



SPARKS TO SHOVELS

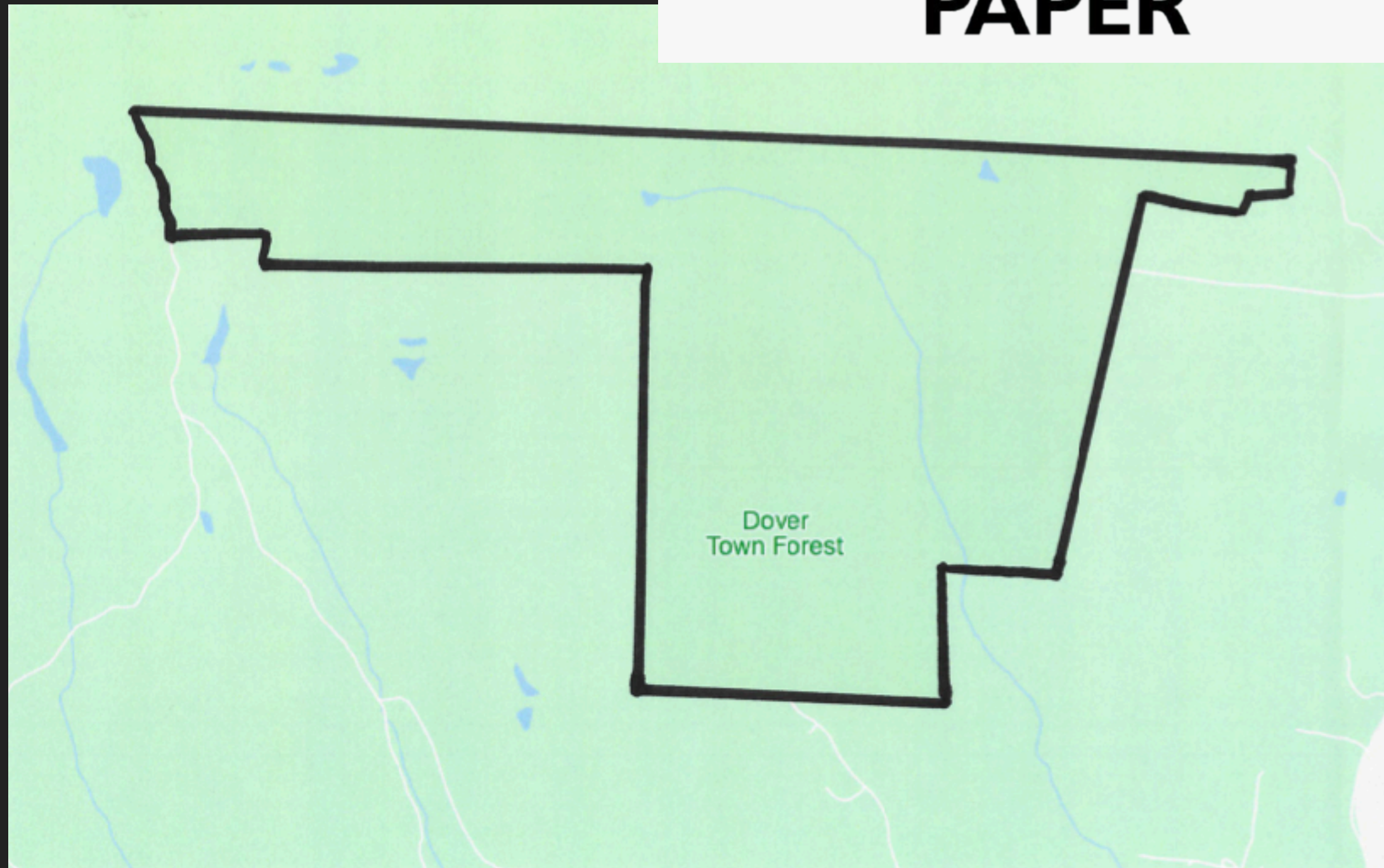
DOVER TOWN FOREST



INTERNATIONAL



PAPER



A BRIEF HISTORY

- ▶ In 1988, the Town of Dover purchases Dover Town Forest Land
- ▶ 1,392 acre parcel purchased by Town
- ▶ Dover pays \$410,000
 - ▶ \$42,000 in Grants from Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
- ▶ Additional 5,000+ nearby/abutting acres purchased by United State Forest Service

WHAT WAS THE SPARK?

- ▶ Dual value to Town of Dover to purchase this property
 - ▶ Recreation
 - ▶ Conservation





TAKING THE LEAD

- ▶ Town of Dover is project lead
 - ▶ Purchase facilitated by Phil Bartlett
 - ▶ Support from many different recreational user groups
 - ▶ Support from residents of the Town of Dover

1988-2006

- ▶ Management plan is drafted after purchase
- ▶ User groups begin utilizing Town Forest
- ▶ Unsanctioned trail creation and expansion grows recreational opportunities slowly on the property
- ▶ Most active user groups: hiking, biking, horse riding, snow shoeing, x-country skiing
- ▶ No marketing of property, word of mouth and first hand knowledge only for most of this period





NEW PLANS

- ▶ Conversation in 2006 sparks discussion of management priorities and plans for DTF
- ▶ 2007 - Creation of the Dover Conservation Commission
 - ▶ Tasked with oversight of management and expansion of recreation opportunities
 - ▶ 2007-2010 - New management plan is created for the property
 - ▶ Input from all interested stakeholders as well as a professional forester via public hearings and surveys
- ▶ 2010 - Creation of expanded parking lot at end of Rice Hill Road

WHERE'S THE MONEY?

- ▶ With conservation and recreation plans coming into focus, where does the funding come from?
 - ▶ State recreation grants and funding opportunities
 - ▶ User groups implementing and funding expansions/improvements
 - ▶ Implementation of 1% Local Option Tax in summer 2007.
 - ▶ All collected 1% tax to be allocated to Economic Development, including recreational opportunities in Dover





The Dover Town Forest Trail Network and Backcountry Zones would not have been possible without the partnership between The Town of Dover, The Dover Town Forest Conservation Commission, The USFS and SoVTA.

The Dover Town Forest is an Unpatrolled Network . Natural Hazards Exist. USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Important Safety Tips for Users:
Never Travel Alone.
Always tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.
Bring a map of the area you are traveling, and a compass (and know how to use it) .
Do not rely exclusively on your GPS or smartphone, as reception can fail and batteries can die.
Be prepared for emergencies.
Before you go, familiarize yourself with any possible exit points.
Be aware of weather conditions. The weather changes quickly in the mountains.
Be willing to turn back if circumstances call for abandoning a tour.
Bring a first aid kit.
Pack extra clothes, food and other aids to ward off hypothermia in case of emergency.

Please follow these **Leave No Trace Principles:**
1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Offline maps can be downloaded @ SOVTA.ORG/MAPS
Emergency Number: 911

For Trail Maintenance Issues Email : trails@sovta.org

SoVTA is a chapter of the **CATAMOUNT TRAIL ASSOCIATION**

YOUR LOCATION TO USE FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES
UTM: 18T 0677626mE 4759773mN

2010-PRESENT

- ▶ 2017 Unsanctioned cutting of skiing glades
 - ▶ Sparks decision to sanction glade cutting in specific sections in 2018
- ▶ COVID-19 Prompts discussions for parking and recreation expansion as usage sees all-time high
- ▶ 2021-2022 - Dover Trails and Recreation Committee makes recommendation to expand current parking lot and rename property 'The Dover Town Forest and Phil Bartlett Recreation Area'

STAKEHOLDERS

- ▶ Town of Dover
 - ▶ User Organizations (SoVTA, Deerfield Valley Stump Jumpers, etc.)
 - ▶ User Groups
 - ▶ Residents
 - ▶ Second Home Owners
 - ▶ Visiting outdoor recreation enthusiasts





MANAGING THE FOREST FUTURE

- ▶ Conservation Commission
- ▶ Town of Dover Select Board
- ▶ Economic Development Department
- ▶ 2020 - Weston and Sampson Recreation Master Plan
- ▶ Dover Trails and Recreation Committee
- ▶ 2022 - Trails and Recreation Application Process created/implemented



QUESTIONS

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