

DOVER

Other Town Reports

2020



Report of the **Town Library**

Board of Trustees

Adrian Hill, Co-Chair
Judith Schulz, Co-Chair
Peter Hoffman
Erin Rodat-Savla
Amea Tejani
Tracy Tobin

Cheryl Abdullah, Library Director

Looking back, it is hard to believe that 2020 started out so seemingly normal. In January and February, two cultural celebrations took place within our walls: a celebration of Chinese New Year and a Trinidad Carnivale/New Orleans Mardi Gras musical experience. In early February, artistic staff members created a life-size Candy Land experience for little ones. We were looking to build on our previous year's successes, including a 9% growth of the Summer Reading Program, new programs such as Doverstock, a music festival attended by more than 300 people on the Town green, and our collaboration with Dover-Sherborn Schools and the Charles River School on well-received programs that educated and entertained library attendees of various ages.

But in March, COVID-19 brought all our planning to an abrupt halt. Despite the library building's unforeseen closure, staff members never stopped providing the community with engaging virtual programs, online materials, and virtual services available 24/7. They worked with the State, the Town and the Minuteman Network to provide curbside assistance, to update technology for improved remote access, and to develop safe, standard protocols for operation during the pandemic.

Our new head of circulation, Melissa Wilmot, began her job three days before we officially closed the doors. Not once did she shy away from becoming an immediate part of the team as we brainstormed ways to continue serving the community. Melissa was the inspiration for our home-crafting videos, and she assisted with Super Awesome Fun Time recordings and many online presentations. She also worked with Minuteman as we transitioned to curbside service and began following CDC recommendations for quarantining materials and adhering to other service-related protocols.

Although our building is closed, library services continue daily. Materials are being purchased and made available for circulation. The library team helps individuals place holds, offers reader's advisory,

organizes materials for curbside pickup or interlibrary loans, plans programs, performs outreach, and partners with other organizations and Town departments. Duties such as answering phones, processing books, assisting the public, scheduling programs, cataloging materials, addressing personnel matters, attending meetings and workshops, and modifying technology to stream programs are just a few of the behind-the-scenes tasks that staff members undertake daily to ensure a satisfying library experience for the public.

Despite our March closure, we were able to offer 621 library programs in Fiscal Year 2020, with 26,129 participants. The staff organized and presented a variety of online programs and expanded its robust social media presence to inform, educate, and entertain, such as by honoring Dover-Sherborn High School's graduating seniors.

The Dover Town Library remains committed to providing quality children's programming. For example, Super Awesome Fun Time continued virtually and has been archived for watching anytime and anywhere. Spanish Storytime has provided bilingual language skill development for our youngest audiences.

Our virtual programming for teens and adults covered topics that included green initiatives, race and racism, nature, the history of voting, immigration, human trafficking, arts and crafts, trivia, virtual gaming, as well as a number of author visits. An online version of Teen "Book Buddies" allows teens to continue earning community service requirements for graduation by helping others develop their reading skills.

These and other library programs are possible thanks to the financial support of the Friends of the Library, private donations, and grants. Check out our website and calendar for a list of free programs.

At a time when the oral and written word are being challenged, doubted, and maligned, the Dover Town Library continues to develop resources that maintain a core collection of materials and information based on scope, objectivity, authorship, and accuracy. Decisions made regarding library selections and the organization and dissemination of materials are informed by professional journals and popular lists, which are based on current library principles, standards, and best practices. Although recommendations and requests made by our patrons weigh heavily in our decisions of what to purchase, we must also comply with our Materials Selection Policy and budget. We constantly seek titles and materials that will improve our collections and delight and inform our patrons.

Our library-funded databases are free and accessible 24/7. They include *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Boston Globe*, Encyclopedia Britannica, Gale in Context: Opposing Viewpoints, podcasts, transcripts, and more than 8,000 professional journals, as well as the following:

- **Blackstone Publishing** is one of the largest independent audiobook publishers in the United States, offering more than 30,000 audiobooks.

- **ConsumerReport.org** is available to assist you with informed consumer decisions.
- **IndieFlix.com** allows you to pick from more than 4,500 independent films from film festivals worldwide and stream them directly to your home computer or portable device to watch on your TV.
- **Mangolanguage.com** teaches real conversations in more than 60 languages. You can access it from anywhere and from any device for free with your library card.
- **UniversalClass.com** is an incredible opportunity to invest in your continuing education by accessing hundreds of instructor-led, online classes with CEU credits, all for free with your library card.
- **Ancestry.com** allows you to explore your personal history and family tree. Access is limited to within the library only.
- **RBDigital**, the largest independent publisher of unabridged audiobooks, provides digital content to libraries and schools that includes full-color digital magazines, software training, continuing education courses, streaming movies, languages instruction, and multiple reference and news services—accessible anytime through desktops, mobile devices, and apps. Our RBDigital subscription includes Acorn TV, IndieFlix, Pongolo, Great Courses, Method Test Prep, as well as new and backlist titles with no holds, no checkout periods, and no limits.
- **Hoopla.com** provides access to free digital movies, music and books instantly with no waiting time, 24/7 with your library card.
- **Kanopy** is a video-streaming platform dedicated to independent films that fuel lifelong learning by providing access to enriching films that bridge cultural boundaries, spark discussion, and expand worldviews.
- **TumbleBooks** is an online collection of electronic children's books that includes chapter books in audiobook and e-book formats, multicultural topics, foreign language and bilingual books, puzzles, and games.
- **The Wall Street Journal** is now available on our webpage along with *The Boston Globe* and *The New York Times*.

In addition to the above resources, the library's Minuteman Consortium membership allows Dover residents to access downloadable materials from Overdrive Media Services, a digital reading platform now home to more than 8,000 issues of 3,027 magazine titles.

Although nothing replaces an in-person library experience, keeping the community and staff safe during this difficult time was taken seriously, while still providing quality engagement for our patrons. The library staff has never stopped caring about or being grateful for all of you and your interests. We look forward to seeing you walk through our doors once again. In the meantime, we are pleased, as always, to assist with reader's advisory, help you pick out a great book, place a hold, or answer questions. We are a team of professionals dedicated to the community, and every day we strive to build a meaningful collection of materials, to offer engaging programs, and to make visiting the library a worthwhile experience.

Visit our webpage at <http://dovertownlibrary.org> or call us at 508-785-8113.

Library Statistics for Fiscal Year 2020

(July 2019–June 2020)

State Aid	\$10,619
Circulation	263,452
Library Visits	64,510
Items Loaned	15,679
Items Borrowed	13,409
Holdings	332,722
Registered Borrowers	3,328
Programs Offered	621
Program Attendance	26,129



Mardi Gras at the Dover Town Library. Photo by James Kinneen; courtesy of The Hometown Weekly.

Report of the
Cemetery Commission

Mariah Riess, Chair
Carol Jackman, Secretary
Margaret Crowley, Member

During 2020, 14 families bought lots at the Highland Cemetery: three single- grave/cremation lots, five two-grave lots, five four-grave lots and one eight-grave lot. The income from the sale of these lots was \$16,400 and the perpetual care income was \$61,500, for a total of \$77,900.

Thirty-three funerals were held in 2020, of which 15 were cremations and 18 were full burials. Nine of the funeral services were for veterans who had served in the United States Armed Forces. A total of \$23,850 was collected for funerals held in 2020. The income from regular full burials (\$9,750) and cremations (\$3,300) totaled \$13,050. There was a surcharge revenue total of \$10,800 for holiday and weekend burials, as well as miscellaneous surcharges of \$175. Income from setting foundations and markers was \$5,125.

The Town of Dover is very fortunate to have Lawrence (Rusty) Dauphinee as its cemetery supervisor. His caring way with families who are undergoing difficult times is truly appreciated. The Highway Department, under the supervision of Craig Hughes, assists us on an as-needed basis and is another invaluable asset. A big thank-you goes to Craig and all who have assisted Rusty.

Memorial Day is when Highland Cemetery usually has the greatest number of visitors, and as a town we are very thankful for everyone's support during this time. We thank the George B. Preston Unit 209 of the American Legion Auxiliary for having volunteers plant geraniums at the veterans' graves and ensuring that each received a flag. Additional thanks go to the Town for budgeting the funds needed to buy the plants and flags. We want to say how sad it was that the Memorial Day Committee was unable to present its program this year due to COVID-19, but we look forward to having the beautiful ceremony that the Committee normally conducts at our Memorial Star by the front flagpole next year.

Citizens may contribute to our gift fund, which goes to the beautification of the cemetery. All donations are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible.

Report of the Historical Commission

Stephen Kruskall, Chair
Richard Eells, Secretary
Sierra Bright
Gene Hornsby
Thomas Johnson
Jane Moore

The Historical Commission was established under Chapter 40, Section 8D of the Massachusetts General Laws for the purposes of preserving, protecting, and developing the historical and archaeological assets of the Town of Dover. Consisting of up to seven members appointed by the Board of Selectmen, the Commission administers Chapter 96 (Demolition Review) of the Town of Dover General Bylaws. Its aim is to encourage owners of “preferably preserved historically significant buildings” to seek ways to preserve, rehabilitate, or restore such buildings rather than demolish them. Its aim is to encourage owners of “preferably preserved historically significant buildings” to seek ways to preserve, rehabilitate, or restore such buildings rather than demolish them, so as to preserve the cultural heritage of Dover.

In 2020, the Commission reviewed seven permit requests for the demolition of existing houses. None of these structures were deemed to qualify for historic preservation.

Since last March the COVID-19 pandemic has severely curtailed the scheduled activities of the Commission. We look forward to the time, perhaps later this year, when our town can return to normalcy.



Photo by Bill McMahon.

Report of the Council on Aging

Camille Johnston, Chair
Joanne Connolly, Vice Chair
Maureen Dilg, Secretary
Robert Cocks
Reverend Peter DiSanto
Betty Hagan
Gilbert Thisse
Ruth Townsend, Associate Member
Geraldine Wise, Associate Member

Janet Claypoole, Director
Nan Vaida, Outreach Worker
Annemarie Thompson, Volunteer Coordinator
Suzanne Sheridan, Administrative Assistant

The Dover Council on Aging (COA) was established by the Town in 1976, pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 8B of the Massachusetts General Laws. COA programs and services are designed to meet the interests and needs of Dover’s seniors and the families who care for them, in coordination with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs (MEOEA). As of 2020, there were 1,520 residents aged 60 years and older in Dover, representing approximately a quarter of Town’s population. The COA supports seniors and their families through information, support, outreach, advocacy, and health and social programs. It assists with requests for caregiving resources, transportation, and other services. In 2020, more than 750 people were served.

COVID-19 Pandemic

In 2020, the COA was greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Services such as classes, luncheons, seminars, transportation, trips, and outreach visits halted in mid-March after a declared state of emergency. In response, Director Janet Claypoole was appointed to the Town’s COVID-19 Task Force and met regularly with Town officials. Given its role in assisting seniors and their families, the COA quickly became a central point of contact for citizens requesting assistance and residents wishing to volunteer. COA staff focused on outreach, conducting routine checks on seniors sheltering at home and residents at risk of illness. Volunteers conducted check-in calls on their elderly neighbors and alerted the COA if assistance was needed. More than 1,600 check-in calls were made between March and June to seniors and families.

As “stay-at-home” advisories shifted to “safer-at-home” advisories, the COA continued reaching out to seniors. Programs went virtual, while seniors and staff learned how to Zoom and connect via technology. Socially distanced, small outside gatherings were held at Caryl Community Center (CCC) in good weather. Tents provided safe spots to meet or pick up a puzzle or book. Many masked seniors connected in person through Senior Coffee or Tea with Friends (Event in the Tent).

Senior Transportation

In 2020, the COA provided more than 260 rides to seniors and disabled residents who qualified for the MetroWest Ride and discounted JFK Transportation Services rides to COA programs, medical appointments, and other MetroWest destinations, as well as to Boston for medical appointments. Transportation was suspended from mid-March through May due to the safe-at-home advisory.

Programs and Classes

Between January and mid-March, in-person COA programs were held at 11 Dover locations. Fitness classes included Strength and Stability, Stretch & Flow, Yoga for Wellness, Meditation, and Chi Gong. The COA and Parks and Recreation Department offered Zumba Gold and expanded Pickleball sessions at the CCC gym. The COA and the Town Library co-hosted weekly Chi Gong and monthly Pageturners Book Club meetings. Other programs include card making, Mah Jongg, Tea with Friends, Senior Coffee, Emergency Planning sponsored by the Norfolk County District Attorney’s office, and Coping with the Winter Blues by Dover’s public health nurse.

In mid-March, programming shifted to a virtual format, with some programs airing on Dover Sherborn Cable TV. Zoomed fitness programs included Yoga, Strength, and Zumba Gold. The Lifetime Learning educational series, sponsored by the Friends of the COA (FoCOA; www.coafriends.org) was held via Zoom in the fall. Classes included Fun with the Ukulele, Toni Morrison, and Social Justice in America. The Dover and Westwood FoCOAs co-sponsored a virtual cooking series. Other programs included The Joys of Nature with naturalist Joy Marzolf and Wellness Webinars sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts.

Intergenerational programs continued with elementary and high school students connecting with seniors as pen pals. The Dover Mothers Association recruited children sheltering at home to decorate meal delivery bags for seniors. Under Chickering Grows, seniors joined students in growing plants and sharing their experiences online. Girl Scouts, Brownies, Daisies, Cub Scouts, and preschool students created cards that were tucked into meal delivery bags or handed out at drive-through events. Boy Scouts and Dover Sherborn High School (DSHS) Community Services students helped with home deliveries, technology support, and delivering extra food donations from Blue Moon Bagel Cafe and BJ Wholesale Club to food

pantries, shelters, and soup kitchens. Senior citizens donated knitted shawls, hats, and scarves for veterans at the West Roxbury Veterans Administration Hospital. The Dover Church Men’s Group sanded and salted icy steps and walkways for more than 36 seniors.

Other Senior Services

Outreach Worker Nan Vaida, RN, continued connecting with seniors and their families to provide support and resources. She and Director Claypoole coordinated with the Police and Fire Departments to check on isolated or at-risk seniors. The COA offered home and community services in partnership with BayPath Elder Services and also coordinated health support services, such as the Visiting Nurse Association’s Blood Pressure Clinic and medical-equipment loan program. The SHINE program (Serving the Health Information Needs of Everyone) provided free consultations on Medicare and other health insurance via phone.

The COA devotes tremendous amount time to helping seniors cope with changing health conditions, assisting family caregivers, locating resources, facilitating the transition from hospital or rehab settings to home, and helping elders maintain their dignity and independence as they age in place. It helps seniors and families in crisis situations and works with the Police Department regarding elder abuse and elder-at-risk situations.

The COA provided support in other areas in 2020: It began offering assistance to residents facing financial and energy-related challenges. Nurse Nan Vaida explained state and federal resources and advocated for residents coping with energy and utility emergencies. Up until March, eight seniors participated in the COA-coordinated Senior Property Tax WorkOff Program, working part-time for the Treasurer’s Office, COA, and Board of Health for up to \$1,500 applied toward property tax bills. Pre-pandemic official appearances included Town Assessor Amy Gow, who reviewed senior tax relief programs, and Town Administrator Christopher Dwelley, Police Chief Peter McGowan, and Director Claypoole who discussed Governor Baker’s state of emergency declaration and its impact on Town residents.

Luncheons and Meals

In early 2020, luncheons at the CCC featured Singo Bingo, sponsored by Parks and Recreation; The First First Lady Martha Washington, sponsored by FoCOA; and Healthy Cooking, sponsored by Wingate One Healthcare in Needham. The American Legion hosted a Winter Dinner in February, and the Moveable Feast and Circle of Friends lunches were hosted at local churches.

In April, the COA staff and volunteers began delivering individually packaged meals prepared by local caterers and restaurants. By June, when state advisories had eased for seniors, 490 meals had been delivered. However, many seniors continued following safer-at-home guidelines. In the fall, Grab & Go curbside food service began, sharing meals with 80 seniors per event at the CCC. Also offered curbside were Thanksgiving

dinner, Holiday at Home meals, and the Dover Police Association's Annual Holiday Brunch. The Dover Church and the COA partnered on a Holiday Cookie Exchange pick-up of wrapped sweet treats packed in boxes decorated by DSHS Community Service members. From June to December, about 75 seniors regularly participated in the very popular Grab & Go biweekly farm stand, which offered pick-up or delivery of fresh Powisset Farm vegetables and donated bread from Blue Moon Bagel Cafe.

Grants

In 2020, an MEOEA grant partially funded the Fitness, Chi Gong, and Zumba Gold programs, and supported our administrative assistant and volunteer coordinator positions. The COA continues to collaborate with the Sherborn COA on a MetroWest Health Foundation grant for a monthly men's lunch group held at The Heritage in Sherborn.

Funding by Beth Israel Deaconess-Needham (BID-Needham) for fresh produce from Powisset Farm was matched by the FoCOA and The Trustees of Reservations and awarded to the Westwood and Dover COAs. BID-Needham also funded the rental of a tent to shelter seniors gathering outside. The Dover Cultural Council funded a virtual health webinar presented by wellness educator Tricia Silverman.

Other Activities

In 2020, the COA provided information to the Community Center Building Committee on space needs pertaining to a proposed renovated or new building, sharing updates on the committee's work, forums, and meetings in the COA's bimonthly newsletter.

Volunteer Assistance

In 2020, more than 100 volunteers of all ages assisted the COA with many tasks, including contactless delivery of donated items—bread, books and puzzles, flowers, and most requested, hand sanitizer and masks. Hundreds of surgical and hand-sewn masks were donated and distributed to grateful residents. Staff and volunteers also picked up and delivered medications, shopped for food, and took trash to the Transfer Station. We could not provide our programs and services without the time, energy, and enthusiasm of these volunteers—our most important asset. Their kindness, generosity, and skills are greatly appreciated.

Appreciation

Thank you to our dedicated COA team, who worked tirelessly and beyond the bounds of their job, patiently assisting the community during this challenging year. Thanks also to Parks and Recreation staff and custodian Brad Crosby for stepping up whenever asked to help our seniors.

Report of the Cultural Council

Wendy Bornstein, Chair
Denise Auclair
Shashi Chawla
Wendy Gordon
Sarah Kahoun
Judith Schulz
Lauri Verni

The Dover Cultural Council (DCC) administers funds that it receives each year from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), the state agency whose mission is to “promote excellence, access, education and diversity in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences to improve the quality of life for all Massachusetts residents, and to contribute to the economic vitality of our communities.” These funds, which originate as annual appropriations of the Massachusetts Legislature, are awarded in the form of grants to individuals and organizations that support the MCC's mission and provide cultural benefit to the Dover community.

Under the MCC's Local Cultural Council Program, the most extensive grassroots cultural support network in the nation, the DCC awarded \$4,475 in grants for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, most of the events were canceled (\$2,475 in funding) or will be rescheduled for FY21 (\$1,025 in funding). Grants awarded include, but are not limited to:

- **Dover-Sherborn Middle School:** Drama Festival (\$500)
- **Friends of the Council on Aging:** Tricia Silverman, “Wellness and Weight Loss” (\$475)
- **Dover-Sherborn High School:** Geoff Burke, visiting artist (\$300/postponed to 2021); Boston University Bank guest speaker (\$100/canceled)
- **Town Library:** Andrew Giles Buckley, presentation of the film *Stephano: The True Story of Shakespeare's Shipwreck* (\$300/anticipated in 2021); Henry Lappen, juggling performance (\$425/postponed to 2021); Anne O'Connor, “Dreams Created and Crafted” (\$400/canceled)
- **Charles River School:** Dover Freelance Players (\$300/canceled)

- *Gazebo Players of Medfield: Shakespeare in the Park* (\$300/postponed to 2021)
- *Shushil Kumar (Dover citizen)*: Diwali festival event (\$800/canceled)

Information and grant applications (which can now be filed online) for the Local Cultural Council Program are available at www.mass-culture.org.



Resident chipmunk. Photo by Beth Zaffino.

Report of the Memorial Day Committee

Jay Sullivan, Chair
Carol Jackman
Chris Jackman

This past year, Memorial Day was a day like no other. Due to restrictions put in place to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Committee had to determine how the Town would observe Memorial Day on May 30. After all, the Town's Memorial Day event is a time-honored tradition, when we observe and honor the many Dover veterans who lost their lives in battle or who passed away after returning home.

With the help of news producer Dan Murphy, the Committee arranged to have local cable station DSCTV replay the May 2019 Memorial Day service and dedicated it to World War II veteran Ed Jordan, the oldest living member of Dover's American Legion, George B. Preston Post, and the designated grand marshal for the 2020 Memorial Day parade, who unfortunately passed away on May 6. The Committee also arranged to have the Town churches ring their church bells at noon on May 30, while the Fire Department blew two whistles to signal "All is over, come on home."

Despite the necessary changes made to the Memorial Day event, the American Legion Auxiliary was able to continue the tradition of placing American flags and planting geraniums at each veteran's grave. Since the Committee did not have to rent chairs for the service, it spent the money on bronze markers to replace the broken plastic markers holding the flags. In addition, memorial floral baskets were placed at the foot of Soldiers Monument and at the Preston grave.

The Committee hopes to hold a regular ceremony in 2021, but with one big change. Unfortunately, Jay Sullivan, a long-time committee member and a Vietnam veteran, passed away. Jay's tradition of reading aloud the names of Dover's veterans who died in battle and of inviting each veteran in attendance to step forward to give their name, branch of service, and years served will continue. This tradition is how the Town gives thanks for our local veterans.

The Committee also wishes to thank Highland Cemetery Town Supervisor Rusty Dauphinee for his caring ways when assisting family members and for ensuring that veterans' graves receive the inscribed foot markers issued by the Department of Veterans' Services.

Report of the Department of Veterans' Services

Paul Carew, District Director

The Department of Veterans' Services performs the functions assigned to it by Chapter 115 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Chief among them is the administration of a benefits program provided to veterans and their families in need.

The Department maintains a depository of discharges and records of service for matters to be brought before the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, including claims for pension, compensation for service-connected disabilities, educational benefits, burial benefits, and headstones and markers. The office also processes applications for hospitalization and medical care.

Veterans Administration benefit forms are available in our office at 117 East Central Street, Natick, MA. The director is there to serve our veterans and is glad to provide assistance, including help with filing the appropriate paperwork for applicable benefits. Please call us at 508-647-6545.



Photo by Reverend John F. Sugden Jr.

Report of the Caryl Management Advisory Committee

Kathy Weld, Chair

Christopher Boland, Parks and Recreation

Jennifer James

Frankie Liu

Robert Springett, Board of Selectmen

Ruth Townsend

Mark Ghiloni, Director, Parks and Recreation

Christopher M. Dwelley, Town Administrator

Karl Warnick, Buildings and Maintenance Superintendent

The Caryl Management Advisory Committee (CMAC) provides advice and counsel to the Board of Selectmen on the maintenance and operations of the Caryl Community Center (CCC), a role it has had since 2002, when the Dover School Committee transferred control of the building to the Board of Selectmen. It is composed of seven voting members: four at-large and one each from the Board of Selectmen, the Council on Aging (COA), and the Parks and Recreation Commission.

In February 2020, the CMAC completed a draft Business Continuity and Alternate Site Plan for use in the event of an unforeseen emergency or a planned closure of the CCC facility. The Parks and Recreation Department agreed to pilot the plan to help determine its usefulness. The opportunity to implement the plan arrived sooner than expected, when the coronavirus pandemic forced the closure in March of all Town buildings and the cessation of in-person programming and activities at the CCC.

For the remainder of 2020, the Parks and Recreation Department and the COA provided creative programming on virtual platforms, as well as through several in-person, socially distanced outdoor activities when weather permitted; and, in some cases, they sought to offer indoor programs where possible within COVID-19 guidelines. Of the four fee-paying licensees with dedicated space at the CCC, two left permanently (Community Cycle and Parent Talk); the Center for the Development of Children moved its operations to St. Dunstan's Church for the remainder of 2020, with hopes to return in January 2021; and Erin's School of Dance also hopes to return whenever the CCC reopens.

In February, the Committee began gathering information on the management, operations, and finances of community centers in several of the towns that had been previously visited by the CCC Project Committee,

in order to help determine the best management model for Dover's community center. A subcommittee of three CMAC members was able to complete one in-person interview before the pandemic lockdown occurred. It completed three additional interviews in November via Zoom and will report its findings to the full CMAC early in 2021.

Maintenance projects at the CCC continued throughout 2020, with the primary focus being on replacing all the unit ventilators and exhaust fans to improve air quality, which will be required prior to re-opening the facility.

We look forward to the day when all in-person programming and activities at the CCC can safely resume.



Photo by Jennifer Luethy.

Report of the **Community Center Building Committee**

Ford Spalding, Chair

David Billings

Luciana Burdi

Sam Cole

Barry Goldman

Terry Sobolewski

Ruth Townsend

Cameron Hudson, Warrant Committee Liaison

Bob Springett, Board of Selectmen Liaison

Christopher M. Dwelley, Town Administrator, Ex Officio

Project Professionals

Phil Palumbo, Colliers International

Deborah Fennick, Fennick McCredie Architecture

In late fall 2019, the Community Center Building Committee (CCBC) was appointed and charged with overseeing the development of schematic designs for both a renovated Caryl facility (Caryl Community Center) and a replacement of the existing facility with a new building.

The CCBC began its work in January 2020, and, following the mandated Town procurement process, ultimately selected Colliers International as the owner's project manager and Fennick McCredie Architecture as the project designer. Committee members also reviewed the work of past committees, in particular that of the Caryl Community Center Project Committee, which had developed and presented two options for voter consideration at the October 7, 2019, Special Town Meeting: a full renovation of the Caryl facility costing between \$10 million and \$13 million and a new building replacement (between 13,000 and 18,000 square feet) in the same cost range.

Working within this framework, the CCBC interviewed current users of the Caryl building, conducted a public forum (65 attendees), and surveyed the community (206 respondents). Based on this research, the architects began developing flexible-use space groupings that would support program requirements for socialization, fitness activities, recreation, and Town department offices. By December, the architects had developed, and the CCBC had evaluated, three renovation and four new construction options. At a December public information forum with 130 attendees, and through a subsequent town-wide survey with 224 respondents, residents

indicated strong support for an 18,000-square-foot facility at a cost of \$13 million.

In 2021, the design team will continue developing the renovation and new building options and their costs. The CCBC, with community input, will ultimately choose one option in each category, along with the architects' schematic drawings, to be submitted to voters at a Special Town Meeting later in 2021. Voters will be asked to select one of the options for funding approval and construction.

Complete information on the CCBC, its work, and related Caryl Community Center documentation can be found under the "Government" tab of the Town's website at www.doverma.org.



Tree swallow at Channing Pond. Photo by Beth Zaffino.

Report of the **Technology Advisory Board**

Greg Kahoun, Chair

Rui Huang

Myank Jain

Paul Smith

Gregg Wright

Gerald Clarke, Board of Health Liaison

Cameron Hudson, Warrant Committee Liaison

Anthony Ritacco, Regional School Liaison

Robert Springett, Board of Selectmen Liaison

Christopher M. Dwelley, Town Administrator, Ex Officio

David Sullivan, Municipal Project Manager

The Technology Advisory Board (TAB) advises the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, and other senior administrative staff, as appropriate, on resources and priorities concerning all aspects of computing, information management, and communication technology. The TAB supports the Town's goal of building and maintaining an information technology infrastructure that reflects the best practices in the industry and supports the Town administration and staff in executing their responsibilities in a cost-effective manner.

In 2020, a number of significant upgrades were made to the Town's core infrastructure to improve security and to upgrade network servers, staff computers, and operating systems. In addition, the Town adopted Google Workplace (formerly known as G Suite), which offers a number of tools (including Gmail and Google Meet), as well as applications for improving office operations. These changes dramatically improved security, system reliability, and functionality. An extensive staff training program ensured that Town employees would be positioned to make good use of the new technology.

In June, the Town implemented a new website platform provided by the web-development company CivicPlus. The website is functionally rich, providing the Town with improved ways to communicate with and inform residents (through alerts), an updated home page, a calendar, departmental pages, and the capacity to support a planned transition to more Town e-services. We expect to build upon this platform to meet emerging Town requirements.

The CivicPlus software is remotely hosted and maintained by CivicPlus, and the Town's core infrastructure is supported and monitored

by Retrofit Technologies, Inc. The Town has adopted the model of using qualified technology companies to provide essential IT services, so as to provide a high level of industry standard functionality to Dover citizens while maintaining a small IT staff.

The TAB works directly with the Town administrator and municipal project manager, and our accomplishments in 2020 were made possible by their significant contributions throughout a very challenging year.



Photo by Mary Kalamaras.

Historical Focus

Pandemics Come to Dover

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic profoundly affected everyone in Dover, changing how we worked, shopped, ate, celebrated, and how our children learned. But it's not the Town's first time dealing with such a crisis. There are still people in the world alive today who a century ago experienced the H1N1 influenza pandemic of 1918–20 (misnamed "Spanish" flu), which wreaked its own brand of havoc.

In the United States, the first wave of the 1918 flu began in March at the Fort Riley army base in Kansas. It took the medical community by surprise both because of its timing—at the end of what is generally considered "flu season"—and the speed with which it infected those exposed to the virus. Seventy-two servicemen were infected on the first day and 522 in the first week. This first wave of infections largely affected servicemen on their way to Europe and those who came in contact with them.

The second wave of the 1918 flu arrived in Boston from Europe at the end of August aboard a ship full of returning soldiers and sailors carrying an even more infectious and lethal strain of the virus. By mid-September, nearly 2,000 sailors stationed in the Boston area had become infected. The Massachusetts National Guard built temporary tent hospitals in city parks. On September 9, they built a hospital in a day that became full with sick sailors the next. Outside the city at Fort Devens, the army experienced 10,500 cases and 218 deaths in this period.



Nurses at Fort Devens, MA, October 1918. Photo: National Archives.

By September's end, with many Boston physicians and nurses away at war, the rate of infections in the civilian population had overwhelmed the region's healthcare system. Governor Samuel McCall issued a proclamation that all able-bodied people with medical training join the fight against the epidemic and urged cities and towns to close schools and other places where people congregated.

With case numbers rising rapidly, Dover residents were now at risk of infection. In answer to the governor's action, school physician Dr. George Bancroft closed Dover's schools, which remained closed through October and then—in a refrain familiar to us in 2020—were briefly reopened only to be closed again for a week in December.

In his report to the Town for 1918, Dr. Bancroft stated: “[By closing the schools] I feel a general distribution of disease was averted. Aside from the [closures] the school work has progressed with unusual harmony and interest, the health of the pupils being uniformly good.” That same year in their report, the Dover Selectmen noted, “We are glad to be able to report that the town has been very free from contagious diseases during the year 1918; we have had a number of cases of influenza, but only three were fatal.” Three men, Henry Fisher, 54, Peter Shea, 37, and Edward Clancy, 40, had succumbed to the influenza between October and December. Unlike COVID-19, the 1918 flu primarily targeted people in the prime of life.

By early 1919, the worst of the pandemic was over, although infections continued into the summer. The Centers for Disease Control estimates that between 1918 and 1919 one-third of the world's population became infected with the H1N1 virus, resulting in at least 50 million deaths worldwide, with approximately 675,000 of them in the United States. In 1918, Dover's three fatalities occurred in a population of under one thousand people.

In their January 1920 annual report, the Board of Selectman noted:

“At the threshold of the New Year, and as we leave behind the year just past, we believe that the people of Dover have reasons to congratulate themselves upon what has happened and has been accomplished during the year, as well as upon that which did not happen.”

That spring at Town Meeting, citizens voted to approve five hundred dollars for a celebration to honor the 77 townspeople who had served during WWI as military, medical, or Red Cross personnel. The event, held on August 28, cost much more than the new two-horse road-grading machine that the Town had bought that year. It must have been quite a party.

—Hadley Reynolds, *Dover Town Report Committee*



Dover center, circa 1918. Photo: Dover Historical Society.

Notes