



DOVER MAIN STREET – 2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

2019 was an exciting time for Dover Main Street. Our 20th Anniversary! We took the year to regroup and redefine our foundation while maintaining our dedication to continuing events pursuant to our mission and following the guidelines of the National Main Street initiative. Our Board of Directors has been reorganized somewhat to a core of hard-working volunteers operating autonomously without the assistance of a paid Program Director. Under this new structure, we look forward to entering 2020 with a renewed confidence and enthusiasm to help Dover's downtown core remain vibrant, attractive and welcoming.

March 23 Run Before You Crawl - St. Patty's Day 5K Road Race & Taste of Dover Pub Crawl



This year we had 680± registered runners participate in the race starting and ending at the Dover Transportation Center with the route following Chestnut St, Washington St, Whittier St and 6th St. With the help of Millennium Running, Mike Pomp, Dover Police details and volunteers all over the place, the event was extremely successful.



The ensuing pub crawl enjoyed the participation of 15 downtown restaurants including Cara, Asia, Empty Pint, Cinco de Mayo, Blue Latitudes, Thompson Tavern & 2nd Alarm, Gyro Spot, 603/Suppa's, Brickhouse, Ember, The Farm, Thirsty Moose, La Festa and Wing-Itz. We have no idea how many crawlers came into town, but we know it was crazy. Looking forward to Mar 14, 2020!

May 11 Dover Pride Cleanup Day



Approximately 125 volunteers from the community took time out of their busy schedules to join DMS and Dover Public Works on this beautiful Saturday morning to clean, rake, pick up trash and spread bark mulch at our 11 sites: 2nd Street, City Hall, Community Trail, Henry Law Park, Joe Parks Riverwalk, Library, McConnell Center, Skateboard Park, Smiley's Sidewalk, Train Station and the Woodman Institute.

The traditional kickoff pancake breakfast was donated by the Dover Kiwanis and the lunch was provided by Kendall Pond Pizza and Coca-Cola of Northern New England.

July 13-20 Dover Dines – Restaurant Week

Looking for a summer event, Dover Main Street moved its renowned Dover Dines/Restaurant Week into July. We had 11 restaurants participating offering meal specials at affordable prices: Cinco de Mayo, Ember, Harvey's, Wing-Itz, Blue Latitudes, Cara, Third Street Grille, Roost, La Festa, Oriental Delight and Thompson's 2nd Alarm.



October 26 Dover Downtown Trick or Treat



We were all pleasantly surprised at this year's turnout for Downtown Trick or Treat with over 600 people coming into the courtyard for bags, activities, photos and costume contest. Folks then roamed out onto the sidewalks to visit the numerous participating downtown businesses for candy! Many of these families were from out of town and experienced Dover's downtown for the first time. It was truly a joy to see how many people took their costumes to a new level.

December 7 Dover Hometown Holidays

A tradition we've carried on for several years now kick started the holiday spirit with roving Christmas caroling, ice sculpting and new this year – Elfie Selfies. Did we mention free cookies? Oh, and hot chocolate provided by the Dover Baptist Church. Santa made his customary appearance for photo ops before heading up Central Ave to weave his way in and out of the local businesses.



December 14 Annual Food Drive

Dover Main Street has another annual tradition bringing donated food to the local First Parish Church food pantry to help those less fortunate. This year we had another banner year with a huge outpouring of generosity facilitated by these local businesses putting donation boxes in their entryways: Alie Jewelers, Bending Bodhi Yoga, Blue Latitudes, Third Street Grille, Cinco de Mayo, Brick House, Days Inn, Fat Dog Kitchen, Fusion Dance Academy, Harveys, Janetos, Market Square Jewelers, My Mobile and Twenty Local Nail Boutique.



Dover Gardening Club & Beautification

Dover Main Street welcomed the newly formed Dover Gardening & Beautification Club into our ranks. They've done exquisite work adding finishing touches to locations around town. New DMS Board member Deb Clough coordinates and finds ways to make amazing results materialize out of very little money. Dover Main Street is proud to have these folks going above and beyond and looks forward to our continued synergy!



Adopt-A-Spot



There has been a renewed energy in the Adopt-A-Spot program this year. Thanks to the dedication of community volunteers, the city continues to save significantly on maintenance and grounds keeping costs at dozens of locations. Two spots right at City Hall were adopted this year! Meetings with John Storer, Joshua Wyatt and Sharon Sirois regarding the program, going over the list, removing and adding spots, clarifying what the city does for maintenance, discussing an updated License User Agreement and establishing a set of expectations have formalized our process.

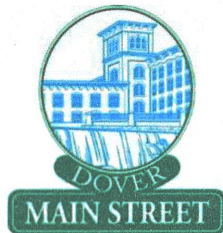
Dover Dollars

Dover Main Street actively continues the Dover Dollars program to promote spending in the downtown core. Checks are purchased and redeemed at local establishments and they make great gifts!

Changes

This year Dover Main Street negotiated the departure of two events, Dover Art Walk and Plaid Friday. It was felt that with a reduction in Board size and an upswing in downtown business initiative, it was best to let these programs go to be administered by others and focus on the events/programs we can excel at as outlined above.

We continue to seek highly motivated people to volunteer and perhaps become members of our Board. It's a very rewarding opportunity as efforts and results are highly visible. More information can be found at www.dovermainstreet.org.



The Dover Main Street Board: