

BOARD OF HEALTH

	2001	2002	2003
Annual Flu Clinic	265	240	201
Pneumonia	75	0	0
Tetanus	75	0	0
Annual Rabies Clinic	40	50	50
Well Water Tests	40	60	12
Percolation Tests	58	73	33
Septic Systems – Installed/Repaired	27	62	51
Septic Installer Permits Issued	15	19	12
Septage Hauler Permits Issued	4	3	4
Well Permits	20	30	33
Food Service Permits	20	22	29
Public Swimming Pool Permits	1	1	1
Health Complaints	6	8	5
Court Actions	1	0	0

The Board of Health in 2003 instituted a yearly vehicle sticker system, in addition to the bag fees, in order to continue running the Transfer Station. This board, along with many others, experienced either a complete loss or drastic reduction in available funds to operate. We are happy to report that over 750 households are currently using the Transfer Station and Recycling Center.

On April 5, 2003, we held our annual Rabies Clinic at the Highway Department Town Garage, where 50 dogs/cats were vaccinated. Many thanks to Dr. Penny Peck for her time and to our Town Clerk, Eva Wiseman, for her help in issuing dog licenses. Thanks to the Girl Scouts who also lent a hand in this important annual event.

On September 13th, we participated in the Regional Household Hazardous Waste Day that was held at Minnechaug Regional High School. Out of the 1,939 households in our town, only 16 participated. Due to the high cost of implementing this program and the low turnout from our town, this will no longer be an annual event. Meanwhile, the board will be looking into other ways of disposing hazardous household waste in a more economical manner.

We were sorry to see Kelley O'Shea leave and thank her for a job well done as the Secretary to the Board of Health. In late October, we welcomed Beth Perkins to our staff.

The annual Flu Clinic, which was held at the Senior Center on November 6, 2003, drew over 200 participants. Many thanks to the Senior Center staff and volunteers, Judy Hatch, and nurse volunteers that helped make this event a successful one.

Annual well water testing for coliform bacteria was also held in November. Only 12 households participated this year. We hope that more people will take advantage of this service to help ensure the quality of private well water. More information on well water testing is available at the Board of Health office.

Moving forward, Hampden became a member of the Executive Governing Committee for Boards of Health in our area for the dispersal of federal and state grants as they come available. There is money out there for all communities, big and small. By teaming up with many of our surrounding towns and cities, our ability to receive funds will be greatly increased.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark R. Barba, Chairman
Beth Perkins