

2015 Report of the Monson Board of Health

Local Boards of Health in Massachusetts are required by state statutes and regulations to perform the following duties. They must: 1) Regulate and protect the community's general health through disease control and health care. 2) Inspect, issue permits and enforce state sanitary code standards for local housing and dwellings. 3) Inspect and issue permits for residential septic systems under Title 5 regulations. 4) Inspect and issue permits for food service and food production establishments, pools, camps, motels and mobile home parks. 5) Regulate solid waste, hazardous waste, garbage and nuisances injurious to public health, including air pollution and tobacco regulations. 6) Control potential threats to public health from beaver damage and issue permits to allow the trapping of beavers. 7) Regulate tobacco sales to minors and enforce environmental tobacco smoke regulations. 8) Permit and inspect body art establishments, tanning salon establishments and massage therapists. 9) Keep records on all of the above.

The Board of Health Inspector is responsible for the enforcement of, and education for, public health issues and regulations. The position requires the inspection of all restaurants, retail food establishments, motels, tanning and piercing salons, schools, swimming pools, bathing beaches, camps for children and housing. These inspections are conducted to assure compliance with state and local regulations that govern them. When violations are observed, the facility is cited and re-inspection is conducted to verify compliance. In addition to the above, the inspector is responsible for investigating complaints of trash and debris on public and private property, the health and welfare of individuals who may need assistance or guidance, noise complaints, septic system failure complaints, air quality issues, hoarding and any other concerns relating to public health. In all these instances the Inspector conducts an inspection to determine the health risk, and follows up with a letter to, or contact with, the affected parties to eliminate the health risk. When compliance with an order is not obtained within the specified time, the Inspector will continue enforcement through the legal process. In these cases the Inspector submits the documentation to the appropriate court and represents the Town in any subsequent court proceedings.

The Health Inspector also represents the Town of Hampden at the Hampden County Health Coalition and Regional Emergency Planning Committee, which meets monthly to discuss an initiate preparedness and public health initiatives. Throughout the year, various drills are conducted to evaluate emergency response.

The Health Inspector is required to handle all aspects of the enforcement of Title V of the Environmental Code. This includes witnessing all site assessments required during the percolation testing for new construction and repairs of all leach fields in Town. The proposed design for the new leach field or any component is submitted for the inspector to review/approve. The inspector is then required to conduct all field inspections of the installation to assure compliance with the approved design. In 2015 the inspector witnessed 19 percolation tests, reviewed 23 septic designs and inspected 27 installations.

This year the Monson Board of Health celebrated its 20th anniversary. In celebration of this anniversary, Board member, Wayne Yee created a new logo and stationery representing the many aspects of the Monson Board of Health.

This year in April, the BOH sponsored a recycling poster contest for the local elementary and middle school through 8th grade. "Favorites" from each grade were chosen and awarded a trash bin and a certificate to River Hollow Golf Course. All posters were displayed in the atrium of Quarry Hill School.

On October 17th, the BOH, in conjunction with Monson Senior Center held a local Health Fair. This fair encompassed enough vendors to necessitate 2 locations. This is the first time in several years that Monson had a community wide health fair. It is the hope of the Monson Board of Health to continue and expand upon this yearly event.

The Monson Board of Health consists of a governing board of up to five appointed members, who are trained and certified by the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards. This year the MAHB Conference was held in Marlborough MA. Three members received their certification, in addition to the Health Inspector/Title V Agent and Administrative Assistant. The Board of Health meetings were generally held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 110 Main St. and were open to the public. Questions or appointments to meet with the Board may be addressed by calling the Board of Health office at 267-4107 or emailing to boh@monson-ma.gov. Updates and information about the Board of Health, as well as links to information concerning public health may be found at the town web site: http://www.monson-ma.gov/Public_Documents/MonsonMA_Health/index.

The Board of Health manages new wells in town. The well company obtains a permit from the BOH. They work in conjunction with the Health Inspector for proper location and submit completed documentation on well and water quality after completion. All of this information is kept in file in the BOH office. In accordance with the Wellhead Protection Regulation, 310.CMR22.2 1 (2)(a)8, the Board of Health also enforces regulations on commercial floor drains, which helps to ensure the removal of harmful chemicals that could get into the ground water and pollute the town's wells.

The Board of Health, together with the Conservation Commission, continues to oversee the implementation of the state Beaver Bill. When problems arise with beavers damming up waterways and flooding public ways or residents' properties, the Board of Health inspects to determine if a public safety or health impact is present. When a health or safety issue is present, the Board grants a permit for the trapping of the beaver/s. This year the Board of Health updated the beaver permits to include follow-up data about the number of beavers that were trapped on a given permit. The DEP sent a representative who was able to do a site inspection of a few of the frequent beaver locations in town. Fortunately, 2015 was a much quieter year, as only one beaver permit was request throughout the year.

In 2015, the Board of Health, thanks to a Community Innovation Challenge Grant, administered by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, completed the Community Health Assessment. The grant also provided for a shared Community Health Nurse who for Monson, also continues to maintain communicable disease reporting through MDPH.

This past year was another good year for our semi-annual bulky day. The May Bulky day was held at the Quarry Hill School on the first Saturday with an extremely successful turnout: 330+ residents participated and 18 delinquent trash bills were collected. ProShred continues to be present yearly in the spring. October 3rd Bulky Day was held at the new location of the former Hillside School, 29 Thompson St. This rainy day continued to bring an impressive turnout of 279 residents; 156 paid vehicles, 120 no fee vehicles and 4 delinquent trash bills were collected. The new location worked out well with fewer conflicts with school transportation, delayed trash pick-up and illegal dumping. These collection days allow members of our trash program, to dispose of large, bulky trash items, as well as tires, propane tanks, car batteries and scrap metal. Recycling bins for every other week curbside collection are available at Bulky Day and also can be purchased from the Collector's office at a cost of \$5.00 each. The future Bulky days will be held on the **last Sat in April** and the **last Sat in Sept** at **29 Thompson St**. This information was provided to all residents on the new bi-yearly trash calendar.

On July 14, 2015, a tele-conference on opiate abuse was held and attended by Scott Malo, **MONSON HEARS** and members of the Board of Health in the conference room at 110 Main St. The Board of Health has partnered up with **MONSON HEARS** lending support in eradicating opiate abuse in our Town.

CVS provided information pertaining to securing grant funding which enabled the Town to install a permanent drug box in front of the police station. This box allows for proper disposal all pill medications - no liquids, inhalers or sharps please.

In November, the Town held a semi- annual 'no fee' Hazardous Waste Day. \$5250 was paid to Clean Harbors for waste collection. We are grateful to Clean Harbors for their continued collaboration in this important event.

The Board of Health continues to monitor the incidences of West Nile Virus, EEE, and the Flu. Through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health on-line portal, the BOH monitors the incidence of communicable disease in our community and follows up with information gathering and case reporting back to the MDPH.

The Board would like to thank Republic Services for awarding a \$750.00 scholarship to a Monson High School senior this year and also for their generous donation to the "Gifts to the Town" account. This year Republic Services donated an **Automated External Defibrillator** on the main floor of the new Town Hall. This AED is the same type that is utilized by the police department. Republic Services' community commitment, generosity and continued support is greatly appreciated.

The BOH purchased 2 complete Big Bellies - one is currently at Dave Grieve Park and the other will be installed at Veterans field in the spring.

The Town of Monson Medical Reserve Corp currently has 40 Members.

The Volunteers were requested to participate in Ma Responds, DPH and Region 1 MRC Drills throughout the year. Monson MRC also participated in the Great American Shake Out on October 15, 2015. This drill educates and promotes Earthquake Preparedness.

The Volunteers were encouraged to participate in two separate Ground Fire Trainings. This training is in partnership with the Monson Fire Department. Volunteers who participated were trained in monitoring the Fire Fighters health and wellbeing during a fire event. MRC Volunteers would be called out to assist the EMT's during a large scale fire.

The Town of Monson Medical Reserve Corp attended the Farmers Market held at First Church and promoted Personal Preparedness. A strong focus of this event was staying healthy and preventing insect-born illnesses during the warm weather as well as preventing sunburn. Volunteers handed out fliers, answered questions and encouraged Healthy Personal Care and Emergency Preparedness.

October 17, 2015 The Monson MRC had representatives at the Town Health Fair. Members displayed an Emergency Go Kit, answered questions about the MRC and encouraged fair attendees to get prepared. Preparedness information was handed out.

RECALLS are posted on the News & Announcements portion of the town website.

The Board would like to thank members of the community for helping the Board of Health in their efforts this year. Evan Brassard, Town Administrator, has provided invaluable support and advice on many of the Board's programs along with Deborah Mahar, Financial Director, who retired this past fall. Also, much appreciated is our shared work and mutual support from Liz Manley and the Medical Reserve Corps volunteers. The Board feels very fortunate to have Claire Forgues, as our Administrative Assistant and Lorri McCool as our Health/Title V Agent. John Morrell and the Highway Department employees have been of invaluable assistance, as has Dorothy Jenkins and her staff in the Collector's office. Chief Stephen Kozloski and the Monson Police Department, as well as, Chief Larry McDonald, Monson Fire Dept. have willingly provided help in many of the Board's efforts, including the assurance of public safety and traffic control at BOH events.

Respectfully submitted,
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John (Beau) Schneider, RN Vice Chairman
Vicki Alfano, RTR
Wayne Yee
Joanna Sorreiro

Lorri McCool Title V/Health Inspector
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