



# Town of Dover

## American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) COVID Recovery Phase 2 Project Plan



In July 2022, the Town of Dover received the second payment of funds allocated through the federal government's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. The purpose of the funds is to provide financial and community support relief to the Town of Dover Government along with its residents, businesses and nonprofit organizations to help ameliorate the negative impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The following projects, proposed for the second phase of ARPA funding, will continue to address COVID 19-related community recovery needs and complete upgrades and improvements to outdated town facilities that will help ameliorate the rising costs of maintenance and repairs to operate government buildings in the future.

### **Town of Dover Proposed Phase 2 ARPA Projects**

Proposed projects for Phase 2 of the Town of Dover 2022-2023 ARPA COVID Recovery Plan include:

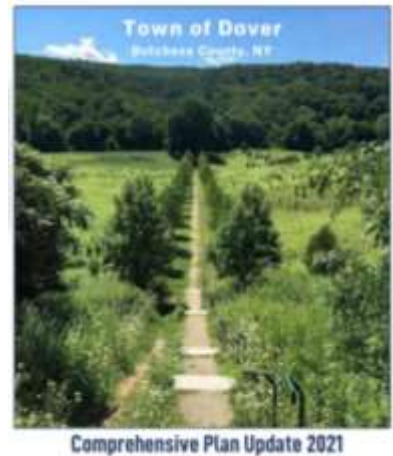
1. \$30,000 for consulting services to help complete the Town's Zoning Code update to provide increased opportunities for existing and new businesses to recover from the COVID-19 Pandemic
2. \$150,000 for additional recreation upgrades and improvements at J. H. Ketcham Park and Thomas Boyce Park to further enhance facilities for residents to utilize public space for socialization, public safety and to promote healthy life styles (gazebo, resurface of courts and new pickleball courts, outdoor fitness equipment, video security, new multipurpose recreation facility)
3. \$60,000 for office painting and flooring improvements at the Town's Highway Garage and Boyce Park Office to upgrade deteriorated town facilities
4. \$12,000 for a mobile (speed) radar feedback device and trailer to address longstanding residents' concerns about speeding on town roads to help improve public pedestrian and motorists safety
5. \$20,000 for architectural design and building plans for a new multi-purpose recreational facility and sports complex at Boyce Park
6. \$50,000 for services and programs to help implement recommendations of the Town's small business and nonprofits COVID-19 economic recovery plan.

The following sections provide more detailed information about each project and explanations for how the projects contribute to the greater goals of economic, social and community recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

**Consulting Services to Help Complete the Town’s Comprehensive Plan (CPU) Zoning Code Update (\$30,000)**

With assistance of a volunteer committee of town business owners, appointed town officials and with guidance from the Dutchess County Planning Department, the Town’s draft Comprehensive Plan Update, nearly a decade in development, is near completion for public review and adoption in early 2023.

Among numerous recommendations that will help Dover’s growth and development, the Plan Update proposes the addition of two new zoning districts, Gateway Commercial and Highway Commercial, located along the Town’s Route 22 transportation corridor to create a zoning district near town centers (Gateway Commercial) for a mix of commercial, office, light retail and residential uses along with another district (Highway Commercial) for large retail and commercial uses dependent on automobile and truck access.



Following completion of the public hearing process, SEQR review, and CPU Adoption, the Town will update the Zoning Code with topic-specific assistance with developing new zoning codes in these areas: solar power generation, short-term home rental (Air BnB), Cannabis retail and production operations, economic development-based code changes, subdivision/lot line adjustment language and procedures and erosion and sediment control thresholds and procedures.

This ARPA project will assist with COVID-19 economic and community recovery through zoning updates that will support attracting new businesses, support existing ones and help facilitate further economic recovery in some of areas of Dover where pre-existing approvals restricted commercial development.

**Additional Recreation-related and Security Improvements at J. H. Ketcham Park and Thomas Boyce Park (\$150,000)**

In the Town’s 2021-2022 ARPA Phase 1 Project Plan, town officials allocated \$150,000 as matching grant funds to a 2022 Dutchess County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to construct a new multi-purpose recreation facility at Thomas Boyce Park in Wingdale. In August 2022, the Town received the \$150,000 CDBG grant and plans are underway to proceed with this transformative community project. Funds from this second phase of ARPA funding will be used to prepare architectural design and building plans for the future recreation facility.

To freshen the appearance of Boyce Park’s popular outdoor facilities, the Town resurfaced the tennis and basketball courts in summer and fall of 2022 and, at residents’ request, converted one tennis court into four new pickleball courts. ARPA Phase 2 funds also provided for installation of a video security system at Boyce Park and plans for a similar system at J. H. Ketcham Park in early 2023.

Lastly, the Town allocated ARPA Phase 2 funds to purchase a new gazebo at Boyce Park to replace the former one that was in dire need of replacement after twenty years of service.



Resurfaced tennis court at Boyce Park



New gazebo at Boyce Park



Resurfaced basketball court at Boyce Park

**Continued Painting and Flooring Improvements at Town Hall, Highway and Recreation Offices (\$60,000)**

In the 2021-2022 ARPA Project Plan, the Town focused on improvements to public space at Dover Town Hall and to date, has completed painting and new flooring of the Town Hall entrance, meeting room and office corridors.

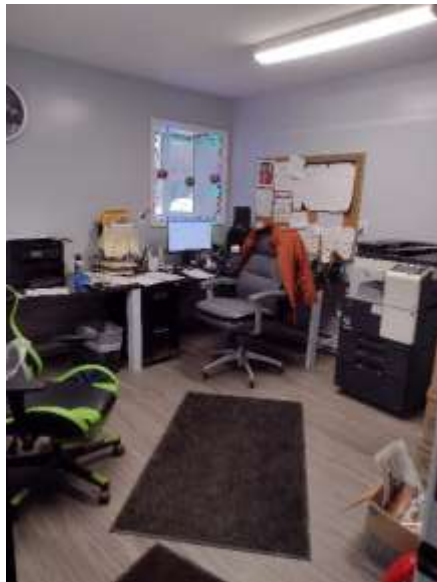
Funds from the second ARPA installment were used to complete painting and flooring improvements at the Town Highway Garage and Boyce Park Recreation Office.

Phase 2 funds will also be utilized for painting and new flooring for the offices of the Town Supervisor, Planning, Finance, Records Management and Building Department at Town Hall.



New painting and flooring at Dover Town Hall

New painting and flooring at Town Highway Garage



View facing Board Bench at Dover Town Hall



Painting and new flooring at Town's Recreation offices

### **Acquisition of a LED Mobile Radar Feedback Device and Trailer (\$12,000)**

A ubiquitous public safety issue in the Town of Dover has been the challenge of enforcing speed limits on town roads due to the lack of a Town municipal police department. Moreover, the calculation of road speed limits (unless previously posted) based on an actual motorist speed percentile calculation has been found to rarely result in a speed limit reduction and resolution of residents' complaints.

To address concerns about speeding on town roads, the Town utilized ARPA funds to purchase an LED-powered radar feedback device and trailer with Cloud-based software to monitor and download data from the device on demand. Starting in 2023, the device will be deployed as a first step to help town officials collect data and share with County and State law enforcement agencies to help improve overall public safety.



Photo of LED-powered Radar Feedback Device and Trailer

### **Architectural Design and Building Plans for a New Multi-Purpose Recreation Facility and Sports Complex at Boyce Park (\$20,000)**

For more than two decades, the Town's Recreation Program has used Dover school district facilities for evening and weekend indoor programs. During the heat of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Town's lack of access to school facilities resulted in hardships for residents as well recreation instructors (many of whom are also residents) who provide programs and classes to supplement their incomes. In a 2017, community online survey entitled, "Your Voice in the Future of Dover," revealed 271 of 421 respondents (or 67%) felt a Town Sports and Recreational Facility would improve the overall quality of life in Dover.

Town officials will move forward in early 2023 to secure consulting services for the architectural design and building plans of a multi-purpose facility and investigate the addition of a sports complex for the benefit of residents and for possible rental to regional sports leagues in need of year-round sports facilities.

## **Events and Programs to Support Implementation of the Town-Sponsored Small Business and Nonprofits COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan (\$50,000)**

With funds received in the first phase of ARPA, the Town employed a professional marketing design and development firm to gather information from local business and nonprofits about the impact of the COVID Pandemic and possible services and supports to help them economically recover. In summer of 2022, the consultants conducted an online survey that revealed these findings:

- nearly 95% of town businesses and nonprofits were impacted by the pandemic
- 65% reported they had to change the way they ran their business with new or limited products and services
- the top reasons they enjoyed owning or operating a business/nonprofit in Dover were helping residents in need of their services, providing an important service to their community and working and living in Dover
- 94% of respondents would participate in a local business/nonprofit association
- 79% were interested in the Town's sponsorship of events and opportunities to promote their business or nonprofit.

The ARPA-funded Small Business and Nonprofits Marketing and Economic Recovery included the following recommendations:

- establish a business/nonprofit association with opportunities for networking and community-building
- create a signature community-based event that attracts residents and visitors and engages local business as participants and sponsors
- launch a "buy/shop local" campaign targeted to Dover residents and beyond
- create marketing materials to highlight the strengths and qualities of business owners and nonprofit leadership
- develop and implement a social media campaign to draw additional visitors and nature enthusiasts to Dover (for example, Dover Stone Church) and create value-added local experiences and connections with town businesses to increase their revenue streams.

Following the establishment of a town business/nonprofit association, the Town will consider assisting with implementation of some of the above-mentioned recommendations based on interest and expense.

We are grateful for ARPA COVID-19 Recovery funding that has afforded the Town of Dover with these opportunities to help residents and local businesses and nonprofits, to support the financial recovery of the Town's fire protection services, and to provide for new public works projects and to enhance the enjoyment and beauty of our parks and recreation programs.