

Members

Kenneth B. Lacey Jr., Chairman

Nathan D. Stewart, Clerk

Robert K. Downing, Member

Staff

Dawn Toon, Health Inspector

Sydney Plante, Animal/Barn Inspector

Joseph Cjicka and Chris Jones, Plumbing and Gas Inspectors

Rachael L. Carney, Secretary

Chelsea Tibbetts, Secretary, ending May 2015

Sara Prideaux, Animal/Barn Inspector, ending June 2015

The Warren Board of Health is pleased to present you with the following report for 2015:

The Warren Board of Health office is open to the public Monday and Tuesday 8:30 A.M. – 4 P.M., Wednesday 12 P.M. – 5 P.M., and Thursday 12 P.M. – 6 P.M.

The Board meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 12 P.M. in the Board of Health office located in the Shepard Municipal Building, at 48 High Street.

The Board welcomed our newest member, Nathan Stewart who was appointed in August 2015 to fill the vacancy left by Dmitry Volishinov. We would like to thank Mr. Volishinov for his many years devoted to serving the Town of Warren.

In 2015 the Board also welcomed two new staff members, Rachael Carney, Secretary and Sydney Plante, Animal Inspector.

In 1799 the nation's first Health Department was formed in Boston, MA with Paul Revere as its Health Officer. Back then the board was formed to fight a potential outbreak of Cholera. In 1869 Massachusetts established the State Board of Health.

Today disease prevention and health promotion are still the primary goals of the local Health Department, Which, in Warren, is overseen by a three member elected Board of Health. The *Guidebook for Boards of Health* guides local officials in mandated and suggested activities, considering local conditions and available resources.

The Warren Board of Health is responsible under the Department of Public Health regulations, and the Department of Environmental Protection regulations. It oversees, monitors, inspects, investigates, and/or follows up on all *Food Establishments, The State Sanitary Code, Communicable Diseases, Tobacco Control, Emergency Preparedness, Plumbing and Gas Work, Beaver Trapping, Barns and Animals, Percolation Tests, Subsurface Sewerage Systems, Well Installations, the Landfill Closure, and Daily Operations of the Town Transfer Station.*

Food sanitation oversight is one of the most important activities of the Warren Health Department because of the potential for serious food-borne illness. The Town of Warren has 20 food service establishments, including retail food stores, restaurants, seasonal farm stands, bars, bakeries, and schools. Two inspections are done at each establishment each year, more if compliance issues are found or suspected. Temporary food service events added (2) additional inspections this year. Approximately 44 food service inspections were done this year.

The Warren Board of Health, under the authority of the State Sanitary Code, 105 CMR 410.000 Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation, responds to complaints by residents concerning possible health and safety violations within the town. In 2015 the Board received 30 complaints on specific location in and around Warren that included safety violations, inappropriate garbage/rubbish storage and disposal, rodent/insect infestations, noise, and air quality concerns. In all the 199 complaints and follow ups were logged. When violations of the State Sanitary Code are found a Correction Order is written to the property owner. The Board issued 11 Correction Orders and 1 Court Enforced Order this year.

The Warren Board of Health is also charged with maintaining, updating, and practicing for the implementation of an emergency dispensing site to vaccinate residents in the event of a local or national pandemic.

The Barn/Animal Inspector performs annual inspections and livestock counts. All reports are submitted to the State of Massachusetts Agricultural Department. The inspector is also responsible for follow up on reported cases of rabies and determining if quarantine is warranted.

Livestock Counts in Warren for 2015:

The Plumbing and Gas Inspector is charged with making sure all work completed complies with the Massachusetts State Plumbing Code.

The Warren Board of Health issued/performed the following in 2015:

• Septic Hauler Permit	5	
• Septic Installer Permit	4	
• Trash Hauler Permit	5	
• Beaver Trapping Permit	1	
• General Complaints Received/Investigated	199	
• Correction Orders Issued	11	
• <u>Cost of Permits Sold in 2015</u>		<u>\$20536</u>
• <u>Amount contributed to the General Fund in 2015</u>		<u>\$15001</u>

Communicable diseases reported to the Warren Board of Health in 2015

- Babesiosis - 1
- Hepatitis C - 3
- Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis - 1
- Lyme Disease – 2

The Warren Board of Health Members and Staff would like to thank the residents, other departments, boards and commissions for their support and assistance throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth B. Lacey, Chairman

Warren Board of Health Department