

gathered to watch the Gilbane Building Company use a 185-foot crane to lift a 24-foot steel beam into place over what will be the new high school's main entrance. The erection of the beam—painted white and signed by students, teachers, elected officials, and well-wishers—marked the completion of the building's steel structure. A small tree, along with an American flag, was tied to the beam to represent good luck and to demonstrate patriotism.

You can follow our building process at www.minuteman.org under the School Building Project tab.

Grant Funding

Minuteman High School secured a \$495,000 state grant to update and expand its Metal Fabrication & Joining Technologies (Welding) program. The grant award was announced by Governor Baker on June 21, 2018, and is one of three competitive grants awarded to Minuteman in the past two years that have brought nearly \$1.5 million to the school. These funds are dedicated toward the purchase of equipment to support our Advanced Manufacturing & Metal Fabrication curriculum. High school and middle school students will use the equipment during the regular school day, while “gap year” students, incumbent workers, and unemployed adults will have access during evening programs run by Minuteman and the Wentworth Institute of Technology. Graduates will enhance their technical skills and more easily secure jobs as welders, metal fabricators, and machinists in the region's defense, manufacturing, STEM/medical device, and power-generation industries.



Powisset Farm Explorers Session. Photo by Rachel Gore. Courtesy of The Hometown Weekly.

DOVER

Health Reports

2018



Report of the **Board of Health**

Gerald Clarke, Sc.D., Chair

Dr. Stephen Kruskall

Dr. Joseph Musto

Michael Angieri, Septic Agent

George Giunta, Well Agent (retired, September 2018)

Alex Zemel, Well Agent (appointed October 2018)

Karen Hayett, Executive Assistant

The Board of Health (BOH) is responsible for protecting the public health and environment, with authority and responsibilities as set forth in numerous Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Regulations. Additionally, various federal statutes lay out the responsibilities of state and local governments to ensure the public health. The Board's elected members, agents, inspectors, and subcommittee members work to ensure that food, water, soils, and air are protected from contamination that would pose a public health threat. The BOH also works to prevent the spread of contagious disease in humans and animals, and to identify and prevent the spread of the growing number of tick-borne diseases. Information about the BOH's various programs can be accessed through the Town of Dover's website, www.doverma.org (under "Government"/"Town Offices" tabs).

Water Quality and Supply

PRIVATE WELLS

With 63% of households obtaining their drinking water from privately owned wells, Dover residents first typically interact with the BOH on matters related to drinking water and sewage disposal. The BOH is obligated to ensure that drinking water is safe and available, both by its fiduciary responsibility to all residents and by various laws and regulations. Relevant federal statutes include the Clean Water Act, as amended in 1972, and the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended in 1996. The primary act and laws that delegate responsibility to local boards of health can be found in MGL, Chapter 111 (Public Health).

BOH well agents review plans for the siting of new private wells, and they inspect both the construction of new wells and repairs made to existing wells. Additionally, the BOH revised its fee schedule in light of the increased fracking being done to improve the performance of wells with insufficient flow rates. During 2018, 15 permits were issued for new potable water supply wells, 20 pump tests were performed, 4 wells were improved by fracking, and 10 wells were decommissioned (abandoned).

To ensure the safety of residents, and specifically young children, water quality and quantity tests are required prior to the sale or transfer of ownership of a home. It is the responsibility of the seller to provide to the BOH and to the purchaser copies of the well test report issued by a certified laboratory done within the year of transfer of ownership. The updated well regulations are available at the BOH office (Town House, lower level, 5 Springdale Avenue) and on the Town's website. The Board advises that all applicants for well permits and all well drillers review the Town of Dover Code, Division 2, Rules and Regulations, Chapter 233 (Wells) and BOH regulations to ensure compliance. A notice of the BOH's amended regulations is also provided to real-estate brokers for dissemination to home buyers.

As residents alter landscaping and introduce lot-line retaining walls or decorative walls, the BOH has reasserted the requirement that a well must be accessible from the street to enable maintenance, such as pump replacement or re-drilling.

In 2018, as a result of the BOH's improved well-site monitoring, several residents were required to follow proper procedures for well abandonment and closure, including for the removal of disused equipment and the filling of the well hole, important steps in ensuring public safety.

Drought conditions in previous years have led many citizens to contact the BOH to ask why the Board doesn't issue regulations on water conservation. However, the Board cannot impose water conservation measures without authorization from the Town. (It is important to note that the excessive precipitation seen in 2018 is not a predictor of continued rainfall.)

Dover does not qualify for participation in the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, although it might at some future date execute its allowable access to water pumped from Elm Bank in Dover. This access falls under a cooperative agreement with the Town of Natick, which has installed a pumping station in Dover.

During 2018, the BOH became aware of an attempt by developers in Sherborn to obtain access to Natick water pipes, with water from Elm Bank, to provide water to their development in Sherborn. The towns of Natick, Dover, Wellesley, and Needham hold a restrictive right under Massachusetts law (1986) to access the Charles River aquifer at Elm Bank for the purposes of pumping water for public domestic use. Only Natick currently does this, subject to an agreement with Dover. The BOH acted in 2018 to protect that continuing exclusive legal right. Natick Public Works was notified by the BOH and informed of this restriction, resulting in the Sherborn access being refused.

The following MassDEP Web pages provide valuable information on private wells:

- www.mass.gov/private-wells
- www.mass.gov/service-details/faqs-private-wells
- www.mass.gov/service-details/protect-your-family-a-guide-to-water-quality-testing-for-private-wells

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIERS

In 2018, 63% of the 2,121 households in Dover relied on private wells located on residential properties. The remaining 37% of households (786) are serviced by seven Public Water Supply (PWS) companies regulated by the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities and the MassDEP. Nearly 30 years ago, the Town Water Department's well field on Church Street was contaminated by MTBE (methyl tertiary butyl ether), a fuel oxygenate, as the result of a gasoline spill at the Mobil service station. The well field remains abandoned. In 1994, an alternative source of water was obtained under contract from the Dover Water Company (since purchased by Colonial Water Company). The Town is in its second year of a three-year extension of Colonial supply contract to provide drinking water to the Town's municipal buildings and to the residents in the center of the Town who are connected to the original distribution piping.

The resident PWS companies in Dover and whom they service are:

- **Colonial Water Company:** 1,844 residents/646 households and buildings in or near the Town center; commercial buildings in the Town Center
- **Dover Water Department:** Town-owned PWS serving Chickering Elementary School and providing drinking water in the fields
- **Glen Ridge Resident Trust:** 122 residents/44 households (sourced from Natick Public Works)
- **Meadowbrook Water Trust:** 57 residents/26 households (sourced from Natick Public Works)
- **Old Farm Road Water Trust:** 40 residents/15 households
- **Precious Beginnings:** daytime preschool
- **County Street, Route 109:** 132 residents/55 households (sourced from Walpole Public Works)

DATA COLLECTION/MANAGEMENT

With the appointment of a new well agent, work will proceed on updating the set of data required to be recorded on all well permits, allowing us to provide residents commonly requested information on property wells.

WATER RESOURCES

At the request of the Board of Selectmen, the BOH established the Water Resource Study Committee (WRSC). At the May 2018 Annual Town Meeting, the BOH requested and received approval under Warrant Article 12 for \$150,000 to engage an engineering consultant to assist in the preparation and creation of the town-wide "Hydrology Report."

For a full report on WRSC activities, see page 169.

Garbage Collection

MassDEP prohibits the disposing of food waste with trash, which creates a considerable increase in the cost of operating the Transfer Station. Residents who ignore the regulation incur an additional cost borne by all Town residents. Although many residents have installed kitchen food grinders or disposals—even when the BOH has recorded a deed restriction prohibiting such installation—the Board strongly advises against using food grinders because the small particulate matter created will clog a septic system’s drip field over time and cause septic system failure at great cost to the resident.

Alternatively, food waste can be collected weekly from private homes, businesses, and public buildings at no cost. Residents should place their garbage and food scraps (not trash or foreign matter) in tightly sealed, covered containers. The Recycling Committee can supply both in-kitchen waste storage containers, as well as larger containers to be kept in the garage. The container should be readily available to the collector. The current holder of the food waste collection contract is George Stevens, who services approximately 280 Dover homes and all public schools. Food scraps are sterilized, and the waste product is recycled into pig feed. Requests for service or questions concerning garbage collection should be directed to the BOH office.

Sewage Disposal

All subsurface sewage disposal systems require proper operation and maintenance. Proper operation includes not pouring grease, fats, and oil down the drain; not using garbage grinders; not using hazardous chemicals for laundry; and promptly repairing leaking toilet tanks and faucets. Proper maintenance includes having the septic tank pumped every other year by a licensed vendor to remove solids and septage, so as to keep the system functioning well. Although pumping and maintenance costs might run into the hundreds of dollars, septic system failure can lead to remediation costs of more than \$30,000. Note that certain pumps or other mechanical or electric devices installed in septic systems require maintenance according to the manufacturer’s maintenance schedule.

The Massachusetts State Sanitary Code requires that towns provide for septage disposal. The Town of Dover has an agreement with the Charles River Pollution Control District in Medway to have its septage accepted at their sewage treatment facility. The fee paid by residents to the licensed pumper includes both a pumping charge and treatment facility disposal fee.

In 2018, 13 permits were issued for upgraded septic systems for existing homes. Two permits were issued for new home construction on vacant lots, and seven permits were issued for system upgrades where existing homes were torn down to allow for new home construction. There were also 18 distribution box replacements, three septic tank replacements, 10 ejector pumps and 20 alternative system installations, and four general repairs. The BOH Agent witnessed 29 deep-hole and percolation tests performed

on existing house lots and one test on previously developed lots on which the houses were torn down. There were 80 Title 5 inspections and eight permits issued for the construction of swimming pools.

In 2018, the Board resolved several disputes between residents regarding the placement of septic systems or maintenance, or the location of wells. There has been an increase in the installation of so-called technology-based septic systems, which is allowed when traditional gravity-feed systems are not possible or in areas where groundwater levels are high. The BOH has also seen more permitted systems requiring a deed restriction prohibiting the installation and use of a garbage grinder, which would affect the system’s operation. For these permits, the Board requires the regular performance of the manufacturer’s recommended maintenance on such systems.

MassDEP Title 5 regulations (310 CMR 15.000) require that a septic system inspection be made by a state-certified Title 5 inspector when a house is put up for sale, when ownership is otherwise transferred, or when there is a change of footprint that may result in the requirement of a septic system upgrade.

All applicants are advised to carefully review state and town regulations to ensure compliance when seeking a septic system, swimming-pool construction, or well permit. For more information on Title 5 regulations, call the BOH office or visit the MassDEP at www.mass.gov.

Communicable Disease Prevention/Elder Services

In 2018, the BOH held significantly more vaccination clinics, during which 121 individuals were vaccinated against influenza (flu), pneumonia, shingles, tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough).

A minority of parents in town question the safety and value of immunizing their children. When a large proportion of the community is vaccinated, the resulting “herd immunity” considerably lowers everyone’s exposure to disease. The avoidance of vaccination is, simply put, dangerous. For example, during the 2017–18 flu season, vaccination levels declined, and the United States experienced 80,000 deaths from the flu. Extensive scientific research on the demonstrated the safety and efficacy of vaccination is widely available.

The BOH contracts with the Walpole Visiting Nurse Association (WVNA) to provide many health clinic services, which are offered through the Council on Aging to Dover’s senior citizens. For more information on available programs, see the WVNA’s report on page 177.

Environmental Health

As the Charles River School proceeded in 2018 with its new building construction on Centre Street, the BOH required that a pre-existing underground industrial wastewater holding tank be replaced. Throughout the construction period, the Board communicated with the school about its concerns and recommendations and monitored the filing of in-process

and as-built construction plans showing the locations of wastewater systems and drinking water distribution piping.

Responding to a request from the swimming pool industry, the Commonwealth eliminated a building permit requirement that protective fencing be installed surrounding a swimming pool. The BOH differs on this matter and continues to require properly maintained security fencing to protect small children from the risk of drowning. As regards hot tubs, the Board ruled that above-ground hot tubs with locking covers do not require fencing, but that in-ground hot tubs continue to require fencing.

In its follow-up to newly issued advisories by the EPA regarding the increased risk of cancer attributable to exposure to PFAS (perfluoroalkyl sulfonate), a component of fire-suppressing foam, the Board informed the Dover Fire Department of the need to monitor and record such usage. PFAS also represents a danger to groundwater supplies.

In 2018, the BOH continued to work closely with the Norfolk County Mosquito Control District to ensure that its activities were effective and conducted in a safe manner. Any homeowner wishing to exempt his or her property from mosquito-control spraying must file the proper paperwork with the Town Clerk prior to the first of March.

Massachusetts law prohibits the disposal of medical sharps and items containing mercury in household trash. The BOH maintains an approved sharps receptacle at its office located on the first floor of the Town House, where sharps may be safely discarded during office hours. Mercury recycling is also available at the BOH office, the Council on Aging office in the Caryl Community Center, the Town Garage, and the Transfer Station.

Following on-site inspections, the BOH enacted new regulations regarding manure (Town of Dover, BOH Regulations, Chapter 213, Manure), which specify new measures regarding the size and location of manure stockpiles. These amendments are intended to protect public water and private wells and to ensure that dumping or storing manure on public land is prohibited.

The Board held a hearing under MGL, Chapter 131, Section 80A to allow a resident to remove or trap beavers at Hales Pond. The situation was not deemed an emergency and the request was denied.

Food and Refreshments

The BOH adheres to the Massachusetts State Sanitary Code when issuing food permits. All food establishments, commercial kitchens, and summer camps are required to have an inspection before a permit is issued. Commercial vendors providing food at charitable events and caterers providing food for private functions must also apply for a permit. Throughout the year, the BOH received applications for one-day or temporary food permits for school and organization events and festivals. Please contact the BOH if your organization is unsure of how these regulations apply to your planned event.

Household Hazardous Waste

The BOH, in coordination with the Recycling Committee, conducts an annual Hazardous Waste Collection Day each spring. Most Dover households generate some amount of household hazardous waste (HHW), yet only 10% to 15% of Town residents take advantage of the one-day HHW collection.

Disposing excess, outdated, or unwanted medications into a household sink or toilet is forbidden because the chemicals of the medications disperse into the ground near your house and then drain off into the groundwater. Studies have shown such disposal is causing endocrine changes in animals and possibly humans.

People “cleaning house” are often likely to discard accumulated HHW into trash and septic systems. This inappropriate method of disposing HHW can pose health, safety, and environmental risks to the property owners, neighbors, and the Town in general. The annual HHW collection offers an acceptable alternative to inappropriate disposal methods, and the Board urges all residents to take advantage of the event. Dover residents can also drop off their hazardous waste at the HHW collection day sites of Charles River Household Waste Consortium member towns Ashland, Bellingham, Franklin, Holliston, Medfield, Milford, Norfolk, Sherborn, and Walpole.

Emergency Preparedness

Since 9/11, the BOH has assumed a significant amount of responsibility for emergency preparedness and participates in the Public Health Emergency Preparedness cooperative agreement, working in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MassDPH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other state and federal departments on continuing education, information sharing, and readiness training. The Board maintains a Medical Reserve Corps of volunteers for the Town.



View from Powissett Street. Photo by Bill McMahon.

Public Health Awareness/Substance Abuse

The BOH is responsible for reducing the use of tobacco products. BOH regulations restrict the legal age for purchasing tobacco products in the Town to 21 years or older. In September 2018, the BOH was notified by the FDA of a violation of the sale of cigarettes to a minor. To file a complaint regarding secondhand smoke or the sale of tobacco to minors, please contact the BOH at (508) 785-0032, extension 232.

With the introduction in 2018 of e-cigarettes, or “vapes,” the BOH investigated the steps necessary to regulate the growing use of flavored products aimed at a market of younger, first-time smokers. In early 2019, the Board plans to issue regulations regarding e-cigarettes and will investigate state initiatives to further restrict the sale of flavored products.

During 2018, members of the BOH attended meetings and seminars in participation with MassDPH, the Massachusetts Health Officers Association, and the University of Massachusetts relative to various health matters, including the regulation of septic systems and groundwater contamination, and the growing health risk of tick-borne diseases.

In 2018, the BOH co-sponsored Warrant Article 22 prohibiting the operation of “Marijuana Establishments” within the Town as provided for in MGL, Chapter 94G.

SPAN-DS

Since 2002, the Substance Prevention and Awareness Network of Dover-Sherborn (SPAN-DS) has promoted awareness of substance abuse and offered resources to help prevent and reduce its incidence. SPAN-DS includes staff members from Dover-Sherborn High School (DSHS) and Dover-Sherborn Middle School (DSMS) local law-enforcement agencies and faith-based communities, youth and parents, and business owners. SPAN-DS works to build networks to heighten awareness, provide educational opportunities, and encourage strong support systems.

In 2018, the BOH provided funding for the Social Norming campaign at DSHS and DSMS. SPAN-DS has demonstrated that a social norming approach can have a significant positive impact on teenage behavior. Campaign activities include parent- and student-targeted presentations made by well-qualified professionals, often in collaboration with surrounding towns, and the distribution of flyers, stickers, posters, and other informational material.

Zoonosis Control

The BOH oversees many activities related to the control of animal-to-human disease transmission (zoonosis). The annual rabies clinic was held at the Town Garage, where Dr. Holly Kelsey, veterinarian at Needham’s Chestnut Street Animal Hospital, vaccinated 26 dogs and cats. MassDPH mandates the vaccination for rabies of all dogs, cats, and ferrets at six months of age or older, or within one month of entering the Commonwealth (without proof of vaccination), and at least once every three years thereafter.

Vaccination orders also apply to other domestic animals under the management of the Animal Inspector.

MassDPH regulations (330-CMR-10, Section 10.06, December 2018) set forth in new stringent quarantine requirements. Dogs and cats that are currently vaccinated, but longer than one month prior, or that are not currently vaccinated but with proof of a prior vaccination, and which have been exposed by direct contact, exposed by proximity, or have received a wound of unknown origin, are assumed to have been infected by a rabid animal and must be strictly quarantined for 45 days. Unvaccinated animals are subject to an order by the Animal Inspector to be immediately vaccinated and placed under confinement for four months or, failing that, to be euthanized. Vaccination for other domestic animals is also required and lacking that vaccination may result in an order by the Animal Inspector. Details can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/09/15/330cmr10.pdf>

The BOH continues to review the need for further animal health measures, including vaccination or control of the incidence of diseases in pet animals, particularly the danger of leptospirosis and worms, both of which represent a hazard to human health through transmission from animal urine, feces, or saliva. In 2018, the BOH provided to the Zoning Board of Appeals, at its request, an opinion paper on animal-related health issues and the ancillary use of residential property.

The ongoing concern over Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) underscores the need for continued vigilance. EEE is maintained in nature through a bird-mosquito cycle and is transmitted to other animals and humans by mosquito bite. Horses should be protected from both Eastern and Western strains of the encephalitis by annual vaccinations. Control of the transmitting mosquitoes is the responsibility of the Norfolk County Mosquito Control District.

The Tick-Borne Disease Committee, created by the BOH, monitors the threat of diseases transmitted by ticks. Of most concern because of the seriousness of the diseases that are transmitted are the Eastern black-legged tick (aka deer tick), the Lone Star tick, and the Rocky Mountain wood tick because of the seriousness of the diseases that they can transmit. Dog ticks are of lesser concern. For a full report on this Committee’s activities, see page 172.

BOH Website

In recognition that the Town’s in-house website has not been an effective venue for communicating to the public, the BOH began design work on its own website. In 2019, the BOH’s website will provide greater public access to health activities in Dover and in Massachusetts, as well as links to health news from the CDC and other reliable sources. BOH application forms, including for wells and septic systems, will be available online in “fill-in-the-blank” formats that residents can complete and print for submission to the BOH office along with any required fees.

Animal Inspection and Quarantine

JENNIFER CRONIN, ANIMAL INSPECTOR

The animal inspector for the BOH annually inspects cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and swine and the conditions under which they are kept. In 2018, as the population changes with a lesser focus on the stabling of horses, seven inactive barns were documented. Two barns identified in 2017 as needing cleaning and improvement have since been closed and abandoned. Increases in the population of smaller animals were noted. Active barns were inspected, during which time notations were made of tuberculin and brucellosis testing, equine Coggins testing, encephalitis vaccinations, and whether the animals appeared free from contagious disease.

FARM ANIMALS INSPECTED IN 2018

Horse	90
Ponies	4
Donkeys	5
Chickens	107
Goats	18
Pigs/Swine	4
Alpacas	20
Sheep	50
Waterfowl	27

Farms in Dover are either removing or composting manure and feces in compliance with revised BOH regulations and are therefore protecting the environment.

Report of the Water Resources Study Committee

Gerald L. Clarke, Chair
Carol Chirico
Gregory M. Kahoun
Justine Kent-Uritam
Carol Lisbon
Ronald Myrick Jr.

On numerous occasions over many years, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) had expressed concern for the lack of information on the current and future availability of drinking water sources for the Town of Dover. Both residents with private wells and residences connected to local public water supply (PWS) entities (Colonial Water Co., Dover Water Department/Chickering Elementary School, Old Farm Road Water Trust, and Precious Beginnings) draw on the same water located underground in Dover.

The issue of water availability has figured significantly in numerous discussions, professional and local studies, and meetings commencing in 2014 regarding the acquisition of the 46 Springdale Avenue property. Earlier studies conducted by the Town (Water Study Report) in January 1995 and by the Water Study Advisory Committee in February 2000, researched and reviewed the issues of water availability and the opportunity for alternative water sources. In March 2015, the BOS attempted to establish a working committee with a charge to “research and report on the protection and preservation of Dover’s water supply,” deeming it a critical issue and pointing out to Town residents that, “Dover has no current data that provide information on the quantity and quality of your water sources.”

During persistent drought conditions throughout 2016, many towns lost their ponds and streams and sources of drinking water, leading several communities to join the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA). This in turn put a greater spotlight on the issue of water availability, and so in December 2016, the BOS asked the Board of Health (BOH) to establish and lead a working committee to undertake this charge. The BOH formed the Water Resource Study Committee (WRSC) in early 2017. In April, the WRSC developed a working mandate document, citing the need to gather data necessary to better understand water resource availability and to develop, where and if necessary, programs that could protect drinking water into the future as the Town continues to grow.

As the WRSC undertook its operations, it became clear that the Town lacks credible data, since many years of well reports have never been filed. Anecdotal information on well failures, drilling depths, and yields indicates a worrisome trend in water availability. However, before any conclusions can be drawn, additional data is needed. The WRSC's fiduciary obligation is to obtain and analyze this information, including hydrological data, to ensure the sustainability of the Town and its residents.

Committee Activities

In 2018, WRSC members actively participated in meetings held by the State's Water Resource Commission and its Drought Management Task Force, with attempts to expand draft regulations that would consider small towns served by private wells.

The WRSC also testified before the State Legislature's Joint Committee on Housing on matters related to public water supply sources and the interaction of that water with septic and sewage. The WRSC has frequently interacted and met with State Representative Denise Garlick and members of her office, as well as officials of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. WRSC Chair Gerald Clarke attended an out-of-state meeting, at personal expense, with Federal EPA employees and DEP employees from other states.

The WRSC has also met with, and obtained data from, numerous government agencies, including the United States Geological Survey, the National Weather Service/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NWS/NOAA), and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. It continues to gather data on changing temperatures and precipitation patterns and monitors the capacity of the MWRA to deliver water to its customers—not as a source for Dover, but as an indication of change in water availability.

In light of the Committee's research, which paints a compelling and concerning picture regarding current water availability trends, the BOH requested an appropriation from the Town of \$150,000 to engage an engineering consultant to assist in preparing a town-wide hydrology report to encourage residents to conserve water and undertake other actions necessary to preserve the Town's water supply. This request, presented under Article 12 at the May 2018 Annual Town Meeting, was approved by Town residents.

That summer, the WRSC met with five qualified, prospective engineering firms, most of which had work experience in Dover. In October, the WRSC narrowed the candidate pool to two firms. In November, following negotiations, the BOH awarded a contract to Kleinfelder New England at a cost that fell within its \$150,000 approved budget.

The scope of Kleinfelder's Hydrology Study Report will include:

- Compilation of research and data (begun in 2018) including,
 - well-drilling reports extracted from MassDEP and geological survey websites;
 - review of reports filed by the public water supply companies that serve Dover residents; and
 - contamination sites listed in published MassDEP reports.
- Installation of 14 to 16 monitoring wells (supervised by the WRSC and completed in 2018) in areas of concern or perceived concern, and installation of stream-side or stream bed piezometers to acquire data for stream and aquifer evaluation.
- Development of a GIS mapping layer comparable to the Board of Assessors' tax lot map and incorporating water distribution system piping and the locations of the monitoring wells installed for the study or by public water supply companies.
- Monitoring and testing of groundwater, using the installed data loggers and collection of water quality samples.
- Preparation of the Hydrology Study Report in the latter part of 2019.

In mid-2018, the Committee designed, and obtained for future use, permanent signage that can be mounted along main streets by the Highway Department to provide, for the first time, informative and educational signage relative to MassDEP announcements of mandatory outdoor watering limitations.

As of the end of 2018, and projecting into 2019, the WRSC's expected expenditures, both budgeted and current actual, fall below the appropriation allotted to it following the May 2018 Annual Town Meeting.

Report of the Tick-Borne Disease Committee

Stephen Kruskall MD, Chair
Tim Holiner
Dr. Joseph Musto
Matthew Schmid

George Giunta, Deer Management Agent
Jim Palmer, Deer Management Agent
Mike Francis, DMP Representative
Jay Walsh, DMP Representative

Mission

The mission of the Board of Health's (BOH's) Tick-Borne Disease Committee (TBDC), formerly known as the Lyme Disease Committee (LDC), is to seek reduction of tick-borne diseases in the Town of Dover by informing residents about personal and property protection against ticks, disease transmission and recognition, and methods for overall tick density reduction. The TBDC makes recommendations to the BOH and the Town's governing bodies for implementing these goals.

Personal and Property Protection

One of the TBDC's major efforts is to educate residents on personal and property protection. It does so by distributing materials produced by the TBDC, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Materials are made available at several locations throughout Dover, including the Town House, the Library, the Post Office, and the Police Department, as well as through e-mails to parents of school-aged children. The TBDC updates the Town of Dover website with tick alerts and other helpful data and provides additional information on its own website (www.doverlyme.com).

Deer Management Plan

Since 2010, the TBDC has implemented a yearly Deer Management Plan (DMP), a regulated hunting program based on the experience and guidance of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife) and on Dover-specific rules and regulations, the most specific of which is that only bow hunting from tree stands is allowed. The plan is administered on Town land and other conservation land, as well as on private properties with signed permission from the landowners. As in past years, extensive signage was posted along trails and entrances to all properties participating in the DMP.

Sixty-eight hunters were certified for the 2018 hunting season, during which hunting was permitted on various Town properties (a downloadable map of public lands is available on the TBDC website). By season's end on December 31, a total of 17 deer had been culled (12 does and five bucks). This total was considerably lower than previous years' individual harvests and was attributed to unusually high water lines this past fall, making many highly productive areas near the Charles River inaccessible to hunters. Most important, no injuries or complaints were reported to the Police Department, the TBDC, the BOH, or the Deer Management Agents.

The BOH and TBDC believe that the current three-pronged approach to managing tick-borne diseases—personal hygiene, property management, and deer and tick density management—has been successful in reducing tick-borne disease incidence rates in our area.



Photo by Beth Luttazi.

Report of the Norfolk County Mosquito Control District

David A. Lawson, Director

The Norfolk County Mosquito Control District (NCMCD) takes an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to mosquito control that is rational, environmentally sensitive, and cost effective.

Surveillance

We engage in an intensive monitoring process through weekly field collections and data analysis, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, to detect disease-vectoring mosquitoes. Virus isolations help us focus our surveillance on hot zones, allowing us to alert nearby towns of a potential epidemic. Public requests for service alert us to high numbers of nuisance mosquitoes. We had 95 requests for service in 2018. We submitted 11 samples and two West Nile isolations were found.

Water Management Activities

An important component of IPM is the management of existing flow systems that, if neglected, can contribute to mosquito breeding. In addition to performing drainage system maintenance, NCMCD personnel are engaged in: communication with residents and town, state, and federal officials; site visits; monitoring; wildlife management; and land surveys. Maintaining regulatory compliance is integral to the management of waterways that may contribute to mosquito breeding. Pre- to post-management documentation allows us to assess the efficacy of our work. Tire collections remove a common breeding site of mosquitoes.

- Culverts cleared: 11
- Drainage ditches checked/hand-cleaned: 3,300 feet
- Hydrants shoveled when needed during culvert work: 0
- Intensive hand-cleaning/brushing: 2,550 feet*
- Mechanical water management: 0 feet
- Tires collected: 4

**Combination of brush cutting and clearing of severely degraded drainage systems or streams by hand.*

Larval Control

When mosquito larval habitat management is not possible, larvicide application to control larval mosquito populations is the most environmentally friendly and effective method of disease control. An intensive monitoring program aids in our decision to effectively target culprit locations.

- Spring aerial larvicide applications (April): 134.6 acres
- Summer aerial larvicide applications (May–August): 0 acres
- Larval control (briquette and granular applications by hand): 8.9 acres
- Abandoned/unopened pools or other manmade structures treated: 0 briquettes

Adult Mosquito Control

Adult mosquito control is necessary when public health and quality of life are threatened by disease agents, overwhelming populations, or both. Our rigorous surveillance program, along with service request data and state-of-the-art GPS and computer equipment, helps us effectively target treatments. In 2018, the NCMCD sprayed 2,574 acres with aerosol ultra-low-volume applications of insecticide.



Heron on pond. Photo by Judy Ballantine.

Report of the
Animal Control Officer

Lori Sallee

Type of Call	# Calls
Dogs Picked up	2
Dogs Returned to Owners	6
Lost Dogs Reported	14
Dogs Hit by Motor Vehicles	1
Dog Bites	10
Other Animal Calls	247
Deer Hit or Killed	36
Total Calls	316
Citations Issued	85

Report of the
Natick Walpole Visiting Nurse Association

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Elaine D. Stephens, RN, MPH, FHHC, CEO
Alyssa Kaiser, RN, BSN, Public Health Nurse Specialist

The Natick Walpole Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) is a nonprofit, community-based, Medicare-certified home care agency providing high-quality home health, palliative, and public health programs and services to people of all ages in Dover and more than 40 surrounding communities.

The VNA's nursing services include physical, occupational, and speech therapy; medical social work; home health aides; maternal and child health services; pediatric nursing; and the services of a geriatric nurse practitioner. The agency also has nurses who are certified in intravenous therapy and wound care. The agency delivers telehealth services, which encompass various technologies and tactics for delivering virtual medical, health, and education services.

Alyssa Kaiser serves as the agency's public-health nurse specialist, whose primary role is to provide public health services and educational programs for the towns we serve.

In 2018, the VNA provided the Town of Dover with the following health services:

Home Care promotes good health and maximum functioning for disabled residents. The VNA conducts home assessments and provides home care visits, as well as health promotion visits for the residents of Dover, to elders with chronic illnesses or conditions, or who might need information or access to services. Families interested in community resources can receive guidance from the VNA via telephone. This also applies to various Town departments. The nurse or therapist providing the assessment or information will help identify services associated with the client's condition, with a goal of preventing unnecessary hospitalizations or institutionalization. When possible, the VNA may apply the reimbursement available for the care needed and provide all services ordered by the client's physician.

Senior Health Assessment and Education Clinics are coordinated in conjunction with the Dover Council on Aging. These clinics are developed and led by our public-health nurse specialist to provide health assessment and counseling, and to address various health issues such as medications and chronic diseases. The clinics also cover other community resources available to seniors.

Maternal/Child Health Services promote the health and stability of families during pregnancy, childbirth, and child-rearing years. Our maternal child-health nurse specialists, certified in lactation, provide assessment, teaching, and support through home visits.

Communicable Disease Services promote the prevention and control of communicable diseases through case finding, education, and the provision of follow-up care consistent with, and in collaboration, with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Case finding is conducted through the state MAVEN system. Visits, education, and immunization are all part of this service.

2018 Public Health Statistics for Dover

Residents Served	145
Communicable Disease Follow-Ups	71
Home Care Visits	21
Senior Clinics Held	53
Flu Clinic Immunizations	121



Summer bounty. Photo by Kate Haviland.

DOVER

Land Use Reports

2018

