

**Town of Cummington  
Board of Health  
Annual Report for FY2017**

Board of Health activities for Fiscal Year 2017 (July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017) include:

**Transfer Station Renovations**

The Take it or Leave it shed was completed and put into service in September, 2016. It was partially funded by a \$2,100 grant from the Department of Environmental Protection. As a result, a grant of \$2,700 was awarded by the DEP in FY2017.

The Board of Health researched the feasibility and costs of an open-sided enclosure for the open-top bin that is used for collecting Construction and Demolition waste. This would permit year-round use of the bin and would protect its contents from snow and freezing rain. The initial architectural plans appeared to meet the planned budget, but upon review by the Conservation Commission and when considering water runoff from the roof, the BoH determined the final costs would exceed the benefits.

**Transfer Station 50% Recycling Goal**

The Board of Health has established a 50% recycling goal with the intent of increasing the quantity and improving the quality of the materials being recycled at the transfer station. In 2016, the Town of Cummington had a recycling rate of 33.5%, which was an increase of 1.8% over 2015.

The Board of Health provides guidelines that list items that do not belong in the recycling bin. These guidelines are available at the Transfer Station office and are posted in the Board of Health section of the Town of Cummington website.

**Disposal of “Sharps”**

Improper disposal of hypodermic needles and other “sharps” (used on people and livestock) are a hazard to anyone handling trash that contains these items. Inquire about sharps disposal in the Transfer Station office.

**Town Septic Pumping Program**

For 3 summers (2014, 2015, 2016) the Board of Health coordinated between residents and a local septic company to sign-up for septic system pumping. In the summer of 2017, the hauler no longer offered to participate in the program, and it was discontinued. Septic-owners are encouraged to have their systems pumped every three years.

**Well Water Testing**

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

**Personnel Changes**

Board member Roger Gunn served on the Board from 2013 through February 2017, and was instrumental in the restoration and improvement of the Transfer Station site and equipment. Welcome back to Jack Earls, who previously served on the Board for many years, and has now returned.

Mike Robbins, Transfer Station attendant for more than thirty years, has expressed his plans to retire. He is a cherished part of the Transfer Station, and we look forward to his visits there for many years to come.

=====  
Respectfully submitted,

Judith Bogart, Chair	2020
Jack Earls	2018
Jim Wettereau	2018