

**Town of Cummington  
Board of Health  
Annual Report for FY2014**

A Board of Health is responsible for attending to conditions and environments that could threaten health of local residents, mainly through implementing State regulations. Board of Health activities for Fiscal Year 2014 (July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014) include:

**Transfer Station Redesign**

At the beginning of fiscal year 2014, a plan to redesign the Transfer Station went out to bid. The redesign had been approved at the May 2013 Town of Cummington's Annual Meeting, estimated to cost \$205,000.00, including fees for the engineering firm designing the project. The lowest bid was \$226,000 and most bids far exceeded the approved funds. Instead of redesigning the Transfer Station, the Board of Health is in-process of refurbishing the existing equipment and facilities, repairing the rubbish compactor and adding a compactor to handle all recyclables, with a total budget of \$100,000.

**Transfer Station permits and bag tags**

The new bag tag system that was first implemented in 2011 (FY2012) continues. There was no raise on the cost of the annual permit, and with everyone paying for bag tags to dispose of rubbish, residents pay according to use. Adding the new compactor for recyclables reduced the restrictions on recyclable items, and (no-fee) recycling continues to increase.

**Disposal containers for Sharps**

The Board of Health, concerned that improper disposal of hypodermic needles and other "sharps" presents a hazard to anyone handling trash containing these items, found a source of quart-size disposal boxes, to be offered at the Transfer Station at a nominal cost.

**Town Septic Pumping Program**

The Board found a local septic system contractor willing to offer a group discount for residents to have their septic system pumped, and by the end of FY2014, a sufficient number of residents signed up to participate.

**West Cummington Landfill**

Repairs to the former landfill site have been completed. Ongoing monitoring is conducted to assure that any further problems will be detected.

**Septic Inspections**

Every year the Board of Health monitors septic installations, perc tests, septic design approvals, and does sign-offs before finished systems are covered. The Board of Health also reviews all Title 5 inspections (as is necessary when property changes hands).

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Bogart, Chair	2014
Jack Earls	2015
Roger Gunn	2016