
THE BEDFORD CITIZEN

Submitted by Thomas E. Kinzer, III, Caucus Nominee and incumbent candidate for Board of Health



Tom Kinzer

Tom invites voters to contact him via email

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CAUCUS STATEMENT

It has been my privilege to serve on Bedford's Board of Health for several years now. I am eager to do so again as the Board focuses on a number of currently important issues, including re-doing the Town's clumsy animal-keeping regulations, our growing concern about Lyme disease, which is now the Town's most prevalent reportable disease, while not ignoring other tick-borne diseases, hoarding as a significant problem, and working with a Health Department that has largely turned over in personnel in the last year and has entirely turned over in personnel over the last three years. I've also had the privilege of interacting with many other Town boards and departments about areas of joint interest.

It's worthwhile to remind the Town of the breadth of the scope of health-related interests and responsibilities the Board of Health and the Health Department have, in many cases shared with other parts of Bedford's Town government.

The Board of Health plays many vital roles in protecting Bedford's public health and safety, both currently and into the future. The Board's functions include: food protection in stores and restaurants, sanitation-related inspection as it pertains both to housing and to the Town's few remaining private septic systems, swimming pool inspections, monitoring of conditions at Springs Brook Park, community nursing services, school nursing services, senior health programs, participation in serious hoarding cases, annual flu clinics, regulation of and active involvement with biotechnology firms in Bedford, hazardous waste issues, permitting for private irrigation wells and (very rarely) private drinking water wells, health-related disaster planning, monitoring of the progress of toxic waste cleanup at and near Hanscom Air Force Base, monitoring and direction of (In conjunction with our mosquito control district) the Town's mosquito control efforts, tobacco regulations and their enforcement, and regulation of and permitting for the keeping of animals (other than pets) by residents. In more general terms, the Board works with other entities in Bedford on issues related to a healthy "built environment" in Bedford and to other initiatives including Safe Routes to School and the Healthy Bedford initiatives.

I've had the chance to get involved in many of the areas during my time on the Board, and think I can continue to make useful contributions to many of them.