

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

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“Dover is proud of its unspoiled natural resources and works hard to maintain the pristine character of the miles of trails and open space which make the town special.” – C.M., CENTRE STREET RESIDENT

1. Misinformation: The rail bed will be converted into a 3.5 mile Dover trail only.

Truth: Dover’s 3.5-mile rail bed is actively being promoted as a key component in the Bay Colony Rail Trail and the Upper Falls Greenway, connecting Newton, Needham, Dover and Medfield, “rivaling the popular Minuteman Bikeway in Lexington.” Visit: baycolonyrailtrail.org and upperfallsgreenway.org

2. Misinformation: Dover needs another trail, for use by little children, baby strollers and the elderly using walkers.

Truth: Dover has over 60 miles of trails, used by people of all ages. Dover’s sidewalks are suitable for baby strollers and elderly with walkers, providing access to town services. Those who use walkers outside are generally not able to walk safely on anything but a paved or concrete surface.

3. Misinformation: An abutter to the rail bed believes his children will be able to enter the developed rail bed from his backyard.

Truth: Access to the developed rail bed will be limited to certain entrance/exit points only. Unfettered access will disturb potentially contaminated soil used to build trail embankments, compromising the support structure of the developed rail bed.

4. Misinformation: The developed rail bed will not be highly trafficked.

Truth: Similar 6 mile developed rail beds in Holliston, Milford and Sudbury attract 2,500, 2,500 and 1,100 visitors each Saturday. If Dover, at 3.5 miles, had half this number of visitors, it would translate to 1,000 visits per Saturday and potentially 100,000 weekend visits annually.

5. Misinformation: At a recent Warrant Committee public meeting, a town official publicly accused the opponents of the developed rail bed of “fear mongering.”

Truth: Be True To Dover is a group of longtime residents and concerned citizens who are genuinely committed to keeping the rural character of the town. Be True To Dover wants to be sure all Dover residents receive the truth about entering into a 99-year lease with the MBTA and the plans to develop the rail bed. Be True to Dover believes in transparency and preserving the town’s legacy of pristine open space for its residents.

6. Misinformation: The developed rail bed will not cost the Town of Dover any money.

Truth: With the exception of assigning Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and volunteers responsibility for regularly cleaning the area, costs for policing, fire department support, trash removal, landscaping, damage to railings, deckings, support bankings, signage, surfacing and other long term maintenance issues are not quantified in the feasibility studies for the development of the rail bed.

7. Misinformation: The “Friends of the Dover Greenway” Beals & Thomas study stated “there are no areas on the rail bed that appear to have severe contamination,” yet suggests taking soil samples.

Truth: Soil testing is not allowed prior to entering into the 99-year MBTA lease. The Town of Dover has no recourse if contaminants are found; the Town would own the problem.

Sources: For more information visit betruetodover.com