



# Franklin Regional Council of Governments

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments provides a variety of services and programming to the municipalities of Franklin County and to the greater Franklin County region. The FRCOG's 2016 Annual Report, which will be available in April of 2017 and on [www.frcog.org](http://www.frcog.org) shortly thereafter, will highlight our work over the past year. Specific services to the Town of Heath in 2016 included the following.

## **Administration and Special Projects**

- Staff continued to work with members of the Selectboard, Finance Committee and the Town Coordinator to develop a long-range capital plan as part of the Baker-Polito Community Compact Program.

## **Collective Bidding & Purchasing Program**

- Heath contracted with the FRCOG to receive cooperative bid pricing for up to 24 different Highway Products and Services. Total estimated highway needs for FY17 is \$453,043.
- Heath participated in the #2 Fuel, Gasoline, and Diesel Fuel bids.
- Heath participated in the Dog Tags and Licenses collective bid program.
- Heath participated in the Elevator Maintenance Program.
- The Chief Procurement Officer issued a bid for disposition of land on Bray Road.

## **Cooperative Public Health Service Health District**

Heath is a comprehensive member of the CPHS health district, sharing health agents and a regional public health nurse who provides support and backup to Heath's Town Nurse.

- Staff conducted 19 Title-5 (septic) related activities including Soil Evaluations for on-lot septic systems, septic system plan reviews including site visits, issuing Local Upgrade Approvals and DSCP (septic) permits, completing inspections of septic system installations, and preparing Certificates of Compliance.
- Staff conducted 5 housing inspections and re-inspections.
- Staff provided services to attendees of monthly "Good Neighbors" food distribution at Charlemont Federated Church where 24 area residents made 58 visits with the nurse for health screening services and assistance with self-management of chronic illness.
- Staff assisted with 18 retail and temporary food inspections or re-inspections and continued to assist Heath residents and businesses on compliance with the Food Code.
- Staff conducted one home visit covering for the Town Nurse to meet resident care needs.
- Staff coordinated with the Town Nurse to conduct follow up and reporting for cases of communicable illness on behalf of the Board of Health. Follow-up was provided as needed for 3 Heath and 104 regionally reported incidents of communicable illness.
- Staff coordinated flu vaccine and supplies assisting Town officials from Charlemont, Hawley, Heath, Monroe, and Rowe to implement a Hawlemont Region Emergency Dispensing Site drill flu clinic. A total of 41 area residents were served with the help of GCC nursing students and community volunteers.
- Staff responded to requests for program and regulatory information from the Board of Health and other Town officials, and attended 11 regular Board of Health meetings or hearings.

- Eight (8) Heath residents took advantage of the low-cost tick tests offered through a Board of Health subsidy. Thirty (30%) of tick tests locally tested positive for the Lyme pathogen.

### **Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program**

- Staff issued 53 building permits, 35 electrical permits & 15 plumbing/gas permits for Heath in 2016. Five (5) Certificates of Inspection were issued.

### **Partnership for Youth**

- Staff conducted a Teen Health Survey to assess teen attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to Mohawk Trail Regional School administrators on results from 137 Mohawk students, representing 63% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classes. Survey data meets federal requirements for the school and is valuable for grant-writing and program planning.
- Staff presented to CPHS Annual Meeting on the Healthy Community Design Toolkit, Volume 2: Municipal Strategies to Increase Food Access.

### **Planning and Development Department**

- Staff provided assistance to the Town in becoming a Green Community.
- Staff secured Brownfields funding to complete a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment for 5 Ledges Road (\$1,695).
- Staff developed and implemented a tri-town community food assessment survey, working with the Heath Agricultural Commission in collaboration with the Towns of Colrain and Charlemont.
- Staff prepared a Draft Business Plan and Legislation for the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Project for 11 West County towns including Heath, with specific recommendations and projects to support Natural Resource Based Economic Development, Forest Conservation & Municipal Financial Sustainability.
- Staff conducted a traffic count on Jacksonville Stage Road (Route 8A) in support of the regional traffic counting program.

### **Regional Preparedness Program**

- Staff conducted quarterly contact drills and a site notification drill to test the Hawlemont Emergency Dispensing Site Plan.
- Staff designed and executed a drill that tested the Plan for the use of the Incident Command System, set up of the emergency operations center, and the receipt of medical countermeasures from the Strategic National Stockpile.
- Staff met with the Board of Health to introduce new members to public health emergency preparedness concepts.
- The Town entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the FRCOG to recognize the Multi-Agency Coordination Center as the official organization to assist them with emergency management needs.

### **Workshops & Training**

The following list represents the FRCOG workshops and training sessions that Heath public officials, staff, and residents attended and the number in attendance.

**Cooperative Public Health Service**

ServSafe/Choke Saver/Allergen Training Series — 4

Food Systems — 2

**Partnership for Youth**

Advanced LifeSkills — 1 representative of the Mohawk Trail Regional School District

**Planning, Conservation, and Development**

Zoning Exemptions — 1

Historic House Care — 1

**Regional Emergency Preparedness**

Emergency Preparedness for People with Access and Functional Needs — 3

Sudden Unaffiliated Volunteers — 3

Intro to Public Health Emergency Preparedness Capabilities — 1

Hawlemont Emergency Dispensing Site Drill — 3