

PLANNING BOARD

The Newton Planning Board held 24 regular meetings in 2005 during which three Elderly Housing developments totaling 122 units were approved (Sargent Woods – 80 units, Storey 20-units and Jacob's Village – 22 units) and forty-eight are pending for Fitz Realty. At the March 22nd meeting Mary M. Allen was voted in as Chairman and Kimberly Pettit and Elliot Estey were voted in as Vice-Chairmen. Currently the board has 7 full members: Mary M. Allen, Kimberly D. Pettit, Elliot Estey, James Doggett, Norman Harding (ex-officio), Ann Miles and Richard LeClaire and 4 alternate members: Kip Kaiser, Paul Szot, Gene Tolman and Kim Vaillant.

The 2006 budget is due to increase because of additional hours for the Circuit Rider/Planner and due to an increase in the Administrative Assistant's hours and pay.

There has been a change in staff for the Planning Board. A thank you is extended to Christene LoVecchio for serving as the Administrative Assistant and as a Board member. We welcome Sally E. Cockerline as our Administrative Assistant.

There will be changes to the Smith Corner Road and Peaslee Crossing Road intersection in the spring of 2006 with the cost being borne by developers on Smith Corner Road.

The Planning Board office now has public office hours. Please refer to the schedule posted on the town's website or call 382-3419 for these. Regular Planning Board meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month beginning at 7 PM in the Newton Town Hall. The Board is seeking out community volunteers to serve on the Master Plan committee. If you are a resident of Newton and would be interested in serving on this subcommittee, please call the Planning Board office.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary M. Allen, Chairman

BOARD OF HEALTH

The following permits were issued through this Department.

Septic Systems:

Residential

New Construction	47
Replacement/Repair	9
Commercial New	3

Building Permits 55

Occupancy 47

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 findings reported back to the Office of Selectmen.

The annual water testing of Country Pond was conducted and was found to be acceptable by State standards at the beginning of the swimming season. Upon subsequent random testing, test results were found not to be acceptable by state standards and signs prohibiting swimming were posted accordingly. 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.

Residents are 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. To help address these risks, the N.H. Department of Environmental Services (DES) has initiated a strategy to encourage homeowners with private wells to 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 www.des.state.nh.us/wseb, select "fact sheets" then 2-1. You may obtain a sampling bottle with instructions through this office.

Since State health officials continue to confirmed positive test results in various parts of the state for the WNV 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.

Anyone wishing to learn more about West Nile Virus may call the Department of Health and Human Services, West Nile Virus Information Line at (866) 273-6453 or login at www.dhhs.state.nh.us or for specific questions about WNV in horses, please call the Department of Agriculture at (603) 271 -2404

- **Please remember your first line of defense against the West Nile Virus is prevention, prevention, and prevention.**

Informational Telephone Numbers and Web Sites

Town of Newton Official Web Site

www.newton-nh.gov

NH West Nile Virus Informational Line

1-866-273-6453

www.dhhs.state.nh.us

NH Dept. of Environmental Services

1-603-271-3503

www.des.state.nh.us/

NH Dept. Of Environmental Quick Links

www.nh.gov/government/agencies.html

NH Dept. of Environmental Services A-Z Topic List

www.des.state.nh.us/programs.asp

NH DES Directory to Programs and Services by Subject Telephone Number

www.des.state.nh.us/asp/phonedir/phonedir.asp

Dragon Mosquito Control

1-603-964-8400

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

APPEALS BOARD

The Board of Appeals held a combination of seven hearings and rehearings through July of 2005. There were three denials and four variances granted.

Jack Kozec and Alan French, vice-chairman, attended a Municipal Law Lecture Series. These meetings help to keep the Board informed about current land use issues: thereby helping us, as a Board, to make responsible decisions.

The Board of Appeals meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Town Hall starting at 7:30 PM. The public is welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas McElroy, Chairman
Board of Appeals