Dorchester, NH

Community Contact
Town of Dorchester
Margaret Currier-Lemay, Administrative Assistant
1021 NH Route 118
Dorchester, NH 03266

Telephone
(603) 786-5095
Fax
(603) 786-9476
E-mail
townofdorchester@gmail.com
Web Site
www.townofdorchester.org

Municipal Office Hours
Administrative Assistant: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 am - 11 am, Wednesday, 3 pm - 6 pm; Town Clerk, Tax Collector: Monday, 9 am - 11 am, Wednesday, 3 pm - 6 pm, last Saturday, 9 am - 11 am

County
Grafton

Labor Market Area
Lebanon, NH-VT Micropolitan NECTA, NH part

Tourism Region
Dartmouth-Lake Sunapee
Upper Valley Lake Sunapee

Planning Commission
Upper Valley Lake Sunapee

Regional Development
Grafton County Economic Development Council

Election Districts
US Congress
District 2

Executive Council
District 1

State Senate
District 2

State Representative
Grafton County Districts 11, 16

Incorporated: 1761

Origin: First chartered in 1761, Dorchester was probably given its name in honor of ancestors of Governor Benning Wentworth, who held the titles Marquis of Dorchester and Earl of Kingston. Due to the inability of grantees to meet prescribed terms of settlement, the territory was granted twice more, once in 1766 and again in 1772, retaining the name Dorchester throughout. The town’s first moderator, Captain John Thompson, was a descendant of David Thompson, who was one of the first settlers in the colony, at Rye’s Odiorne Point in 1623.

Villages and Place Names: Bucks Corner, Cheever, North Dorchester

Population, Year of the First Census Taken: 175 residents in 1790

Population Trends: Population change for Dorchester totaled 215 over 49 years, from 141 in 1970 to 356 in 2019. The largest decennial percent change was 73 percent between 1970 and 1980, a numeric increase of 103. The 2019 Census estimate for Dorchester was 356 residents, which ranked 222nd among New Hampshire’s incorporated cities and towns.

Population Density and Land Area, 2019 (US Census Bureau): 8.0 persons per square mile of land area. Dorchester contains 44.6 square miles of land area and 0.6 square miles of inland water area.
**MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Government</th>
<th>Selectmen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget: Municipal Appropriations, 2020</td>
<td>$473,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget: School Appropriations, 2018-2019</td>
<td>$531,498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning Ordinance</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master Plan</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Improvement Plan</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Plans Reviewed By</td>
<td>Planning Board</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PUBLIC UTILITIES**


**EMERGENCY SERVICES**

- Police Department: No
- Fire Department: Canaan, Rumney, Lyme - Volunteer
- Emergency Medical Service: Canaan, Warren, Wentworth - Volunteer

**Nearest Hospital(s)**

- Speare Memorial, Plymouth: 18 miles, 25 Staffed Beds
- Alice Peck Day Memorial, Lebanon: 23 miles, 25 Staffed Beds

**UTILITIES**

- Electric Supplier: NH Electric Coop
- Natural Gas Supplier: None
- Water Supplier: Private wells
- Sanitation: Private septic
- Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant: No
- Solid Waste Disposal
  - Curbside Trash Pickup: None
  - Pay-As-You-Throw Program: No
  - Recycling Program: Mandatory
- Telephone Company: Consolidated Communications
- Cellular Telephone Access: Limited
- Cable Television Access: Limited
- Public Access Television Station: No
- High Speed Internet Service: Residential

**PROPERTY TAXES**

- Total Tax Rate (per $1000 of value): $20.88
- Equalization Ratio: 101.4
- Full Value Tax Rate (per $1000 of value): $21.06
- Percent of Local Assessed Valuation by Property Type
  - Residential Land and Buildings: 94.6%
  - Commercial Land and Buildings: 0.2%
  - Public Utilities, Current Use, and Other: 5.2%

**Housing**

- Total Housing Units: 243
- Single-Family Units, Detached or Attached: 178
- Units in Multiple-Family Structures:
  - Two to Four Units in Structure: 2
  - Five or More Units in Structure: 3
  - Mobile Homes and Other Housing Units: 60

**POPULATION (1-YEAR ESTIMATES/DECENNIAL)**

- **(US Census Bureau)**
  - Total Population
    - 2019: 356
    - 2010: 355
    - 2000: 353
    - 1990: 392
    - 1980: 244
    - 1970: 141
  - Community
    - 2019: 89,886
    - 2010: 89,118
    - 2000: 81,826
    - 1990: 74,998
    - 1980: 65,806
    - 1970: 54,914

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

- **AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) 2015-2019**
  - Population by Gender
    - Male: 209
    - Female: 192
  - Population by Age Group
    - Under age 5: 19
    - Age 5 to 19: 63
    - Age 20 to 34: 52
    - Age 35 to 54: 111
    - Age 55 to 64: 54
    - Age 65 and over: 102
    - Median Age: 45.1 years
  - Educational Attainment, population 25 years and over
    - High school graduate or higher: 84.9%
    - Bachelor’s degree or higher: 26.3%

**INCOME, INFLATION ADJUSTED $**

- **(ACS 2015-2019)**
  - Per capita income: $26,101
  - Median family income: $59,583
  - Median household income: $55,000
  - Median Earnings, full-time, year-round workers
    - Male: $49,688
    - Female: $43,750
  - Individuals below the poverty level: 9.2%

**LABOR FORCE**

- **(NHES – ELM)**
  - Annual Average: 2009: 2019
    - Civilian labor force: 164: 199
    - Employed: 152: 195
    - Unemployed: 12: 4
    - Unemployment rate: 7.3%: 2.0%

**EMPLOYMENT & WAGES**

- **(NHES – ELM)**
  - Annual Average Covered Employment: 2009: 2019
    - Goods Producing Industries
      - Average Employment: n: n
      - Average Weekly Wage: n: n
    - Service Providing Industries
      - Average Employment: n: n
      - Average Weekly Wage: n: n
    - Total Private Industry
      - Average Employment: n: n
      - Average Weekly Wage: n: n
    - Government (Federal, State, and Local)
      - Average Employment: 5: 6
      - Average Weekly Wage: $179: $294
  - Total, Private Industry plus Government
    - Average Employment: n: n
    - Average Weekly Wage: n: n
  - If “n” appears, data do not meet disclosure standards.
**ECONOMIC & LABOR MARKET INFORMATION BUREAU, NH EMPLOYMENT SECURITY, JANUARY 2021. COMMUNITY RESPONSE RECEIVED 8/07/2020**

**EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE**

Schools students attend: Grades K-12 are part of Mascoma Valley Regional (Canaan, Dorchester, Enfield, Grafton, Orange)  
District: SAU 62

Career Technology Center(s): Hartford Area Career & Technology Center (VT)  
Region: 7

Educational Facilities (includes Charter Schools)  
Number of Schools  
Grade Levels  
Total Enrollment

Nearest Community College: Lakes Region; River Valley  
Nearest Colleges or Universities: Plymouth State University; Dartmouth

2020 NH Licensed Child Care Facilities (DHHS-Bureau of Child Care Licensing)  
Total Facilities: 0  
Total Capacity: 0

**LARGEST BUSINESSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product/Service</th>
<th>Employees</th>
<th>Established</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Town of Dorchester</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1772</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employer Information Supplied by Municipality

**TRANSPORTATION (distances estimated from city/town hall)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Road Access</th>
<th>US Routes</th>
<th>State Routes</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Nearest Interstate, Exit</th>
<th>Exit</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>118</td>
<td>19 miles</td>
<td>I-93, Exit 26</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Railroad</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Transportation</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nearest Public Use Airport, General Aviation  
Newfound Valley, Bristol  
Runway 1,900 ft. asphalt  
Lighted? No  
Navigation Aids? No

Nearest Airport with Scheduled Service  
Lebanon Municipal  
Distance 27 miles  
Number of Passenger Airlines Serving Airport 1

Driving distance to select cities:  
Manchester, NH 74 miles  
Portland, Maine 106 miles  
Boston, Mass. 124 miles  
New York City, NY 293 miles  
Montreal, Quebec 205 miles

**COMMUTING TO WORK** (ACS 2015-2019)

Workers 16 years and over  
Drove alone, car/truck/van 88.6%  
Carpooled, car/truck/van 6.0%  
Public transportation 0.0%  
Walked 1.8%  
Other means 3.6%  
Worked at home 16.8%  
Mean Travel Time to Work 38.7 minutes

Percent of Working Residents: ACS 2015-2019  
Working in community of residence 6.6  
Commuting to another NH community 76.6  
Commuting out-of-state 16.8

**RECREATION, ATTRACTIONS, AND EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

X Museums  
X Cinemas  
X Performing Arts Facilities  
X Tourist Attractions  
X Youth Organizations (i.e., Scouts, 4-H)  
X Youth Sports: Baseball  
X Youth Sports: Soccer  
X Youth Sports: Football  
X Youth Sports: Basketball  
X Youth Sports: Hockey  
X Campgrounds  
X Fishing/Hunting  
X Boating/Marinas  
X Snowmobile Trails  
X Bicycle Trails  
X Cross Country Skiing  
X Beach or Waterfront Recreation Area  
X Overnight or Day Camps

Nearest Ski Area(s): Tenney Mtn  

Other: Dorchester “Going Places” Mountain Bike-a-Thon; D’Acres