quarter Warrant	\$ 675,349.50
4th Quarter Warrant	\$ 743,278.61
Total	\$ 2,864,814.97
Payments Received	
Water	\$ 1,494,365.48
Sewer	\$ 1,320,152.56
Total	\$2,814,518.04
Abatements	
Water	\$ 8,571.37
Sewer	\$ 7,132.72
Refunds	\$ 74.23
Outstanding Balances	
2022 and Prior	(\$ 56.57)
2023 Water	\$ 1,927.70
2024 Sewer	\$61,672.86
2024 Water	\$ 67,865.91
2024 Water Extension Lee	\$ 25,455.91
Total	\$ 156,865.81

Revenue Collection 1/1/2024-12/31/2024

Auto Registrations	\$ 1,277,327.20
Boat Registrations	\$ 3,989.94
Title Applications	\$ 2,350.00
Municipal Agent Fees	\$ 22,038.00
Trans improvement	\$ 27,345.00
Marriage Licenses	\$ 1,800.00
Vital Statistics Copies	\$ 4,180.00
U.C.C. Recordings/Discharges	\$ 1,095.00
Dog Licenses	\$ 7,540.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,820.40
eB2Gov Fee	\$ 1,459.75
Total	\$ 1,350,945.29
Cars Registered	\$ 7,168.00
Dogs Registered	\$1,021.00

TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUNDS



Theodore Howard, Chair

Financial Results:

Portfolio Income from reserve and trust investments for 2023 was \$109,032 (See Table). Part of this income was spent for the purposes of the various reserves and trusts, and the remainder was accumulated to the balances of the reserves and trusts. Portfolio value at the end of 2023 had increased \$1,957,894 from the end of year 2022. Much of this increase was from additional contributions by the Town to capital reserves. Income and market appreciation accounted for \$267,370.78 in 2023 and represent approximately an 8% return on the beginning of year portfolio value.

The portfolio value as of September 30, 2024 was \$5.76 million, representing approximately a \$600K increase from December 31, 2023. The primary source of value change was income earned and market appreciation, accounting for \$495,824. With three months remaining in Calendar Year 2024, income for 2024 is estimated to be about \$40,000 greater than the 2023 income. With uncertainty in world geopolitical issues, US elections, and US monetary policy, predicting end-of-year portfolio values is not possible. However, given performance to date, 2024 results are expected to be better than those of 2023.

A more detailed report on the Town’s Reserves and Trusts is in the financial section of the Town annual report. The Trustees have adopted a conservative investment policy (posted on the Trustees’ web page) with the primary goal of preserving the ability to carry out the purposes of the Town’s reserves and trusts. This policy is reaffirmed on an annual basis.

2024 Accomplishments:

- Improvements at Doe Farm:** We continue to be part of the Land Stewardship Sub-Committee (LSSC), which manages the Town’s conservation interests, including Doe Farm. At the Doe Farm, annual improvements are planned and carried out by the Land Stewardship Coordinator. Control of invasive species, especially glossy buckthorn, continues. The Trustees have hired a licensed consulting forester to update the forest management plan for Doe Farm. With help from Sara Callaghan, Land Stewardship Coordinator, we secured two grants to support that update. A new section of the plan, expected to be completed in 2025, will address climate change impacts and mitigation. With help from UNH forest technology students and their instructor, a forest inventory was completed in December 2023, on the main portion of the Doe Farm.

FUNDS				
Year End 31 December 2023				
MEASURE	Capital Reserves	Trust Funds	Cemetery Funds	Total
Portfolio Value	\$ 4,018,204.89	\$ 1,090,541.86	\$ 48,857.72	\$ 5,157,604.47
Portfolio Value Change	\$ 1,680,322.98	\$ 273,432.56	\$ 4,138.29	\$ 1,957,893.83
Income Earned	\$ 82,638.00	\$ 24,927.12	\$ 1,466.60	\$ 109,031.72
Market Appreciation	\$ 116,566.27	\$ 39,101.10	\$ 2,671.69	\$ 158,339.06
Total Return	8.06%	7.83%	9.25%	
HOLDINGS	% of Portfolio			
Equities	37.2%	38.2%	47.2%	
Fixed Income	56.9%	55.9%	47.4%	
Cash	5.9%	5.9%	5.4%	
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
MEASURE	As of 30 September 2024			
Portfolio Value YTD	\$ 4,531,213.68	\$ 1,178,934.89	\$ 53,843.11	\$ 5,763,991.68
Income Earned YTD	\$ 91,784.68	\$ 21,651.62	\$ 1,087.28	\$ 114,523.58
Market Appreciation YTD	\$ 290,362.36	\$ 77,719.94	\$ 4,217.89	\$ 372,300.19

2024 Accomplishments (Continued)

- *Transparency Efforts:* The Trustees have maintained a good record of timeliness in posting agendas and minutes. We have been able to respond promptly to communications from residents. We generally meet on the 4th Friday of each month at 8:30 a.m.
- *Improved Record Keeping:* We continue reviewing records to winnow unnecessary documents, and to maintain those that explain how, when, and why the various funds in our custody were established and investment performance reports.
- *Investment Policy:* The Trustees adopted the present policy during our March 25, 2022 meeting and reaffirm that policy each year. This year, the policy was reaffirmed at the October 25, 2024 meeting. As required by law, the Trustees forwarded the present policy to the New Hampshire Attorney General's office. (See Trustees' web page for the policy).
- *Internal Controls Policy:* This policy was reviewed and re-adopted at our September 2023 meeting. Changes in the New Hampshire Department of Justice policy will necessitate further revision to this policy. (See Trustees' web page for the policy).
- *Investment Holdings:* Monthly statements listing all holdings are on file in the Town Business office and are also available upon written request to the Chair of the Trustees of the Trust Funds.



Durham Town Cemetery in the Fall. Courtesy, Jean McPeak

- *Alternate Trustee Appointment:* There is one vacant Alternate Trustee position vacant as of year-end.
- *Cemetery Committee:* The trustees and three Town Council members operate the Town Cemetery Committee, under the leadership of Trustee Bebbington. The Committee oversees sales of burial plots and works closely with the Department of Public Works on maintenance of the Durham Cemetery.

2025 Goals:

- We will continue our efforts to be prudent custodians of the funds entrusted to us, while seeking the best possible returns on the investment of these funds.
- We will seek ways to maintain and improve our inter-relationships with Town departments and related Committees, Commissions, and Boards.
- We will seek an additional alternate Trustees to assure continuity in Trustee membership. As the year begins, one alternate position is vacant. Ensuring succession is critical to the future administration of the Town's Reserves and Trusts.
- We will continue work to create trust funds to help finance the Town's celebration of its 300th Anniversary.
- We will review the existing trust funds to determine if some funds can be consolidated to simplify management.
- In support of our responsibilities for the Doe Farm, we will continue as a member of the Land Stewardship Subcommittee.
- We will continue to manage the Durham Cemetery as an affordable, well-maintained place of rest, honoring the deceased members of our community by preserving its beauty, dignity, and historical and cultural values.

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR,
BUILDING INSPECTOR,
CODE ENFORCER, HEALTH
OFFICER**



Audrey Cline, CBO

The Building Department has continued to experience moderate applications for building permits in 2024 with a few commercial projects, and several large residences. Fit-out permits continue to come in for tenant spaces at 121 Technology Drive. The upgrade to the exterior wall panels is essentially complete, and interior shared spaces such as a small cafeteria and employee gym are ongoing. The ATO Fraternity has completed their new building at 18 Garrison on the site of the former Elizabeth DeMeritt House.

Although most of the building permits issued were for residential additions and renovations in neighborhoods, there are several notable large residential projects along Great Bay.

As the Zoning Administrator, the CEO works with applicants preparing documents for appeals, variances, and special exceptions from the Zoning Ordinance. Sometimes the process can be complicated, with several types of relief necessary. We endeavor to assist applicants toward understanding of the documents and protocols when approaching the Zoning Board of Appeals; please contact us early and often.

Durham’s inspectors bring expertise to their respective fields, Mr. Richard Kearney, mechanical/plumbing inspector and Mr. Tom Richardson, electrical inspector. We welcome Tracey Cutler as the Land Use Department’s new Administrative Assistant, and also Andrea Seledce, doing exemplary work as the part-time Code Enforcement Officer.

I am proud of the dedication these staff members bring to their positions and to serving the citizens of Durham. Thank you!

CONSTRUCTION PERMITS PROCESSED	2024	2023	2022
Building Permits	209	232	231
Building Permits Denied	1	1	5
Building Permits Withdrawn	5	7	0
Demolition Permits	6	4	6
Building Permits On Hold	1	1	0
Septic Permits/Test Pits	13	9	13
Electric Permits	182	205	211
Plumbing/Mechanical Permits	228	213	241
Total Permits	645	672	707

BREAKDOWN OF BUILDING PERMITS	2024	2023	2022
New Single-Family House	7	3	3
New Multi-Family Units	2	3	9
Additions, Renovations	175	169	189
Commercial	15	19	20
Demolition			
Single Family Home	4	1	0
Commercial Building	2	0	0
Other	0	3	6
Hold/Renewals	3	4	2
Swimming Pools	1	1	5

	2024	2023	2022
Value of Building Permits Given	\$22,574,626	\$32,787,544	\$19,995,033
Fees Collected for all Permits	\$157,179.81	\$230,520.99	\$143,428.43

OTHER PERMITS	2024	2023	2022
Signs	8	6	5
Sidewalk Cafes	2	3	6
Totals all Permits	219	212	245

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT



Micah Warnock, Chair

The Zoning Board had eight applications for variance/special exception this year. Five were approved, two were denied and one withdrew. Three of the five approvals were for special exception for a short term rental. Zoning

Board applications have steadily dropped over the past 4 years.

We are thankful for the long-time service of departing member Leslie Schwartz. This leaves the board with two vacant alternate positions at year end. Residents with an interest in serving on the Zoning Board are encouraged to apply to the Administrator’s Office or inquire with any member of the board.

2024 ZBA	Requested	Granted	Denied	Withdrawn
Variance	5	2	2	1
Special Exception	3	3	0	0
Administrative Appeal	0	0	0	0
Equitable Waiver	0	0	0	0
Request for Rehearing	0	0	0	0
Request for Extension	0	0	0	0



Public Safety

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Dave Emanuel, Chief

The Durham Fire Department is a group of dedicated professionals who strive to improve the quality of life for the Durham community, along with students, faculty, and staff of the University of New Hampshire. The department is jointly funded (50%-50%) by the town and university and focuses its efforts on fire prevention, emergency medical services (EMS), rescue, and fire suppression. Fire prevention and risk reduction efforts are achieved through life safety inspections and educational programs offered to residents, local businesses, and schools.

Throughout 2024, the fire department experienced significant expenditures of overtime because of extended shift vacancies in part, due to injuries and in part, due to difficulties retaining and recruiting personnel to fill staff vacancies. Six simultaneous open positions in the first quarter created a tremendous workload on remaining department members and financial strain on the operating budget.

Progress on the department’s established 2024 goals:

- *Support fire department members’ health, safety, and wellbeing by providing training and education and ensuring access to resources to assist with mental and emotional health and safety.* The department hosted Nicole Sawyer, PsyD, to conduct department training sessions and a follow-up session with department members and their families to discuss behavioral health; co-sponsored the Elephant in the Room production of *Aftermath* on campus to discuss behavioral health impacts on first responders; and sponsored members to participate in a series of peer support training, exercises, and responses.
- *Implement a new record management system (RMS) to support data-driven decision making.* On January 1, 2024, the department implemented First Due RMS software for fire and EMS incident, inspection, permitting, and training data recording and reporting.



l-r: Firefighter Dave Blatchford, Firefighter Andrew Davis, Firefighter Kyle Kustra, Chief Dave Emanuel, Firefighter Josh Boldebook, Assistant Chief Randy Trull (kneeling), Firefighter Dan Brothwell, Fire Marshal Brendan O’Sullivan, Captain Nate Katz, Administrative Assistant Kelley Fowler, Administrative Assistant Aimee Routhier Courtesy, Fire Dept.

2024 Accomplishments (Continued)

- *Conduct fire department training and succession planning.* Members focused on in-house on-duty training for the bulk of fire and emergency medical training to support department needs, such as recertifications and NH EMS licensing. In addition, three personnel completed Fire Officer 1, two completed Fire Officer 2, and two completed Instructor 1 through the NH Fire Academy.

Other notable accomplishments in 2024 include:

- In January, the Fire Department’s Revised Strategic Plan was published, which had not been updated since 2001. The initiative led to the development of a Safety Management System which became a roadmap for the organization and outlined a path for continuous improvement in health and safety. Kudos to the safety committee which collaborated with consultant I. David Daniels, PhD, on the development and initial implementation of the program.
- Firefighter/AEMT Kyle Kustra completed his onboarding training; the department re-hired Firefighter/AEMT Evan Crafts; and hired Firefighter/EMTs Finn Brown and Josh Boldebook, to bring the organization back to full staff. Captain Jason Best retired after twenty-five years of service, facilitating the promotion of Peter Leavitt to the rank of Captain. In November, a recognition program celebrated the accomplishments of fire department personnel and years of service.
- The Administrator and Fire Chief worked with the Town of Madbury to develop a fee for service proposal for Durham to provide fire and EMS to Madbury for a three-year term. This proposal is under review by the Madbury Select Board at the time of this writing.
- Rescue truck committee members were invited to travel to Marion Body Works in Wisconsin to conduct a pre-build meeting to review specifications and provide value engineering for the replacement of the heavy rescue, which is anticipated to be delivered in the fall of 2025.
- The department established a rescue boat committee which defined needs, solicited proposals, evaluated options, and recommended a purchase agreement for the watercraft. The purchase was made through the capital

2024 Fire Department Community Risk Reduction	
Inspections & Activities	
Complaints & Referrals	17
Fire Drills	67
Burn Permit Site Inspection	6
Plan review and Consult (site, fire alarm and bldg.)	88
Heating Appliance	2
Life Safety	25
Assembly (Town-Wide, Issued by Durham Fire)	26
Housing Standards Inspections	34
Child Safety Seat	13
Mobile Food Unit Inspection	18
Special Event	2
Total Inspections	298

improvements program and delivery is anticipated in the spring of 2025.

- Department members worked with an anonymous donor to acquire a new side-by-side utility task vehicle with a rescue skid unit and trailer to support the community’s special events and remote access responses.

2025 Goals: (Based upon Strategic Plan)

- Enhance the department’s Risk Reduction Program for a safe and sustainable community.
- Enhance the use of science and data to shape department operations.
- Promote an inclusive culture, which values individual members, shares information, empowers members, and builds trust and accountability at all levels within the organization.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive training program that provides continuous education and career preparation opportunities to all personnel.

Members of the Durham Fire Department would like to express their appreciation to the Town and University community for their ongoing and unwavering support of the Fire Department.

2024 Fire Department Incident Reporting

Incident #	Incident Type	Responses	%	Mutual Aid Given	Mutual Aid Received
100	Fire	71	3%	22	1
	Building Fire	31		14	1
	Cooking Fire	6		0	0
	Forest, Woods, or Wildland Fire	5		1	0
	Other	29		7	0
200	Overpressure/Rupture	0	0%	0	0
300	Rescue / EMS Incident	1408	61%	9	9
	EMS Call, Excluding Vehicle Accident With Injury	1249		3	8
	Motor Vehicle Accident With Injuries	31		3	1
	Motor Vehicle Accident With No Injuries	29		0	0
	Removal Of Victim(s) From Stalled Elevator	48		0	0
	Other	51		3	0
400	Hazardous Condition	35	1.5%	1	1
	Carbon Monoxide Incident	8		0	0
	Power Line Down	9		0	0
	Arcing, Shorted Electrical Equipment	6		1	0
	Other	12		0	1
500	Service Call, Other	290	12.5%	2	0
	Trouble Signal	124		0	0
	Assist Invalid	25		0	0
	Public Service Assistance, Other	24		0	0
	Other	117		2	0
600	Good Intent Call, Other	115	5%	14	2
	Dispatched & Cancelled En Route	17		5	0
	Smoke Scare, Odor Of Smoke	26		1	1
	Good Intent Call, Other	25		1	0
	Other	47		7	1
700	False Alarm or False Call	363	16%	4	4
	Smoke Detector Activation, No Fire, Unintentional	72		0	0
	Alarm System Activation, No Fire, Unintentional	67		1	1
	Alarm System Sounded Due to Malfunction	56		0	0
	Other	168		3	3
800	Severe Weather or Natural Disaster	26	1%	0	1
900	Special Incident Type, other	1	0%	0	0
	Total Incidents	2309	100%	52	18

FOREST FIRE WARDEN

Dave Emanuel, Chief



The Durham Fire Department participates in the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands online electronic permitting process to best serve Durham residents. Under State law (RSA 227-L:17), a fire permit is required for all outside burning, unless the ground is completely covered with snow. Fire permits may be obtained by visiting <https://nh.burnsafeamerica.com/> or by scanning the QR code.



From January to December 2024, there were approximately 250 burn permits issued to Durham residents and of those, approximately 56% were seasonal permits and 44% were daily burn permits. Failure to obtain a permit or to control your fire may result in being held liable for: 1. Payment of damage to property of another; 2. Payment of suppression costs to the town; 3. Prosecution for failure to comply with regulations.

Many homes in Durham are located within the wildland urban interface, which is the area where homes and flammable wildland fuels intermix. Homeowners should take measures to prevent wildfires from spreading to their home. Precautions include keeping your roof and gutters clear of leaves and pine needles and maintaining adequate green space around your home free of flammable materials. The burning of household waste is prohibited by the Air Resources Division of the Department of Environmental Services (DES). Additional information about wildfire and homeowner recommen-

dations are available at www.firewise.org and *Wildfire and the wildland urban interface (WUI)*

Safe open burning requires your diligence and responsibility. We ask everyone to remember Smokey's message about personal responsibility and follow his ABC's: **Always Be Careful** with fire. If you start a fire, put it out when you are done. **"Remember, Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!"** For more information, please contact the Division of Forests & Lands at (603) 271-2214, online at Division of Forests and Lands | NH Division of Forests and Lands For up-to-date information, follow DFL on Twitter: [@NHForestRangers](https://twitter.com/NHForestRangers). Thank you for helping us to protect Durham's forest resources.



Firefighter Rob Rosselli puts out a brush fire. Courtesy, Fire Dept.

MCGREGOR MEMORIAL EMS

Chris Lemelin, Executive Director



McGregor EMS is honored to have been the 9-1-1 ambulance service for the communities of Durham, UNH, Lee, and Madbury since our founding – at a Durham town meeting – in 1968. During a time when emergency medical organizations are struggling or ceasing operation throughout the state, McGregor remains strong because of the sustained effort of all within our community. Special credit goes to our volunteers who gave selflessly of their time, providing the majority of

ambulance coverage, over 35,600 hours in 2024. This allowed us to cover 99.1% of all calls in 2024.

At the same time, we have continued our commitment to providing high-quality service with all high acuity and new provider runs (approximately 850 in total) reviewed by our Continuous Quality Improvement Committee. This group's efforts not only provide immediate feedback to crews regarding their care but also informs our ongoing training efforts and provides mentoring and support to all new EMTs, Advanced EMTs, and Paramedics working at McGregor.

McGregor’s volunteers include people of many ages and professions and we encourage everyone to get involved in some way. Anyone can save a life, and we encourage all who read this to become involved in one of the following ways:

Take a First Aid, CPR, or Stop the Bleed Course. Class information is available at www.CPRSafe.org. Please get in touch with us if finances are a barrier to attendance.

Volunteer as an EMT. Take an EMT course locally. Non-medical volunteer opportunities also remain available. To learn more, visit www.McGregorEMS.org/volunteer

2024 Accomplishments:

- Responded to 2,460 calls in 2024 (compared with 2,503 in 2023 and 2,284 in 2022). Recruited and trained 24 new volunteers & 3 new paramedics.
- Updated the “car seats” and newborn restraint systems used to ensure that our youngest patients remain safely buckled up while the ambulance is in motion.
- Ordered a new ambulance to be delivered in the first quarter of 2026.
- Trained an additional three licensed “EMS Instructors” who will provide teaching support to local EMT and Advanced EMT programs.
- Secured an additional \$83,000 CDC grant

through New Hampshire Public Health to sustain McGregor’s Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program which supports people with asthma and COPD. Secured another \$10,000 volunteerism grant allowing us to do recruitment to groups traditionally underrepresented in public safety.

- Presented on McGregor’s Mobile Integrated Healthcare program at the New Hampshire Community Health Worker Summit in Concord, NH.
- Presented at the NH Fire Academy on the implications of the overutilization of lights and sirens during medical emergencies.

2025 Goals:

- Maintain high levels of volunteer engagement and dedication.
- Work with the University, towns, and other stakeholders to address McGregor’s future station needs.
- Establish a state “Educational Training Agency” which will improve our flexibility in offering EMT and Advanced EMT classes within the local community.
- Establish new partners to sustain our Mobile Integrated Health program beyond the current round of grant funding.
- Continue offering high-quality EMT and Advanced EMT courses locally.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Rene Kelley, Chief



This marks the fifth annual report I have completed as your police chief. Unfortunately, I once again must report that we have lost officers to larger and better paid police departments in the State or who have left the profession. Officer Travis Bach left the department to move closer to family in the State of Maine. Officer Cameron Holdsworth and Officer Erik Burke accepted employment with the Londonderry Police Department, and Officer Chloe Robidas left to join the Portsmouth Police Department.

We are pleased that a solid recruiting and selection process has produced exceptionally qualified and dedicated employees to serve you.

Officers hired this year were as follows:

- Officer Keith Letourneau, a full-time certified police officer who worked for the Haverhill, Massachusetts Police Department as well as Bunker Hill College in Boston Mass. Keith has a bachelor’s degree from Mt. Washington College.
- Officer Chloe Scott, a Connecticut native who graduated from the UNH with a master’s degree in justice studies and homeland security.
- Officer Alexander Scopa, a recent graduate of Saint Anselm College with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice. Alex is also a Second Lieutenant with the New Hampshire Army National Guard.
- Officer Zachary Barthel, a recent graduate of the UNH with a bachelor’s degree in justice studies. Zach is also a Second Lieutenant with the New Hampshire Army National Guard.

- Officer Alexander Andruzzi, a graduate of the University of British Columbia, and the University of Maine School of Law. Alex is a part-time certified police officer in the State of New Hampshire, and was employed part-time with the Loudon, New Hampshire Police Department as well as the Strafford County Sheriff's Department.

In 2024, the department was evaluated remotely by a Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation Certified Assessor. This was the third year in a four-year cycle where a certain number of standards were evaluated to ensure that the department was complying with mandated standards in such areas as Use of Force, Vehicle Pursuits, Bias Training, Mandatory Reporting, as well as a host of other high liability standards. Once again, the CALEA Commission found the department in full compliance and noted zero deficiencies! In 2025, the department will host a CALEA Assessor who will interview staff, community members and other stakeholders. If all goes well, the department will be reaccredited for another four years.

I am pleased to report that once again, the department participated in numerous community events, increasing positive citizen/police contacts. Some of those outreach initiatives were as follows.

- Partnered with the University of New Hampshire Greek Community to “stuff a cruiser” with toys and clothing for under-privileged children.
- Shop With A Cop – A wonderful event where officers partnered with under-privileged children to shop for Christmas gifts for their family members.
- Provided Active Shooter training for the Oyster River High School and Middle School.
- Participated in numerous Durham Special



Standing l-r: Deputy Chief David Holmstock, Chief Rene Kelley, Captain Jack Dalton. Seated l-r: Admin. Assistant Jen Johnson, Volunteer Kim Ward, Admin. Assistant Sarah Douglas

Events including Frost Fest, Trick or Treat Festivities, Memorial Day Celebration, and many other community events.

- Participated in Special Olympics events including Opening Ceremony, Cruiser Parade and Judging Olympic Games.
- Co-sponsored the Elephant in the Room Series with the Durham Fire Department and the University Police Department to shine the light on stress in the public safety community.

I would like to thank the members of the Durham Police Department for their commitment to this community and the countless contributions they have made over this past year. We look forward to working together in providing the level of service that the Durham community has come to expect from its police department.





Public Works

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS



Richard Reine, M.S.C.E, CA , Director

On behalf of the Durham Public Works Team, it is with great pride that I present the 2024 Durham Public Works Annual Report. This report highlights the Department’s unwavering commitment to enhancing the quality of life for all residents, businesses, institutions, and visitors in Durham. Through sustainable infrastructure management, environmental stewardship, and active community engagement, we continue to advance our mission of providing essential public works services that support a vibrant and resilient community.

Over the course of 2024, Durham Public Works has undertaken several pivotal initiatives aimed at improving and maintaining the community’s infrastructure. These efforts reflect our ongoing focus on sustainability, efficiency, and innovation in response to address the needs of Durham.

2024 Accomplishments:

- **2024 Road Program Improvements:** The Department successfully reached substantial completion of the 2024 Road Program, with the exception of Dennison Road, which was intentionally delayed and will commence following completion of the Madbury Road Complete Streets Project phases.
- **Water and Sewer System Construction Improvements:** Our work in upgrading the water and sewer distribution, collection, and treatment systems has been critical to meeting the demands of the community. These upgrades ensure continued high-quality service delivery and compliance with environmental regulations.
- **Stormwater Management and Environmental Initiatives:** The Department made substantial progress on several large stormwater management projects designed to reduce flooding and improve water quality. Key projects included the installation of new stormwater infrastructure and reconstruction of major culverts on Madbury and Edgewood Roads, along with rehabilitation of drainage collection systems.



l-r: Director Richard Reine, GIS Program Administrator Steve Lutterman, Admin. Assistant Shannon Shaw, Assistant Director Sam Hewitt, Engineer April Talon, Admin. Assistant John Baker

2024 Accomplishments (Continued)

- **Historic Property Preservation:** This year, Durham Public Works continued its planning efforts on historic properties, including the rehabilitation of the Bickford Chesley House at Wagon Hill Farm. The ongoing preservation, utilizing LCHIP, Moose plate and capital funding, will maintain Durham's rich history.
- **Automated Collection Solid Waste Program:** Significant progress was made in finalizing the Town's transition to automated solid waste and single stream recycling collection utilizing a battery electric (BEV) split body solid waste collection vehicle equipped with an automated side loader. This effort includes the receipt of a Diesel Emissions Reduction Act Grant (DERA) to fund the incremental cost of the BEV truck. Program rollout is planned for 2025/2026.
- **Coordination with NHDOT, NHDES, NOAA, ACOE and other regulatory agencies:** Substantial efforts took place during 2024 and will continue through 2025 in project planning, management and permitting for the Route 4 at Madbury Road and Route 155A at Mast Road modern roundabouts and the Mill Pond Dam removal/Nature like fish passage construction projects.

In addition to these projects, we have continued to focus on community engagement and input. Throughout 2024, Durham Public Works hosted numerous public meetings and neighborhood construction information sessions, collected feedback, and worked closely to keep stakeholders informed.

As technology continues to evolve, Durham Public Works remains committed to integrating cutting-edge solutions that increase efficiency, reduce environmental impacts, and improve the quality of service provided to the community. In 2024, we

have expanded our use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for asset and work order management. These initiatives help optimize resource allocation and ensure the resilience of our public works systems.

2025 Goals:

- **Completion of the Phase 2 Segment 2 and Phase 3 of the Madbury Road Complete Streets Project:** This Complete Street project, with construction beginning in 2024, will enhance pedestrian, vehicle, bicycle and multi-modal safety while also improving stormwater, water, wastewater and roadway infrastructure.
- **Critical Stormwater and Shoreline Improvements:** In 2025 we are preparing to initiate several significant projects including Phase 2 of the Wagon Hill Farm Living Shoreline project aimed at improving stormwater management and shoreline protection to ensure the continued resilience of the Wagon Hill shoreline in the face of climate change and sea level rise.
- **Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades:** The major rehabilitation of key components of the wastewater treatment plant will ensure that Durham's critical infrastructure remains operational and capable of maintaining regulatory compliance.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated team at Durham Public Works. Their commitment, hard work, and expertise make our progress possible. Additionally, I would like to thank the residents, businesses, and community partners whose ongoing collaboration and support play a vital role in our success.

Thank you for entrusting us with the opportunity to serve you. We look forward to another year of progress, innovation, and collaboration as Durham Public Works continues to build a better future for Durham.

ENGINEERING DIVISION

April Talon, P.E., Town Engineer



The Engineering Division of the Department of Public Works is responsible for managing the Town's infrastructure including water, sewer, stormwater, bridges, roads, and dams. The following are highlights of projects completed or ongoing in 2024 and those coming for 2025:

Integrated Watershed Planning/Grants/Stormwater

- EPA Stormwater MS4 Permit Compliance Year 6 and Year 7/ Seacoast Stormwater Coalition - *Annual Program Ongoing*
- Community Oyster Garden at Old Landing Park - *Annual Program Ongoing*
- Great Bay Pollution Tracking & Accounting Pilot Project (PTAPP) - *Annual Program Ongoing*

Water Projects

- Madbury Road Water Main Replacement - *Phase 1 Construction Completed 2024, Phase 2 Proposed Construction for 2025.*
- Technology Drive PRV/Booster Station – *Construction Completed 2024*
- Lee Well Improvements – *Construction Completed 2024*
- Beech Hill and Foss Farm Tank Improvements – *Construction Completed 2024*
- Monthly Water Meter Reading and Quarterly Billing – *Annual Program Ongoing*
- Lead and Copper Rule Revision (LCRR)/Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) – (New) *Annual Program Ongoing*
- Cross Connection Control Program/Backflow Prevention Program – *Annual Program Ongoing*

Wastewater Projects

- Madbury Road Sewer Main Replacement – *Phase 1 Construction Completed 2024, Phase 2 Proposed Construction for 2025.*
- West End Sewer Planning Study – *Completed 2024, ARPA Grant Funded - \$100,000*
- WWTP Facilities Plan Update – *Ongoing 2024/2025*
- WWTP Major Components Upgrade – *Construction ongoing 2024, 2025*

- EPA Great Bay General Nitrogen Permit Compliance – *Annual Program Ongoing*
- NH Medium WWTP Draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit – (New)

Road/Bridge/Dam/Culvert Projects

- Madbury Road Reconstruction Project – *Phase 2 Segment 1 Construction Completed 2024, Phase 2 Segment 2 Spring 2025, Phase 3 Proposed 2025 Construction 2025*
- Mill Pond Dam Removal/Oyster River Restoration/ Oyster River Reservoir Dam Fishway – *Design Ongoing/Const. 2025, ARPA Design Grant Funded \$284,000, Fed Funding 3 Years \$3.5 million+*
- Culvert Rehabilitation, Ross Road – *Completed 2024*
- Culvert Rehabilitation, Bennett Road – *Design Ongoing, Fed Funding \$2 million*
- Culvert Rehabilitation, Edgewood Road, Madbury Road @ Littlehale Brook – *Construction Completed 2024, ARPA Grant Funded \$500,000*
- 2024/2025 Road Program – *Ongoing*

As always it has been a very busy year for permitting with 20 driveway permits and 13 excavation permits. It's been a pleasure serving the Town of Durham this year, and I'm looking forward to what 2025 holds!

GIS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION



Steve Lutterman, Administrator

In general, the mission of Durham's Geographic Information System (GIS) program is to provide maps, applications, geographic data, and spatial analysis for the Town's departments, boards, committees, and the greater community. By using geographic tools to interpret information and reveal insights, such as patterns and relationships, decision-makers are better equipped to address town issues.

The Town's GIS department has been working on various projects to support the Town's operations, planning, and decision-making. Some of the major projects include:

Stormwater Asset Management Plan

The GIS program, in conjunction with Durham Public Works and Env Partners, has completed field data collection on the Town's stormwater infrastructure, including catch basins, pipes, outfalls, and detention ponds within the MS4 permit boundaries. This data will be used to assess the condition, performance, and risk of the assets and to identify maintenance and improvement needs. This project was made possible through an asset management grant awarded by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES).

Copper and Lead Water Service Inventory

The GIS program has been working with Durham Public Works and Underwood Engineering on the Town's Copper and Lead Water Service Inventory. This project aims to conduct a comprehensive

inventory of the water service lines in the Town, focusing on identifying the locations and materials of pipes that may contain copper or lead. The inventory will help the Town comply with the Federal Lead and Copper Rule and prioritize the replacement of high-risk pipes.

Wastewater Asset Data Collection

The GIS program, in collaboration with the Wastewater Division, has been conducting a comprehensive data collection initiative to improve the understanding and management of the Town's wastewater infrastructure. This project focuses on gathering precise location data for all sewer manholes throughout Durham, providing critical information for system mapping and analysis.

As of December 2024, 596 of 615 sewer manholes have been located, with efforts underway to complete the remaining data points.

Transfer Station Stickers Tracker

To enhance the efficiency of the Town's Solid Waste Program, the GIS program developed a custom web tool specifically for managing the issuance of Transfer Station, Bulky Waste, and Electronic Stickers. This tool not only simplifies the distribution process but also improves data accuracy and operational transparency.

The tool's intuitive interface allows staff to efficiently input data, and view trends in sticker issuance over time. This system allows the Department of Public Work to better allocate resources, forecast and future sticker demand.

Code Enforcement Tools

In support of the Town's Code Enforcement Program, the GIS program created a custom web

application tailored to assist with the citation and compliance process. This application provides an interactive and user-friendly platform for Code Enforcement Officers to manage and track citations efficiently. The tool incorporates a tracking system for incident letters, documenting their progress through each step of the citation process. From the initial issuance of a citation to the resolution of a violation, officers can update the status and add relevant notes, ensuring that all records remain centralized and up to date.

By using this system, the Code Enforcement Program has enhanced its ability to monitor compliance rates, generate detailed reports, and communicate effectively with property owners. The tool also serves as a resource for analyzing historical trends, helping the Town refine its enforcement strategies and improve overall compliance with local regulations.

In the coming year the GIS Program will be working with the Town's Traffic Safety Committee to develop a geospatial layer that visualizes and analyzes traffic patterns across Durham. This initiative aims to provide a deeper understanding of vehicular and pedestrian movement, supporting better decision-making regarding traffic management, infrastructure improvements, and safety enhancements.

The GIS department is proud of its achievements and contributions to the Town over the past year. We look forward to continuing our work and providing high-quality GIS services and products to the Town, its departments, boards, committees, and residents.

LINDA H. HOLLISTER SWAP SHOP



Sally Needell & Karen Dyer, Volunteers

The Swap Shop had a very successful 2024 season. More items of all types and sizes were dropped off by their owners and taken home by new owners than in any previous season. The Swap Shop was the social center of Durham on Tuesdays and Saturdays, an opportunity for old friends to meet up and check in with each other, and/or a chance to make new friends.

The volunteers are truly committed to the mission of the Swap Shop to keep usable items out of the Turnkey Landfill. Forty-four volunteers worked a range of 1 to 25 three-hour shifts over the season.

They worked more than 1000 hours and additional volunteers gave their time to help out when possible. Why so many volunteers? It's fun, it's satisfying, and you have a chance to see your friends! Our volunteer team effort caught the attention of WMUR news who featured the swap shop in a brief NH Chronicle segment about how people in NH endeavor to keep discarded items out of the landfill.

We greatly appreciate the support that we receive from Durham Public Works, especially from the amazing Transfer Station staff who are always willing to help all of their customers and the Swap Shop.

Tentative opening date for the 2025 season is April 1, 2025.

OPERATIONS DIVISION



Richard Reine, M.S.C.E, CA , Director
Sam Hewitt, Assistant Director
Shane Bickford, Operations Manager

Durham Public Works' Operations Division continued to deliver the highest level of public service in 2024 while managing the continuously increasing program responsibilities. The team effectively managed the timely and successful completion of its routine maintenance programs while balancing its key role in the infrastructure improvement projects on Madbury Road. El Niño conditions returned following a three-year hiatus, with global weather patterns influencing a winter that required only 13 emergency responses. The elimination of the Bulky Waste Curbside Collection Program allowed for substantial early season progress on the Department's Right-of-Way Vegetation Management Program and for portions of the Sidewalk Program to be completed internally.

2024 Accomplishments:

- Assisted in three separate major infrastructure replacement/improvement projects as part of the larger Madbury Road Complete Streets Project.
- Completed the restoration of several office spaces at the Durham Town Hall after a compromised water pipe caused extensive damage.
- Collected 46.5 tons of brush and leaves during the curbside Fall Brush/Leaf Collection Program.
- Collected hundreds of trees during the curbside Holiday Tree Collection Program.
- Completed the annual Roadway Crack Sealing Program. This pavement preservation technique was applied to Shearwater Road, Razorbill Circle, Cormorant Circle, Old Landing Road, Sections of Mill Pond Road, Sections of Main Street, Schoolhouse Lane, Ambler Way, and Gerrish Drive.
- Assisted in the Sidewalk Improvement Program which included the replacement of 2,880 feet of bituminous asphalt walking surfaces on Bagdad Road and Dover Road and the installation of a dozen accessible ramps and MUTCD signs / crosswalk pavement markings.
- Painted 30 miles of center and edge pavement markings across Town. Symbols including crosswalks, sharrows, bike lanes, and stop bars were also completed within the Downtown corridor.
- Continued to provide scheduled, preventative, and unscheduled repairs to the majority of town-owned vehicles, including 26 NH State Inspections.
- Coordinated several volunteering events with numerous entities to assist with Public Works functions.
- Provided year-round maintenance of all town-owned parks, property, and facilities including numerous repairs of failed building system components.
- Coordinated traffic control packages with the Parks and Recreation Department for several special events.
- Responded to 13 winter weather events, providing snow and ice control for 120 lane miles of roadway and 15 miles of sidewalk.
- Completed the emergency replacement of 60' of culvert pipe at the corner of Woodman and Madbury Roads.
- Responded to two major weather events which caused extensive damage to vegetation and aerial utilities; A late-season Nor'Easter on April 4th and downburst winds from a severe thunderstorm on June 23rd.
- Coordinated with the Oyster River Cooperative School District and Town Clerk's office with setting up and tearing down four election events including the Presidential Election in November.
- Installed four rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) systems at 66 Main Street, at 8 Newmarket Road, at Dover Road at Young Drive, and at Main Street at Park Court crosswalks for pedestrian safety.
- Planted four and transplanted two public shade trees in the Downtown Corridor.
- Consistent with the Town's EPA issued NPDES MS4 Stormwater Permit requirements, Durham Public Works cleaned 361 catch basins and swept the gutter lines of all Town roadways.

2024 Accomplishments (Continued)

- Completed a Spring and Fall Preventative Maintenance Program on Town facility HVAC equipment.
- Completed roadside mowing activities along dozens of arterial, collector, and local roads.
- Accepted delivery of a new 2024 Ford F-250 and Ford F-450 for general Public Works operations.
- Replaced twenty (20) failed cobra head utility pole lights.

SOLID WASTE DIVISION

Richard Reine, M.S.C.E., CA , Director
Sam Hewitt, Assistant Director
Shane Bickford, Operations Manager
Thomas Brannan, Program Supervisor



The Solid Waste Division performed exceptionally well in 2024 as it continued to navigate the challenges associated with its aging fleet of solid waste collection vehicles. Weekly mechanical breakdowns required programmatic shifts to maintain uninterrupted services. In addition to managing the routine operations, the Department completed revisions to Chapter 118 – Solid Waste of the Municipal Code in preparation for major upgrades to the Curbside Collection Program and Transfer Station operations in 2025. Daily vehicle counts at the Transfer Station exceeded 800/day during the summer months, as the demand for reusable products at the Swap Shop continues to expand.

2024 Accomplishments:

- Continued to provide weekly curbside collection



l-r: Sanitation Supervisor Tom Brannan, John Page, Scott Leduc, Assist. Director Sam Hewitt, Shane Bickford, Spencer Deland, John Baker, Director Richard Reine

of solid waste and recycling for approximately 1,900 residential customers and 32 commercial recycling customers.

- Continued to offer drop-off service at the Raymond A. LaRoche Sr. Transfer Station and Recycling Center on Tuesdays and Saturdays.
- Completed a comprehensive update of Chapter 118 – Solid Waste of the Town Municipal Code.
- Continued to provide options for the recycling of individual revenue-generating commodities through the Transfer Station, including corrugated cardboard, aluminum cans, batteries, and scrap metal.
- Continued to evaluate options/methods for disposal and recycling programs to increase efficiencies, reduce cost, improve employee safety, and promote environmental sustainability.
- Furthered the planning process of converting the Curbside Collection Program from semi-automated to fully-automated side loaders with single stream recycling with standardized collection carts.
- Maintained nine employee NHDES Solid Waste Certifications through required training programs.
- Successfully recruited and hired Part-Time Transfer Station Operator, Brendan Connelly.
- Worked with the Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee to further promote recycling and the diversion of municipal solid waste from landfills.

Solid Waste Division Statistics 2024

Recyclable Material (tons):

Mixed Paper - Route	132.25
Mixed Paper - Transfer Station	77.85
Cardboard	88.2
Scrap Metal	113.32
Car Batteries	1.49
Ballasts	0.15
Single Stream - Commercial Route	110.77
Commingled Containers - Transfer Station	62.27
Comingled Containers - Route	132.32
Aluminum Cans	3.69
Compost (tons) - Transfer Station	28.0
Electronics (tons)	5.51

Total (tons) 755.82

Recycling Revenue	\$27,911.00
Tip Fee Avoidance - Landfill	\$64,569.70

Other Material Recycled (Unit):

Car Tires (tons)	5.52
Waste Oil (gallons)	200
Antifreeze (gallons)	55
Yard Waste (tons)	325.5
Fluorescent Bulbs (#)	406
Propane Tanks (individual)	297
Fire Extinguishers (each)	32
Air Conditioners (each)	241
Refrigerators (each)	118

Materials Disposed (tons):

MSW - Curbside	1068.67
MSW - Transfer Station	522.85
Bulky Waste	141.06
Construction and Demolition	164.32
Electronic Stickers Sold (each)	664

TREE WARDEN



Richard Reine, M.S.C.E, CA , Director
ISA Certified Arborist NE-7337A

The Town of Durham once again achieved status as a Tree City USA for the 46th consecutive year. Durham is proud to be recognized as the longest standing Tree City USA municipality in New Hampshire by the Arbor Day Foundation. This award recognizes communities who have developed and continue to invest in a healthy community forestry program with adherence to the four core standards developed by the Arbor Day Foundation and National Association of State Foresters.

The Town celebrated Arbor Day with members of the Town Council, Land Stewardship Committee and the public on April 26th, with the planting of a black tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*) at Bicentennial Park located at the intersection of Main Street and Mill Road, along with three Serviceberry Trees (*Amelanchier Canadensis*). This planting is part of the Town's Public Shade Tree Planting Program which also included the installation of additional porous pavement tree wells on Main Street, by

Durham Public Works staff which are trained and certified in porous pave installation practices, to enhance the health of existing public shade trees.

The Town and its utility partners, including Ever-source Electric, have invested over \$66,205 in standard and enhanced maintenance trimming, planting and removal, inclusive of the scheduled removal of dead, diseased and dying hazard trees. Durham Public Works, working with Orion Tree and Eversource Electric/Northern Tree removed 22 dead or hazardous trees during 2024.



WASTEWATER DIVISION

Richard Reine, M.S.C.E, CA , Director
Sam Hewitt, Assistant Director
Dan Peterson, Superintendent
Matt Collins, Chief Operator



2024 Accomplishments and 2025 Goals:

Apex Construction has completed phase-one of the mechanical upgrades to two Primary Clarifiers and four Aeration Tanks, and other concrete repairs. This work included removal of the end-of-life clarifiers' steel mechanical parts and replacement with all new plastic skimmers and chains, along with new gear drives. In addition, the aeration tanks aging steel air pipes were replaced with new stainless steel aeration pipes. New air control valves were also replaced as part of this rehabilitation. Environmental Partners Group provided engineering design and inspection services for this project. Phase two will commence in spring 2025 and will consist of removing the end-of-life rotating mechanical structures of both secondary clarifiers and replacing them with new equipment. This project is being completed as part of the facilities Capital Improvements Plan to ensure reliable treatment operations into the future.

Working with engineering firm Environmental Partners, a wastewater treatment plant site storm management plan with a focus on water quality, consistent with the Town's federal MS4 and NPDES wastewater plant permits, is in the design phase for construction anticipated in 2025/2026. This future project will ensure that any stormwater surface pollutants will be collected and removed at the treatment facility, while also reducing nitrogen prior to discharging into the Oyster River.

The treatment facility's Programmable Logic Controllers were evaluated by Wright-Pierce Engineering to ensure timely upgrades as need. This computer-controlled system runs the facility 24 hours a day, constantly making changes throughout the plant as well as notifying operators through system alarms both on site and remotely when deviations from set param-

eters occur. This highly complex system requires an upgrade due to its age and outdated technology. These improvements are planned to take place in the summer of 2025.

As part of the improvements to Madbury Road, a problematic and undersized sewer line was realigned and replaced between Madbury Road, Madbury Court, and Stafford Ave. This line, which is located beneath an apartment complex, has been troublesome through the years due to age and condition. The new line, has been increased in size and is now accessible outside the footprint of the building.

With the assistance of Wright-Pierce Engineering, and a grant from NHDES, the treatment facility is evaluating a biosolids drying unit. Due to the costly expense of biosolids disposal, a biosolids drying system would greatly reduce the solids moisture content by ninety percent or greater, significantly saving costs on disposal.

With the receipt of a draft medium plant sized General Discharge permit from the EPA in November, the Town is working with Wright-Pierce Engineering to understand the new discharge limits as well as additional requirements in the permit which, as currently drafted, will result in significantly increased capital and operating costs. The EPA has issued this as a general permit with site specific criteria for plants within the 1 to 5 Million



l-r: Superintendent Dan Peterson, Chief Operator Matt Collins, Adam Jenness, Chad Pierce, Meredith Hoyt

Gallons per Day design flows. A comment period for this permit will end on February 13, 2025. The Town anticipates providing comprehensive comments in an effort to communicate to the EPA the Town’s questions and concerns while preserving the Town’s rights to future actions if needed. It is worth noting that, with the exception of the Nitrogen General Permit issued in 2020, the existing

facility permit that this recent draft permit replaces has expired and has been administratively renewed since 2005.

As always, the staff continues to look forward to serving the Town in the coming year and making the best quality treated discharge into the Oyster River and Great Bay.

Wastewater Division Statistics 2024

<u>Permit Parameters</u>	<u>2022 Avg.</u>	<u>2023 Avg.</u>	<u>2024 Avg.</u>
Influent Flow MGD	0.77	0.94	0.84
Effluent Flow MGD	0.80	0.94	0.83
Effluent TSS	1.6	1.4	2.1
% TSS Removal, min. 85%	99.1	99.2	99.0
Effluent BOD	5.1	4.2	3.5
% BOD Removal, min. 85%	97.4	97.7	98.0
Total Influent Flow MG	279	308	307
Total Effluent Flow MG	291	308	301
Total Septage Received Gals.	337,385	261,050	220,274

MGD - Million Gallons/day
TSS - Total Suspended Solids
BOD - Biochemical Demand

MG/L - Milligrams per Liter
MG - Million Gallons
Gal. - Gallons

WATER TREATMENT & DISTRIBUTION DIVISION



Richard Reine, Director
Sam Hewitt, Assistant Director
April Talon, P.E., Town Engineer
Dwight Richard, Chief Operator

The Durham Water System team participated in several high-value infrastructure improvement and replacement projects in 2024. Well below average rainfall totals over the second half of the year required adjustments in water sources and treatment operations to continue the Division’s mission of providing safe, reliable and high-quality drinking water to its approximately 1350 customers along with fire protection to the Town. A comprehensive tabletop audit of the UNH/Durham Water System’s distribution system lateral piping was completed to address the EPA’s revised Lead and Copper Rule. The collected data will be used to address properties with an unknown service pipe type over the next several years.

2024 Accomplishments:

- Completed additional upgrades to the Lee Well Water Production and Treatment Facility, including the installation of a variable frequency drive system and epoxy floor coating on the pump side of the facility.
- Conducted routine in-person inspections and remote SCADA system checks of all Town-owned water facilities to ensure quality and compliance were continuously achieved.
- Managed production at the Lee Well Water Production and Treatment Facility and coordinated the finish water introduction into the distribution system.
- Ensured regulatory compliance sampling for total coliform, lead, copper, VOC’s, SOC’s, IOC’s, nitrates, and disinfection by-products as required by the EPA and NHDES.

2024 Accomplishments (Continued)

- Coordinated water production needs with the UNH Facilities Department and Water Treatment Plant personnel to meet system demands for the UNH/Durham water system.
- Completed monthly water meter readings and coordinated with the quarterly water billing for 1350 customers.
- Coordinated all water system maintenance requirements with UNH Water/Facilities Department, including the annual uni-directional flushing program of water main lines, and gate valve exercising.
- Repaired three water main breaks.
- Repaired or replaced 100 water meters.
- Maintained four (4) employee NHDES Drinking Water Treatment and Distribution Licenses through required training programs.
- Located and marked water utilities at 402 excavation sites through the Dig Safe Program.
- Coordinated the development and distribution of the 2024 Consumer Confidence Report.
- Assisted in the completion of the Phase 1 Water/Sewer Project on Madbury Road which involved the replacement of ~1,900 feet of buried cast iron pipe and its associated appurtenances.
- Assisted in the construction of the new Technology Drive Booster Station Facility and mixing system installations at the Beech Hill and Foss Farm Road water storage tanks and completed construction of this new state-of-the-art facility.
- Assisted in the completion of the UNH/Durham Water System Communication System Upgrades project.



l-r: Director Richard Reine, Chief Operator Dwight Richard, Assistant Director Sam Hewitt (Not pictured, Engineer April Talon)

Town Supported Organizations



BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS



Madison Holdbrooks
Grants & Communication Manager

Big Brothers Big Sisters of New Hampshire's mission is to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. Our vision is that all youth have the opportunity to achieve their full potential through mentorship.

Our program remains free of cost to youth and their families thanks to the generosity of grants, corporations, donors, volunteers and town support, such as, the Town of Durham. BBBSNH greatly values the town's generous contribution.

2024 Accomplishments

- In 2024, Big Brothers Big Sisters of New Hampshire supported three mentoring matches from the Town of Durham. In addition, four volunteers from the town generously dedicated their time to mentoring youth in Durham and surrounding communities. One child from the Town of Durham remains on our waitlist, in need of a mentor.
- Started a new program called Big Adventures which is a dynamic program where matches meet twice a month, participating in activities planned and supervised by BBBSNH in a group setting. These activities, designed to deepen mentoring relationships and support various skills, are conducted with local community partners. Typically held on weekends and lasting 2-4 hours, the first monthly outing is organized by BBBSNH, while the second outing is determined by the match, allowing them to explore activities within their local community.
- On track to exceed 300 matches made statewide in 2024.

- Staff conducted 3,818 match support calls, and 137 volunteer interviews.
- Average match length is 23.5 months.
- Youth range in ages 6-18.
- More than half live in single-parent or with a relative caregiver other than a parent in a low income level household.
- One-quarter have a physical, emotional, or learning disability.
- All matches are community-based, meaning they meet with their mentors in different settings of their choosing within the community.
- Littles have been with their mentors on an average of 20+ months

2025 Goals

- Expand volunteer recruitment outreach efforts as a result of lower inquiries due to the pandemic
- Continue to provide additional training and resources to staff and mentors in areas such as diversity and inclusion, trauma-informed practices and opioid/substance misuse
- Strengthen and create new relationships with individual and corporate donors as well as local businesses to promote program sustainability and sense of community around the need for mentoring
- Improve and strengthen strategies to better tell our story and raise awareness of Big Brothers Big Sisters of New Hampshire and its mission.
- Sustaining our new program Big Adventures.

COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF STRAFFORD COUNTY

John Moynihan
Chief Advancement Officer



Community Action Partnership of Strafford County (CAPSC) was established in 1965 under the provisions of the Equal Opportunity Act of 1964 and offers a full suite of services and programs designed to have an impact on people in Strafford County. Without the services provided by our agency, many local residents would be without a means to provide for their basic needs, including food, education, childcare, utilities like heat and electricity, transportation, housing, emergency shelter, and access to other services. CAPSC has a unique blend of community-based leadership and staffing with offices located in Dover, Farmington, Rochester, and Somersworth.

CAPSC is a 501(c)(3) private, non-profit organization that works closely with community, state, and federal partners to help assist community members. Our mission is *“to reduce barriers to help clients improve their economic stability and well-being through education, advocacy, and partnerships.”* Our vision is *to eliminate poverty* – a bold dream necessary to tackle this global challenge. As needs increase, the funding provided from the Town of Durham provides critical support for our neighbors throughout Strafford County.

In FY24, CAPSC programs supported 14,954

Strafford County residents on their journey to become more independent and self-sufficient. We took leadership roles in statewide programs like our Diaper Distribution Initiative and the Domestic Violence Coordinated Entry Program, as well as assuming operations of the Home For Now Family Shelter in Rochester ensuring its continued operation. Each of these programs demonstrate our commitment to creating meaningful change in the lives of our clients.

2024 Accomplishments:

- 24 households in Durham received \$17,054 in Fuel Assistance.
- 29 households in Durham received \$11,572 in Electric Assistance.
- 514 rides were given to Durham seniors on the CAPSC Senior Transportation Bus.
- Durham food pantries received 37,951 pounds of food from The Emergency Food Assistance Program, coordinated and distributed by CAPSC.
- In total, 72 households in the Town of Durham received \$192,836 worth of services from CAPSC.

2025 Goals

- Empower families to establish and achieve personal and collective goals for a brighter future.
- Deliver exceptional early childhood care and education to support children and families.
- Decrease child poverty rates in Strafford County.
- Expand access to affordable housing and provide support to ensure individuals and families remain housed.
- Bridge critical gaps for community members facing rising costs of food, heating, transportation, and other necessities.

For more information on how to access CAPSC's programs and services, please visit our website: <https://www.straffordcap.org/>



A family enjoys time at Harvest Meals in Rochester. Courtesy, CAPSC

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA)

Tarah Bergeron
Development Assistant



Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of New Hampshire strives to protect the rights of our state's most vulnerable children to live, learn and grow in the embrace of a loving family. Our trained volunteer advocates (CASAs) speak for abused and neglected children's best interests in New Hampshire's family court system- including Dover Family Court, the court that serves children from the Town of Durham.

2024 Accomplishments:

Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024) by the Numbers (Statewide)

- 663 carefully screened, trained and supervised volunteer advocates
- 119 new volunteers trained
- 1,538 children had advocates by their side
- 971 families (2% increase from FY 23)
- Over 12,000 children had advocates since 1989
- Over 90,000 hours of volunteer time in FY 24
- Over 680,000 miles traveled in FY 24

In FY 2024, CASA of New Hampshire served 60 children at the Dover District Court, the court that serves the children of Durham. Currently, 5 Durham residents are working hard to make a lasting difference in a child's life by volunteering as CASA advocates. Each volunteer advocate typically works with 2.5 children over 3.5 years, so residents in your community are impacting the lives of more



Courtesy, CASA

than 9 children. Children with a CASA advocate spend fewer months in foster care, experience fewer out of home placements and perform better in school than children without a CASA.

2025 Goals:

- We continue to strive to reach our goal of having trained advocates available to serve 100% of child abuse and neglect cases that we are presented with.
- We are focused on volunteer recruitment and retention as we spread our reach farther throughout New Hampshire. With 700 volunteer advocates we believe CASA could effectively provide a voice for 100 percent of the state's children.
- We cannot get there alone. Your support, together with many other municipalities across the state, makes it possible for CASA to provide advocates for victimized children in your community. We will continue to find multiple avenues of support including from individuals, businesses, foundations, and federal, state and local government--NH towns, cities, and municipalities.

READY RIDES



Tahja Fulwider, Executive Director/
Volunteer Coordinator

Ready Rides Transportation Assistance organization provides free curb-to-curb rides to all medical related appointments for residents living in Durham that are 55 years old or older, and to all who are disabled. Our vetted volunteer drivers use their own vehicles to provide



transportation services. Mileage reimbursement is available to drivers. Ready Rides also provides rides to residents living in Barrington, Madbury, Northwood, Newfields, Nottingham, Newmarket and Strafford. Rides are not bound by travel distance. Accessible rides are available. Ready Rides was established in 2012 and is a 501 C 3 independent nonprofit organization.

2024 Accomplishments

- Number of Durham drivers: 6
- Total confirmed trips since 2012: 6,344
- Registered Durham residents using our service: 137

- Total confirmed trips up thru December 2024: 228

We have now reached our ten-year mark and can proudly say we have provided free rides to those in need in NH communities for 10 continuous years! Our volunteer base was deeply affected by Covid 19 and has not fully recovered, although ridership is increasing again towards pre-covid numbers. We have been working hard to rebuild our volunteer base and will continue to see support in the community. We proudly never stopped providing transportation to those most in need. As the town's population ages and the town grows, we will be here to be the support Durham needs.

STRAFFORD NUTRITION & MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM

Jaymie Chagnon, Executive Director



Strafford Nutrition & Meals on Wheels is a private, nonprofit (501 3C) agency who provides services to the residents of Strafford County, NH. Our mission is to promote the well-being of the elderly and disabled adults of Strafford County by providing services to foster independence in their own home and prevent or delay the need for institutional care. Through the delivery of hot nutrition meals in home or community settings, daily safety checks, nutrition education, and nutritional assessments, SNMOW will promote physical and emotional health, protect quality of life, and aide in the social & economic needs of the elderly and disabled.

All the Durham residents served were participants in our Meals on Wheels program. This program delivers meals directly to the homes of elderly and handicapped residents of Durham. The meals are geared to the nutritional standard set by the Older Americans Act, which is approved by a Registered Dietitian. For Meals on Wheels clients whose situations warrant it, we can also provide weekend meals, night meals, holiday meals, and "Blizzard Bags" to be used during the winter when the driver is unable to deliver meals due to inclement weather.

In addition to the meals the following are some of the support services provided this past year:

- Safety Checks: with the delivery of each meal, we verify that the client is doing well. If the driver notes any changes in the client's behavior, habits, mannerisms, etc.; they will report it so a follow-up with their emergency contact

will happen. In a serious situation that requires immediate action, 911 would be called and the driver would stay with the client until the EMT arrived.

- Information: refers to the information that is given to the clients via a SNMOW employee, and includes health tips, agency newsletters, notice regarding local information, etc.
- Referrals: made to the VNA, BEAS, Community Action, and other service organizations to help mobilize resources to aid in the independent living of the client.
- Home Visits: refers to the visits that the Outreach Coordinator or Field Supervisor makes to a client's home. All homebound clients receive home visits. Reasons for the visits include intake application on a new client; redetermination assessment on a client already receiving meals; to check on a sick client having problems, etc.

SNMOW is grateful to Durham for its support this past year. Services provided specifically to Durham residents this past year include:

- 30 Durham residents (on average we are feeding 14 Durham residents per day)
- 3,454 Meals served to Durham residents
- 2,016 Safety Checks and Support Services

Participant statistical information

- 69.1% are over the age of 70
- 96.1% say that MOW meals are vital in their ability to remain in their homes
- 61.8% live alone
- 68.4% have an income below \$1,500 per month

STRAFFORD REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



Jen Czysz, Executive Director

Strafford Regional Planning Commission works with municipalities, statewide organizations, and other partners to provide technical assistance with plans, outreach, projects and regulations. SRPC creates a space for stakeholders to connect, share information, and engage with important planning initiatives.

2024 Accomplishments:

(Value of services provided at no additional cost to the town is in parentheses)

- Worked with the Durham Leadership Team to update the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan and obtain approval from FEMA. (\$10,000 grant from NH Department of Safety, 2023-2024)
- Submitted a Letter of Intent for Hazard Mitigation Assistance Funds to support the development of a scope of work to assist with implementation of the Longmarsh Road culvert replacement project. (\$1,248)
- Promoted the Picturing Rising Tides gallery, which was hosted at the Durham Public Library, in SRPC's weekly newsletter. (\$492)
- Provided water quality sampling data to assist with the Great Bay Total Nitrogen General Permit adaptive management plan update. (\$100)
- Partnered with Durham and UNH staff to host a SRPC Commissioner Field Trip tour of Transportation sites around town and campus. (\$2,730)
- Provided traffic data to support the Durham Climate Action Plan. (\$229)
- Conducted 22 NHDOT traffic counts for local and state planning. (\$6,600)
- Ordered *New Hampshire Planning and Land Use Regulation* books for local land use boards. (\$171.75)
- Provided data analysis and support for a \$3,200,000 UNH Wildcat Transit grant application to replace four buses. (\$427)
- Assisted with implementation of federally

funded transportation projects in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. (\$1,000)

- Testified on behalf of Durham transportation projects at legislative hearings for the Statewide Ten Year Plan. (\$1,070)
- Developed a Regional Safety Action Plan in coordination with NH's four Metropolitan Planning Organizations and VHB that includes local Durham projects to be adopted in early 2025. (\$354 project development in Durham, \$50,000 grant from Federal Highways, \$13,750 SRPC funds)

2024 Regional Accomplishments:

Land Use and Environmental Planning

- Kicked off the 2023-2027 SRPC Brownfield's Program providing assessment and cleanup planning services to the region's communities.
- Participated in Great Bay Adapts, a five-year project to assist Great Bay Watershed communities as they plan for climate change, build resilience, and implement priority projects.

Transportation Planning:

- Adopted the first Active Transportation Plan for the Strafford Region. (<https://strafford.org/plans/active-transportation-plan/>)
- Analyzed all roads within ¼ of a mile of regional bus routes for pedestrian safety and comfort.
- Contracted with EcoInteractive to develop a fully online transportation project database (to be launched in early 2025).
- Worked with COAST and Rockingham Planning Commission to reinvigorate the CommuteSMART program; received funding through NHDOT to hire a CommuteSMART manager.
- Compiled candidate electric vehicle charging stations in the region for a joint funding application between the NH Departments of Transportation and Environmental Services.
- Partnered with UNH Technology Transfer Center to conduct a peer-exchange on traffic calming and pedestrian safety infrastructure winter maintenance.

2024 Accomplishments (Continued)

Economic Development:

- Conducted the 2024 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) update. (<https://strafford.org/plans/ceds/>)
- Convened and engaged the Seacoast Economic Development Stakeholders in monthly meetings to collaborate, share information and resources, work together to promote the economic vitality of our communities and region, and advance conversations about key issues affecting the region, such as housing, workforce, and child-care.
- Disseminated resources and funding opportunities to over 6,000 businesses in the region on a quarterly basis.

Data and GIS:

- Updated our regional Land Use GIS data layer, static Land Use Standard Maps, and ArcOnline Land Use Standard Map. (<https://strafford.org/reference/map-gallery/>)
- Updated our regional Community Anchor Institutions GIS data layer and associated static and ArcOnline Standard Maps.
- Published 4th annual Regional Data Snapshot consisting of over 150 data metrics for the region, 3rd annual interactive Data Snapshot Web Map, and 2nd annual Community Profiles containing municipal specific data from the Snapshot for each of the 18 communities in the region. (www.strafford.org/measure/data-snapshot/)

2025 Goals:

Local

- Apply for and receive implementation funding through the Safe Streets and Roads for All program to improve safety on Durham Point Rd.

- Assist with outreach and engagement activities associated with the ongoing living shoreline project at Wagon Hill.
- Continue to provide grant writing and administrative services regarding the Longmarsh Road culvert replacement project contingent upon acceptance of the Letter of Interest submitted to NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management.
- Coordinate with Durham’s Land Stewardship Coordinator, the Town’s Tree Warden, Trustees of the Trust Funds, and the Town’s Consulting Forester to incorporate specific climate change and/or resilience measures into the Town’s Forest Management Plan for Doe Farm.

Regional

- Lead an integrated update of the Regional Plan (land use and environment), Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), and Long-Range Transportation Plan (the “Metro Plan”).
- Finalize work started late in 2024 with NYU graduate students to develop new research, data, case studies, and best practices on how the planning and economic development communities can tackle regional childcare issues.
- Continue developing projects in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan to get them “funding ready” including additional climate resilience projects.
- Implement a transportation “demonstration” project with a municipality to show possible traffic calming and pedestrian safety infrastructure.
- Assist municipalities to apply for Safe Streets and Roads for All implementation funding for local transportation projects.

Town Working Commissions/ Committees



AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Theresa Walker, Chair



The twelve members of the Agricultural Commission have been meeting at least once per month to work together and with Town staff and other Town boards and committees to further the mission of the Agricultural Commission, which is to encourage local food production and expand Durham’s working landscape of actively managed gardens, farms, and forests through the Town, including University land.

The Agricultural Commission believes our work is critically important to the Town Council’s goal to, “Pursue long-term environmental sustainability and resiliency, taking into account existing and predicted impacts of climate change in multiple areas including drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, agriculture, food, society, transportation, ecology, solid waste, and economy.” And in support of that goal the Agricultural Commission looks forward to working with residents and Town Government in the coming year.

2024 Accomplishments:

- Continued working on policies to enable more food production in Durham at the backyard and neighborhood scale, with an emphasis on sharing resources and knowledge.
- Continued to promote pollinator friendly land use management.
- Led demonstrations on bee keeping and fruit tree pruning.
- Led a focus group of residents to discuss support for backyard and collaborative, neighborhood scale food production.
- Actively participated in the work of the Land Stewardship Committee.
- Participated in meetings concerning the role of Agricultural Commissions in New Hampshire.
- Via the Town’s newsletter and social media,



Lamb at Great Bay Wool Works in Durham Courtesy, Theresa Walker

shared information about food production in the region.

- Promoted the Seacoast Growers Association summer Durham Farmers’ Market and winter markets hosted by UNH and Seacoast Eat Local.
- Responded to Town official and resident concerns and questions regarding agricultural activity in town.
- Organized and hosted the 11th Annual Farm Day on August 17th.
- Partnered with the Lee Agricultural Commission, and farms in Durham, Lee, and Madbury to strengthen the Oyster River foodshed.

2025 Goals:

- Supporting and mentoring residents interested in producing food in their backyards and neighborhoods by sharing knowledge, resources, and time.
- Working with farmers and food producers in Durham, Lee, and Madbury to promote growing and purchasing locally produced food.
- Promoting the regional farmers' markets offered by Seacoast Eat Local and the farmers' market hosted by UNH.
- Working with the Town Planner, Planning Board, and Town Council to adopt changes to the Town's land use regulations to enable more food production.
- Implementing Master Plan recommendations regarding sustaining and expanding Durham's working landscape of farms, forests, gardens, and aquaculture.

- Developing more programs to support local agriculture, community gardening, home gardening, neighborhood and cooperative gardening, and backyard composting.
- Hosting the 12th Annual Farm Day on August 16, 2025

The Agricultural Commission believes our work is critically important to the Town Council's goal to, "Pursue long-term environmental sustainability and resiliency, taking into account existing and predicted impacts of climate change in multiple areas including drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, agriculture, food, society, transportation, ecology, solid waste, and economy." And in support of that goal the Agricultural Commission looks forward to working with residents and Town Government in the coming year.

ENERGY COMMITTEE

Matthias Dean-Carpentier, Chair



2024 Accomplishments:

CPCNH was rolled out on 1/31/2024. (see further information next page) There have been very few opt-outs. CPCNH representatives have been responsive and helpful. Durham participated in the Seacoast Energy Challenge this summer as an effort to increase opt-up rates. Results will be finalized in the coming months.

The Energy Committee participated in Earth Day. Members provided information on heat pumps, EVs, CPCNH and energy efficiency resources. Additionally, the Energy Committee conducted a survey on EV usage created by the UNH Sustainability Fellow. This survey continues to be maintained by the Fellow and the EC will regularly circulate it to develop a long-term data set on EV usage and needs.

In addition, on 6/2/2024, the EC hosted an EV and E-Bike showcase event at Tideline Public House. Local EV owners as well as local dealers attended with their vehicles to discuss ownership with the public. The showcase was a success with significant public engagement and the Committee hopes to host it yearly. The EC is still working on a recommended EV charging ordinance as well as investi-

gating possible grant opportunities to increase the number of chargers in town.

Current charger usage is steadily increasing and we've seen demand for additional locations. Erin Bell and others at the UNH Civil Engineering Department are interested in collaboration with the Town of Durham for the US DOT Low-Carbon Transportation Materials (LCTM) Grant Program. The program can apply to a wide variety of transportation-based efforts, incentives and research projects, so UNH and the EC are still discussing possible mutually beneficial proposals.

The Energy Committee also started to Investigate possible municipal locations for additional solar arrays in 2024. First, we looked at the Depot Road site for a parking canopy system. That project was pretty expensive so we started looking at the capped portion of the Durham Transfer Station.

Began Weekly Updates to provide consistent outreach to the community.

2025 Goals:

- Assist Durham in achieving the Climate Action Plan goal of providing renewable energy options through Community Power, including a 100% renewable energy option.
- Explore and provide education regarding other sources of renewable and "Green" electric power.

2025 Goals (Continued)

- Improve energy efficiency and reduction of the carbon footprint of existing residential and commercial buildings in Durham.
- Support EV ownership through Education and Infrastructure Installation
- Improve and expand Community Outreach and Education to achieve Durham Climate Action Plan goals.

Report from CPCNH:



Durham is part of the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH), a statewide non-profit power agency serving over 50 Community Power programs statewide. The Coalition has created \$20,000,000 in savings for customers in

Community Power programs statewide. This local control model empowers us to collaborate regionally and statewide to develop beneficial local energy programs and projects.

There are approximately 180 residents and businesses in Durham who generate their own renewable electricity and utilize net metering.

To date, Durham Community Power has provided 12,000 megawatt-hours of electricity, and resulted in \$148,000 of savings for electric customers in Durham (as of September 30th, 2024). This program provides electricity to approximately 2,628 electric accounts in our Town.

The Town of Durham has selected Granite Plus as the default electricity supply rate for Durham Community Power. This means that customers who do not actively select another electricity supply option are provided with 33% renewable power (up from the 24.3% state minimum), while saving money relative to utility supply rates for this period. Of participating customers, 60 have chosen products with even higher levels of renewable energy.

Steve Holmgren and Todd Selig are the Member Representative and Alternate from Durham to CPCNH. CPCNH is governed by its municipal members who elect its Board of Directors. Residents and businesses can visit <https://CommunityPowerNH.gov/durham> to learn more, see our rates, opt into or out of Durham Community Power, and choose a cleaner energy option.

HOUSING TASK FORCE



Sally Tobias, Chair

The Durham Housing Task force had three main focuses this year. Data collection was and stays an ongoing task. The HTF received and reviewed the Housing Needs Assessment and conducted a survey of Durham employees and employers. Both yielded valuable data about the conditions of housing in Durham and possible opportunities.

We focused on community outreach this past year. We began sharing information about housing and zoning to the community through Friday Updates. We also reach out to Durham's various Committees and Commissions to present zoning information and get feedback from community members serving about potential zoning considerations. This is ongoing and has resulted in some very valuable insight as to what the community might support.

Reviewing and recommending various zoning changes. The purpose of these changes will be to make future development of workforce and attainable housing possible. The HTF was presented with and endorsed an amendment to zoning that would allow for a potential workforce housing development. This was sent on to the Planning Board and after various changes the document was sent to the Town Council for consideration. The HTF is now turning its focus on individual zoning changes related to density, minimum lot size and Accessory Dwelling Units. The HTF has also formed a working group to examine housing opportunities in our downtown business core. This particular area was often mentioned in our outreach discussions as a focus of housing potential.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Sally Needell, Chair

The Human Rights Commission updated its By-Laws to reflect its advisory role and its changes to the roles of its Membership and Rules of Procedure. The HRC now consists of 5 resident members, an advisory, non-voting Town Council representative, and the Town Administrator as an advisory and non-voting member.

2024 Presentations:

Presentations increased our understanding of how hate crimes are addressed by the Durham Police Department and how Durham may help individuals with a sensory disability.

- Durham Police Department Presentation on Hate Crimes
- Presentation by non-profit Twenty-One Senses on its work in Durham

2024 Accomplishments:

The Human Rights Commission (HRC) discussed concerns raised by residents regarding the Israeli-Gaza Conflict and the Town Council ceasefire Resolution #2024-10. Members participated in discussions for inclusive wording on the Oyster River Raid roadside historic marker. The HRC also took an active role in advising the development of Town Council Resolution #2024-17 which addressed free speech and de-escalation practices in Durham and at UNH.

- Outreach to Boards, Commissions, and Committees to increase awareness of the HRC
- Representation in the Oyster River Raid historic marker discussions
- Support for Adoption of Juneteenth as a paid day-off for town employees
- Support for the Planning Board's efforts to increase diverse options for housing in our community
- Discussion of the Israel-Gaza Conflict and the Town Council Ceasefire Resolution 2024-10
- Letter to the Town Council addressing lack of consultation with the HRC in preparation of TC Resolution #2024-10
- Multiple discussions of the definition of Anti-semitism
- Support for Funding of Non-profit Twenty-One Senses by the Town of Durham
- Work with the Town Council on the Free Speech and De-escalation Resolution #2024-17
- Discussion of the passage of State Bill HB 1014 requiring all NH communities to use Columbus Day rather than Indigenous Peoples Day
- A letter of support for educational outreach that uses inclusive language, represents multiple perspectives, and is made accessible to residents and visitors
- Amendments to the By-Laws to increase the resident membership, redefine roles of the Commission members.

INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Nell Neal, Chair

The Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee works closely with the Department of Public Works. Our purpose is to advance environmental and financial sustainability as it pertains to waste management in Durham. We explore with and recommend to DPW ways to reduce the cost of waste disposal by removing recyclable and compostable material from the waste stream.

We seek to educate the community as to the

importance of reducing the amount of waste each household produces and to maximize the portion of their waste that is recyclable and compostable material.

During this past year considerable time was devoted to collaborating with DPW as they redesigned Durham's curbside collection program and revised Durham's waste management zoning ordinance.



This year we developed a relationship with our local Hannaford Grocery with a goal of reducing the use of single use plastic bags by customers.

We continued to strengthen our relationship with the UNH Sustainability Institute working closely with students on their Capstone projects which included recycling education in Durham and helping to develop and oversee our 4th compost challenge initiative. This year 9 families successfully completed the challenge.

We also continue to research and educate ourselves as to the substantial benefits of composting. We are pleased that DPW provides community composting at the transfer station where 50+ residents

participate weekly. Disposal of household waste taken to the landfill is paid for by weight. Diverting heavy food scraps from the waste stream holds great promise for reducing the cost of disposal of residential household waste as well as for the benefit of creating rich soil for our gardens. Two curbside compost collection programs in New England have been brought to our attention by interested residents. During the upcoming year we plan to learn more about these initiatives.

We appreciate the opportunity to be part of an ever growing goal of environmental and financial sustainability in Durham.



Vital Statistics & Resources

BIRTHS 2024

Child's Name	Birth Date	Birth Place	Father's/Parent's Name	Mother's/Parent's Name
Samuel, Owen Christopher	01/12/2024	Dover	Samuel, Connor McDonough	Samuel, Holley Mihok
Kama, Naomi Madeleine	02/02/2024	Exeter	Kama, Christopher Francois	Kama, Jessica Chabot
Hughes Jacobs, Eli Henry	02/08/2024	Dover	Jacobs, Aaron Freedman	Hughes, Jane Mallory
Perkins, Irie Jane	02/15/2024	Dover	Perkins, Jared Kane	Perkins, Felicia Renee
Scolamiero, Eleanor Elizabeth	02/25/2024	Exeter	Scolamiero, Jonathan Daniel	Scolamiero, Helen Hamilton
Fixler, Leo Stanley	02/27/2024	Dover	Fixler, Jason Elliot	Fixler, Emily Margaret
Rogers, Logan Daniel	03/07/2024	Dover	Rogers III, James Edwin	Rogers, Julia Morgan
Rogers, Archer Clark	03/07/2024	Dover	Rogers III, James Edwin	Rogers, Julia Morgan
Diberto, Thea Lillian	04/14/2024	Dover	Diberto, Anthony Lewis	Magane, Dana Miller
Susee, Archer Joseph	04/19/2024	Dover	Susee, Troy Donald	Susee, Shaileigh Rose
Hazelwood, Lyra Anne	05/19/2024	Exeter	Hazelwood, Luke Edward	Hazelwood, Emily Adele
Barao Ii, Thomas Max	05/28/2024	Dover	Barao, Thomas Max	Barao, Hannah Katherine
Adediran, Ahmad Adebola	05/30/2024	Dover	Adediran, Elias Opeyemi	Adediran, Faatimah Olanrewaju
Wrenn, Louis Joseph	07/02/2024	Dover	Wrenn, Henry Arnold	Charrel, Valerie Suzanne
Bisheh, Mana	07/05/2024	Dover	Bisheh Niasar, Mojtaba	Hasankhani, Arezoo
Harris, Wesley Constantine	07/06/2024	Exeter	Harris, Dimitry Constantine	Mackenzie, Eleanor Carrie Ingalls
Comtois, Aidan Edward	07/07/2024	Dover	Comtois, Benjamin Edward	Comtois, Stephanie Jean
Spratt, Frances James	07/08/2024	Dover	Spratt, William Kyle	James, Whitney Elizabeth
Brown, Lucy Kae	07/12/2024	Dover	Brown, Matthew Richard	Jeffers, Victoria Anne
Cragg, Nora Naomi	08/20/2024	Dover	Cragg, Jacob Allen	Cragg, Mary Katherine
Taylor, Emery Lynn	08/20/2024	Dover	Taylor, Nicholas Carter	Taylor, Kelsey Lauren
Harling, Clara Elizabeth	08/30/2024	Dover	Harling, Alexander Lloyd	Castro, Lina
Eisenmann, Felicity Theresa	09/29/2024	Dover	Eisenmann, Brian Alan	Eisenmann, Angela Marie
Eisenmann, Rosalie Mary	09/29/2024	Dover	Eisenmann, Brian Alan	Eisenmann, Angela Marie
Levy, Aurora Rose	11/03/2024	Durham	Levy, Shea Colton	Levy, Alyssa Mae
Uzun, Marsel	11/04/2024	Dover	Uzun, Utku	Gultepe Uzun, Merve
Pollard, Penny Benzetta	12/11/2024	Dover	Pollard, Andrew Charles	Lucius, Allison Bratton

DEATHS 2024

Decedent	Date of Death	Place of Death	Father's/Parent's Name	Mother's/Parent's Name
Hooper, Dorothea D	01/08/2024	Durham	Hooper, Frank	Gilmartin, Mae
Horning, James Andrew	01/11/2024	Durham	Horning, James	Scanlan, Jane
Cook, Donald Francis	01/13/2024	Durham	Cook, Burt	York, Marion
Comeau, Esther	01/16/2024	Dover	Trifiro, Louis	Squatrito, Mary
Parsons, Lynn	01/20/2024	Dover	Parsons, Douglas	Allen, Suzanne

DEATHS 2024 (Continued)

Decedent	Date of Death	Place of Death	Father's/Parent's Name	Mother's/Parent's Name
Belilah, Karl Michael	01/21/2024	Durham	Bloom, Ellis	Shulman, Frances
Cavanagh, Jean M	01/24/2024	Durham	Corbett, Robert	Fox, Florence
Imperio, Garrett Paul	01/26/2024	Durham	Imperio, Marvin	Blais, Cynthia
Carpenter, Cynthia Marie	01/27/2024	Durham	Nadeau, Arthur	Ward, Doris
Greenberg, Frederic Gerber	01/29/2024	Durham	Greenberg, David	Gerber, Marian
Moore, Jeannette Marie	01/30/2024	Dover	Talbot, Henry	Dupere, Eva
Khleif, Bud B	01/31/2024	Dover	Khleif, Basim	Warwar, Naifi
O'Brien, Randall Lee	02/02/2024	Durham	O'Brien, Randall	Gimm, Marikke
Tice, Kathryn M	02/02/2024	Durham	Skelly, Edmund	Close, Mary
Batson, Dorothy W	02/09/2024	Durham	Williams, Frederick	Prescott, Ethel
Griffin, Janice Mary	02/14/2024	Portsmouth	Edgerton, James	Newlin, Esther
Carr, Kenneth L	02/16/2024	Durham	Carr, Lorenzo	Libby, Doris
Gadomski, Jean Valaria	02/25/2024	Durham	Herzig, Harold	O'Hara, Gladys
Pinney, Jane A	02/26/2024	Durham	Arendt, Theodore	Knight, Florence
Cunningham, Stacey J	03/02/2024	Durham	Cunningham, Robert	MacDonnell, Dorothy
Sproul, Otis J	03/03/2024	Durham	Sproul, Dana	Vose, Dorothy
Swift, M Robinson	03/04/2024	Durham	Swift, Robinson	Stearns, Elizabeth
Burke Jr, Roland S	03/06/2024	Durham	Burke Sr, Roland	Dickey, Laura
Palmer, Lorraine Koch	03/07/2024	Durham	Swift, Ralph	Carter, Dorothy
Frechette, Jocelyn	03/07/2024	Durham	Frechette, Henry	Kingsbury, Priscilla
Ober, Carol Elizabeth	03/09/2024	Durham	Coughlin, John	De Sonie, Mary
Walker, Dorothy Phoebe	03/17/2024	Durham	Roberts, Clyde	Mason, Julia
Mailhoit, Amy Lyn	03/18/2024	Dover	Mailhoit, Ronald	Joyal, Linda
Winans, Della Zera	03/20/2024	Durham	Zera, Joseph	Druzolowski, Helen
O'Brien Jr, Thomas Burke	03/23/2024	Durham	O'Brien Sr, Thomas	Synder , Dorothy
Lohmann, Gwendolyn Kathleen	04/05/2024	Durham	Kimball, Kenneth	Havlik, Dorothy
Jacobsen, Kenneth A	04/07/2024	Durham	Jacobsen, Berger	Holder, Barbara
Pettingell, Marguerite Lucienne	04/12/2024	Durham	Langevin, Adelard	Letellier, Eva
Clark, Beverly B	04/14/2024	Durham	Bickey, Louis	Steidl, Elizabeth
Lyman, Joan Evelyn	04/24/2024	Durham	Dalrymple, William	Chittenden, Evelyn
Orne, Marian F	04/27/2024	Durham	Rice, Charles	Coffey, Catherine
Piel-Lefavour, Kerstin	04/28/2024	Durham	Bengtsson, Carl	Kjellberg, Solveig
French, Bonnie L	04/30/2024	Durham	Owens, William	Ross, Lucille
Stumhofer, Mary Agnes	05/07/2024	Durham	Hannahoe, Barthol	Schmicker, Helen
Hopkins, Bettielou Anne	05/07/2024	Durham	Smith, Joseph	Miller, Evelyn
McGroary, Vincent Michael	05/08/2024	Durham	McGroary, Thomas	Unknown, Frances
Milo, Bonnie Jo	05/11/2024	Durham	Barbour, Everett	Nielson, Florence

DEATHS 2024 (Continued)

Decedent	Date of Death	Place of Death	Father's/Parent's Name	Mother's/Parent's Name
Arbree, Roberta Rio	05/22/2024	Durham	Rio, Ralph	Arbree, Ruth
Mills, Joyce H	05/22/2024	Durham	Gibbs, Edward	Funge, Joan
Flannery, David William	05/30/2024	Portsmouth	Flannery, David	Brilhante, Lena
Fregosi, William A	06/05/2024	Durham	Fregosi, Robert	Townsend, Margaret
Arakelian, Maureen Therese	06/06/2024	Dover	Kerrigan, Cornelius	O'Connel, Catherine
Nilson, Robert Carlton	06/14/2024	Durham	Nilson, Alfred	Bauer, Rita
Bauer, Gloryann McFalda	06/22/2024	Salem	McFalda, John	Jenske, Frances
Wilson, Catherine J	06/29/2024	Durham	Gimblin, Earl	Cress, Nancy
Biron, Phyllis R	06/30/2024	Durham	Carbonneau, Albert	Wiggin, Ruth
Peterson, Lois	07/04/2024	Durham	Hertz, Jacob	Lohstreter, Emma
Mattson, David Emil	07/05/2024	Durham	Mattson, Gustaf	Blaisdell, Christine
Kennedy, Robert S	07/20/2024	Portsmouth	Kennedy, Roderick	Senior, Jane
Le Ray, Diane Marie Mendes	07/21/2024	Durham	Mendes, Anthony	Humphreys, Hilda
Dowlin, Charles Edwin	07/30/2024	Durham	Dowlin, Ross	Peterson, Fern
Christie, Jane Hamilton	08/12/2024	Portsmouth	Christie, Andrew	Rent, Carolyn
Haley, Donald Weldon	08/15/2024	Portsmouth	Haley, Weldon	Davis, Beth
Farrell, Theresa J	08/22/2024	Durham	Farrell, Robert	Shattuck, Ramona
Drouin, Justina	08/28/2024	Durham	Valentin, Agripino	Vega, Josefina
Sallet, Herbert W	08/30/2024	Durham	Sallet, Richard	Stolzenbach, Margarete
McElroy, Peter Edward	08/31/2024	Durham	McElroy, Harold	O'Brien, Geraldine
Jones, Joseph C	09/12/2024	Dover	Jones Jr, Albert	Desjardin, Mary
Dunton, James Louis	09/25/2024	Dover	Dunton, Howard	Birt, Rita
Blanchard, Peter Sherill	10/11/2024	Durham	Blanchard, Roger	Goodwillie, Patricia
Williams, Mary Jane	10/12/2024	Durham	Rowsom, Alfred	Garlock, Florence
Potter, Robert Coolidge	10/13/2024	Durham	Potter, Dean	Coolidge, Verna
Knowles, Priscilla Roberte	10/20/2024	Durham	Knowles, Lloyd	Aracil, Solange
Earle, Hannah Claire	10/21/2024	Dover	Winston, Kevin	Berns, Rebecca
Heidt, Catherine Margaret	10/24/2024	Durham	Clark, Walter	Rolf, Catherine
Hill, Rebecca Smith	10/27/2024	Dover	Smith, Glen	Spaulding, Eva
Waters II, Charles	11/26/2024	Durham	Waters, Daniel	Ogden, Jean
Raudenbush, Doris	11/28/2024	Durham	Duffy, Robert	Pritchard, Ellen
Slutzky, Muriel Ann	11/30/2024	Portsmouth	Saunders, Myer	Kraft, Goldie
Ingraham, Yoma Anne	12/01/2024	Durham	Hall, Robert	Woolcock, Yoma
Sokol III, Frank Joseph	12/03/2024	Dover	Sokol Jr, Frank	Depatie, Viola
Weigle, Laura Hope	12/07/2024	Epping	Weigle III, Luther	Cumming, Cynthia
Mescall, Karen Stuart	12/13/2024	Portsmouth	Brady, Fred	Carmady, Eileen

DEATHS 2024 (Continued)

Decedent	Date of Death	Place of Death	Father's/Parent's Name	Mother's/Parent's Name
Jenkins, Nancye J	12/15/2024	Durham	Joiner, Herbert	Smiley, Bessie
Wren, Mary Ann	12/15/2024	Durham	Becker, William	Michalsky, Anna
Vanwilligen, Hendrika M	12/18/2024	Durham	Molenaar, Ian	Dewaard, Cytske
McKinley, John William	12/19/2024	Durham	McKinley, Harold	Laraway, Dorothy
Craig, Patricia M	12/28/2024	Durham	Lynch, Thomas	Rothenberg, Frieda
Kennedy, Nora C	12/28/2024	Dover	O'Toole, Thomas	Healey, Catherine
Safford, Charles Dennison	12/31/2024	Durham	Safford, Nathaniel	Dennison, Lois

MARRIAGES 2024

Person A's Name	Residence	Person B's Name	Residence	Place Of Marriage	Date of Marriage
Nafi, Akhter Mahmud	Dover, NH	Akter, Mahmuda	Durham, NH	Portsmouth	02/10/2024
Dulin, Abigail Lauren	Durham, NH	McNamara, Liam James	Durham, NH	Epping	05/30/2024
Baines, Jamie Marie	Durham, NH	Robinson-Hebert, Tyler Jules	Durham, NH	Lee	07/05/2024
Frost, Shaelyn Grace	Durham, NH	Vogt, Robin Warren	Durham, NH	Wolfeboro	08/17/2024
Grenier, Michelle Anne	Durham, NH	Barnes, David Hitchcock	Durham, NH	Durham	09/01/2024
Amrose, Julie Louise Ruth	Durham, NH	Werme, Kevin Scott	Durham, NH	Durham	09/28/2024
Gordon, Preston David	Durham, NH	Platisa, Ana	Durham, NH	Durham	10/11/2024
Pollard, Andrew Charles	Durham, NH	Lucius, Allison Bratton	Durham, NH	Durham	12/10/2024



The entrance to Three Chimney's Inn Courtesy, Todd Selig

MISCELLANEOUS

Public Hearings & Public Forums: Notices for public hearings and public forums are published in the Foster’s Daily Democrat, on the bulletin boards inside and outside the Town Hall, the Durham Public Library and the town’s website.

Raymond A. Laroche Sr. Transfer Station & Recycling Center: Located at 100 Durham Point Road. Hours of operation are Tuesday and Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (except holidays).

Bulky Waste Coupons and Electronic/Appliance Stickers: Bulky waste coupons and electronic/appliance stickers may be obtained at the Public Works Department at 100 Stone Quarry Drive, Monday thru Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon and 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Resident/Taxpayer Permit Sticker: A Resident/Taxpayer permit sticker may be obtained at the Public Works Department or the Town Clerk’s Office Monday thru Friday during regular business hours. The permit sticker must be renewed every calendar year, and it allows residents/taxpayers entrance to the Transfer Station with regular trash and recycling at no extra charge. It also allows two-hour parking in existing downtown one-hour, non-metered spaces.

Tax Exemptions: For information regarding elderly, veteran’s, blind, solar energy, totally disabled and physically handicapped exemptions, or information on current use taxation, contact the Town Assessor at 868-8064.

RESOURCE INFORMATION

Land Area

(2.48 sq. miles of which is water surface).....24.77 sq miles
Population (per 2020 census).....15,490
Incorporated.....1732
Durham’s Congressional District Numbers.....10 & 20

Meeting Dates for Town Boards Committees and Commissions

(Notices are posted on the Bulletin Boards inside and outside the Town Hall, the Durham Public Library, and on the town’s website – www.ci.durham.nh.us)

Agricultural Commission	Second Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
Cemetery Committee	As needed
Conservation Commission	Fourth Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
Energy Committee	First Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
Historic District Commission/ Heritage Commission	First Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
Housing Task Force	Second Monday of each month, 10:00 a.m., Town Hall
Human Rights Commission	As needed
Integr. Waste Mgmt. Adv. Com.	First & third Wednesdays of each month, 8:00 a.m., Town Hall
Land Stewardship Subcommittee	Second Wednesday of each month, 8:30 a.m., Town Hall
Parks & Recreation Committee	Fourth Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
Planning Board	Second & fourth Wednesdays of each month, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
Town Council	First and third Mondays of each month, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
Trustees of the Trust Fund	Fourth Friday of the month, 8:30 a.m., Town Hall

Town Office Functions

Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office Hours	Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. First Monday of the month, 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall Office Hours	Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Boat Registration	Additional \$5.00 charge to register a boat at Town Hall
Car Registration	Registration in month of birth. Renewal stickers and license plates can be purchased at the Town Clerk's Office for an additional \$3.00 each. Residents may renew on-line at the town's website, www.ci.durham.nh.us or at www.eb2gov.com
Car Inspection	Car must be inspected within ten (10) days of first registration in New Hampshire. Inspection is done in the registrant's birth month.

STATE AND U.S. SENATORS & REPRESENTATIVES

Governor

The Honorable Kelly Ayotte
Office of the Governor
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301
Office: 603-271-2121
<https://www.nh.gov/index.htm>

U.S. Senators

Senator Maggie Hassan (D)
1200 Elm Street, Suite 2
Manchester, NH 03101
Office: 603-622-2204
<https://www.hassan.senate.gov/>

Washington Address:

B85 Russell Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20501
Office: 202-224-3324

Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D)
1589 Elm Street, Suite 3
Manchester, NH 03101
Office: 603-647-7500

Washington Address:

520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Office: 202-224-2841
<https://www.shaheen.senate.gov/>

U.S. Representative

Congressman Christopher Pappas
660 Central Avenue
Dover, NH 03820
Office: 1-603-343-1326

Washington Address:

323 Cannon House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515
Office: 202-225-5456

Executive Councilor

Joseph D. Kenney
P.O. Box 201
Union, NH 03887
Executive Council Office
(603) 271-3632
Cell: (603) 581-8780
joseph.d.kenney@nh.gov

Durham's Representative in the NH House - District 10

Rep. Wayne M. Burton
106 Madbury Road
Durham, NH 03824
Home: 508-517-7188
wayne.burton@leg.state.nh.us

Rep. Timothy Horrigan
7-A Faculty Road
Durham, NH 03824
Office: 603-271-3184
Home: 603-868-3342
timothy.horrigan@leg.state.nh.us

Rep. Marjorie Smith
100 Piscataqua Road
Durham, NH 03824
Home: 603-868-7500
msmithpen@aol.com

Rep. Loren Selig
3 Nobel K Peterson Drive
Durham, NH 03824
Office: 603-271-3125
Home: 603-953-3641
loren.selig@leg.state.nh.us

Durham's Representative in the NH House - District 20

Rep. Allan Howland
32 Ffrost Drive
Durham, NH 03824
Office: 603-271-3184
al.howland.13@gmail.com

Durham's NH Senator

Senator Rebecca Perkins Kwoka
Legislative Office Building
Room 103
Concord, NH 03301
Home: 603-271-2104
rebecca.perkinskwoka@leg.state.nh.us

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Fire/Police/Rescue Emergency—911

Fire/Police/Rescue Emergency from UNH campus only—*911

DEPARTMENT	TEL. #	FAX #	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Administration , 8 Newmarket Rd. Todd Selig, Administrator Karen Edwards, Admin. Assistant	868-5571	868-1858	tselig@ci.durham.nh.us kedwards@ci.durham.nh.us
Assessing , 8 Newmarket Rd. Darcy Freer, Assessor	868-8064	868-1858	dfreer@ci.durham.nh.us
Business/Finance , 8 Newmarket Rd. Gail Jablonski, Business Manager Deborah Ahlstrom, Financial Analyst Dina Gosselin, Accounting Clerk Jessica Landry, Benefits/Payroll Specialist	868-8043	868-1858	gjablonski@ci.durham.nh.us dahlstrom@ci.durham.nh.us dgosselin@ci.durham.nh.us jlandry@ci.durham.nh.us
Durham Cable Access Television , 8 Newmarket Rd. Craig Stevens, DCAT Coordinator	590-1383	868-1858	cstevens@ci.durham.nh.us
Fire Department , 51 College Rd. David Emanuel, Chief Randall Trull, Assistant Chief Brendan O'Sullivan, Fire Marshall Kelley Fowler, Admin. Assistant Aimee Routhier, Secretary	868-5531	862-1513	david.emanuel@unh.edu randall.trull@unh.edu brendan.osullivan.dfd@unh.edu kelley.fowler@unh.edu aimee.routhier@unh.edu
Information Technology , 8 Newmarket Rd. Luke Vincent, IT Manager Michael Rohr, Assist. IT Manager Jay Gooze, IT Assistant	868-1878	868-1858	lvincent@ci.durham.nh.us mrohr@ci.durham.nh.us jgooze@ci.durham.nh.us
Parks & Recreation , 2 Dover Rd. Rachel Gasowski, Director Kellie DeSimone, Assistant Director	817-4074		rgasowski@ci.durham.nh.us kdesimone@ci.durham.nh.us
Planning & Comm. Development , 8 Newmarket Rd. Michael Behrendt, Planner Tracey Cutler, Admin. Assistant	868-8064	868-1858	mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us tcutler@ci.durham.nh.us
Police Department , 86 Dover Road Rene Kelley, Chief David Holmstock, Deputy Chief Jack Dalton, Captain Jen Johnson, Admin. Assistant Sarah Douglas, Admin. Assistant	868-2324	868-8037	rkelley@ci.durham.nh.us dholmstock@ci.durham.nh.us jdalton@ci.durham.nh.us jjohnson@ci.durham.nh.us sdouglas@ci.durham.nh.us
Public Library , 49 Madbury Road Sheryl Bass, Director	868-6699		sbass@ci.durham.nh.us
Public Works Department , 100 Stone Quarry Drive Richard Reine, Director Sam Hewitt, Assistant Director April Talon, Engineer Steve Lutterman, GIS Director Shannon Shaw, Asst. to the Director	868-5578	868-8063	rreine@ci.durham.nh.us shewitt@ci.durham.nh.us atalon@ci.durham.nh.us slutterman@ci.durham.nh.us sshaw@ci.durham.nh.us

DEPARTMENT	TEL. #	FAX #	E-MAIL ADDRESS
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Town Clerk/Tax Collector , 8 Newmarket Rd. Rachel Deane, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Audrey MacKenzie, Deputy TC/TC	868-5577	868-1858	rdeane@ci.durham.nh.us amackenzie@ci.durham.nh.us
Wastewater , 50 Piscataqua Road Dan Peterson, Superintendent Matthew Collins, Chief Operator	868-2274	868-8063	publicworks@ci.durham.nh.us mcollins@ci.durham.nh.us
Water Division , 100 Durham Pt. Rd. Sam Hewitt, Assistant Director	868-5578	868-8063	shewitt@ci.durham.nh.us
Zoning, Code Enforcement, Health Officer , 8 Newmarket Road Audrey Cline, CEO/Zoning Admin Andrea Seledde, Code Enforcement Officer	868-8064	868-1858	acline@ci.durham.nh.us aseledde@ci.durham.nh.us

Other Commonly Used Numbers

Churchill Rink at Jackson's Landing	868-3907
Oyster River Youth Association	868-5150
Durham Post Office	868-2151
Durham Historic Assoc. Museum	868-5436
NH Fish & Game	868-1095

Oyster River School District

Superintendent of Schools	868-5100
Moharimet Elementary School	742-2900
Mast Way Elementary School	659-3001
OR Middle School	868-2820
OR High School	868-2375

2024

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