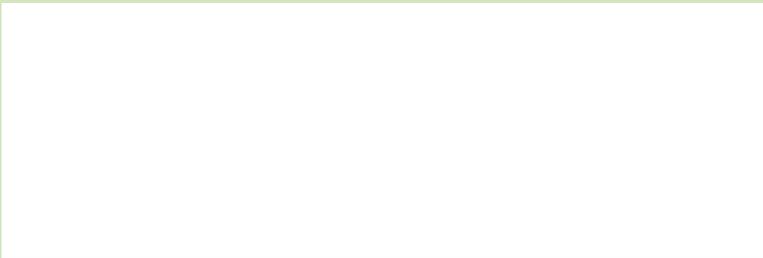


VOTE NO ON ARTICLE 18 — ATTEND TOWN MEETING MAY 2nd

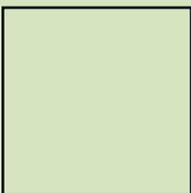
A concerted campaign is underway to authorize the Dover Selectmen to enter into a 99-year lease with the MBTA for the abandoned rail bed running through Dover. Misinformation is circulating regarding the development of the rail bed. The following truths are provided by **Be True To Dover (betruetodover.com)**, 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 third 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’s citizens value their privacy and treasure their community’s unique, low-key, rural character.” – S.L., FARM STREET RESIDENT

1. Misinformation: Dover needs an “easy to walk” flat trail or area for recreational use.

Truth: The Town of Dover website states Dover has over 1578 acres of open space and 60 miles of trails, the majority of which are called “easy.” In addition to the town’s athletic fields, the recent purchase of Springdale Farm, for \$5.5M, accommodates the request for flat open space.

2. Misinformation: The developed rail bed will be a safe family-friendly environment.

Truth: During the day and particularly after dark, the developed rail bed will be a teenager-friendly environment, providing a readily available, secluded and inviting venue for local and out-of-town teens to engage in ‘juvenile’ behavior.

3. Misinformation: Dover does not have a flat trail running through the center of town to connect public buildings including schools.

Truth: Dover’s sidewalks connect public buildings and local businesses. The developed rail bed will not connect public buildings or schools.

4. Misinformation: The developed rail bed will lead to “better friendships, stronger families, improved health and a stronger Dover community.”

Truth: The developed rail bed will destroy the bucolic nature of our rural town, violate the intentions of our founding fathers and negatively impact the future of Dover’s open space. Dover’s legacy will be protected by voting NO to Article 18.

5. Misinformation: Development of the rail bed will not harm the environment.

Truth: Development plans include removing metal and wood with heavy equipment, digging beneath the existing surface, building elevated embankments with potentially contaminated soil, and capping with 6-12 inches of crushed stone or fill. The plan negatively and permanently impacts

wildlife migratory patterns, as well as nesting, natural habitats, vernal pools, and endangered trees including white pine and American chestnut, which border the rail bed. According to renowned forestry and wildlife consultant Susan Morse, “the conservation value of the rewilded rail line is both local and regional. It is local for the natural beauty and biodiversity that clearly exists here; it is regional for the intact and connected diversity of surrounding additional habitats that enrich and sustain the larger ecoregion.”

6. Misinformation: The rail bridge over the Charles River is not included in the MBTA lease and there are no current plans to repair the bridge connecting Needham and Dover.

Truth: Needham has constructed a parking lot at the entrance to the rail bridge; no restrictions exist to prohibit walking or riding bikes across the Centre Street bridge to connect to the Dover rail bed. Further, there is not a Town article prohibiting development of the bridge in future years. The Town of Needham and the Bay Colony Rail Trail are promoting construction of the Charles River trestle bridge.

7. Misinformation: Equestrian access to the current network of trails will not be impacted.

Truth: Bridle trails run parallel to the tracks and may be impacted by construction of embankments for the developed rail bed. For over a century, equestrians have had unlimited access to cross the rail bed – this access will be restricted by the development. Equestrians and horses could be put in serious danger by increased pedestrian traffic, bicycles, strollers, unleashed dogs and loud, enthusiastic users of the developed rail bed. Dover’s equestrian community plays a critical role in maintaining, preserving and protecting the trail system.

Sources: For more information visit betruetodover.com