

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Health continues to meet Monday evenings at 7:30 PM in the Town House. In the event of a Monday holiday, the Board meets on Tuesday evenings. The Board makes inspections, conducts percolation tests, and performs other Board of Health related duties on alternating Saturday mornings throughout the year.

Along with the normal meeting activities of plan reviews, scheduling percolation tests, and permit applications the Board of Health this past year has completed numerous other important projects.

One of several projects to be completed this year was that of the re-organization of the Transfer station to allow one attendant to oversee the entire operation. Relocation of recycling bins nearer to the trash compacter has made for a more efficient operation, better traffic flow, and eliminated the need for a second attendant on weekends, resulting in a cost saving for the town.

We have contracted with a new company that has taken over the recycling of metals, resulting in a saving to the town. The main reason for the change (in addition to the cost saving) was that the new company would take appliances with the chemical Freon. The prior hauler would not remove appliances with Freon. A licensed technician in accordance with the law removes the chemical and disposes of it. This is another service that we can offer to the town.

The board has been operating with two members for almost a year now. One member resigned in early 2002 to pursue other interests. We have not been able to fill the open seat. The two remaining members have spread the workload and continue to focus on the needs of the people of the town.

An addition to the Board this year was a secretary to help with the day-to-day operations, sorting mail, returning routine phone calls and filing. She is in the office Tuesdays and Thursdays during the day and assists the board on Monday evenings during the meeting. This has drastically streamlined operations in the office.

The board is planning further reviews of Town of Plympton Board of Health regulations this year. Plans are to include policies for well installers and trash haulers. The board continues to fine-tune its regulations to provide maximum protection for the residents of the town.

One of the greatest continuing challenges to the Board of Health is the rising cost of trash removal. For the past several years, the Board has had to approach the town for a transfer of funds to cover the increasing cost of trash removal. After much discussion the Board regretfully decided to implement an increase in Transfer Station stickers, effective Jan 1, 2003. Reviewing fee schedules of many surrounding communities, the Board discovered that Plympton still offers its residents many services for a modest fee.

Respectfully submitted,

Abdu Nessralla
Dana Fowler