

BOARD OF HEALTH

The following permits were issued through this Department.

Septic Systems:

Residential	New Construction	11
	Replacement/Repair	10
	New Commercial	1

Building Permits

Residential	15
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Occupancy

Residential	16
Commercial	1

Inspections

Foster Care Inspection	1
Day Care	1

All permits were issued in compliance with Town and State requirements.

All concerns regarding potential health issues submitted to this office were addressed and the findings as well as the course of action were reported back to the Office of Selectmen.

The 2015 annual water testing of Country Pond was conducted and was found to be acceptable by state standards.

DES posts beach advisories when sample analyses result in bacteria levels which are above the state standard, indicating the possible presence of disease-causing organisms, or a toxic cyanobacteria scum. These advisories are recommendations to the public to avoid water contact activities at the beach until further analyses reveal safe conditions.

Residents should be aware of any *postings* at town access points. Should swimming be prohibited signs will be posted at the entrance to the town beach and public boat launching areas. Beach inspections will resume as of Memorial Day, 2016.

Residents are once again encouraged to have their domestic water tested annually by a state certified lab. Some well water in New Hampshire may contain contaminants such as radon, uranium, and arsenic, which occur naturally in our bedrock. The NH Department of Environmental Services would suggest homeowners with private wells have the quality of their water tested periodically for a comprehensive roster of contaminants.

You can learn more about this by visiting the N.H. Department of Environmental Services' web site at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/index.htm>

NH ARBOVIRUS TESTING RESULTS
2015 Arboviral Season

Mosquito Batches

Town or City	Date Collected	Species	Virus Result
Manchester	09/09/2015	Culex restuans	WNV
East Kingston	09/10/2015	Culiseta morsitans	WNV
Keene	09/11/2015	Aedes vexans	WNV
Newton	09/17/2015	Culiseta melanura	EEE
Candia	09/29/2015	Culiseta melanura	EEE

As a result of the positive test pools the Town Selectmen and Health Department were pro-active and implemented high risk area spraying in 2015

Animals

Town or City	Date Collected	Species	Virus Result
Holderness	09/17/2015	Raven	WNV

Use the following link to view the locations of positive test results and regional risk maps:
<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/arboviral/results.htm>

This department will continue to monitor State notification of positive test results and work closely with Town Officials and Dragon Mosquito to implement the best course of action to reduce the mosquito population.

Please remember your first line of defense against WNV and EEE is Prevention

Since State health officials continue to confirmed positive test results in various parts of the state for the WNV, EEE this past year, they strongly urge residents to eliminate mosquito-breeding opportunities around their homes this spring by taking the following steps:

- Remove all discarded tires. The used tire has become the most important domestic mosquito producer in the country.
- Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots, or similar water holding containers.
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are left out of doors.
- Make sure gutters drain properly.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas and hot tubs. If not in use keep empty and covered.
- Drain water from pool covers.
- Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish. Water gardens are fashionable but become major mosquito producers if they are allowed to stagnate.
- Turn over plastic wading pools when not in use.
- Turn over wheelbarrows and change water in birdbaths at least twice weekly.
- Eliminate any standing water that collects on your property. Use landscaping as needed.
- If outside during evening, nighttime, and dawn hours when mosquitoes are most active and likely to bite, children and adults should wear protective clothing such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and socks

- Consider the use of an effective insect repellent, such as one containing DEET. A repellent containing 30% or less DEET (N,N-diethyl-methyl-meta-toluamide) for children and adults. Use DEET according to the manufacturer's directions. Children should not apply DEET to themselves. Repellents that contain Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus have also been determined to be effective
- Vitamin B, ultrasonic devices, incense, and bug zappers have not been shown to be effective in preventing mosquito bites.

Dragon Mosquito Control

1-603-964-8400

DHHS Provides Recommendations on Food Safety During Power Outages

Even if food doesn't smell bad, and looks safe, it may have been out of a safe temperature range long enough to be contaminated with dangerous bacteria. A good rule to follow in this situation, when in doubt, throw it out."

The US Department of Agriculture recommends taking the following steps during and after a weather emergency:

- Never taste food to determine its safety
- Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to maintain the cold temperature
- The refrigerator will keep food safely cold for about 4 hours if it is unopened. Full freezers will hold the temperature approximately 48 hours (24 hours if it's half full and the door remains closed)
- Food can be safely refrozen if it still contains ice crystals or is at 40 degrees F or below
- Get block ice or dry ice to keep your refrigerator and freezer as cold as possible if the power is going to be out for an extended period of time
- Discard refrigerated perishable food such as meat, poultry, fish, soft cheeses, milk, eggs, leftovers and deli items after 4 hours without power
- Retail establishments with questions about safe food handling during a power outage please visit the DHHS website.

Informational Web Sites

Town of Newton Official Website www.newton-nh.gov

State of New Hampshire Official Website
www.nh.gov

NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
www.dhhs.nh.gov

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES)
<http://des.nh.gov/index.htm>.

NH DES Directory to Programs and Services by Subject Telephone Number
<http://des.nh.gov/sitemap/index.htm>

H1N1 Information

www.flu.gov

www.cdc.gov

www.dhhs.state.nh.us

Should you have any question or concerns you may contact me at any time. You may reach me by calling 603-498-8028 or through the Selectmen's Office at 382-4405

It has been my pleasure serving you as Health Officer for the past year and I will continue to enforce the Public Health Laws and rules in the future in order to safeguard the Public Health for the Town Of Newton.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert R. Leverone
Health Officer

FOOD PANTRY AND WELFARE OFFICE

The Welfare Department is available to provide information, as a referral resource and to assist those in financial crisis, on an emergency basis. Please feel free to contact the Welfare Department at 382-0398 with any questions or concerns you may have.

The Newton Food Pantry is available for any resident who is in need. The Pantry continues to be well stocked with donated non-perishable food items. To access the Food Pantry please call the Welfare Department to arrange an appointment.

As always, all inquiries are kept confidential.

This year the Newton Food Pantry was able to help 17 families with Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, and 23 children with their Christmas wishes.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have been so very generous this past Holiday Season with their donations to the Newton Food Pantry.

The donations came from many places, both residents and local businesses. It began with the Sanborn Regional Schools, with the High School donating many Thanksgiving Dinners and then donations during the Days of Giving. Ocasio's Martial Arts also donated many dinners. Planet Fitness in Plaistow held a Food Drive, donating many needed items. The Lions Club of Kingston donated five Thanksgiving dinners and the Lions Club of Plaistow helped with Christmas gifts. The Red Knights Motor Club gave generously to the Newton Food Pantry. The Boy Scouts donated Thanksgiving dinners as well. CPM and the Newton Fire Fighters Association donated generously to the Food Pantry during the Toys for Tots Drive. The Merrimac Savings Bank continues to keep a shopping cart in their lobby for donations, and their patrons regularly fill this cart. The Newton Historical Society continues to support the Food Pantry with monetary throughout the year. Soy Solas of Wicks and Whimsies donated beautiful candles to add a special touch to the Christmas dinners. As always, the Gale Library worked hard organizing Food for Fines month Angel Tree, and this year the Newton Town Clerks Office

stepped up to help with the Giving Tree when the Post Office was understaffed – everyone who took a tag off the trees helped brighten Christmas for so many children. Thank you so much to the staff and patrons of these places for your generosity year after year.

There were also countless residents, some known and others not, who have given selflessly both at the Holidays and throughout the year. Please know that the Food Pantry wouldn't be able to help as many as it does without your kindness.

Again, thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tina O'Rourke
Welfare Agent

RECREATION COMMISSION

2015 was a Year of Safety, with installation of security cameras donated by Axis Communications at both the Town Beach and at Greenie Park. Steve St. Cyr oversaw the freshening of the beach sand at the Town Beach as well as new safer swing hooks and a new wall ball wall, installed by our volunteers at Greenie Park. Safety for our community members is a theme we hope to continue in 2016 with proposed warrant articles to make our Greenie Park playground and skateboard park safer for the children of our community.

Our very active volunteers planned and executed a variety of events in 2015, starting with first ever snow tubing at Amesbury Sports Park at discounted prices. In addition, we arranged for discounted tickets online for Canobie Lake and for Water Country. In 2016 we want to repeat these popular offerings and hold another roller skating night as well to present a series of 4 movie nights in May and June. We sponsored both the Girl Scouts Easter Egg Hunt and the Boy Scouts Halloween Party again this year and plan to add a Trunk or Treat in 2016. The Memorial Day Parade had a 2 mile route for the first time this year, with a lot of help from Road Agent Mike Pivero and Chief Streeter along with the Trustees of the Cemetery and of course, our veterans. Sue Milner arranged two outings for Newton Seniors: a dinner cruise on the Mt. Washington and a Holiday Luncheon at Roma's in Bradford.

Town Day this year had a newly expanded format. Bob Faghan took on all the vendor and sponsor signups for Town Day. Selectman Matt Burrill had a hand in most of the plans this year and he was responsible for all the live bands at Town Day. Many community members came together as volunteers to make the day happen. We began with a 5K Race, followed by vendor tables and completely free entertainment that included a Zoo Creatures show, a K9 demonstration, Smokey the Bear, Touch-A-Truck, free trampoline and rock-climbing wall, a bouncy obstacle course, a movie and culminating in fireworks. We are proposing a Warrant Article for 2016 for Town Day to continue and to grow Town Day.

Respectfully submitted,
Annie Collyer,
Chairperson and Secretary

ASSESSOR

In 2015, a town-wide Statistical Update was conducted by contract assessor, Andrea Lewy. This was completed as a requirement of the New Hampshire Constitution which states: **[Art.] 6. [Valuation and Taxation.]** The public charges of government, or any part thereof, may be raised by taxation upon polls, estates, and other classes of property, including franchises and property when passing by will or inheritance; ***and there shall be a valuation of the estates within the state taken anew once in every five years***, at least, and as much oftener as the general court shall order. This requirement is to ensure that everyone is being assessed “*fair and equitable*” and that no one group of property is paying more or less in taxes than other properties in town.

Many have asked what the difference is between the Town’s assessment and the appraisal that they have had done. Typically an appraisal of a *single property* consists of the “subject property” and three comparable properties that sold within six months of the appraisal. The process of conducting a ‘Mass Appraisal’ which is often referred to as a Revaluation or Statistical Update is more extensive than a single home appraisal. In order to determine the market value of 2,037 properties two years of vacant land and home sales are analyzed, which for the 2015 Statistical Update included sales that occurred on April 1, 2013 through April 1, 2015.

After analyzed, not only is the average vacant conforming residential building lot established, but the building cost per square foot to construct a new home is determined. Both land and building will be later adjusted by the location and the quality of construction to determine the market value. (*Land Value + Building Value = Market Value*)

What if the property is located in a Cluster Development where the land is in common ownership and might have a community building or other amenities? Remember the goal is to determine market value. *Market Value is the highest price a willing buyer would pay and a willing seller would accept, both being fully informed, and the property being exposed for sale for a reasonable period of time. (Summarized)*

Again, after analyzing two years of sales and extracting the building value the remaining value is used to determine the difference of having a conforming building lot versus shared common land. This difference along with the cost to construct the new home is the market value. (*Building Value + Feature Value = Market Value*).

Due to limited space, the process above has been somewhat simplified to give a general idea on how assessments are established.

I wish you all a Happy and Healthy 2016!

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea S. Lewy, Certified New Hampshire Assessor
Newton Assessor

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Conservation Commission had another great year. According to state law, it is our responsibility to protect the natural resources of the town. The New Hampshire RSA 36-A directs us to “conduct researches into our local land and water areas” & seek to coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes.” Our Master Plan states that the Commission will continue to look for parcels that will increase our wildlife corridor, watershed resources and open space. Residents may be able to get a tax benefit from selling us a parcel of land at a bargain sale price while at the same time assisting in protecting our wildlife habitat and natural resources.

Our membership is made up of six regular members, one alternate, and one Selectmen Ex-Officio representative. We are very fortunate that our committee has a wide range of knowledge concerning wildlife, vegetation, shoreline and wetland soil issues. Their new ideas, optimistic energy and nonstop contributions of time have been an advantage to our town in protecting our natural resources. The residents are lucky to have such an enthusiastic committee of volunteers.

The proper utilization and protection of our watershed & natural resources, including but not limited to shoreline protection, wet soil issues, site walks and endangered species protection are just some of the tasks that the Conservation Commission deals with. We continue to work with the State Wetland Bureau concerning various issues in our town and also give our input on all Dredge & Fill permit applications. Any activities, construction, excavation and filling, within the protected Shoreland waterfront buffer, will be strictly monitored. If you notice anything that may concern you, please call the Conservation Commission.

The Scenic Roads in town also come under the charge of this Commission, as described in RSA 231:157 and RSA 231:158. The list of Scenic Roads is: Gale Village Road, Currierville Road, Maple Avenue, Goulds Hill Road, Heath Street, Bartlett Street, Town Hall Road & Thornell Rd.

We wanted to mention an issue on our 48+ acre parcel known as the “Busch Farm”, located off Rte 108, just north of New Boston Road. We encourage the residents to use it for passive recreation. The residents voted not to allow “HUNTING” on this property and it seems as soon as “NO HUNTING” signs are posted, someone is ripping them down. Please contact us if you notice hunters or hunting activity taking place on this piece of land. Some of our other areas for residents to enjoy are: Guscora land (off Hidden Acres), 22 acres off Hadley Road, 20 acres off Bartlett St. know as the Stronach Land, the 10+ acres known as the Pinkerton Conservation Trail (off Whittier St), the 33+ acres known as the Marden Conservation Land (off Whitter Street), the 6 acres know as the Wilder’s Grove Conservation Land, and the Foy Property off Peaslee Crossing Road. Enjoy the wildlife and nature, like the Blandings Turtle, the Blue Heron, the Great Horned Owls, the lady slippers and much, much more.

The Conservation Commission meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7:30 and meetings are open to the public. We look forward to another prosperous year, and encourage your input.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Mears Chair, Nancy Slombo Vice Chair, Trisha McCarthy Secretary,
Patricia Wonson, Kimberly Lowther, Sandra Estabrook, Jaclyn Heffner, Lisa Gonyer Liaison
Conservation Commission