

## BOARD OF HEALTH

The following permits were issued through this Department.

### **Septic Systems:**

Residential	New Construction	27
	Replacement/Repair	14
	New Commercial	2

### **Building Permits**

Residential	27
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### **Occupancy**

Residential	27
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### **Inspections**

Foster Care Inspection	1
Memorial School	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 2014 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 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, 2015.

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 [www.des.state.nh.us/wseb](http://www.des.state.nh.us/wseb). You may obtain a sampling bottle with instructions through this office.

**State of New Hampshire  
2014 NH ARBOVIRUS TESTING RESULTS**

**Eastern Equine Encephalitis & West Nile Virus**

**EEE Testing Results**

July1, 2014 - October 17, 2014

		<b>Prior Year Totals</b>				
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Mosquito Batches Positives*	18	24	9	0	0	73
Animals Positive	3	3	4	0	1	7
Humans Positive	3	0	0	0	0	1

\*A mosquito batch is a collection of mosquitoes sorted by species, date of collection, and trap location

**WNV Testing Results**

July1, 2014 - October 17, 2014

		<b>Prior Year Totals</b>				
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Mosquito Batches Positives*	1	14	41	9	1	0
Animals Positive	0	1	0	0	0	0
Humans Positive	0	1	1	0	1	0

**New Hampshire Arbovirus Testing – Mosquito Batches**

<b>Town or City</b>	<b>Date Collected</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Virus Result</b>
Londonderry	08/07/2014	Culiseta melanura	EEE
Derry	08/14/2014	Culiseta melanura	EEE
Derry	08/14/2014	Culiseta melanura	EEE
Candia	08/14/2014	Culiseta melanura	EEE
Candia	08/21/2014	Ochlerotatus canadensis	EEE
Amherst	09/04/2014	Culiseta melanura	EEE
Londonderry	09/04/2014	Culiseta melanura	EEE
Portsmouth	09/09/2014	Culiseta melanura	EEE
Hampstead	09/11/2014	Aedes cinereus	EEE
Greenland	09/16/2014	Culiseta melanura	WMV
Kingston	09/16/2014	Culiseta melanura	EEE
Kingston	09/16/2014	Culiseta melanura	EEE
Hampstead	09/18/2014	Culiseta melanura	EEE
<b>Newton</b>	09/23/2014	Culiseta melanura	EEE
Candia	09/25/2014	Culiseta melanura	EEE
Derry	09/25/2014	Culiseta melanura	EEE
Kingston	09/30/2014	Culiseta melanura	EEE
Raymond	09/30/2014	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 twice in 2014**

### New Hampshire Arbovirus Testing – Humans

Town or City	Date Collected	Species	Virus Result
Conway	08/13/2014	Mule	EEE
Hopkinton	09/05/2014	Horse	EEE
Manchester	09/04/2014	Horse	EEE

### New Hampshire Arbovirus Testing – Animals

Town or City	Date Collected	Species	Virus Result
Candia	09/01/2014	Mule	EEE
Nottingham	10/01/2014	Horse	EEE
Sanbornton	10/11/2014	Horse	EEE

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.

Anyone wishing to learn more about West Nile Virus / EEE may call the Department of Health and Human Services, West Nile Virus Information Line at **(866) 273-6453** between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or login at [www.dhhs.state.nh.us](http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us) or for specific questions about WNV in horses, please call the Department of Agriculture at **(603) 271 –2404**.

### **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 is, 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 at:

<http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/FOODPROTECTION/default.htm>

### **Informational Web Sites**

Town of Newton Official Website [www.newton-nh.gov](http://www.newton-nh.gov)

State of New Hampshire Official Website  
[www.nh.gov](http://www.nh.gov)

NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)  
[www.dhhs.nh.gov](http://www.dhhs.nh.gov)

NH DHHS Directory for Programs and Services  
[www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/Programs+Services/default.htm](http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/Programs+Services/default.htm)

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](http://www.flu.gov)

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

[www.dhhs.state.nh.us](http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us)

**Ebola Information**

[www.cdc.gov/vnf/ebola/](http://www.cdc.gov/vnf/ebola/)

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 14 families with Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, and 24 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. Planet Fitness in Plaistow held a Food Drive, donating many needed items and the Lions Club of Kingston donated five Thanksgiving dinners as well as Christmas gifts. The Boy Scouts donated Thanksgiving dinners as well. 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. As always, the Gale Library and Newton Post Office worked hard organizing Food for Fines month and both had Angel Trees – 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.

Tina O'Rourke  
Welfare Agent  
Town of Newton

## **RECREATION COMMISSION**

Dear Fellow Residents,

Your Recreation Commission once again sponsored a range of events and opportunities for our residents as well as focused on improving safety at our Town Parks.

There were many events and opportunities for families, most especially with children. School vacation events, such as ice skating and roller skating on the February and April breaks, thanks to John Neveux, and for the first time also on the winter holiday vacation, were held. Discount tickets for Amesbury Sports Park snow tubing, for Canobie Lake and for Water Country were available through either the Town Hall or online. The Newton Baseball and Softball Association had an active program at Greenie Park, thanks to town maintenance of the fields and utilities. Sue Milner worked with the Girls Scouts to put on an Easter Egg Hunt and the Boy Scouts held a Halloween Party, with financial support from the Recreation operating funds.

We attempted to outsource swim lessons at our Town Beach with the Regional YMCA, but the proposed contract language would not sufficiently protect the Town from potential liability. The beach was open to all residents for swimming, picnicking and play. The town's raft was vandalized two times during the year, and will no longer be able to be used, for safety reasons.

Recreation looked at Adult Events as well. With funds from the Senior Warrant Article, the Recreation Commission held two popular events for our seniors, thanks to Mrs. Milner's efforts: a day trip to Castle in the Clouds and a trip to the North Shore Music Theatre for "Christmas Carol". Recreation offered a dinner-dance for Town Adults at the Haverhill Country Club which was not fully subscribed and had to be canceled.

Selectman Matt Burrill arranged for Trophy Day, with a visit from the World Series Red Sox Trophy. We are all hoping this can be repeated in 2015 with other trophies! Mr. Burrill also worked to make Town Day a bigger and better event this year.

A big focus for the Recreation Commission is making the town properties under its purview safer. Greenie Park has a lot of deferred maintenance. A comprehensive plan to redesign the park failed to garner the needed community support, so has been abandoned. Simultaneously, the Commission has received a donation of digital security cameras from Axis Communications, with the help of Diane Morin, Police Chief Larry Streeter, Road Agent Mike Pivero and Chairperson Annie Collyer, and is having them installed at the Town Beach and at Greenie Park in the Spring of 2015. Mr. Neveux initiated plans for redistributing the tons of sand at the Town Beach, and Ms. Collyer and Stephen St. Cyr are working on plans for redesigning the Greenie

Park playground for safe separation of play areas and safe fall zones, according to National Playground standards.

Ms. Collyer has worked with the Sanborn Regional High School on various projects for the town and for Greenie Park including: trail signage and a trail map, roadside cleanup, and a plan for future parking expansion at Greenie Park.

The Commission has available membership spots, and currently is operating with only 4 members. Meetings are held 1-2 times a month, and community involvement and input is always welcome at our events and at our meetings.

Respectfully submitted,  
Annie Collyer,  
Chairperson and Secretary

## **ASSESSOR**

In 2014, the fourth of a five year project for data verification was completed. There were 400 properties of the 2,029 that were visited to verify that the data that was currently on file in the Assessing Department was accurate. As an alternative to hiring an outside firm that lacks familiarity, which affects continuity, and due to fifteen (15) years of service to the Town as your Assessor, the data verification project was conducted in-house.

In addition to the data verification process, providing information not only to property owners but to the general public of the available exemptions and credits that are offered by New Hampshire's state law, in addition to understanding the Assessing process, continues to be of the utmost importance.

In February of 2014, a presentation was held at the beautiful community center located in Sargent Woods, a 55 and Over Development off of Smith Corner Road here in Newton. If you have ever spoken to anyone that has attended this particular presentation, or any one of the several others that has been held over the years, they will tell you that being short on words when it comes to Assessing, I'm not. I enjoy meeting the Town residents and due to the nature of the Assessing process, my time spent speaking and educating on the many aspects of Assessing hopefully adds to the transparency of the process and increases awareness and trust on how one of your greatest assets is valued.

If you prefer not to sit through or don't have the time to attend one of the presentations there are other ways to receive information. By visiting the Town offices you are able to obtain information over the counter or via the public computer. In addition, the information is available on the Assessing webpage located at [www.newtonnh.gov](http://www.newtonnh.gov). Assessment record cards are also available online at no charge.

2015 will be an extremely busy year for the Assessing Department. As part of the five (5) year process assessments will be updated through the Statistical Update process and exemptions and credits will be reviewed as part of the Assessment Review. During the Assessment Review a DRA Monitor will be auditing the Assessing records to verify that the Town has all

documentation on file and are applying the criteria properly. Due to this, the Assessing Department is in the process of mailing worksheets to re-qualify everyone currently receiving the Elderly and Disabled Exemption. Others receiving an exemption or credit, in current use or conservation easement, and/or tax exempt may also receive a letter requesting additional information. Having all required documentation is crucial to the Town passing Certification. If you happen to receive a request from the Town for information, thank you in advance for completing and providing the information in a timely manner.

In conclusion, I will reiterate that my door is always open and I welcome anyone with questions, concerns or comments. I also want to thank the Town of Newton for the opportunity to be your Assessor since the year 2000.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea S. Lewy  
Newton Assessor

## **CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

The Conservation Committee remains very active. Our committee is comprised of volunteers that are appointed by the Board of Selectmen. 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” and “seek to coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes”. Our membership is made up of six regular members, three alternates, and one Selectmen Ex-Officio representative. We are very fortunate that our commission has a wide range of knowledge concerning wildlife, vegetation, shoreline and wetland soil issues. Their innovative ideas, positive energy and endless contributions of time have been an asset to our town in protecting our natural resources. I thank the entire commission and their families for always being there and commend their ability to think out of the box to accomplish the tasks we are presented with.

This commission has the important assignment concerning the proper utilization and protection of the natural resources and of watershed resources, including but not limited to shoreline protection, wet soil issues, site walks (when responding to citizen concerns), and endangered species protection. We continue to work with the State Wetland Bureau concerning any issues in our town as well as our input on all Dredge & Fill permit applications as well as Sand and Gravel Excavations as stated in RSA 155-E-3. 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 are: Gale Village Road, Currierville Road, Maple Avenue, Goulds Hill Road, Heath Street, Bartlett Street, Thornell Road and Town Hall Road.

The Commission is available to assist with any community or school event. We have created a slide show that can be used to educate our residents and our youth on Newton Conservation and Recreational Land. We appreciate your help with our land and welcome your input at our meetings. The public is encouraged to use and enjoy this open space. The Commission has responded to wetland complaints and conducted multiple site walks to assist residents in protecting the wetlands and the habitat. We also have the ability to purchase properties with no



tax impact to the residents. If you have a parcel that may be a good fit for the Conservation Commission to purchase, please contact us for a meeting to discuss potential tax benefits for selling a property to the Town through the Conservation Commission under the RSA 36-A Statute.

The conservation easement on Hidden Acres Farm, located on Thornell Road is being monitored according to the Bylaws of the Stewardship Committee. This is a wonderful piece of Newton History that we have the ability to protect.

Just as a head's up for 2015, we will be conducting a selected cut on various Conservation owned properties in order to maintain the integrity of our town properties and to create a diverse habitat. In addition to this we will be doing more property maintenance, mowing, brush cutting and trimming on the Busch Farm which is located on Rte 108, north of New Boston Road . As a reminder there is "No Hunting on the Bush Property" and this is clearly noted on the sign at the entrance.

We are looking for resident participation on Earth Day April 22, 2015. Please contact the Conservation commission if you are willing to assist as an individual or co-ordinate a group effort for "Road Side Clean Up". We will supply the trash bags. Please call 603-382-4405 ext 17 to leave a message for Earth Day Trash Bags.

In addition to this, we will be holding a Manure Workshop and a Storm Water Management Workshop in 2015. Please watch for updates on this by signing up for Town Newsletters.

This committee will be meeting on the first and third Thursdays of each month with the exception of June and July when we will meet on June 4<sup>th</sup> and July 16<sup>th</sup>. The meetings are held in the rear of the Town Hall at 7:30pm. All meetings are open to the public, and we encourage anyone that is interested to attend. Feel free to log onto to the town web site at <http://www.newton-nh.gov> for access to minutes of our meetings. If you are interested in joining the conservation commission, please submit a Letter of Interest with attention to Chairman Peter Mears.

We look forward to another prosperous year, and encourage your input.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peter Mears, Chairperson  
Conservation Commission