



TOWN OF DURHAM

8 Newmarket Road
Durham, NH 03824
Tel: 603-868-5571
Fax: 603-868-1858
www.ci.durham.nh.us

NOTICE: Although members of the Town Council will be meeting in the Council chambers, the Council meetings are still available for members of the public to participate via Zoom or in-person.

AGENDA

DURHAM TOWN COUNCIL
MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2025
DURHAM TOWN HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00 PM

NOTE: *The Town of Durham requires 48 hours notice if special communication aids are needed.*

- I. Call to Order
- II. Town Council grants permission for fewer than a majority of Councilors to participate remotely
- III. Roll Call of Members. Those members participating remotely state why it is not reasonably practical for them to attend the meeting in person
- IV. Approval of Agenda
- V. Special Announcements – Presentation by Town Clerk Rachel Deane to this year's Top Dog Winner, Mia Slama.
- VI. Public Comments (*) – **Please state your name and address before speaking**
- VII. Report from the UNH Student Senate External Affairs Chair or Designee
- VIII. Unanimous Consent Agenda (*Requires unanimous approval. Individual items may be removed by any councilor for separate discussion and vote*)
 - A. Shall the Town Council Adopt **Resolution #2025-12**, for the Authorization of Bonds and Approval of a Loan Agreement With the New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank?
 - B. Shall the Town Council, Upon Recommendation of the Administrator, Approve a Special Event Permit Application Submitted by Durham Parks & Recreation to close certain sections of Town Roads for Downtown Durham Day to be held on Thursday, August 7, 2025?

- C. Shall the Town Council adopt **Resolution #2025-13** reaffirming Juneteenth Independence Day as a Legally Recognized Holiday and reaffirming Durham's Opposition to any form of Oppression?
- D. Shall the Town Council unseal the Nonpublic Session minutes from the year 2015 dated May 18 and July 20; from the year 2016 dated November 7; and from the year 2017 dated March 20?

IX. Committee Appointments

X. Presentation Items

- A. Presentation by Executive Director, Jen Kennedy, Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation, on what they do and what they have collected from the shores of Durham.
- B. Receive annual report on the Human Rights Commission activities and projects – Richard Belshaw, Chair

XI. Councilor and Town Administrator Roundtable

XII. Unfinished Business

Continued Discussion Regarding the Development of Town Council Goals for FY 2025/26.

XIII. Approval of Minutes - May 19, 2025

XIV. New Business

XV. Nonpublic Session (if required)

XVI. Adjourn (NLT 10:30 PM)

() The public comment portion of the Council meeting is to allow members of the public to address matters of public concern regarding town government for up to 5 minutes. Obscene, violent, disruptive, disorderly comments, or those likely to induce violence, disruption or disorder, are not permitted and will not be tolerated. Complaints regarding Town staff should be directed to the Administrator.*



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AGENDA ITEM: **# 5**
DATE: June 2, 2025

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

INITIATED BY: Rachel Deane, Town Clerk/Tax Collector

AGENDA ITEM: PRESENTATION BY TOWN CLERK RACHEL DEANE TO THIS YEAR'S TOP DOG WINNER, MIA SLAMA.

CC PREPARED BY: Karen Edwards, Administrative Assistant

PRESENTED BY: Rachel Deane, Town Clerk/Tax Collector

AGENDA DESCRIPTION:

The Town of Durham Top Dog raffle was created to motivate and remind dog owners to license their pets every year by April 30. Residents automatically register for the Top Dog raffle when they obtain a dog license before April 30. The winner of the Top Dog raffle receives a gift basket donated by the town clerk and their dog's biography will be featured in the Durham Friday Updates.

RULES & REGULATIONS

- Contestants will automatically be entered into the raffle when they register their dog(s) before April 30 (only open to Durham residents).
- Residents who DO NOT want to be included in the raffle may opt out by writing, calling, or emailing the clerk's office.
- Contestants must be 18 or older and be the owner of the dog on file with the clerk's office. Town of Durham employees and elected officials are not eligible.
- The contestant must have a 2025 Town of Durham dog license by April 30. A current rabies vaccination will be required to obtain the license.
- The raffle winner may submit a digital photo and brief biography of their dog. Photos of the 2025 raffle winner's dog will be included in the Durham Friday Update.

- The winner will be drawn at random by the clerk's office in May 2025.

This year's Top Dog Winner is Mia Slama (owners Fred & Emily Slama). Mia is a 5-year-old Brussels Griffon-Terrier mix with a gentle temperament and a friendly, social nature. She's happiest when she's around people, playing ball in the yard, or enjoying a spirited game of tug-of-war. With her cheerful personality and wagging tail, Mia brings joy wherever she goes.

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

N/A

LEGAL OPINION:

N/A

FINANCIAL DETAILS:

N/A

SUGGESTED ACTION OR RECOMMENDATIONS:

No formal action required. Receive presentation from Town Clerk/Tax Collector Rachel Deane.



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AGENDA ITEM: **#8A** *TS*

DATE: **June 2, 2025**

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

INITIATED BY: Gail Jablonski, Business Manager

AGENDA ITEM: SHALL THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPT RESOLUTION #2025-12, FOR THE AUTHORIZATION OF BONDS AND APPROVAL OF A LOAN AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW HAMPSHIRE MUNICIPAL BOND BANK?

CC PREPARED BY: Gail Jablonski, Business Manager

PRESENTED BY: Todd I. Selig, Administrator

AGENDA DESCRIPTION:

On May 19, 2025, the Town Council held a public hearing on and subsequently approved Resolution #2025-11 authorizing the issuance of long-term debt not to exceed Fourteen Million, Three Hundred and Thirty-Seven Thousand, and Three Hundred Dollars (\$14,337,300) for the purpose of bonding various 2014-2025 capital projects and equipment purchases.

Renelle L'Huillier, Bond Counsel for the Town of Durham, is currently working with the Business Office on completing the 2025 NH Municipal Bond Bank sale. The Town will be responsible for fees payable to our Bond Counsel, Devine, Millimet & Branch, in the range of \$8,000 - \$10,000.

The final step in this process is to approve authorization of bonds and the approval of a Loan Agreement between the New Hampshire Bond Bank and the Town. Attached for the Council's review is a draft resolution which contains specific language required by the Bond Bank in order to finalize this matter.

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

Section 5.12 of the Durham Town Charter enables the Town Council to approve the issuance of bonds or notes for less than \$2,300,000 per issue after holding a duly advertised public hearing and further stipulates that for the purposes of borrowing, the Town of Durham shall have all the powers and duties vested with a city. The public hearing was held on May 19, 2025. NH RSA 33:9 authorizes the issuance of bonds by a city, by resolution of the Council, **passed by at least 2/3 of all Council members.**

LEGAL OPINION:

Renelle L'Huillier, Bond Counsel for the Town of Durham, is working with the Business Office on this issue and will be offering a legal opinion to prospective bond buyers as to whether all laws and policies have been followed.

FINANCIAL DETAILS:

The total amount of bonding will be distributed as follows:

General Fund	\$7,153,100
Water Fund	\$3,974,400
Wastewater Fund	\$3,099,800
Parking Fund	\$ 110,000

SUGGESTED ACTION OR RECOMMENDATIONS:

MOTION:

The Durham Town Council does hereby ADOPT Resolution #2025-12 (as presented / as amended), for the Authorization of Bonds and Approval of a Loan Agreement with the New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank.

RESOLUTION #2025-12 OF DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

AUTHORIZATION OF BONDS AND APPROVAL OF LOAN AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW HAMPSHIRE MUNICIPAL BOND BANK

WHEREAS, that under and pursuant to the Municipal Finance Act, Chapter 33, N.H.R.S.A., as amended, the New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank Law, Chapter 35-A, N.H.R.S.A., as amended, and other laws in addition thereto, and to votes of the Issuer duly adopted on December 16, 2013 under Resolution No. 2013-28, December 17, 2018 under Resolution No. 2018-23, on December 22, 2020 under Resolution 2020-21, on December 20, 2021 under Resolution 2021-15 and on December 19, 2022 under Resolution 2022-28, on December 4, 2023 under Resolution 2023-30 and on December 16, 2024 under Resolution 2024-26 there be and hereby is authorized the issuance of a \$14,337,300 Bond of the Issuer (the "Bond") which is being issued by the Issuer for the purpose of financing miscellaneous capital expenditures as set forth in such Resolutions.

The Bond shall be dated as of its date of issuance, shall be in such numbers and denominations as the purchaser shall request, shall mature in accordance with the schedule set forth in Exhibit A to a certain Loan Agreement hereinafter described (the "Loan Agreement"), shall bear a net interest cost rate (as defined in the Loan Agreement) of five and one quarter percent (5.25%) per annum or such lesser amount as may be determined by a majority of the Board. The Bond shall be substantially in the form set forth as Exhibit B to the Loan Agreement and otherwise shall be issued in such manner and form as the signatories shall approve by their execution thereof.

WHEREAS, that the Bond shall be sold to the Bond Bank at the par value thereof plus any applicable premium;
and

WHEREAS, that in order to evidence the sale of the Bond, the Treasurer of Issuer and a member of the Board are authorized and directed to execute, attest and deliver, in the name and on behalf of the Issuer, a Loan Agreement in substantially the form submitted to this meeting, which is hereby approved, with such changes therein not inconsistent with this vote and approved by the officers executing the same on behalf of the Issuer. The approval of such changes by said officers shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution of the Loan Agreement by such officers; and

WHEREAS, that all things heretofore done, and all action heretofore taken by the Issuer and its officers and agents in its authorization of the project to be financed by the Bond are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed; and

WHEREAS, that the Clerk and the signers of the Bond are each hereby authorized to take any and all action necessary and convenient to carry out the provisions of this vote, including delivering the Bond against payment therefor; and

WHEREAS, that the useful lives of the project being financed are in excess of five (5), ten (10 and twenty (20) years; and

WHEREAS, further certify that said meeting was open to the public; the aforesaid vote was not taken by secret ballot nor in executive session; that notice of the time and place of said meeting was posted in at least two (2) appropriate public places within the territorial limits of the Issuer, or published in a newspaper of general circulation in said areas, at least twenty-four (24) hours, excluding Sundays and legal holidays, before said meeting; that no deliberations or actions with respect to the vote were taken in executive session; and that the minutes of said meeting have been promptly recorded and have been or will be made open to inspection not more than five (5) business days after the meeting, all in accordance with Chapter 91-A, N.H.R.S.A., as amended; and

WHEREAS, further certify that the above vote has not been amended or rescinded and remains in full force and effect as of this date.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Durham Town Council, the governing and legislative body of the Town of Durham, New Hampshire does hereby approve **Resolution #2025-12** on the authorization of bonds and approval of a Loan Agreement with the New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of June, 2025 by a two-thirds vote of the Durham Town Council with ___ affirmative votes, ___ negative votes, and ___ abstentions.

Joe Friedman, Chair
Durham Town Council

ATTEST:

Rachel Deane, Town Clerk-Tax Collector



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AGENDA ITEM: **#8B** *TS*

DATE: June 2, 2025

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

INITIATED BY: Durham Parks & Recreation

AGENDA ITEM: SHALL THE TOWN COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR, APPROVE A SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY DURHAM PARKS & RECREATION TO CLOSE CERTAIN SECTIONS OF TOWN ROADS FOR DOWNTOWN DURHAM DAY TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2025?

CC PREPARED BY: Karen Edwards, Administrative Assistant

PRESENTED BY: Todd Selig, Administrator

AGENDA DESCRIPTION:

Attached is a special event/road closure permit application submitted by Durham Parks & Recreation requesting that certain portions of town roads be closed beginning from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 7, 2025, for Downtown Durham Day.

The application has been reviewed by the appropriate town departments and has been approved by them. The Administrator therefore recommends approval of this special event and road closure permit.

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

RSA 41:11 "Regulation of Use of Highways, Etc.", and RSA 47:17 VII "Use of Public Ways" authorize the Town Council to regulate the use of public highways.

LEGAL OPINION:

N/A

FINANCIAL DETAILS:

N/A

SUGGESTED ACTION OR RECOMMENDATIONS:

MOTION:

The Town Council, upon recommendation of the Administrator, does hereby approve a Special Event Permit Application Submitted by Durham Parks & Recreation to close certain sections of Town Roads for Downtown Durham Day to be held on Thursday, August 7, 2025.



TOWN OF DURHAM

100 Stone Quarry Drive, Durham, NH 03824

TEL: (603) 868-5578

FAX: (603) 868-8063

Email: publicworks@ci.durham.nh.us

PERMIT APPLICATION

Revised: 2/18/19

TYPE OF PERMIT (Please check one):

Special Event

Road Closure Request

Use of Town Property

LOCATION WHERE EVENT WILL OCCUR: 66 Main, Jenkins Cr., Downtown Main St.

DAY & DATE OF EVENT: Thurs. Aug 7th TIME(S) OF EVENT: 5:30- 8pm

DURATION OF EVENT (Including set up and breakdown time): 7hs

NAME OF APPLICANT/ORGANIZATION: Durham Parks + Recreation

NAME OF EVENT: Downtown Durham Day

PERSONAL CONTACT FOR THIS EVENT: Rachel Gasowski

ADDRESS: 2 Dover Rd.

TELEPHONE NO.: DAY: (603) 817-4074 EVENING: (603) 254-6178

EMAIL: rgasowski@ci.durham.nh.us

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST (Pertaining to amplified music, location, route of travel. Please attach maps denoting routes and road closures):

- Road Closure from Jenkins Cr to Main St. Barber on Main St. Jenkins Cr. Closed. * 4:30 pm Road Closure for both Main St. & Jenkins. Reopen by 8:30 pm *
- Use of Duffer parking spots & lawn area @ 66 Main.
- Amplified Music, Activity Stations & Info tables set up throughout 66 Main, Jenkins & Downtown Main St.
- * Requesting assistance from DPW w/ Road Closure/Detour, Trash & recycling.

ANTICIPATED NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 500

ANTICIPATED NUMBER OF VEHICLES: 150

* Requesting assistance from Police w/ traffic & crowd control

* Requesting assistance from Fire w/ Event Safety & barricades

Thank You!

CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE INFORMATION

As evidence of its financial ability to indemnify the Town of Durham, during the term of this agreement, the applicant shall obtain and pay premiums for Commercial General Liability insurance protecting the parties hereto, their agents, officers, elected officials, representatives, or employees because of bodily injury, property damage, personal injury or products liability incurred by the parties in the performance of the terms of this lease, such policy to provide limits no less than \$1 million per occurrence. A Certificate of Insurance naming the Town of Durham as an Additional Insured shall be provided.

Insurance Carrier: Pr:mex

Policy Number and Expiration Date: _____

The undersigned hereby agrees, at its sole cost and expense, to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Town of Durham and all associated, affiliated, allied and subsidiary entities of the Town, now existing or hereinafter created, and their respective officers, boards, commissions, employees, agents, and contractors (hereinafter referred to as "indemnities") from and against any and all liability, obligation, damages, penalties, claims, liens, costs, charges, losses and expenses which may be imposed upon, incurred by or asserted against the indemnities by reason of any act or omission of the undersigned, its personnel, employees, agents, contractors or subcontractors which results in damage or injury of any kind to any person or any property and which arises out of or is in any way connected with the activities permitted by this permit.

Rachel Gasowski [Signature] 5/15/25
Printed Name and Signature of Event Coordinator/applicant Date

Printed Name and Signature of Principal/Owner/Authorizing Authority Date

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Reviewed by DPW [Signature]
Comments: 5.11.25

Reviewed by PD * Will post three officers for detail.
Comments:

Reviewed by FD See attached Fire Department conditions of permit approval
Comments:

Reviewed by P&R [Signature]
Comments:

Approved: _____
Todd I. Selig, Administrator Date

John Baker

From: David Holmstock
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 3:05 PM
To: John Baker; Richard Reine; David Emanuel
Cc: Jennifer Johnson; Aimee Routhier; Kelley Fowler; Shannon Shaw
Subject: RE: Special Events Permit Application - Parks and Rec - Downtown Durham Day - 8/7/2025

The police department supports the application as submitted. We will post three officers for the detail as in the years past.

Respectfully,

David Holmstock
Deputy Chief
Durham Police Department
86 Dover Road
Durham, NH 03824
FBINA-224th - HSLA #2
603-868-2324
D-603-590-0765

From: John Baker <jbaker@ci.durham.nh.us>
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 2:55 PM
To: Richard Reine <rreine@ci.durham.nh.us>; David Holmstock <dholmstock@ci.durham.nh.us>; David Emanuel <david.emmanuel@unh.edu>
Cc: Jennifer Johnson <jjohnson@ci.durham.nh.us>; Aimee Routhier <Aimee.Routhier@unh.edu>; Kelley Fowler <Kelley.Fowler@unh.edu>; Shannon Shaw <sshaw@ci.durham.nh.us>
Subject: Special Events Permit Application - Parks and Rec - Downtown Durham Day - 8/7/2025

Good afternoon:

Durham Parks and Recreation has submitted a Special Events Permit Application for Downtown Durham Day – 8/7/2025.

The locations will be 66 Main St., Jenkins Ct., Downtown Main St.

Road closures are requested 4:30pm on both Jenkins Ct. And Main St.

- Requesting assistance from **DPW** w/ Road Closure/Detour, Trash and Recycling.
- Requesting assistance from **Police** w/ Traffic and Crowd Control.
- Requesting assistance from **Fire** w/ Event Safety and Barricades.

Thank you for your review and comments.

John C. Baker
Administrative Assistant at Durham Public Works
Phone: 603-868-5578
Web: www.ci.durham.nh.us/publicworks
Email: jbaker@ci.durham.nh.us
100 Stone Quarry Drive Durham, NH 03824

John Baker

From: Kelley Fowler <Kelley.Fowler@unh.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 9:15 AM
To: John Baker; Richard Reine; David Holmstock; David Emanuel
Cc: Jennifer Johnson; Shannon Shaw
Subject: RE: Special Events Permit Application - Parks and Rec - Downtown Durham Day - 8/7/2025

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

John,

Per Chief Emanuel, the fire department supports the application as submitted.

Kelley Fowler
Administrative Assistant
Durham Fire Department
51 College Road, Durham, NH 03824
Kelley.fowler@unh.edu
(603) 862-1426 Office
(603) 862-7746 Direct
(603) 862-1513 Fax
"Our Family Protecting Your Family"



From: John Baker <jbaker@ci.durham.nh.us>
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 2:55 PM
To: Richard Reine <rreine@ci.durham.nh.us>; David Holmstock <dholmstock@ci.durham.nh.us>; David Emanuel <david.emmanuel@unh.edu>
Cc: Jennifer Johnson <jjohnson@ci.durham.nh.us>; Aimee Routhier <Aimee.Routhier@unh.edu>; Kelley Fowler <Kelley.Fowler@unh.edu>; Shannon Shaw <sshaw@ci.durham.nh.us>
Subject: Special Events Permit Application - Parks and Rec - Downtown Durham Day - 8/7/2025

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the University System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon:

Durham Parks and Recreation has submitted a Special Events Permit Application for Downtown Durham Day – 8/7/2025.

The locations will be 66 Main St., Jenkins Crt., Downtown Main St.



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AGENDA ITEM: **#8C TS**

DATE: June 2, 2025

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

INITIATED BY: The Town Council

AGENDA ITEM: **SHALL THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPT RESOLUTION #2025-13 REAFFIRMING JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY AS A LEGALLY RECOGNIZED HOLIDAY AND REAFFIRMING DURHAM'S OPPOSITION TO ANY FORM OF OPPRESSION.**

CC PREPARED BY: Karen Edwards, Administrative Assistant

PRESENTED BY: Todd Selig, Administrator

AGENDA DESCRIPTION:

Two years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay Texas with the first news of the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. "More than 250,000 African Americans embraced freedom by executive decree in what became known as Juneteenth or Freedom Day" according to the Nation Museum of African American History and Culture (read more at <https://nmaahc.si.edu/juneteenth>).

Resolution 269 of the US Senate passed unanimously in 2021 recognizing June 19th as "Juneteenth Independence Day." President Biden then signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law making Juneteenth a Federal Holiday. New Hampshire was one of the last states in the country to recognize Juneteenth, and last year it became a paid holiday for Town employees.

Durham is reaffirming its previous joining of the long list of communities, which it also did in 2024 through Resolution #2024-15, that recognize Juneteenth Independence Day by passing the proposed resolution.

There are variations, albeit minor, in the reported history around Juneteenth. For example, some sources state it was celebrated in Texas in the years after 1865 while other sources say it was celebrated in Texas and southwestern states. The resolution, as presented, relies on the US Senate resolution for the holiday's background, and on the Presidential Proclamation about Juneteenth's significance to all Americans. Both the Senate resolution and the Presidential Proclamation are provided below. The text highlighted in blue is used in Durham's resolution as presented.

Lastly, there is significant concern and frustration about what is called the "misappropriation" of Juneteenth for commercial, political and other purposes. Jemar Tisby reminds us in a Boston Globe opinion piece (<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/06/17/opinion/unintended-consequences-making-juneteenth-national-holiday/?event=event12>) that "In the clamor to show that Juneteenth is important to all people, Black people should maintain their central place in the story." He goes on to say "Instead of succumbing to lazy historical memory, Juneteenth should be an opportunity to educate and reeducate people about slavery, racism, white supremacy, and Black resistance.... We need to speak of the monumental efforts Black people took to wrestle their freedom from the clutches of injustice."

2021 Senate Resolution 269

A resolution designating June 19, 2021, as "Juneteenth Independence Day" in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which news of the end of slavery reached the slaves in the Southwestern States.

Whereas news of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, in particular the State of Texas and the other Southwestern States, until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863;

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and the enslaved were free;

Whereas African Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as "Juneteenth Independence Day", as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas African Americans from the Southwest have continued the tradition of observing Juneteenth Independence Day for more than 150 years;

Whereas Juneteenth Independence Day began as a holiday in the State of Texas and is now celebrated in 48 States and the District of Columbia as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States;

Whereas Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures;

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and the descendants of former slaves remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race;

Whereas slavery was not officially abolished until the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in December 1865; and

Whereas, over the course of its history, the United States has grown into a symbol of democracy and freedom around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate –

- (1) designates June 19, 2021, as “Juneteenth Independence Day”;
- (2) recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the United States;
- (3) supports the continued nationwide celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to [provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the United States](#); and
- (4) recognizes that the observance of the end of slavery is part of the history and heritage of the United States.

A Proclamation on Juneteenth Day of Observance, 2021, President Joseph Biden, June 18, 2021

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2022, as Juneteenth Day of Observance. I call upon the people of the United States to acknowledge and condemn the history of slavery in our Nation and recognize how the impact of America’s original sin remains. I call on every [American to celebrate the emancipation of all Black Americans](#)

and commit together to eradicate systemic racism and inequity that can never be tolerated and must always be fought against.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

N/A

LEGAL OPINION:

N/A

FINANCIAL DETAILS:

N/A

SUGGESTED ACTION OR RECOMMENDATIONS:

MOTION:

The Durham Town Council does hereby adopt Resolution #2025-13 reaffirming Juneteenth Independence Day as a Legally Recognized Holiday and reaffirming Durham's Opposition to Any Form of Oppression.

RESOLUTION #2025-13 OF DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

REAFFIRMING JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY AS A LEGALLY RECOGNIZED HOLIDAY AND REAFFIRMING DURHAM'S OPPOSITION TO ANY FORM OF OPPRESSION.

WHEREAS, news of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, in particular the State of Texas and the other Southwestern States, until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and the enslaved were free; and

WHEREAS, African Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as "Juneteenth Independence Day", as inspiration and encouragement for future generations; and

WHEREAS, African Americans from the Southwest have continued the tradition of observing Juneteenth Independence Day for more than 150 years; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth Independence Day is now a recognized federal holiday as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States and is now a Durham Town Holiday for non-union personnel;

WHEREAS, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures; and

WHEREAS, the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and the descendants of former slaves remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race; and

WHEREAS, systems of oppression including Jim Crow, sharecropping and redlining diminished African American wealth into the twentieth century, and inequities remain to this day; and

WHEREAS, the Juneteenth Presidential Proclamation calls for Americans to celebrate the emancipation of all Black Americans and commit together to eradicate systemic racism that can never be tolerated and must always be fought against; and

WHEREAS, slavery was legal, condoned, and existed in Durham for many years; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Durham has a long history of supporting emancipation and the rights of every human, including recognition in the Congressional Record of May 21, 1838, of the pro-abolition acts of Lucy Parker and 118 other women of Durham in the State of New Hampshire.

WHEREAS, the Town of Durham first adopted Resolution #2023-17 on June 5, 2023, recognizing Juneteenth Independence Day as a local holiday.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Durham Town Council, the governing and legislative body of the Town of Durham, New Hampshire, does hereby adopt **Resolution #2025-13** reaffirming its recognition of June 19th this year and each year going forward as Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of Durham to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the United States.

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Juneteenth Independence Day recognizes the important role of emancipation, and that the Town of Durham respects the dignity of every human being and opposes any form of oppression.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of June, 2025 by a majority vote of the Durham Town Council with _____ voting in favor, _____ voting against, and _____ abstentions.

Joe Friedman, Chair
Durham Town Council

ATTEST:

Rachel Dean, Town Clerk-Tax Collector



TOWN OF DURHAM

8 Newmarket Road
Durham, NH 03824
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Fax: 603-868-1858
www.ci.durham.nh.us

AGENDA ITEM: **#8D**

DATE: June 2, 2025

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

INITIATED BY: Administrator Todd Selig

AGENDA ITEM: SHALL THE TOWN COUNCIL UNSEAL THE NONPUBLIC SESSION MINUTES FROM THE YEAR 2015 DATED MAY 18 AND JULY 20; FROM THE YEAR 2016 DATED NOVEMBER 7; AND FROM THE YEAR 2017 DATED MARCH 20?

CC PREPARED BY: Karen Edwards, Administrative Assistant

PRESENTED BY: Todd I. Selig, Administrator

AGENDA DESCRIPTION:

The process for Nonpublic Session minutes is stated in RSA 91 A:3 as follows:

III. Minutes of meetings in nonpublic session shall be kept and the record of all actions shall be promptly made available for public inspection, except as provided in this section. Minutes of such sessions shall record all actions in such a manner that the vote of each member is ascertained and recorded. Minutes and decisions reached in nonpublic session shall be publicly disclosed within 72 hours of the meeting, unless, by recorded vote of 2/3 of the members present taken in public session, it is determined that divulgence of the information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of the public body itself, or render the proposed action ineffective, or pertain to terrorism, more specifically, to matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of all emergency functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life. This shall include training to carry out such functions. In the event of such circumstances, information may be withheld until, in the opinion of a majority of members, the aforesaid circumstances no longer apply. For all meetings held in nonpublic session, where the minutes or decisions were determined to not be subject to full public disclosure, a list of such minutes or decisions shall be kept and this list shall be made available as soon as practicable for public disclosure. This list shall identify the public body and include the date and time of the meeting in nonpublic session, the specific exemption under paragraph II on its face which is relied upon as foundation for the nonpublic session, the date of the decision to withhold the minutes or decisions from public disclosure, and the

date of any subsequent decision, if any, to make the minutes or decisions available for public disclosure. Minutes related to a discussion held in nonpublic session under subparagraph II(d) shall be made available to the public as soon as practicable after the transaction has closed or the public body has decided not to proceed with the transaction.

IV. (a) A public body or agency may adopt procedures to review minutes of meetings held in nonpublic session and to determine by majority vote whether the circumstances that justified keeping meeting minutes from the public under RSA 91-A:3, III no longer apply. If the public body determines that those circumstances no longer apply, the minutes shall be available for release to the public pursuant to this chapter.

*(b) In the absence of an adopted procedure to review and determine whether the circumstances no longer apply for meeting minutes kept from the public, the public body or agency shall review and determine by majority vote whether the circumstances that justified keeping meeting minutes from the public under RSA 91 A:3, III no longer apply. This review shall occur no more than 10 years from the last time the public body voted to prevent the minutes from being subject to public disclosure. **Meeting minutes that were kept from the public prior to the effective date of this paragraph that are not reviewed by the public body or agency within 10 years of the effective date of this paragraph shall be subject to public disclosure without further action of the public body.***

This statute was revised in 2023 to contain the last highlighted section. The Town of Durham has sealed nonpublic minutes dating back to 2000. Throughout this year, these minutes will be brought to the Council to determine if they should remain sealed or be unsealed for public viewing. At this meeting the nonpublic minutes from the year 2015, 2016 & 2017 will be reviewed. The Administrator has reviewed the minutes from the meetings listed and has determined there is no longer a valid reason to keep the minutes sealed.

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

RSA 91 A:3

LEGAL OPINION:

N/A

FINANCIAL DETAILS:

N/A

SUGGESTED ACTION OR RECOMMENDATIONS:

MOTION:

The Town Council does hereby unseal the Nonpublic Session minutes from the year 2015 dated May 18 and July 20; from the year 2016 dated November 7; and from the year 2017 dated March 20.



TOWN OF DURHAM

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AGENDA ITEM: **#10A**
DATE: June 2, 2025

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

INITIATED BY: Todd Selig, Administrator

AGENDA ITEM: PRESENTATION BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JEN KENNEDY, BLUE OCEAN SOCIETY FOR MARINE CONSERVATION, ON WHAT THEY DO AND WHAT THEY HAVE COLLECTED FROM THE SHORES OF DURHAM.

CC PREPARED BY: Karen Edwards, Administrative Assistant

PRESENTED BY: Jen Kennedy, Executive Director

AGENDA DESCRIPTION:

On August 12, 2024, Jen Kennedy of Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation gave a presentation to the Town Council on debris that the Society had collected from Durham's shoreline. Administrator Selig asked that they come back to the Council again this year and present their current work in trash clean-up as well as their Whale Research Summary.

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

N/A

LEGAL OPINION:

N/A

FINANCIAL DETAILS:

N/A

SUGGESTED ACTION OR RECOMMENDATIONS:

No formal action required. Receive presentation by Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation.



Dear Elected Official,

I hope this message finds you well.

Enclosed are the **2024 marine debris cleanup results from Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation**, highlighting the impact of beach cleanups across the region. Thanks to the dedication of thousands of volunteers, we conducted hundreds of cleanups, removing thousands of pounds of debris from local shorelines.

This report provides a detailed breakdown of the data collected, including the most common debris items, the total weight of trash removed, and cleanup efforts by town. These numbers reflect the ongoing challenges of marine pollution and the vital role that community cleanups play in protecting our coastlines, marine life, and local economies.

As marine debris continues to be a growing environmental issue, we appreciate your commitment to conservation efforts. We would love to explore ways to work together to further reduce plastic pollution and keep our ocean clean.

Please feel free to ask any questions about our programs, research, or opportunities to collaborate. Thank you for your time and support in protecting our coastal environment!

Sincerely,

Nikki Tenaglia

Nikki Tenaglia
Community Engagement Coordinator
nikki@blueoceansociety.org

Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation
400 Little Harbour Road, #1104
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Beach Cleanup Results

MA, ME, NH • 2024

**9,221
plastic
wrappers**

**2,557
plastic
straws**

**1,188
plastic food
containers**

**7,584
plastic
bottle caps**

How many Atlantic white-sided dolphins would equal the weight of litter collected in 2024?

Find the answer inside!

400 Little Harbor Road #1103
Portsmouth, NH 03801
(603) 431-0260

www.blueoceansociety.org

The 2024 Trash Tally

Since 2001, Blue Ocean Society, with the help of our community have been cleaning beaches along the Gulf of Maine. Data gathered from these cleanups help prevent marine pollution. Check out what we accomplished together in 2024!

- 293 cleanups
- 160,811 items collected
- 8,212 lbs removed
- 4,055 volunteers



Cleanup volunteers of all ages serving the ocean and collecting data!

Top 10 Litter Items

We collected these items from beaches the most often. Almost all of these items are made of plastic.

Read more about the litter we found at... blueoceansociety.org/cleanup-data

	Item Name	Count
1	Cigarette butts/filters	22,175
2	Other (firework remnants, fabric, etc.)	20,665
3	Plastic pieces (5mm-2.5cm)	10,538
4	Plastic pieces (5mm or less)	9,521
5	Other unknown plastic (> 10 cm)	9,325
6	Wrappers - Plastic	9,221
7	Bottle caps - Plastic	7,584
8	Rope scraps (smaller than 1m/yd)	7,097
9	Plastic pieces (2.5cm-10cm)	6,935
10	Foam pieces (5mm-2.5cm)	5,726

Did you know cigarette filters are made of plastic? This is our top beach litter item year after year!



Where did we clean?

Our cleanups spanned 38 coastal sites from Portland, ME to Revere, MA.

The most frequently-cleaned beaches were Hampton Main Beach in Hampton, NH and Jenness Beach in Rye, NH.

Did we clean your favorite beach? Find out more at blueoceansociety.org/cleanup-data.

We record litter found on the open ocean during whale watches, too!

The top litter items found at sea were balloons and plastic wrappers.



The weight of litter collected in 2024 is equivalent to 16 full-grown male Atlantic white-sided dolphins!



Hold on to your line!
Fishing line entangles marine life.
Recycle your line in one of our bins at local marinas and tackle shops.



54,227 of the debris collected were single-use plastic items, equaling 34% of all items. Some of those items are:

- Wrappers
- Bottles & caps
- Straws
- Zip ties (cable ties)
- Strapping bands
- Grocery bags
- Produce bags
- Trash bags
- Foam cups
- Balloons



What single-use plastic item in your life can you replace with something reusable, non-plastic, or thrifted?

Join us!

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers that adopted a beach and clean it monthly.

Albers Family
Allagash Brewery
Bill Hall
Christine Ward
Costello Family
Chuck Sampson

Club Finz of Southern Maine
East Coast Cannabis
FUUSE/PEA
I Got Bridged
Maia Manesis Naylor
NH Climate Action

NH DES Coastal Program
Riley Levesque
Rod Mattson
Seacoast Paddleboard Club
Sophie Pike
Work Opportunities Unlimited

Thank you to all of our cleanup partners who clean beaches with us year after year.

Aland Realty
AmWins
Apple Store
Berwick Academy
Bow High School
Breakthrough Manchester
Chinburg
Chop Shop 166
Coach
Conval Regional High School
Deltek
Dover High School
Durgin Pines
Enterprise Mobility
Exeter Subaru
First Citizens Bank #2
Flatbread Company
Gathering Waters Charter High School
GE Aerospace

Girls Inc. of NH
Governor's Academy
Granite State Credit Union
Granite United Way
Great Bay Charter School
Henry J. McLaughlin Middle School
International Association of Privacy Professionals
Jobs for America's Graduates
John Hancock Signature Services
Jordan Park Group
Lincoln Akerman School
Little Harbour School
Londonderry High School
Lonza Biologics
Manchester West High School
MegaFood
Milford Girl Scouts
National Association of Women in Construction

NESC Staffing
New Hampton School
NH Certified B Corporations
Nottingham Elementary
Novocure
Nute Middle High School
Oyster River High School
Philips Exeter Academy
Pinkerton Academy
Planet Fitness
Point32Health
Portsmouth High School
Project Management Institute
Prospect Mountain High School
Stonyfield
Santander
Seacoast Financial Planning
Southern New Hampshire University

St. Thomas Aquinas High School
Starbucks
Temple Israel Manchester
The Derryfield School
The Seacoast Board of REALTORS®
The World Affairs Council of NH
Thornton Academy
Timberland
Trillium Flow Technologies
UKG
University of New Hampshire
Until
Voya Financial
Water Country
Whole Foods Market
Wilton Lyndeborough Cooperative High School
Winfield Children's House

Thank you to our major sponsors:



This work was funded, in part, by NOAA's Office for Coastal Management under the Coastal Zone Management Act in conjunction with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program

Our mission is to protect marine life in the Gulf of Maine through research, education and inspiring action. Join us for a beach cleanup, whale watch, or educational program, and visit our Blue Ocean Discovery Center!

To learn more, visit us online or connect with us on social media!

400 Little Harbor Road #1103, Portsmouth, NH 03801

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www.blueoceansociety.org





2024 WHALE RESEARCH SUMMARY



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www.blueoceansociety.org

Our Whale Research Program

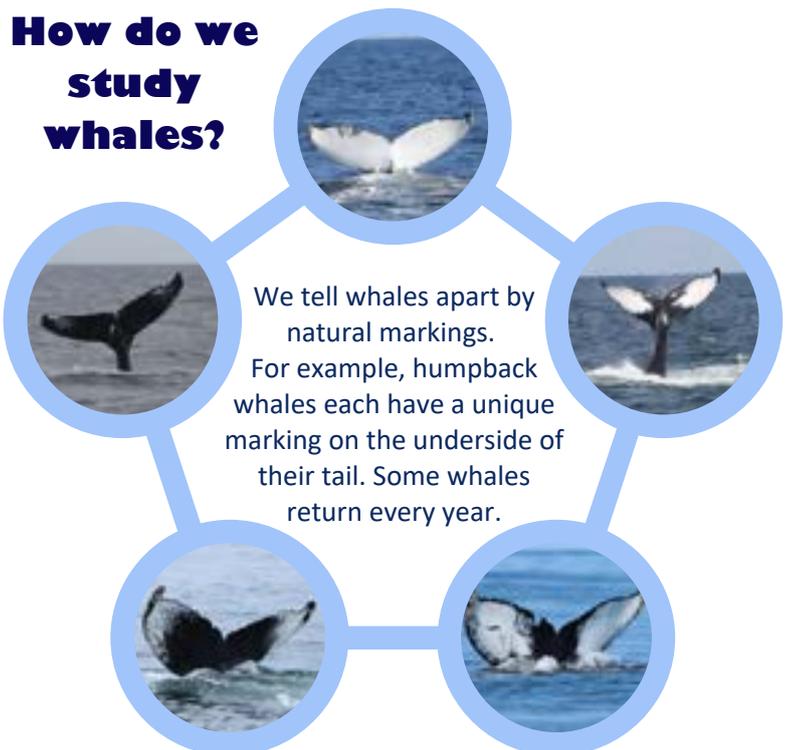
The Gulf of Maine is warming faster than 99% of the rest of the world's oceans. Temperature changes shift the distribution of whales and their prey, making whales vulnerable to human activities. Documenting what is happening in our local waters is more important than ever.

The health of local whale populations reflects the health of the Gulf of Maine as a whole. We aim to study whale behavior and distribution in order to mitigate human impacts.

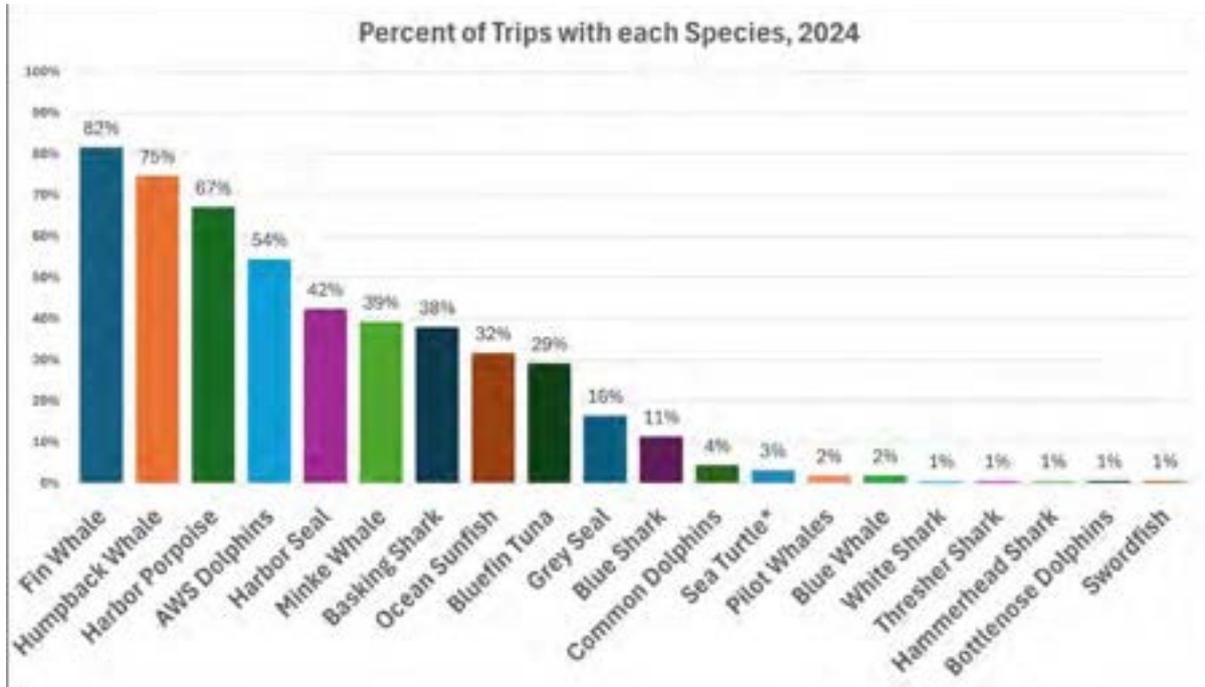
About 20 miles off the New Hampshire coast lies an underwater mountain range teeming with marine life. We are the only organization that consistently studies whales in this region known as Jeffreys Ledge.



How do we study whales?



Which Species Were Seen Most Often?



In 2024, we conducted 158 trips and saw a minimum of 8,291 animals. Fin whales were seen most frequently, followed by humpback whales and harbor porpoises.

An astounding 23 species were documented including:

- 4 species of baleen whales
- 5 species of toothed whales
- 5 species of sharks
- 3 species of large fish (non-shark)
- 4 species of sea turtles*
 - Green, Kemps Ridley, Leatherback, and Loggerhead
- 2 species of seals

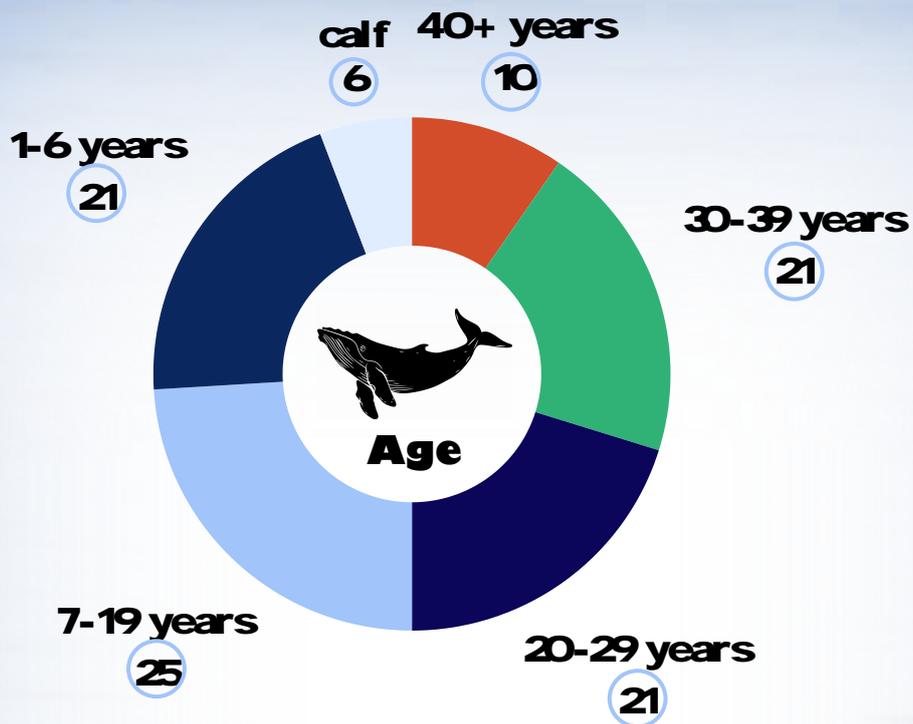
We spotted a blue whale - largest species on the planet - for the first time since 2016!



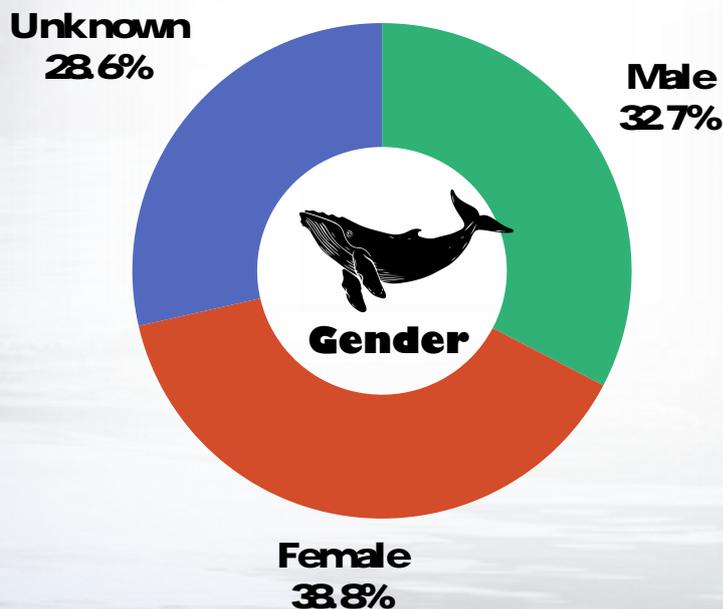
Humpback Whales

We observed 104 individual humpback whales, including 6 calves. Of the whales with known age, the majority were adults (7+ years old). Ten of the whales were estimated to be 40 years old or more. More females were seen than males.

Number of Humpback Whales in Each Age Class



Gender of Humpback Whales



Gender data does not include 2024 calves

Data on age and gender provided by the Center for Coastal Studies

Human Impacts

Throughout the season, several humpback whales were documented as being entangled with rope/buoys and/or monofilament line in our study area.

Several were seen by our staff before and/or after the entanglement event including Clamp's 2024 calf, Mudskipper, and Scylla and her calf. We continued to monitor these individuals and report our sightings to the Marine Animal Entanglement Response team (MAER) from the Center for Coastal Studies (CCS).



Dross' 2023 calf with raw entanglement injuries and a remnant of blue monofilament on fluke tip.

On August 16, 2024, Dross' 2023 calf was seen with fresh injuries to its peduncle and flukes, along with blue monofilament netting on its right fluke tip. The MAER team from CCS was notified the next day, and network members were alerted to keep an eye out for this whale to better assess the entanglement status. Blue Ocean Society did not see the whale again, and it is unknown if others did.



Pinball last summer seen near surface buoys, whose lines pose a serious entanglement risk to whales and other marine life.

A total of 12,050 buoys were recorded within 30 meters of marine life sightings. When buoys were seen near cetaceans, the average number of buoys present was 8.

Baleen whales are more likely to become entangled in the vertical line between the surface buoy and the fixed fishing gear than other marine species. Baleen whales accounted for 720 of the sightings where cetaceans and buoys co-occurred. The number of buoys near baleen whales was 4,491, with an average of 6 buoys per whale sighted.

Human Impacts

Humpbacks in Rivers and Jumping on Boats

In July, widespread media attention followed the unusual sightings of a humpback whale. The whale was first seen in the Piscataqua River off Kittery, ME. Later that month, presumably the same whale breached onto a small fishing boat.

We used this heightened public interest to raise awareness about the importance of operating vessels responsibly around whales, especially as these animals are increasingly venturing closer to shore. The event provided a valuable opportunity to teach boaters and the broader community about minimizing disturbances and entanglement risks.



Humpback whale spotted in Piscataqua River, July 2024.

Here is a statement from Dianna Schulte, our co-founder and Director of Research, about the incident:

 **Please Give Whales Space** 

Summer is the feeding season for many large whales, like humpbacks, who don't eat during their winter breeding season in the Caribbean. This whale wasn't "angry"—it was hungry. Boaters happened to be in the area at the same time.

If you see a whale, don't approach it or leave your fishing line in the water. Lines can entangle whales, and whales can damage your boat.



Photo: Colin Yager/The Mega Agency

'Pissed Off' Whale Topples Boat

That was one headline in July 2024 when we had an usual amount of humpback activity near shore.

It started earlier in the summer when a young humpback was feeding in a mooring field in the Piscataqua River off Kittery, ME.

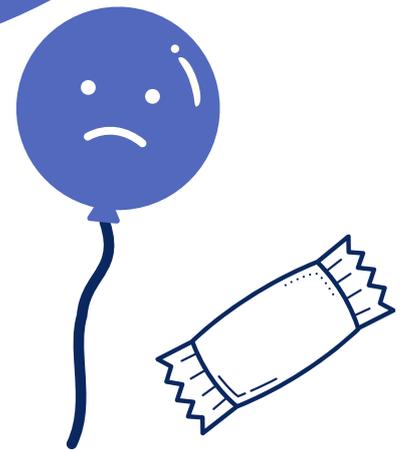
The whale was seen later even further upriver, on a weekend, and was surrounded by eager boaters. We reached out to our media contacts to advise boaters to give the whale space.

Later, presumably that same whale lunged onto a sportfishing boat, capsizing it. Thankfully, no humans were injured.

Marine Debris at Sea

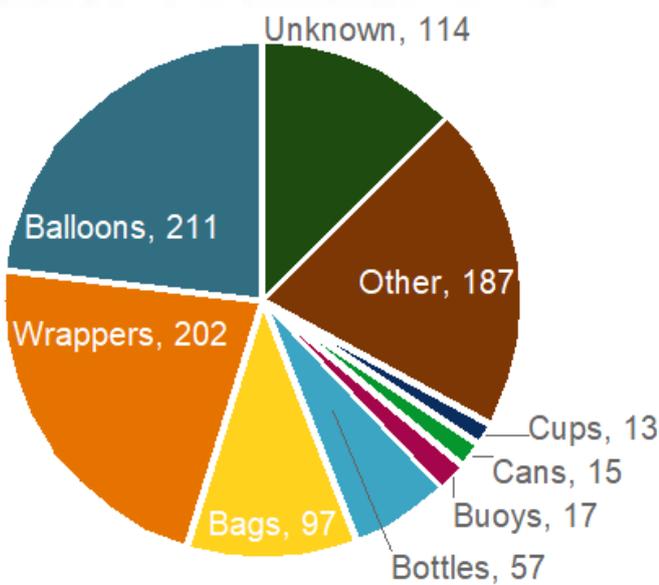
During each whale watch trip, we recorded sightings of marine debris. The debris was retrieved when practical.

On 158 trips, we documented 913 pieces of marine debris, of which 114 (12.5%) were located near whales. We use data on litter at sea, combined with our other litter studies, in our educational programs and to develop solutions.

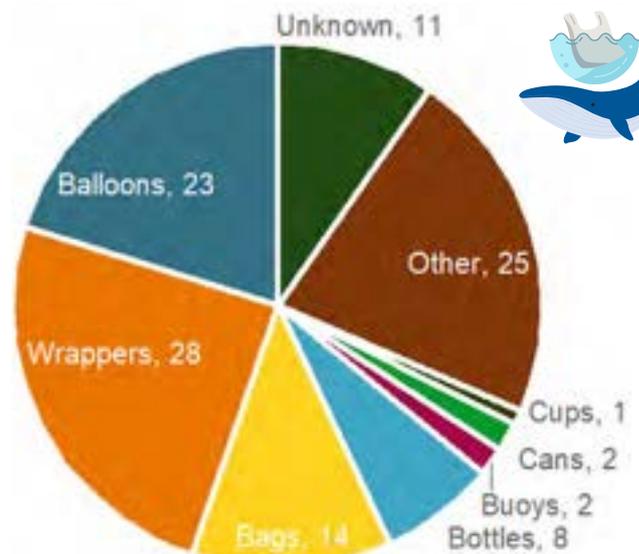


Balloons and wrappers were the top two litter items found on the water

2024 Pelagic Marine Debris Items



2024 Pelagic Marine Debris Items Near Whales



Whale research interns are tasked with recording sightings of marine debris that may pose a risk to nearby whales.

Want to Help Whales?

- Watch out for whales at all times when boating!
 - In recent years, whales have been seen in the Merrimack River, Piscataqua River, and within 3 miles of local beaches.
- Retrieve fishing lines from the water when whales are near!
 - Recycle used fishing line and spools in one of our shoreside recycling bins.
- Report whale sightings!
 - Contact us for more information.
- Support our research!
 - Donate boat time, give financially, adopt a whale, or sponsor an intern.

Thank You!

We are grateful to Granite State Whale Watch, the Seacoast Lady, our research affiliates and staff naturalists, and our 2024 whale research interns, Breanna Butland, David Hoppe, Nathalie Pare, Lulu Pumayalli and Summer Shifflett.

Thanks also to the Center for Coastal Studies for assistance with identifications and demographics.

Images in this report were taken by:
Matthew Mitchell, Melanie White, Dianna Schulte



**Our mission is to protect marine life in the
Gulf of Maine through research, education
and inspiring action.**

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AGENDA ITEM: **#10B**
DATE: **June 2, 2025**

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

INITIATED BY: Todd I. Selig, Administrator

AGENDA ITEM: RECEIVE ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION – RICHARD BELSHAW, CHAIR

CC PREPARED BY: Karen Edwards, Administrative Assistant

PRESENTED BY: Richard Belshaw, Chair, Human Rights Commission

AGENDA DESCRIPTION:

Section 11.1 (I) of the Durham Town Charter used to require that the Town Council meet annually with all Chairpersons of standing Town committees to review significant actions taken by the committees, projects currently under discussion, and anticipated activities for the coming year. At the March 10, 2020 Town Election, Charter amendment (Article 16 on the ballot) was adopted which amended the language within this section to now read:

- I. *On an annual basis, Chairs of the Town of Durham committees will be provided the opportunity to present to the Town Council any significant actions or projects taken by their respective committee. This report can be in the form of a written summary or a formal presentation. No action is required if there is nothing of significance to report, although the Town Council can ask for a presentation if there is interest.*

Richard Belshaw has been invited to attend Monday night's Town Council meeting to provide a brief update to Council members regarding the Human Rights Commission's current activities.

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

Section 11.1 (I) of the Durham Town Charter.

LEGAL OPINION:

N/A

FINANCIAL DETAILS:

N/A

SUGGESTED ACTION OR RECOMMENDATIONS:

No formal action required. Receive presentation from Human Rights Commission Chair, Richard Belshaw, and hold question and answer session if desired.



TOWN OF DURHAM

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AGENDA ITEM: **#12** *TS*

DATE: June 2, 2025

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

INITIATED BY: Durham Town Council

AGENDA ITEM: CONTINUED DISCUSSION REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF
TOWN COUNCIL GOALS FOR FY 2025/26

CC PREPARED BY: Karen Edwards, Administrative Assistant

PRESENTED BY: Todd I. Selig, Administrator

AGENDA DESCRIPTION:

At the April 7, 2025 Town Council meeting, Council members began discussing the process for the development of goals for the upcoming year. At the April 21 Town Council meeting, the Council was presented with a draft document including the Administrator and Council members' suggestions for changes to the goals. At the May 5 Town Council meeting there was additional discussion on a working draft of goals that Administrator Selig had created based on suggestions by Councilors. Councilors began to make modifications at the May 19 meeting and asked Administrator Selig to make changes as part of a future working draft that would be shared with Councilor Friedman and Councilor Register. Those two Councilors would then make sure the changes looked accurate given all of the discussion that took place and the many ideas the Council chose to drop or consolidate/re-order.

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

N/A

LEGAL OPINION:

N/A

FINANCIAL DETAILS:

N/A

SUGGESTED ACTION OR RECOMMENDATIONS:

No formal motion is required. Continue discussion and work toward adopting a final list of Council goals for FY 2025/26.

2025/26 Town Council Goals

Working Draft

Revised as of 5/27/28/25

Mission

To provide ongoing stewardship for the Durham community including effective and efficient municipal services.

Core Values

Excellence, Honesty, Integrity, Justice, Resilience, Respect, Transparency

Goal 1 - Facilitate optimal functioning of Town government through continuous improvement, new efficiencies, waste reduction, and inter-agency collaboration.

- A. Continuously assess cybersecurity risks and address vulnerabilities, with a focus on enhancing security at the Wastewater Facility and implementing multifactor authentication for Town employees.

Timeline: Long-Term | Priority: Medium

Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

- B. Provide option for Councilors to use municipal email accounts, and expand availability to Chairs of boards, committees, and commissions.

Timeline: Short-Term | Priority: Low

Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

Goal 2 - Conduct planning and take steps as necessary to protect public health and safety and provide ongoing service continuity given the anticipated impacts of climate change, the post-pandemic era, and general operational challenges.

- A. Update long-term feasibility planning with UNH for the future Durham Fire Station capital project (Waterworks Road or B-Lot, as determined), and raise awareness of improvements needed for MacGregor Memorial EMS buildings.

Timeline: Long-Term | Priority: Medium

Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

Goal 3 - Pursue long-term economic strength and resiliency, anticipating the community's, the region's, and the nation's economic characteristics and opportunities.

- A. The Council and Administrator together will strive to hold the municipal tax rate at the 2025 level plus inflation (CPI-U for Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH) or less, continuing efforts to control spending, enhance revenues, broaden the tax base, and explore innovative ways to stabilize or reduce the municipal tax rate, while accounting for potential increases in expenses, personnel costs, equipment needs, and the recent use of fund balance for property tax relief.

Timeline: Short-Term | Priority: Medium

Note: Councilor Friedrichs recommends replacing “municipal tax rate” with “municipal taxes levied.”

Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

- B. Continue to thoughtfully develop and adopt ordinance and policy changes that increase availability of a full range of housing options for families and employees, encourage downtown business development, grow the tax base, and apply smart growth principles while considering the future of 66 Main St. and the Pettee Brook parking lots.

Timeline: Short-Term | Priority: High

Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

- C. Establish a business development committee or working group to help increase connection and collaboration between the Town and local businesses to help foster a supportive and beneficial atmosphere to increase the desirability and profitability of downtown Durham.

Timeline: Short-Term | Priority: Medium

Comment: Consider instead engaging more actively with the Durham Business Association through active Councilor participation. DBA is working to reinvigorate its efforts/activities and as requested a Councilor participate.

Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

- D. Work toward continued progress with UNH on The Edge at West End project, including the development and adoption of a Planned Unit Development (PUD) Zoning Overlay District, evaluation of infrastructure needs for economic expansion, and exploration of public-public-private opportunities and mixed-use housing.

Timeline: Short-Term | Priority: High

Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

- E. Respond to federal or state economic restrictions that impact the Town, acting swiftly to protect essential operations and community services. The Council may issue statements or resolutions as needed.

Timeline: As Needed | Priority: Medium
Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

Goal 4 - Pursue long-term environmental sustainability and resiliency, taking into account existing and predicted impacts of climate change in multiple areas including drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, agriculture, food, society, transportation, ecology, solid waste, and economy.

- A. Work toward continued Town-wide reductions in solid waste generation per resident through full implementation of a volume-based collection system.

Timeline: Short-Term | Priority: High
Comment: We expect to launch this in the next 12 months.
Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

- B. Support pedestrian, public and active transportation alternatives to the automobile, and continue taking steps to address downtown multi-modal options such as the Cat Trax bikeshare program.

Timeline: Long-Term | Priority: High
Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

- C. Encourage and enable local and residential food production, preservation, and storage, and protect existing farming businesses and infrastructure, through policies that aid in or remove barriers to local food production and consumption to include ordinance/resolution development, and the expansion of community gardens

Timeline: Long-Term | Priority: High
Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

- D. Finalize the 2025–2030 Climate Action Plan using the UNH Sustainability Fellow program, ensuring reduction strategies to achieve a 42.8% carbon reduction by 2030 are integrated into long-term planning, and actively engage committees and departments in implementation.

Timeline: Short-Term | Priority: High
Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

- E. Improve accuracy of the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory by tracking electric vehicle registrations and heat pump installations, in collaboration with the Town Clerk and Assessor Offices.

Timeline: Short-Term | Priority: High
Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

- F. Align long-range capital improvement planning (CIP) with the 2024 Durham Multi-hazard Climate Mitigation Plan and the 2023 Climate Adaptation Chapter of the Master Plan.

Timeline: Long-Term | Priority: High
Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

Goal 5 - Pursue long-term social resiliency and quality of life in Durham intended to strengthen the community in a welcoming and inclusive manner by supporting the needs of residents, families, and other identified stakeholders by offering a wide array of active and passive parks & recreation and library opportunities, programming, events, facilities, and publicly facing educational information celebrating the rich tapestry of Durham history.

- A. Make all Town operations inclusive of non-binary options.

Timeline: Long-Term | Priority: High
Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

- B. Support the recreational, educational, and social needs of residents through Parks & Recreation, Durham Public Library, and social programming for all ages.

Timeline: Long-Term | Priority: Medium
Note: Recommend increasing priority to High.
Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

- C. Defend Durham as a welcoming and inclusive community by upholding the mission of the Human Rights Commission.

Timeline: Ongoing | Priority: Medium
Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

- D. Explore establishing an Arts Commission for the Town of Durham.

Timeline: Long-Term | Priority: Low
Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

Goal 6 - Continue cooperative and collaborative efforts with UNH to enhance mutual intellectual, cultural, environmental, social, and economic benefits associated with hosting New Hampshire's flagship state university.

- A. Encourage the UNH administration to engage and work with Durham's Administrator in decision making and planning that impacts UNH, the Town, local businesses, and residents.

Timeline: Long-Term | Priority: High

Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

- B. Encourage UNH to actively advertise and solicit Durham resident awareness of and participation in athletic, cultural, social, health/fitness, recreation, and educational opportunities on campus.

Timeline: Long-Term | Priority: High

Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

- C. Endeavor to establish Durham as an epicenter of off-campus volunteerism and research by UNH students, faculty, and staff.

Timeline: Long-Term | Priority: High

Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

- D. Review ongoing changes to federal/state laws and policies in partnership with UNH, ensuring the safety of families, students, and employees of both entities, and forcefully communicate responses and expressions of concern as needed.

Timeline: As Needed | Priority: Medium

Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

Goal 7 - Lead efforts to promote inter-municipality awareness and collaboration on issues of mutual interest and concern.

- A. ~~Charge the Human Rights Council with supervisory efforts to protect residents from unlawful searches and seizures.~~ **Request the Human Rights Commission monitor federal and state policies that could result in unlawful searches and seizures and help recommend local responses in conjunction with relevant Town departments and the Council.**

Timeline: Long-Term | Priority: High

Comment: The Human Rights Commission is advisory only and has no authority. Suggest re-write similar to above.

Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

- B. Consider establishing a blanket statement of non-compliance with Immigration and Customs Enforcement for the Town and Police Department.

Timeline: As Needed | Priority: High

Comment: This is similar to the sanctuary city initiative the Town Council chose not to pursue in 2018.

Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

- C. Establish working relationships with adjacent municipal officials to foster a timely and collaborative regional network.

Timeline: Long-Term | Priority: Low

Comment: Current approach is adequate; who would coordinate new initiative?

Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

- D. Establish a reporting procedure to notify the Town Council within 24 hours of Federal Agents operating or attempting to operate within Durham.

Timeline: As Needed | Priority: High

Note: This presumes Durham would be aware of such activity.

Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

- E. Reject state attempts to undermine local authority and control through vocal, visible, collaborative opposition and passive non-compliance.

Timeline: As Needed | Priority: High

Note: Would recommend dropping passive non-compliance part of goal.

Quarterly Progress: Q1: Q2: Q3: Q4:

Note: The numerical order of the goals does not imply priority.



TOWN OF DURHAM

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AGENDA ITEM: **#13**
DATE: June 2, 2025

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

INITIATED BY: Durham Town Council

AGENDA ITEM: APPROVE THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FOR
MAY 19, 2025.

CC PREPARED BY: Karen Edwards, Administrative Assistant

PRESENTED BY: Todd Selig, Administrator

AGENDA DESCRIPTION:

Attached for the Council's review and approval are the minutes for the meeting held on May 19, 2025. Please call or email Karen Edwards with any grammatical/spelling changes prior to the meeting. Discussion at Monday evening's meeting should be limited only to substantive changes.

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

RSA 91-A:2 (II) specifies what must be contained in minutes of public meetings:

"Minutes of all such meetings, including names of members, persons appearing before the bodies or agencies, and a brief description of the subject matter discussed and final decisions, shall be promptly recorded and open to public inspection not more than 5 business days after the public meeting, except as provided in RSA 91-A:6, and shall be treated as permanent records of anybody or agency, or any subordinate body thereof, without exception."

LEGAL OPINION:

N/A

FINANCIAL DETAILS:

N/A

SUGGESTED ACTION OR RECOMMENDATIONS:

MOTION:

The Durham Town Council does hereby approve the Town Council meeting minutes for May 19, 2025. (as presented/as amended).