

**Town of Cummington
Board of Health
Annual Report for FY2016**

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 2016 (July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016) include:

Transfer Station Renovations: Take it or Leave it Shed

Previous improvements to the Transfer Station made the Town of Cummington eligible for a grant of \$2,100 from the Department of Environmental Protection. These funds were awarded in FY2016 and have been earmarked to go toward the construction of a Take it or Leave it Shed. The site work and foundation began in the spring of 2016, and the shed will be completed in the summer of 2016.

Its purpose is to reduce landfill. Usable items that would otherwise be discarded can be intercepted to reside temporarily in the shed, available for browsers to remove for free. This gives household items, small working appliances, and other treasures a second chance. Guidelines will be mailed to permit-holders and will also be posted on the Town of Cummington/Board of Health website, explaining that the person submitting the item needs to bring it to the Transfer Station office, and will still need to pay the appropriate disposal fee (if any).

This shed, in turn, will make the Town of Cummington eligible for an additional reward in a FY2017 grant, to be used for future qualifying improvements to the Transfer Station.

Transfer Station permits and bag tags

The Board of Health carefully monitors the costs of running the Transfer Station versus monies received there. The costs do exceed the income, but by an acceptable amount, and the Board continues to make no increase to the cost of the annual permit.

The Board of Health members thank you all for your recycling efforts. All recycling is monitored by the receiving facility and the town is cited if collections are dirty or contaminated with non-recyclable materials. So never put any household trash into the recycling bin. Your cooperation is essential to help our Transfer Station build and keep a good reputation.

Disposal of “Sharps”

The Board of Health continues to help townspeople in properly discarding needles used on people and livestock. Improper disposal of hypodermic needles and other “sharps” are a hazard to anyone handling trash that contains these items.

Town Septic Pumping Program

Our successful septic system pumping program that began in the autumn of 2014 has continued each springtime since. Participation is now into its third year, and is planned again for FY2017.

Well Water Testing

The Board of Health still recommends that owners of wells have their well’s water-quality tested annually for any of a variety of specific possible contaminants.

Board Vacancy

As of September 2015 (in FY2016), Jack Earls is no longer a member of the Board of Health. We thank him for his many years of dedicated service. Persons interested in filling the vacancy are welcome to contact either Board of Health member or a member of the Select Board.

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Respectfully submitted,

Judith Bogart, Chair 2017
Roger Gunn 2019