

 CITY OF DOVER	CITY OF DOVER - ORDINANCE	
	Ordinance Number: O – 2022.01.12 – 001 Ordinance Title: Elections Chapter: 17 Section: 12 Boundaries of Wards 13 Ward Map	Agenda Item#:

The City of Dover Ordains:

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish ward boundaries for the City of Dover, as allowed by City Charter (C1-2, amended effective January 3, 2022) based on the decennial census results in 2020.

2. AMENDMENT

Chapter 17 entitled “Elections” is hereby amended by adding a new Article III, “Ward Boundaries” and related sections 12 and 13 (to be inserted after Article II, Section 17-11), as follows:

a. THE FOLLOWING ARE ADDED:

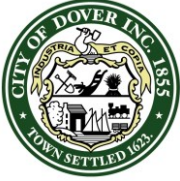
ARTICLE III WARD BOUNDARIES AND WARD MAP

§ 17-12 Boundaries of Wards

Pursuant to the City’s Charter, the City of Dover shall be divided into six wards with boundaries defined as follows:

Ward One begins at the Dover/Rollinsford boundary line at Old English Village Road; thence following southeasterly along the Dover/Rollinsford boundary to Broadway; thence southwesterly along the center line of Broadway to the intersection with the Boston and Maine Railroad; thence southeasterly along the railroad to Central Avenue; thence southerly along the center line of Central Avenue to Chapel Street, and follows the center line of Main Street southerly to Washington Street; thence westerly along the center line of Washington Street to Chestnut Street; thence northerly along the center line of Chestnut Street to the Cochecho River; thence northerly along the center line of the Cochecho River to Spaulding Turnpike; thence following the center line of the Spaulding Turnpike northerly to its intersection with Glenwood Avenue; thence following the center line of Glenwood Avenue in a northeasterly direction to Central Avenue; thence turning northerly and running along the center line of Central Avenue, to Old English Village Road, and crossing Central Avenue following Old English Village Road in an easterly direction to the Dover/Rollinsford boundary line to the point of beginning.

Ward Two begins at Broadway and the Rollinsford/Dover boundary; thence following the Dover/Rollinsford boundary in a southeasterly direction to the confluence of the Cochecho/Piscataqua River; thence following the center line of the confluence in a northwesterly direction to a block line established by the 2020 census;



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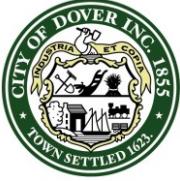
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thence turning southwesterly to the intersection of Henry Law Avenue and Tennyson Avenue; thence following the center line of Tennyson Avenue in a southwesterly direction to Court Street; thence following the center line of Court Street in a northwesterly direction to Union Street; thence following center line of Union Street in a southwesterly direction to Central Avenue; thence following the center line of Central Avenue southerly to Locust Street; thence following the center line of Locust Street in a northerly direction to Fisher Street; thence following the center line of Fisher Street in a westerly direction to Rutland Street; thence following the center line of Rutland Street northerly to Clifford Street; thence following the center line of Clifford Street westerly to Towle Avenue.; thence following the center line of Towle Avenue in a northwesterly direction to the intersection with Silver Street; thence northwesterly across Silver Street and following the center line of Arch Street to center line of the Washington Street; thence following the center line of Washington Street in an easterly direction to Belknap Street; thence following the center line of Belknap Street southerly to the center line of Saint Thomas Street; thence following the center line of the Saint Thomas Street, in an easterly direction to Locust Street; thence following along the center line of Locust Street northerly to Washington Street; thence following the center line of Washington Street easterly to Main Street; thence following the center line of Main Street northerly, until Chapel Street, where it follows the centerline of Central Avenue northerly to the Boston and Maine Railroad line; thence following the Boston and Maine railroad line northeasterly to the intersection of Broadway; thence following the center line of Broadway in a northeasterly direction to the point of beginning.

Ward Three begins at the intersection of Spaulding Turnpike and the Boston and Maine railroad line; thence following the center line of the Boston and Maine railroad line in a northeasterly direction to Arch Street; thence following the center line of Arch Street southerly to Silver Street; thence crossing Silver Street to Towel Avenue, and following the centerline of Towel Avenue in a southerly direction to Clifford Street; thence following the centerline of Clifford Street in an easterly direction to Rutland Street; thence turning and following the center line of Rutland Street southerly until Fisher Street; thence following the center line of Fisher Street in an easterly direction to Locust Street; thence following the center line of Locust Street southerly to the intersection with Central Avenue; thence following the center line of Central Avenue northeasterly to the intersection of Union Street; thence following the



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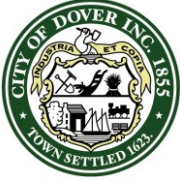
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center line of Union Street in a northeasterly direction to Court Street; thence following the center line of Court Street southeasterly to Tennyson Avenue; thence following the center line of Tennyson Avenue in a northeasterly direction to Henry Law Avenue; thence following a block line established by the 2020 census in a northeasterly direction to the Cochecho River; thence following the Cochecho River southeasterly to its confluence with the Piscataqua River and the exterior block line established by the 2020 census located in the center of said Piscataqua River; thence following the exterior block line established by the 2020 census located in the center of the Little Bay channel where it intersects the Spaulding Turnpike at the Little Bay Bridge; thence following the exterior block line established by the 2020 census located in the center of Little Bay in a northwesterly direction to a point of intersection at the common boundary corner between Dover and Madbury near the Scammel Bridge; thence following the center line of the Boston Harbor Road/New Hampshire Route 4 in a southeasterly direction to the Spaulding Turnpike ; thence following the center line of the Spaulding Turnpike in a northwesterly direction to the point of beginning.

Ward Four begins at the intersection of the Bellamy River and Central Avenue; thence following the center line of Central Avenue northeasterly to the intersection with the Spaulding Turnpike; thence following the center line of the Spaulding Turnpike in a southeasterly direction to the exit 6 overpass, and tuning westerly following the centerline of the overpass to Boston Harbor Road/New Hampshire Route 4; thence following the center line of Boston Harbor Road/New Hampshire Route 4 a point of intersection at the common boundary corner between Dover and Madbury near the Scammel Bridge; thence following the common boundary line between Dover and Madbury in a northwesterly direction to the center line of the Mast Road; thence following the center line of Mast Road southeasterly to the centerline of Durham Road; thence following the center line of the Durham Road easterly to the point of beginning.

Ward Five begins at the Barrington/Dover line at Tolend Road; thence following the center line of Tolend Road southeasterly to the Spaulding Turnpike; thence following the Spaulding Turnpike in a northerly direction to the Cochecho River; thence following the center line of the Cochecho River southerly to Chestnut Street; thence following the center line of Chestnut Street southerly to Washington Street; thence turning easterly and following the center line of Washington Street to Locust Street;



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thence turning and following Locust Street in a southerly direction to Saint Thomas Street; thence following Saint Thomas Street in a westerly direction to the intersection with Belknap Street; thence following the center line of Belknap Street northerly to Washington Street; thence following Washington Street in a westerly direction to the intersection of the Boston and Maine Railroad, thence following the Boston and Main Railroad southwesterly to the Spaulding Turnpike; thence turning and following the center line of the Spaulding Turnpike in a southerly direction to Central Avenue; thence following the center line of Central Avenue southerly to the Bellamy River Bridge; then following along the center line of the Durham Road in a westerly direction to Mast Road; thence following the Mast Road center line in a westerly direction to the Madbury/Dover/ boundary; thence following the Madbury/Dover boundary in a northerly direction to the Barrington/Dover town line; thence following the Barrington/Dover boundary in a northwesterly direction to the point of beginning.

Ward Six begins at the point where the Dover/Rollinsford boundaries intersect with the center line of Old English Village Road and follows the center line of Old English Village Road westerly to Central Avenue; thence running southerly along the center line of Central Avenue to the intersection with Glenwood Avenue; thence following the center line of Glenwood Avenue westerly to the Spaulding Turnpike; thence following the center line of the Spaulding Turnpike in a southerly direction to Tolend Road; thence following the center line of Tolend Road in a northerly direction to the Dover/Barrington boundary line; thence following the boundary line in a northeasterly direction to the point of the Dover/Rochester/Somersworth boundary; thence turning and following the Dover/Somersworth boundary southerly to the point of the beginning.

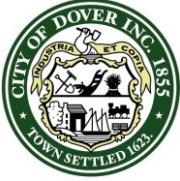
§ 17-13 Ward Map

In accordance with RSA 44:4-a, the City shall maintain a ward boundary map of suitable scale reflecting the current ward boundaries.

3. TAKES EFFECT

This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication of notice as required by RSA 47:18.

REQUIRES PUBLIC HEARING AND 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE OF THE COUNCIL (C1-3)



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AUTHORIZATION

Approved as to Funding: Daniel R. Lynch
Finance Director

Sponsored by: Deputy Mayor Dennis
Shanahan
Councilor Fergus Cullen
Councilor Lindsey Williams

Approved as to Legal
Form and Compliance: Joshua M. Wyatt
City Attorney

Recorded by: Susan M. Mistretta
City Clerk

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DOCUMENT HISTORY:

First Reading Date:	Public Hearing Date:
Approved Date:	Effective Date:

DOCUMENT ACTIONS:

VOTING RECORD		
Date of Vote:	YES	NO
Mayor Robert Carrier		
Deputy Mayor Dennis Shanahan		
Councilor Michelle Muffett-Lipinski, Ward 1		
Councilor Robert Hinkel, Ward 2		
Councilor Deborah Thibodeaux, Ward 3		
Councilor Debra Hackett, Ward 4		
Councilor Fergus Cullen, Ward 6		
Councilor Linnea Nemeth, At Large		
Councilor Lindsey Williams, At Large		
Total Votes:		
Ordinance does does not pass.		

ORDINANCE BACKGROUND MATERIAL:

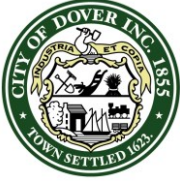
Every ten years the United States Constitution requires that a census of population be taken. As a result of that census, population for the City of Dover is updated. The census data is used to determine if, and to what extent, the City’s wards may need adjustments to maintain proportionality.

Historically, the City’s ward boundaries have been set forth in the City’s Charter. However, the coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) pandemic caused delays in the 2020 census. As a result of those delays, the City Council proposed, and voters at the November 2021 municipal election approved, amendments to the City’s Charter to enable ward boundaries to become a function of an ordinance enacted by City Council, similar to several other cities and towns in New Hampshire.

The most recent charter amendments took effect January 1, 2022. In anticipation of that, the City Council commissioned the ordinance committee to research the extent of any need for redistricting and, should a need exist, bring forward a proposed ordinance (*see* [R-2021.11.10-185](#)). At meetings in December 2021, the Ordinance Committee undertook that process, resulting in this proposed ordinance.

By way of background, in 2010 the City’s population was listed in the federal census as 29,887. For 2020, the population was determined in the federal census to be 32,741. Upon receiving the 2020 census data, City staff calculated the population change of each existing ward as summarized below:

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Ward	2010 Pop	2020 Pop	Change
1	5,013	5,162	149
2	5,046	5,855	809
3	5,089	5,766	677
4	4,974	5,452	478
5	4,875	5,481	606
6	4,990	5,025	35
	29,987	32,741	

With the goal of perfectly equal representation, each ward would have the same number of residents, or 5,457 residents. Using that as a benchmark, Wards 2 and 3 needed to send residents to wards 1 and 6 ideally not impacting wards 4 and 5. Unfortunately, it is not as easy as just shifting the boundaries a hair here and there. And, [RSA 44:4-a](#) requires that boundaries “follow easily identifiable physical features” such as “public and private ways, railroad tracks, and surface waters.”

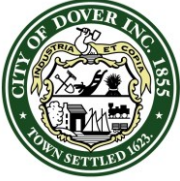
Upon review of the applicable data, the Ordinance Committee requested that staff provide no less than 3 proposed ward boundary alternatives, which would create as close to a 1% deviation (+/-) off the average as possible. This would mean each ward would have between 5,403 and 5,511 residents. Furthermore, it was noted that with the concerns about voting locations raised by two of the four privately owned properties used for voting, that staff should consider locating a polling location in each ward at a publicly owned property.

After review, staff presented five options for the Ordinance Committees review. Three of the options met the criteria of 1% deviation and a public parcel for use as a polling location. Two of the options did not meet the public polling location.

On December 20, 2021, the Ordinance Committee met and reviewed the five options and determined to focus on the three that provided public polling places. It then determined of those the option designated “epsilon” was the preferred alternative. Following the Ordinance Committee’s decision, City staff drafted this ordinance and the accompanying map based on that “epsilon” option.

The population changes by ward are summarized as follows:

Ward	2020 Pop	Proposed	Change
1	5162	5482	320
2	5855	5458	-397
3	5766	5411	-355
4	5452	5439	-13
5	5481	5450	-31



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6	5025	5501	476
	32741	32741	

In this ordinance, the following areas change ward:

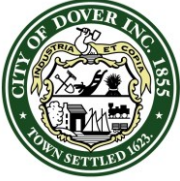
- Ward 6 to ward 1 (59 residents): The area between Old English Village Road and Glenwood Avenue/the Entrance to Shaw's Plaza from Central Avenue east to the Rollinsford town line moves from ward 6 to ward 1.
- Ward 2 to ward 1 (261 residents): The Cochecho Mill between Central Avenue and Main Street moves from ward 2 to ward 1.
- Ward 2 to ward 5 (244 residents): The area between the Cochecho River, and Saint Thomas Street, between the Community Trail and Locust Street along Washington Street, move from ward 2 to ward 5.
- Ward 3 to ward 2 (514 residents): The area between Silver Street, and Rutland Street, Central Avenue and Elm Street move from ward 3 to ward 2.
- Ward 2 to ward 3 (406 residents): The area between the Spaulding Turnpike, the Boston and Maine Railroad, Arch Street, Fisher Street and Locust Street – around Woodman Park School moves from ward 2 to ward 3.
- Ward 3 to ward 4 (247 residents): The area between the Spaulding Turnpike and Bellamy River covering Spur Road from the Spur Road overpass to the end, moves from Ward 3 to 4. The Spaulding Turnpike becomes the ward boundary the full length of wards 3 and 4.
- Ward 4 to ward 5 (260 residents): The area bounded by the Bellamy River, Durham Road and Mast Road, including Alumni Drive, Bellamy Road and Lisa Beth Circle/Drive move from ward 4 to ward 5.
- Ward 5 to ward 6 (535 residents): The Area from Tolend Road to the Cochecho River moves from ward 5 to ward 6. This includes Upper Factory Road, Glen Hill Road, and a portion of Watson Road and any roads off those roads.

It may also be important to observe that the boundaries proposed in this ordinance enable each ward to have a publicly owned location to potentially serve as polling places in the future:

Ward 1: Horne Street School

Ward 2: The Dover Arena

Ward 3: Woodman Park School



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Ward 4: Garrison Elementary School

Ward 5: Either Dover Middle or Dover High School

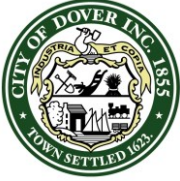
Ward 6: Riverside Rest Home.

A copy of the map showing the boundaries is attached.

For reference, a strikethrough/underline version of the current ward boundaries proposed in this ordinance, as compared to prior ward boundaries in the City's charter, is included below:

Ward One begins at the Dover/Rollinsford boundary line at ~~Hall Street~~Old English Village Road; thence following southeasterly along the Dover/Rollinsford boundary to Broadway; thence southwesterly along the center line of Broadway to the intersection with the Boston and Maine Railroad; thence southeasterly along the railroad to Central Avenue; thence southerly along the center line of Central Avenue to Chapel Street, and follows the center line of Main Street southerly to Washington Street; thence westerly along the center line of Washington Street to Chestnut Street; thence northerly along the center line of Chestnut Street to the Cochecho River; thence northerly along the center line of the Cochecho River to Spaulding Turnpike; thence following the center line of the Spaulding Turnpike northerly to its intersection with Glenwood Avenue; thence following the center line of Glenwood Avenue in a northeasterly direction to Central Avenue; thence turning northerly and running along the center line of Central Avenue, to Old English Village Road, and crossing Central Avenue ~~to a block line established by the 2010 Census and following Old English Village Road said block line~~ in an easterly direction to the Dover/Rollinsford boundary line; ~~thence following the Dover/Rollinsford boundary line a southeasterly direction~~ to the point of beginning.

Ward Two begins at Broadway and the Rollinsford/Dover boundary; thence following the Dover/Rollinsford boundary in a southeasterly direction to the confluence of the Cochecho/Piscataqua River; thence following the center line of the confluence in a northwesterly direction to a block line established by the 2010-2020 census; thence turning southwesterly to the intersection of Henry Law Avenue and Tennyson Avenue; thence following the center line of Tennyson Avenue in a southwesterly direction to Court Street; thence following the center line of Court Street in a northwesterly direction to ~~Central Avenue~~Union Street; thence following center line of ~~Central Avenue~~Union Street in a southwesterly direction to ~~Central Avenue~~Silver Street; thence following the center line of ~~Central Avenue~~Silver Street ~~southerly~~ westerly to ~~Elm~~Locust Street; thence following the center line of ~~Elm~~Locust Street in a ~~northerly~~Southerly direction to Fisher Street; thence following the center line of Fisher Street in a ~~westerly~~easterly



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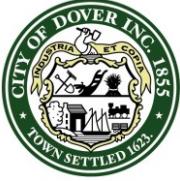
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direction to ~~Locust~~Rutland Street; thence following the center line of ~~Locust~~Rutland Street ~~northerly southerly~~ to ~~Clifford Street~~Central Avenue; thence following the center line of ~~Clifford Street~~Central Avenue westerly to ~~Towle Avenue~~the Spaulding Turnpike; thence following the center line of ~~Towle Avenue~~Spaulding Turnpike in a northwesterly direction to the intersection with ~~Silver Street~~the Boston and Maine Railroad; thence north~~westerly~~easterly across Silver Street and following the center line of Arch Street along the railroad to center line of the Washington Street; thence following the center line of Washington Street in an easterly direction to ~~Belknap Street~~the Community Trail; thence following the center line of ~~Belknap Street~~southerly Community Trail northerly to the center line of ~~Saint Thomas Street~~the Cochecho River; thence following the center line of the ~~Saint Thomas Street~~Cochecho River in an easterly direction to ~~Chestnut~~Locust Street; thence following along the center line of ~~Chestnut~~Locust Street northerly to Washington Street; thence following the center line of Washington Street easterly to ~~Central Avenue~~Main Street; thence following the center line of Main Street northerly, until Chapel Street, where it follows the centerline of Central Avenue northerly to the Boston and Maine Railroad line; thence following the Boston and Maine railroad line northeasterly to the intersection of Broadway; thence following the center line of Broadway in a northeasterly direction to the point of beginning.

Ward Three begins at the intersection of Spaulding Turnpike and ~~the Boston and Maine railroad line~~Central Avenue; thence following the center line of ~~the Boston and Maine railroad line~~Central Avenue in a northeasterly direction to ~~Locust~~Arch Street; thence following the center line of ~~Locust~~Arch Street ~~northerly-southerly~~ to Silver Street; thence crossing Silver Street to Towle Avenue, and following the centerline of Towle Avenue in a southerly direction to Clifford Street; thence following the centerline of Clifford Street in an easterly direction to Rutland Street; thence turning and following the center line of Rutland Street southerly until Fisher Street; thence following the center line of Fisher Street in an ~~westerly~~easterly direction to ~~Elm~~Locust Street; thence following the center line of ~~Elm~~Locust Street ~~southerly northerly~~ to the intersection with ~~Silver Street~~Central Avenue; thence following the center line of ~~Silver Street~~Central Avenue ~~northeasterly~~ to the intersection of ~~Central Avenue~~Union Street; thence following the center line of ~~Central Avenue~~Union Street in a northeasterly direction to Court Street; thence following the center line of Court Street southeasterly to Tennyson Avenue; thence following the center line of Tennyson Avenue in a northeasterly direction to Henry Law Avenue; thence following a block line established by the ~~2000~~2020 census in a northeasterly direction to the Cochecho River; thence following the Cochecho River southeasterly to its confluence with the Piscataqua River and the exterior block line established by the ~~2000~~2020 census located in



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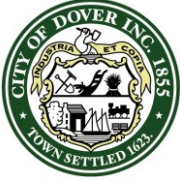
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the center of said Piscataqua River; thence following the exterior block line established by the 2020 census located in the center of the Little Bay channel where it intersects the Spaulding Turnpike at the Little Bay Bridge; thence following the exterior block line established by the 2000-2020 census located in the center of Little Bay in a northwesterly direction to a point of intersection at the common boundary corner between Dover and Madbury near the Scammel Bridge; thence following the center line of the ~~Bellamy River~~Boston Harbor Road/New Hampshire Route 4 in a ~~southeasterly northwesterly~~ direction to ~~the Spaulding Turnpike Spur Road Extension~~; thence following the center line of the ~~Spur Road Extension southerly to the intersection Spur Road~~; thence following the center line of ~~Spur Road northwesterly to the Spaulding Turnpike~~; thence following the center line of the Spaulding Turnpike in a northwesterly direction to the point of beginning.

Ward Four begins at the intersection of the Bellamy River and Central Avenue; thence following the center line of Central Avenue northeasterly to the intersection with the Spaulding Turnpike; thence following the center line of the Spaulding Turnpike in a southeasterly direction to ~~the exit 6 overpass, and tuning westerly following the centerline of the overpass to Boston Harbor Road/New Hampshire Route 4~~Spur Road; thence following the center line of ~~Boston Harbor Road/New Hampshire Route 4~~ Spur Road southwesterly to Spur Road Extension; thence following the center line of ~~Spur Road Extension in a northwesterly direction to a block line established by the 2000 Census and following said block line in a southwesterly direction to the Bellamy River~~; thence following the center line of the ~~Bellamy River in a southwesterly direction to~~ a point of intersection at the common boundary corner between Dover and Madbury near the Scammel Bridge; thence following the common boundary line between Dover and Madbury in a northwesterly direction to the center line of the ~~Bellamy River~~Mast Road; thence following the center line of ~~Mast Road southeasterly to the centerline of Durham Road~~; thence following the center line of the ~~Durham Road~~Bellamy River easterly to the point of beginning.

Ward Five begins at the ~~Rochester~~Barrington/Dover line at ~~Tolend Road~~the Cochecho River; thence following the center line of ~~Tolend Road~~ Cochecho River southeasterly to the ~~Spaulding Turnpike~~abandoned Railroad Bridge over the Cochecho River; thence following the ~~Spaulding Turnpike~~ in a northerly direction to the Cochecho River; thence following the center line of the ~~Cochecho River~~ abandoned railroad line southerly to ~~Washington~~ Chestnut Street; thence following the center line of ~~Chestnut Street southerly to~~ Washington Street; thence turning easterly and following the center line of Washington Street to Locust Street; thence turning and following Locust Street in a southerly direction to Saint Thomas Street; thence following ~~Saint Thomas Street in a~~ westerly direction to the intersection with ~~the Boston and Maine~~



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Railroad~~Belknap Street~~; thence following the center line of ~~intersection with the Boston and Maine Railroad~~Belknap Street northerly southerly to the Spaulding Turnpike~~Washington Street~~; thence following Washington Street in a westerly direction to the intersection of the Boston and Maine Railroad, thence following the Boston and Main Railroad southwesterly to the Spaulding Turnpike; ~~thence turning and following the center line of the Spaulding Turnpike~~ -in a southerly direction to Central Avenue; thence following the center line of Central Avenue southerly to the Bellamy River Bridge; then following along the center line of the ~~Bellamy River~~Durham Road in a westerly direction to Mast Road; ~~thence following the Mast Road center line in a westerly direction to~~ the Madbury/Dover/~~Barrington~~ boundary; ~~thence following the Madbury/Dover boundary in a northerly direction to the Barrington/Dover town line~~; ~~thence following the Madbury/Barrington/Dover/Barrington~~ boundary in a northwesterly direction to the point of beginning.

Ward Six begins at the point where the Dover/~~Rollinsford~~ -~~Somersworth~~ -~~Rochester~~ boundaries intersect with the center line of Old English Village Road and follows the center line of Old English Village Road westerly to Central Avenue; thence running southerly along the center line of Central Avenue ~~a block line established by the 2010 Census~~; ~~thence proceeds westerly along the block line~~ to the intersection with Glenwood Avenue; thence following the center line of Glenwood Avenue westerly to the Spaulding Turnpike; thence following the center line of the Spaulding Turnpike in a southerly direction to ~~the Cochecho River~~Tolend Road; thence following the center line of Tolend Road~~Cochecho River~~ in a northerly direction to the Dover/~~Rochester~~ -Barrington boundary line; thence following the boundary line in a northeasterly direction to the point of the Dover/Rochester/Somersworth boundary; ~~thence turning and following the Dover/Somersworth boundary southerly to the point of the~~ beginning.