

5-17-13 Let your voice be heard

We find ourselves in the midst of a communication revolution where some people are in constant communication via facebook, twitter and texting, others use email and phone calls, and many are still using the “old fashioned” methods of newspapers, radio, and actually talking face to face. No matter how you communicate, though, it is still challenging to stay in touch with everything. Turn around that communication challenge to that of being heard, as opposed to reaching out, and think about whether or not your opinions and ideas are known.

They are important, you know. If I haven’t heard from you, do I really know what is going on in your life and area? You have a window to your world and others need to hear about it. But how to tell them? That is the question. Oh, boy, do I have an opportunity for you! I have been working with a college intern on our first Community Health Assessment and part of that has been a short survey, in addition to many in-person interviews. It is difficult, though to garner much attention when it comes to the notion of a survey. Some are lengthy. Ours isn’t. Sometimes we don’t know the purpose of a survey. Ours will lead to health promotion programs. Those programs will be based on the needs of the town and the comments of its residents.

Won’t you please take a few minutes to answer five questions? That’s right, only five questions! You can find them on good old fashioned paper at the Holmes Public Library in the foyer, to the left. You can also find them online at the Halifax town website. It will show up on the home page for a week or so and then it will be in the News & Events section and also, under Boards, Board of Health. Here’s the link to the Community Health Assessment:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QTCCWV9>

The survey looks like this:

Of the following, check off what you see as a public health problem or concern in Halifax, or an issue needing more education and outreach.

- ☐ Lyme Disease
- ☐ Other insect borne disease such as, EEE or West Nile Virus
- ☐ Hepatitis C
- ☐ Drug addiction
- ☐ Alcohol abuse
- ☐ Domestic violence
- ☐ Bullying
- ☐ Tobacco use
- ☐ Hoarding
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Poverty
- ☐ Cancer rates
- ☐ Obesity
- ☐ Mental illness
- ☐ Lack of transportation

- ☐ Walking trails
- ☐ Sidewalks
- ☐ Parks
- ☐ Bike Paths

2. Environmental issues? *Please indicate area / location of concern.*

Pond Algae	<input type="text"/>
Air Quality	<input type="text"/>
Feral Cats	<input type="text"/>
Areas/Places of concern (unsightly, rubbish, etc.)	<input type="text"/>

3. Preventable Disease concerns such as, heart disease or diabetes. *Please specify.*

4. What is the Board of Health doing well?

(Please explain or give examples.)

5. Any suggestions as to how can the Board of Health improve on what they do?

(Please explain or give examples.)

By participating in this gathering of knowledge you will help to shape the future improvements in your town. And isn't that worth a few minutes of your time?

Thank you to Paula Rossi-Clapp, our college intern, for the privilege of working with her on this project. Thank you for your participation, allowing her work to be meaningful and fruitful by letting your voice be heard.

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