

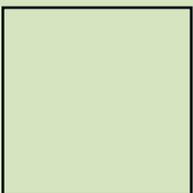
## **VOTE NO ON ARTICLE 18 — ATTEND TOWN MEETING MAY 2nd**

A concerted campaign is underway to authorize the Dover Selectmen to enter into a 99-year lease with the MBTA for the abandoned rail bed running through Dover. Misinformation is circulating regarding the development of the rail bed. The following truths are provided by **Be True To Dover (betruetodover.com)**, a group of longtime Dover residents and concerned citizens who are committed to preserving and protecting the unique character of Dover, as outlined in the Town of Dover website and Master Plan.

Development of the old railroad bed into a 'greenway' for use by large numbers of out-of-town visitors will destroy the bucolic nature of our community, violate the intentions of our founding fathers and negatively impact future use of Dover's precious open space.

**This is the second in a series of truths addressing the environmental, financial, rural and personal impact of entering into a lease to develop the rail bed.**

**VOTE NO  
ON ARTICLE 18  
ATTEND TOWN MEETING  
MAY 2nd**



“Dover is known for planning well and making sure future generations are never saddled with financial burdens as a result of overreaching.”

– T.R., WALPOLE STREET RESIDENT

**1. Misinformation:** The developed rail bed will be for Dover residents' use only.

**Truth:** To arrive at cost estimates for maintaining the developed rail bed, advocates calculate 130,000 visits per year. Noanet Woodlands reports 22.5% of visitors are Dover residents; the remaining visitors are from out-of-town. Dover's pristine trail system is well publicized among outdoor enthusiasts. It is impossible to keep a developed rail bed open for Dover residents only.

**2. Misinformation:** The developed rail bed will be maintained in perpetuity by the “Friends of the Dover Greenway,” with no cost to the Town.

**Truth:** According to their website, “Friends of the Dover Greenway” estimate \$5K in annual maintenance costs for the 3.5 mile developed rail bed, and commit to covering the cost for 10 years. The MBTA lease is for 99 years. A similar rail bed development project was proposed and defeated in Weston, with maintenance costs exceeding \$150K annually.

**3. Misinformation:** No additional parking spots are needed for visitors to the trail.

**Truth:** High school fundraising car washes are run from the Town Hall parking lot every spring and fall weekend. Public parking is not available on Hunt Drive or at the north end of the rail bed. Parking at Chickering Fields and Caryl Park are neither adjacent to the rail bed nor available on weekends, due to sporting events. Dover cannot accommodate parking for hundreds or thousands of visitors to the developed rail bed.

**4. Misinformation:** The developed rail bed surface will always remain stone dust.

**Truth:** The wording of Article 18 states the developed rail bed could be used for “open space and recreation and for all other purposes

for which rail trails are now or hereafter may be used in the Commonwealth,” leaving future use and surfacing open-ended, despite current plans for stone dust or recycled asphalt.

**5. Misinformation:** The developed rail bed will not cost individual Dover residents.

**Truth:** Plans call for abutters to the developed rail bed to pay for constructing their own fencing for privacy and anti-crime purposes. Further, abutters are considering litigation against the Town of Dover regarding tax abatements for their properties, as their home values will decline.

**6. Misinformation:** The abandoned rail bed is an environmental hazard.

**Truth:** Nature is taking back the trail on its own. Woody groundcover, leaves, moss and undergrowth are covering the trail edges and surface. According to Dr. Joseph Mitchell, PhD, the noted ecologist and herpetologist from the University of Richmond, this is the best outcome for conserving land around old trail beds, “The biggest problem I see with using old railroad right-of-ways for trails is the alteration of the habitat used by herps and other animals. If old railroad ties are there, then those features break down and are used by snakes and salamanders for hiding places...”

**7. Misinformation:** Problems with unleashed dogs are not expected.

**Truth:** Dogs are the number one problem reported on the developed Holliston rail bed, including dog waste, dog waste bags tossed onto private property, dogs intimidating people, and dogs not under an owner's control. Holliston police are called regularly about dog problems on the trail. Dover does not have a leash law.

**Sources:** For more information visit [betruetodover.com](http://betruetodover.com)