

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

2016 was a busy year for the Newton Board of Selectmen as we continued to manage the prudential affairs of the town.

In January, Fire Chief John Alcaldinho came before the Board with plans to bring the fire department's equipment up to NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) Standards. This effort took 9-months to complete but in the end, all the fire department's equipment, except for the ambulance and Tanker #5, was in good order. The pump on Tanker #5 is scheduled to be replaced in the 2017 budget cycle; unfortunately, the ambulance was beyond reasonable repair.

Town Meeting took place on March 8, 2016, with a moderate turn-out. The main item on the ballot was a bond for a new fire station. This received an overwhelming majority vote but failed to reach the 60% needed to pass. The Board asked the Fire Station Building Committee to re-examine their proposal and to bring forth a new plan for the 2017 warrant.

In March, the Board saw the re-election of Robert S. Donovan, Jr. The Board has become a cohesive group, each sharing their skills and expertise to benefit the Town of Newton. This enables the Board to be more productive and complete projects that might have otherwise disappeared in the day-to-day necessities of governance. Individual Selectmen are appointed as liaisons to various town departments and committees which enhances the openness and inter-departmental relationships needed to keep Newton on a forward - looking track.

In May, the Board of Selectmen attempted to honor its military men and women with its annual Memorial Day parade and ceremony. Regretfully, "mother nature" was not in agreement and torrential downpours required the cancellation of the parade and ceremony. A plan was created to address weather issues in the future.

Also in May, Police Chief Lawrence E. Streeter informed the Board he would be retiring on May 31, 2016. The Board chose to forgo the expense of conducting a search for a new Chief because we felt we had a person on staff with the potential of being a great Police Chief. In June, the Board offered a short-term Police Chief Contract to Police Sargent Michael Jewett and is very happy with their decision.

During the year, Selectmen Gonyer and Doggett updated the personnel policy to bring it in line with the current State laws and modern Human Resource practices.

In December, the Board received a most generous offer from the Town of East Kingston to purchase their 8-year-old ambulance for \$15,000. The Board gladly accepted their offer as it was more cost effective than repairing our old ambulance and the town took possession of the vehicle in January 2017.

Also In December, the Board was presented with the proposal for a new Fire Station. The plan of the Fire Station Building Committee is still a "No-Frills" station to be built on the 8 Merrimac Road property. Regretfully as the price of steel and other materials has increased over the past 12 months, there is a cost increase for the new building. The Board voted unanimously to support this article and agreed to place it on the 2017 warrant.

We encourage all Newton voters to come to the polls on March 14, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

James L. Doggett, Chairman, Matthew A. Burrill, Vice-Chairman, Robert S. Donovan, Jr.  
Lawrence B. Foote, Lisa L. Gonyer  
Board of Selectmen

## **BOARD OF APPEALS**

The Board of Appeals held three public hearings in 2016. One applicant withdrew his request for a variance and the two other variances were granted.

The Town of Newton hired a new secretary in 2016 to replace Jeannette Clark after sixteen years of service to the town. Kristal DeHart is now serving as the Board of Appeals Secretary.

Members of the Board include Chairman, Tom McElroy, Vice-Chairman, Alan French, Jack Kozec, Brad Cardoso, and Michael Connolly. Alternate members include Kenneth Pelletier and Frank Gibbs.

The Board of Appeals meets on the second Monday of each month at the Newton Town Hall starting at 7:30 pm. The public is invited to attend.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas R. McElroy, Chairman  
Board of Appeals

## **BOARD OF HEALTH**

The following permits were issued through this Department.

### **Septic Systems:**

Residential	New Construction	13
	Replacement/Repair	14

### **Building Permits**

Residential	11
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### **Occupancy**

Residential	14
Commercial	3

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 2016 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, 2017.

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**

### **2016 Arborviral Season**

#### **HUMANS**

There have been no human cases of EEE or WNV identified in New Hampshire in 2016 to date.

#### **ANIMALS**

There have been no animal cases of EEE or WNV identified in New Hampshire in 2016 to date.

**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 confirm 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](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)**

**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)**

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 x10.

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

### **BUILDING SAFETY**

The Building Department will continue the quality of service that our residents expect.

Samuel Zannini Jr., is the Deputy-Assistant Building Inspector. Sam is a Master Plumber by trade and his direct duties are plumbing inspector, gas inspector, mechanical inspector and the energy compliance inspector.

Dan Reilly is our Assistant Building Inspector, with direct duties as the electrical and foundation systems inspector. Dan is a Master electrician by trade.

Tina Cardoso is our Code Enforcement Officer and is tasked with enforcing zoning and building violations.

Barbara White is our Permit Clerk.

The Department of Building Safety is dedicated to procuring a safe community through communication and education.

**A total of 377 permits were issued during 2016**

Building Permits	153
Plumbing	23
Electrical	102
Mechanical	28
Gas	48
Well	16
Code Enforcement Cases	12
New Business Occupancy Permits	4

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ronald LeMere  
Chief Building Official  
Department of Building Safety

**CEMETERY TRUST FUNDS**

Created for the Year Ending December 31, 2016

**HIGHLAND CEMETERY**

Paul Mackenzie	One Lot	\$ 325.00
James and Pamela Mavrelion	Two Lots	650.00
Ray Madore	One Lot	325.00
Luicia Nicolosi	Four Lots	1,300.00
David Marden	One Lot	325.00
David Anderson	One Lot	375.00
Vick and Troy Nelson	One Lot	375.00

**WILLOW GROVE CEMETERY**

Ronald and Cheryl Saunders	One Lot	\$ 325.00
Eric Moulaison	One Lot	375.00
Wayne and Stephanie Stanley	One Lot	375.00
Susan H Nelson	Three Lots	1,125.00
Frank Gibbs Sr.	Two Lots	750.00
Robert D Chase	Two Lots	<u>750.00</u>

**TOTAL \$ 7,375.00**

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary M. Allen, Lynne Camp, Joseph A. Simone  
Trustees of Trust Funds

## **CEMETERY TRUSTEES**

In the March 2016 election, the Town of Newton passed Warrant Article #10, which now allows the Trustees to deposit all income from grave sales into an Expendable Trust Fund. These funds can and will be used to finance major cemetery projects.

The Cemetery Rules and Regulations were recently changed to include the following statement: "Lot owners are prohibited from the use of gas powered equipment to mow or trim grave lots in any Newton Cemetery."

It was decided this year that the Veterans Flags will be removed after Veterans Day from now on. The primary reason was to avoid them being buried in snow and/or somehow destroyed over the winter months. They will be replaced prior to Memorial Day of the following year.

Lot markers were installed in the Willow Grove Cemetery which will greatly facilitate grave sales in the future.

The Trustee's laptop needed to be replaced this year so a new laptop was purchased. The laptop is critical for our needs particularly as we need to interact with the town server on a regular basis.

You may have noticed that the fence posts at Willow Grove were newly painted prior to Memorial Day and the Trustees replaced the well pump stand.

Lastly, the Trustees transferred ownership of a leaf blower and lawn mower to the Newton Fire Department.

### 2016 GRAVE SITE SALES

Highland Cemetery – 11  
Willow Grove – 10

### 2016 INTERMENTS

Highland – 9  
Willow Grove – 4

2016 TOTAL INCOME FROM LOT SALES - \$7,375.00

Respectfully Submitted by:

Michael W. Hughes, William G. Landry, Ronald N. Saunders  
Cemetery Trustees

## **CABLE COMMITTEE**

The Cable Committee this past year started the process of replacing our out of date video and audio equipment. Our integrator has completed about 80% of the project as we are still awaiting a few more pieces of equipment that needs to be replaced. We now have 3 new cameras in the main hall, a projector and screen that allows us to use picture in picture and display the slides next to the speaker was also installed. Our new Tricaster and Ronin backup allows us to control our cameras while having a backup of the video and audio being recorded.

We expect to have the project completed by the end of the first quarter in 2017. We are still awaiting the installation of the Nexus which is what is used to broadcast, schedule and upload the slides to our station.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn Landry, Chairman, Sally Woodman, Secretary  
Diane Morin, Station Manager, Mary Winglass, Member  
Cable Committee