

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. Who are the Board of Health and what are their credentials?

The Board of Health is made up of 3 voluntary, elected members:

#### Term of Office

Michael Morrissette, Chairman

2015-2021

- Has 24 years of restaurant management experience

Dr. David Tapscott, Vice Chair

2017-2020

- Received a Doctor of Medicine degree from Tufts University in 1976 and completed post graduate training in pediatrics at Rhode Island Hospital in 1979.
- Helped establish Tri-River Health Center in Uxbridge in 1979 and practiced pediatrics there until 1995, taking a position at the Providence Community Health Centers until 2008, returning to practice at Tri-River until 2015. Retired from active practice at present.
- Was a member and subsequent Chair of Uxbridge Board of Health from 1989-1996. During this time a voluntary drop off recycling program was established and was active for several years.

Dr. Joann Lindenmayer, Member

2018-2019

- Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (Tufts), Master of Public Health (Harvard School of Public Health)
- Associate Professor of Public Health at Tufts School of Medicine and Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine
- Completed Epidemic Intelligence Service two-year fellowship with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; investigated and published on vaccine-preventable diseases, Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus outbreak, carbon monoxide poisoning, tobacco control and others

The Board of Health is supported by:

- Kristin Black – Health Agent
- Joan St. Andre – Food Inspector
- Moe Guilbault – Barn and Animal Inspector
- Nancy Centrella – Administrative Assistant

### 2. Why does the Board of Health want to start a municipal trash program?

*Uxbridge is one of 28 communities (out of 351) in the state which does not have a town recycling /trash program. Voluntary municipal programs can substantially reduce cost and the number of trucks on the road, as well as increase available services.*

**a) If a program is implemented, will it be mandatory for all residents to join?**

*No, residents will be free to keep their current curbside hauler if they wish.*

**b) Will the rates increase after the first year?**

*The program will be locked in at a price for the duration of a 3 year contract.*

**c) Will residents' taxes be affected by this program if they choose not to opt in?**

*No, they will not.*

**d) Will the program be presented at Town Meeting for a vote?**

*The Board of Health may need to request a new account for the program, in which case, the town would need to vote on that, but the program itself will have a contract executed through the town and will be signed off by the Town Manager.*

### **3. What authority does the Board of Health have to change town regulations?**

*The general structure, powers and duties of local boards of health are found at M.G.L. c. 111, s.26-33. Boards of Health, in Towns, may be appointed by the Selectmen or the Selectmen can act as a Board of Health. M.G.L. c.41, s. 102B. Boards have authority to adopt and enforce reasonable health regulations under M.G.L. c.111, s.31, including but not limited to tobacco, marijuana, trash, private wells, etc. Case law upholds boards' authority to adopt regulations that are more restrictive than state standards so long as the local regulations do not conflict with state law, are not specifically preempted and have a rational basis for enactment. The members of the board of health shall have the powers and duties which have been conferred upon their office by federal law, general law, this charter, town by-law or by town meeting vote.*